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**Entrepreneurship Contest
“Emprendidos”
At The UTN’s Main Campus**

**Our Vanishing World:
Insects**

The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo



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COVER PAGE



In this issue, we are going to learn about The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo, which develops an examination of the violent abuse of women in Sweden, focusing particularly on the warped philosophies and governmental failures that permit such acts. If you have an awesome picture you think could be the cover of one of The ILE Post editions, send it to eherrera@utn.ac.cr. So far several readers have sent amazing pictures that we will be sharing with you soon. If you want to know what is happening in ILE, follow us on FACEBOOK.



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EDITORIAL

A Controversial Resignation

by Eric Herrera (ILE Professor)



The last trimester of 2019 has brought with it a series of news reports that have really demotivated Costa Ricans. The country's financial problems seem to be in chaos, political figures are divided and attacking each other, manipulation of information to the point that people do not believe what the news programs and newspapers say, which has become part of our lives. Every event has its two sides; however, some of them, like the one of the Minister of Finance of Costa Rica, Rocío Aguilar, seems to have more.

believe what the news programs and newspapers say, which has become part of our lives. Every event has its two sides; however, some of them, like the one of the Minister of Finance of Costa Rica, Rocío Aguilar, seems to have more.

Event

Last October 22nd, the Minister of Finance of Costa Rica, Rocío Aguilar, who led a fight to contain the country's explosive fiscal deficit, resigned after the Comptroller's Office recommended sanctioning her for improperly authorizing payments of public debt.

The Good

Rocío Aguilar led a team that presented a package of drastic cuts to public spending at the Legislative Assembly and asked legislators to support a tax reform which was later approved. These measures are expected to reduce the public deficit by 1.6-1.7 percentage concerning to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the coming years. The last four Costa Rican governments had attempted to enact a tax reform without success, and the deficit continued growing. In addition, during her time at the Ministry of Finance, the government enacted a number of reforms to contain expenditures, raise tax revenue and strengthen the institutional tax framework and tax administration with a view to improving its efficiency as well as to fight tax avoidance and evasion using electronic invoicing, the tax on corporations law, the fight against fiscal fraud law, a pension reform, and a hiring freeze policy.

The Bad

Even though Rocío Aguilar did what many others had not been able to do, that does not give her the right to do what she wants without following the laws and rules all Costa Ricans must follow. Some of these actions include: authorizing the payment of State debt without the budgetary approval of the Legislative Assembly during the government of Luis

Guillermo Solís; she also did not want to reveal the list of tax debtors, including the names and amounts of the individuals and legal entities that owe money to the Treasury; in addition, with the approval of an amnesty, which was a period of three months, between December 4th, 2018, and March 5th, 2019, in which tax debtors could pay their outstanding taxes exempt from paying interest and fines. With this amnesty, the Ministry of Finance collected approximately an estimated 1% of the Gross Domestic Product; however, the amount that the Treasury stopped receiving by forgiving penalties and interest during the amnesty was never published. The straw that broke the camel's back happened in the middle of October when the Ministry of Finance ordered an increase in the percentage of the Special Fund for Higher Education (FEES) that goes to capital expenditures; this led to a restriction on the autonomy of public higher education and threatens public universities' financial stability.

The Ugly

No one is above the rule of law, not even the Minister of Finance. It is not acceptable to forgive something bad, just because he/she did something good first. It is extremely strange, suspicious and even funny to see former presidents Oscar Arias and Laura Chinchilla's comments regretting Rocío Aguilar's resignation. Is it the way all Costa Ricans should think? Two wrongs do not make a right. Anyone who has ever worked in either the public or the private sector clearly understands and knows that if someone breaks in any way a law, rules of procedure or regulations, he/she must face the consequences. The unfortunate comments made by these two former presidents may make think people that the previous assertion the previous asseveration is not applied to all Costa Ricans equally.

It is time for the Executive and Legislative Branch of Government to start thinking about the collective wellbeing and do something to foster the economy. Costa Ricans need to believe there is hope, and so far this current government has planted a negative seed of doom in the hearts, minds and souls of its citizens.



Electronics Students Win 1st Place In Their Category In The II Innovation Day

Translated By Izabela Sepúlveda (ILE Professor)

Students of the Diploma level of the Electronics Major, David Muñoz Hernández, Erick Delgado Ordóñez and Kevin Segura Cárdenas won first place in their category in the III Academic Innovation Conference held at the Pacific Headquarters last October 11th, with a platform called WADKED.

The idea was born in the course of Differential and Integral Calculation III in the II Semester of 2019 taught by Professor María Teresa Jiménez, where they were asked as a task to carry out a program using the free Software Ardora. On this occasion, the students developed an educational game related to the calculation of double integrals, with which a form of didactic learning is sought.

These students perceived the problem in the basic courses of the major, the repetition of those courses or worse, its attrition. Few students reach the most advanced courses, which reduces the enrollment options for groups at the Licentiate's level.

Following this analysis, the WADKED Virtual Platform was born with information based mainly on five basic courses of the Electronics major: General Mathematics, Calculation I, Physics I, Linear Algebra and Electrical Circuits I. To upload material that is really useful for the students, these young people carried out statistics and thus gathered useful information for their classmates.

The dynamics of the platform are based on activities where the student can analyze an interactive problem with different subjects. For each of the subjects, there are different interfaces, exercises are provided after each class so that they can enter the platform and review concepts and practice. It also serves as a study complement, indicated by the young creators.

The theoretical part is different from books, since a more detailed explanation is offered. WADKED is



easily navigable. They created a QR Code to make it more accessible for students, their data consumption is not very high and they also integrated music so that anyone who likes to practice with background music can do it.

It is the only platform of its kind based on E-learning, there are only similar pages such as DUOLINGO and OPEN ENGLISH that are platforms for language learning, but there is not another one that teaches this type of subject.

The three students, creators of the platform agree that it will help users to improve academic performance and they aspire to make this platform the beginning of a place full of knowledge and a great help for students of Electronics. They are also considering that the other majors could be integrated as well.

Young people expect the support of the UTN, not only to be done at the diploma level, but also at the baccalaureate, and Licentiate's degree and extend it to the Ministry of Public Education.

[TO ENTER THE WADKED PLATFORM HERE](#)



Entrepreneurship Contest "Emprendidos" At UTN Main Campus

Translated By Izabela Sepúlveda (ILE Professor)

On Friday, October 11th, the UTN Entrepreneurship Contest "Emprendidos" was held at UTN's Main Campus as part of the activities carried out by the UTN's Technological Base Business Incubation Center (CIEBT) with the Directorate of Extension and Social Action of UTN's Main Campus (DEAS).

The contest "Emprendidos" aims to develop entrepreneurial and innovative technology-based projects in the university community and Costa Rican society through its participation in the various activities developed by the National Technical University. These contribute to people's quality of life and socio-economic development from the country.

This year the contest was attended by Vice Chancellor for Extension and Social Action Luis Fernando Chaves; and also by Alajuela's Campus Dean Emmanuel González Alvarado, who welcomed everyone at the opening ceremony of the event and were very motivated by the participation of young people.

During the event, the conversation "Innovate to Undertake or Undertake to Innovate" was moderated by MBA Carlos Salas León, International Innovation Advisor and Professor of the UTN and MBA José Luis Araya of INCAE and MBA Roberto A. Hunter Torrealba of Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica.

This year the Emprendidos Contest at the Headquarters of the UTN was held through the "PITCH" exhibition modality, for which the exhibitors had a time of 5 minutes to present their projects to the judges.

Those who were in charge of judging each of the projects were professionals with experience in entrepreneurship and innovation which belong to different institutions, they were:

- Marcial Chaverri Rojas, Director of Banking Exim, Procomer.
- Randall Quesada Rodríguez, Deputy Director of Marketing, Mutual Alajuela.
- Carlos Salas León, International Advisor and Innovation Manager.
- Karen Vargas Soto, General Manager, Asebanacio.
- Arelys García Mejías, Mipymes Headquarters Coordinator, National Technical University.
- Andrea González Córdoba, Head of Innovation Strategy, Mutual Alajuela.

The following projects participated:



- **ARAD:** High-Performance Robotic Joint
- **DAC Routers:** Route billing
- **Lunch Box:** Production and marketing of prepared healthy meals
- **SCACCU:** It is an automatic condition control system for urban cultivation
- **ADAI:** An intelligent didactic artificial assistant
- **EVAP-CE:** A Centrifugal Evaporative Air Conditioner.

During the activity, 15 books were donated by the McGraw-Hill Education Publishing House through an electronic raffle.

Winning projects and awards

First place

EVAP-CE, Electromechanical Engineering, Student Project, Freddy Antonio Torres Marín, Judith Abigail Rivas Santos and Didier Arguedas López.
Award 250,000 colones

Second place

Lunch Box, project of the student that graduated from an Innovation program, Andrea Acuña.
150,000 colones award

Third place

ADAI, Student Project from the Electromechanical Engineering Degree, Jonathan Santa Ana Álvarez and Mauricio Rodríguez Calvo.
100,000 colones award

The cash prizes were donated by the Mutual Alajuela Group, the participants of the six projects were awarded a training workshop called "Innovate in the WakeUpBrain Style" donated by Mr. Rubén Vega's "Pura Estrategia" company and also books by The McGraw Publishing House- Hill Education

The Air Pollution Emergency In Delhi

An estimated 46,000 people live and work on the streets of Delhi. These men, women and children all face serious illnesses because of constant exposure to dangerous levels of air pollution.

It is a commonly accepted fact that the air quality in Delhi is less than preferable with 10% of the city's deaths being linked to poor air quality. For example, after Diwali, levels of fine particles in the air reached over $750\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. However, the levels of fine particles in the air in Birmingham do not exceed $20\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Research conducted by Greenpeace has resulted in Delhi being named the world's most polluted capital in March 2019. At the time of the research, the University of Birmingham joined researchers at a workshop in the city as part of the university's air pollution project.

A Systems Approach to Air Pollution India (ASAAP India) project discovered that pavement dwellers were often exposed to severe or hazardous levels of particulate matter air pollution which could lead to chronic

Information taken from: www.scitecheuropa.eu/the-air-pollution-emergency-in-delhi/96842/
Image taken from: www.pixabay.com

lung disease, the most common cause for deaths amongst pavement dwellers.

"Street dwellers are uniquely vulnerable to air pollution because they're exposed to the highest levels of roadside pollution both at work and rest. Without the financial means to reduce their exposure to air pollution, they're highly susceptible to related illnesses as they have reduced access to healthcare, often alongside pre-existing medical conditions and exposure to other environmental risks," says Dr William Avis, International Development Research Fellow at the University of Birmingham.

Professor of Atmospheric Science Francis Pope of the University of Birmingham, said: "Air pollution kills millions and costs the world economy billions – tackling the problem is not just a technological issue, but a social-economic and social-political challenge that requires a new approach,"

"Causes and effects of air pollution are now largely known, but contemporary challenges are increas-



ingly complex – new approaches and tools are needed. As a community of researchers and policy makers, we must also be bolder in making it clear when current approaches are insufficient.

"By adopting a 'systems' approach, we can help to resolve health, social and economic problems associated with air pollution in Delhi and other similarly polluted regions. This type of pollution is more than just a health risk; it slows countries' development, diminishes the quality of life and reduces people's incomes."



California Declares State Of Emergency As Fires Rage

High winds and extremely low humidity have hindered efforts to contain blazes burning in the Northern and Southern part of the state, Al-Jazeera reported.

The Kincadee fire located in Sonoma County, North of San Francisco, first started on October 23. It is the largest fire currently burning in the state.

More than 6,400 hectares (15,800 acres) of land has already been scorched and as of late Sunday, the fire was only 5 percent contained.

About 2,000 fire personnel were assigned to battle the wildfire.

Along with other smaller fires in Northern California, 180,000 people have been forced to evacuate the region as homes and business are at high risk with the fast-moving blazes.

Wind gusts reaching as high as 100

kilometres per hour (62 miles/hour) across the area last weekend were expected to ease by Monday morning. Along with the lighter winds, relative humidity that had been as low as 6-8 percent was expected to rise by Tuesday.

Further South near the city of Los Angeles, the Tick fire has been burning since October 24, instigated by the seasonal dry and gusty Santa Ana winds.

With 1,500 hectares (3,700 acres) of land consumed, the Tick fire has proven deadly as human remains were found in burned-out homes in the suburbs.

Southern California is expected to get a bit of help with the weather as well on Tuesday, but winds are forecast to pick back up on Wednesday.



So far this year more than 84,000 hectares (207,600 acres) have been scorched by wildfires. This is down significantly from 720,000 hectares (1.8 million acres) burned in 2018.

The California wildfire season continues through December.



Our Vanishing World: Insects



About 12,000 years ago, late stone age humans precipitated the neolithic (agricultural) revolution that marked the start of the steady rise to civilization. Coincidentally, this occurred at the same time as the beginning of what is now known as the Holocene Epoch, the geological epoch in which humans still live. However, since the industrial revolution commencing in about 1750, just 270 years ago, humans have been destroying Earth's biosphere with such tremendous ferocity that the Earth we inherited at the beginning of the Holocene Epoch is vanishing before our eyes. And life is vanishing with it.

While this catastrophe first gained significant public attention with the publication of Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* in 1962, efforts in response to her effort to raise the alarm, credited with inspiring the modern environmental movement, have paled in comparison to the ongoing human effort to silence *Silent Spring*.

In fact, we are destroying the biosphere with such ruthless efficiency that **the global extinction rate is now 200 species per day, with another million species 'under threat'**. Moreover, according to the recent Global Assessment Report on Bio-

Posted September 04.11.2019 - By Robert Burrowes

diversity and Ecosystem Services researched and published by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) – the scientific body which assesses the state of biodiversity and the ecosystem services this provides to society – 'Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history.' So severe is the crisis through which we are now living that the normally sober tone of scientific papers is vanishing too, with words such as 'biological annihilation', a 'frightening assault on the foundations of human civilisation' and the 'sixth mass extinction' event in Earth's history are being used with increasing frequency. See, for example, '**Biological annihilation via the ongoing sixth mass extinction signaled by vertebrate population losses and declines**'.

The Importance of Insects

So how important are insects? According to one recent study conducted by Caspar A. Hallmann and eleven associates, insects are vital to ecosystem functioning:

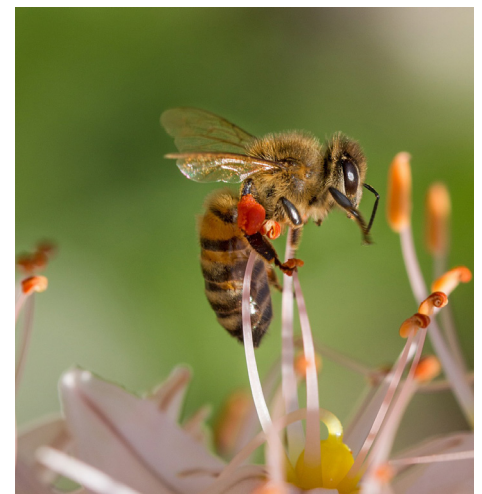
'Insects play a central role in a variety of processes, including pollination, herbivory and detritivory [an organism, such as a bacterium, fungus or insect, that feeds on dead plant or animal matter], nutrient cycling and providing a food source for higher trophic levels such as birds, mammals and amphibians. For example, 80% of wild plants are estimated to depend on insects for pollination, while 60% of birds rely on insects as a food source. The ecosystem services provided by wild insects have been estimated at \$57 billion annually in the USA. Clearly, preserving insect abundance and diversity should constitute a prime conservation priority.' See 'More than 75 percent decline over 27 years in total flying insect biomass in protected areas'.

To underscore the importance of insects, in their study Bradford C. Lister & Andres Garcia simply note that 'arthropods comprise over two-thirds of terrestrial species'. See 'Climate-driven declines in arthropod abundance restructure a rainforest food web'. And, as Robert Hunziker observes: without insects 'burrowing, forming new soil, aerating soil, pollinating food crops...' and providing food for many bird species, the biosphere simply collapses. See 'Insect Decimation Upstages Global Warming'.

However, despite their crucial role in maintaining the habitable biosphere, insects have been in decline for several decades. And the decline is accelerating.

In response to a range of synergistically impacting behaviours, homo sapiens is on the fast track to extinction. Just one critical and largely ignored variable in this rush to extinction is our decimation of the world insect population denying us an ever-expanding range of ecological services.

On this count alone, we have already crossed a dangerous tipping point that will cause increasing problems over time. Whether we can stop short of the ultimate tipping point depends on what you decide.



Winds of Change

Written By Merlin Pérez (ILE Professor)

“The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.”

Albert Einstein



The words today, yesterday and tomorrow are the determinants of what we called the present, past and future. And these three words trace the destiny of our lives. Let's analyse a little bit of what is happening within the society we live in. We are born, we acquire new knowledge related to academic areas, we develop social skills and we reach the age of two or three and immediately we are institutionalized in the educational system. Then we start primary and we learn a bunch of rules, we learn how to excuse ourselves for mistakes, to lie and even to cheat. We are subjected to a rigid system that everyone refers to as School. Then adolescence impends and the world is the target; since every teenager would like to model their own world setting their roles, regulations, shape and colour. Later young adulthood is a race against time, trying to achieve as many academic goals as possible to be able to cope with the labour force. In this phase also love makes its grand entrance stealing your precious time and make you consider that it has to be part of your complex and complicated existence. Finally, the looming old age makes us think that the end of our lives is close.

Meanwhile an individual goes through all of these life stages, the society as a whole is undergoing a profound social and political crisis in which the members of the population defend their rights, protest for injustices, and claim for equality, extol their religious values or high hierarchies look for the way to urge

leaders to breed mistrust amongst collaborator, or politicians use tactics of political and social imbalance. Or maybe the members of society sabotage their own wellness area since every single one of us has been trained by education, religious, culture or systems of beliefs to dispute positions, job promotions, couples, belongings and happiness.

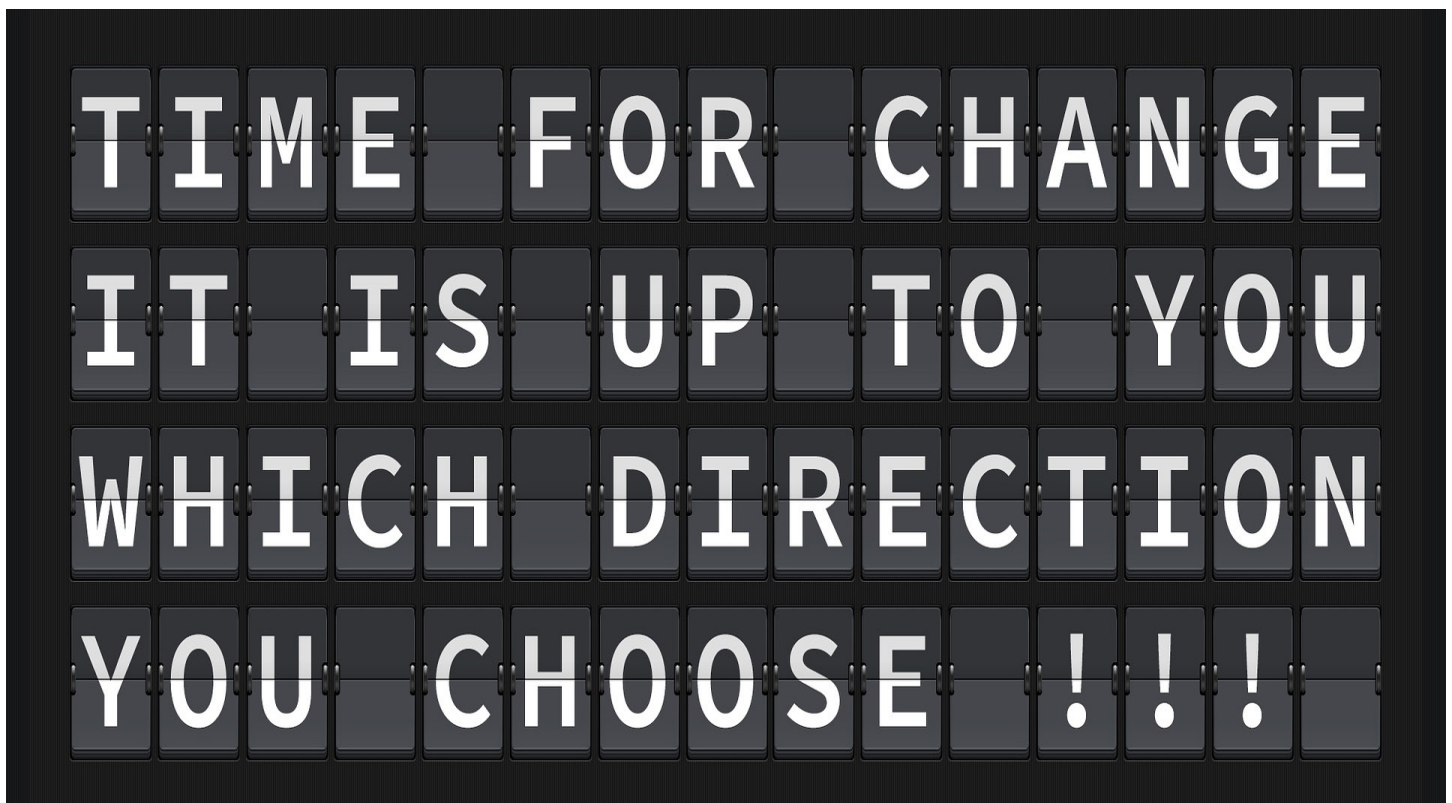
Let's think about some facts that seem impossible to be taken place in the year 2019, for example, xenophobia. Many people still have a lot of stereotypes against certain nationalities, or countries of origin. The white slave trade has intensified since technology has helped to divulge humans as plain and attractive goods, wears to a fight for power, we just have to switch our television on and we will watch plenty of news about shelling provoking thousands of serious injuries to children, women, men and elderly people. Kidnapping, every year we read in the newspaper or watch on T.V. that many boys and girls disappear and are never found. Parents know that something bad has happened to them and they have been used for prostitution, exploitation or just to use their organs. We cannot forget to mention terrorism, crime, femicide, or just violence on the roads. It seems paradoxical that our world conceived as a global village is trying to implement high-end technology, developed processes, quantum physics theories, mechatronic devices, robotic components, human behaviour theories, scientific procedures and more but on the other hand facing endless social phenomena that has affected society since ancient times.

The big questions would be why is it happening? What else can be done in order to get rid of all of these dreadful events? Do we need to change our minds about many of these issues? Is the way we think the real responsible for changing the world we have created?

Let's dream a little bit with a world without tears, suffering, famine, envy or wickedness.

Imagine that every human being is respected and leads to help others. Rejoice in the smile of children who are not afraid of being murdered, kidnapped or raped. Imagine families working together toward common goals, neither prostitution nor organ trafficking, imagine a world full of peace and respect for differences, discrepancies or disagreements. I know you might be thinking that I am a

dreamer, retarded or blind or maybe that I do not belong to this epoch or maybe that I am so ignorant that I believe in that deep inside every one of us wants and deserve to have a life full of joy since our existence is so ephemeral. I strongly believe that everything is about setting priorities and making a personal decision of overcoming good over evil, use positive mediation every step of the way, use the proper emotional scaffolding in adverse situations, use reasoning and feelings in solving conflicts. **I would like to invite you to start changing the way you think toward many social issues and start doing something so that the winds of change blow mankind in a positive way.**



The 6 Cs Of Deep Learning

Written by Sandra Argüello (ILE Professor)



For a while now, educators, philosophers, and change-makers have recognized the need to reevaluate the current Western model of education. Yet, despite the many alternatives offered, little has changed in most academic institutions. Just

take a look at any university classroom and we will likely encounter the same scenario: a professor in front of organized rows of students in uncomfortable desks. Of course, change is not easy. It requires a shift in thinking and perception that is barely nascent. Despite this, everyone involved in the educational field should strive to keep the ball of change rolling, regardless of the impact observed.

One person who has undertaken the role of educational innovator is Canadian consultant, writer, and speaker Michael Fullan, director of New Pedagogies for Deep Learning. Deep learning, according to Fullan “seeks to renew our goals for education and learning, to include skills that prepare all learners to be life-long creative, connected and collaborative problem solvers and to be healthy, happy individuals who contribute to the common good in today’s globally interdependent world.” (2013, p. 2). Deep learning is student-centered and recognizes that any significant learning also has an emotional component. Rather than centering on content, it centers on skills, since education should aim at helping individuals become well-rounded citizens of a complex world.

One way of achieving this is by focusing on competencies. Fullan developed the Deep Learning Competencies or the 6 Cs:

1. Character education — honesty, self-regulation and responsibility, hard work, perseverance, empathy for contributing to the safety and benefit of others, self-confidence, per-

sonal health and well-being, career and life skills.

Character education recognizes that effective learning is also affective learning. It goes beyond the self and extends to others, since as members of communities, beginning in the neighborhood up to the global community facilitated by communication and information technologies, human beings rarely function alone.

2. Citizenship — global knowledge, sensitivity to and respect for other cultures, active involvement in addressing issues of human and environmental sustainability.

The evolution of technology has also made possible for everyone to be global citizens that can no longer just think in the limiting spaces of the local. With global knowledge, ideally, comes the sense of personal responsibility towards all life. The current climate crisis calls for citizens who are willing and able to participate in making changes for the greater good.

3. Communication — communicate effectively orally, in writing and with a variety of digital tools; listening skills.

Interestingly, Fullan recognizes listening skills as an important part of the communication process in educational settings. Active listening involves caring for the other person’s ideas, feelings, and experiences and acting accordingly. At a time when many students are not interested in writing, the author also recognizes the importance of effective written communication.

4. Critical thinking and problem-solving — think critically to design and manage projects, solve problems, make effective decisions using a variety of digital tools and resources.

There cannot be technological literacy without critical thinking skills. This has been a tenet of public education for ages, expressed in our country as the humanity courses. Still, critical thinking skills should be part of every course, regardless of the subject.

5. Collaboration — work in teams, learn from and contribute to the learning of others, social networking skills, empathy in working with diverse others.

Those of us who work in higher education are not unfamiliar with teamwork. Unfortunately, we have often misunderstood teamwork by just having students together. In my experience, teamwork is very difficult to accomplish; in most cases, students will end up just dividing a project among themselves and later putting the parts together. Here lies a great challenge for educators.

6. Creativity and imagination — economic and social entrepreneurialism, considering

and pursuing novel ideas, and leadership for action.

Pursuing novelty is necessary. Human beings are experiencing challenges never seen before, and so the solutions require thinking outside the box. The challenge is to pursue novel ideas outside the university too; ideas that become leadership for tackling the aforementioned issues of sustainability at the human and environmental level.

The 6 Cs target the human learning process as a holistic experience that involves cognitive, emotional, social, aspects. The six competencies can be applied to educational experiences from all levels, from primary school to higher education. The work of Michael Fullan is another attempt at helping students and teachers achieve the required skills and attitudes for the century of uncertainty we live in.

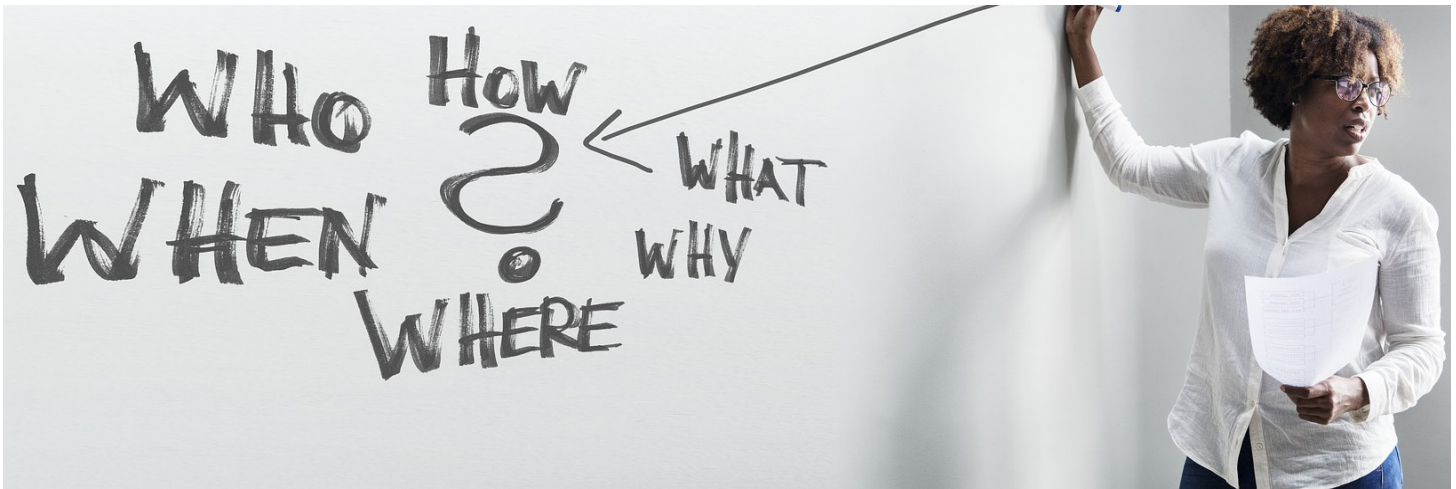


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Fuller, M. & Langworthy, M. (2013). Towards a New End: New Pedagogies for Deep Learning. Seattle: Collaborative Impact. Retrieved from www.newpedagogies.nl/images/towards_a_new_end.pdf.

Hone Your Writing Skills: 10 Tips For Creative Writing

By Jake Lester (05/31/2017)



Do some rules in writing exist?

Of course, there are some grammar and spelling rules that you need to follow unless you are planning to become famous because of your illiteracy, but when we are talking about the idea generation and creativity, no rules are applied. Modern writing is more than just creating love novels that end with characters living happily ever after.

Today, you can easily kill the main character just in the first chapters of your book, you can totally ignore to love story in your novel, and you can even never write novels or stories but remain to be a writer. The world is open to experiments, and you should never lose a chance to use your creativity in writing and hone your writing skills.

In this article, we are going to cover 10 tips that will help you make your writing more creative and will help you become one of those writers who enjoy what they do.

1. Always note what people around you are talking about

If you frequently have the problem of losing your creative inspiration, you need to know the best ways of how to restore it. We have noticed that many writers admit that listening to other people works perfectly for them. The fact of the matter is that people's behavior is full of unexpected moments and if you know how to notice them,

you'll discover ways to integrate some of the funny things people say and do into your writing and storytelling. Of course, it is better to note what people are talking about as you may just forget the exact phrase and later blame yourself for that.

2. Write for free, write for yourself

If you do not have clients, that does not mean that you should forget about writing. The writing process needs to be nurtured, and if you want to stay creative, you need to write all the time. Thus, you will turn writing into a habit, and you will never feel that you have no strength to write something. Besides, on-going writing will help you to determine your own writing style and find the way how to handle challenges that appear when you don't know how to express certain ideas.

3. Use mind maps

If you want to keep all your ideas in a place where you will be able to build relationships and connect the dots between the ideas and concepts you have, you need to utilize a map minding software on your computer and mobile phone. It's better to choose some app that will synchronize for several devices, as you should always be able to add the hottest ideas or to check what ideas you've added yesterday.

ACADEMICS AND MORE

4. Play with rhymes

One of the most effective ways to keep creative with writing is never to stop improvising and trying out new writing techniques. Perhaps, one of the best of them is playing with rhymes. You may just start to write verses or you may try to find the rhymes to the words and word combinations that you've written to your novel or story. It would be more fun not to take this seriously and try to make some really funny rhymes.

5. Write as long as possible

If you have ever thought that a good writing is a short writing, we bet that to write in long sentences and long paragraphs will be a real challenge for you. However, this challenge will help you to reveal some of your hidden talents and maybe even to unleash your new potential for writing long form content.

6. Write as short as possible

It does not matter what length of articles or blog posts you have always preferred, you just need to give short writing a try. Make your story as short as possible, reducing the number of sentences, and later even reducing the number of words. Maybe, you will be able to write a story just in 6 words as some of the famous writers have already done?



Article taken from: <https://basicblogtips.com/creative-writing-tips.html>
Photo Credit: <https://pixabay.com>

7. Add more details

To become more creative with your writing, you need to know the power of details. When you are creating some content, just add as many details as possible and later choose the ones that seem the strongest to you. Perhaps, you will notice that your original ideas have nothing to do with strengthening your writing and you should have chosen something else, something, that you've added to your details list.

8. Ask people for advice

If you have no idea how you would behave in a certain situation, stop wasting your time — ask people to help you with that. They will definitely share their own experience with you, and you will be able to use truthful facts in your writing. Moreover, their words may give you some inspiration to modify your article in a different way to make it more realistic and interesting.

9. Grow your competence

To never lose your creativity, you need to know where to find the inspiration and ideas for writing. The more you know, the bigger field for searching those ideas you have. Thus, you need to grow your competence and expertise in different fields to be able to use your knowledge in idea generation and therefore introducing them to the your written words.

10. Don't be too critical of yourself


Creativity comes together with being critical of yourself. You should always understand when your creativity leads you too far and when the creativity is not enough to create a strong story. Thus, use your inner critic to make the proper decision and to give yourself proper assessment of the job done. However, don't take this too far. Remember that you need to experiment from time to time and see how it goes!

I hope that you loved these 10 tips for creative writing that will help you hone your writing skill. Do not forget to use them and practice to check how they work for you and to see how they bring you closer to your dream of becoming a world-famous writer.



The UTN community includes professors, administrative staff and students. Each individual has something to say about everything. In this section, we give the university community the opportunity to express what they feel about different school, country and world issues that in one or another way affect or impact our lives, feelings and opinions. This month we asked students:

What makes a good person?



First of all, values; values influence the way in which a person acts and treats others; besides, a good person shows his/her way of being with acts more than with words.

Lillian Solís

A person who is always looking for different ways to help others, a person who does not judge others and stays and supports you no matter what.

Yeika Ramos

A person that tells the truth, apologizes when it is necessary and admits his/her mistakes because honesty and humbleness are necessary to create bonds with others.

Michael Granados

A person who is willing to help others without taking into consideration if they are his/her friends or not; a person who tries to avoid making problems and cause conflicts.

Riista Morales

If a person does not criticize others, accepts different people, respects the integrity of all people around him. This person is a good person.


Byron Ramírez

When a person gets to a state when he/she thinks everything is not white or black, and that life is a journey and that people travel together, that is the moment when an individual becomes a good person.

Mariano Chaves

A person who is confident, comfortable and loving with him/herself no matter the circumstances, if he/she is alone or in a group.

Christopher Venegas



A person who cares, but not only about other people but also about animals, the environment and situations that affect people in some other parts of the world.

Eva Hernández



ILE
Inglés como Lengua Extranjera

An Amazing Day

By David Ramirez (ILE Student)

It was a bright sunny day of summer in Minnesota, there was no more snow around, the smell of the woodlands and rain was incredible; the winter had finished and summer had just started.

Through the window the first sunlight was coming into the house, you could smell some Costa Rican coffee ready in the kettle. It was a perfect day to spend with family and friends at one of the ten thousand lakes that Minnesota has.

Peter a young, tall, handsome guy with curly hair and blue eyes, the best quarterback in the state and the most famous person in the school, finished high school just last winter, and for that summer he was the star of Minnesota's Viking football team. That was the best year of his life.

That morning he was very excited, he was thinking about an important decision and he was ready to take the bull by the horns. He invited his girlfriend to go to Lake Superior and enjoy the day.

Laura, Peter's girlfriend was a beautiful girl; she also had finished school last winter and she had been dating Peter for the last two years. She looked just like a fashion model with her long hair and her beautiful smile; however, she was shy and she didn't like to talk to people that much.

It was Laura's first time in Lake Superior, she was very happy because this lake is like the Pacific Ocean, it has waves, fish and a lot of big boats. Duluth is the town next to the lake and it is very old. You can see the old buildings of the last century, and this city was the most important seaway port in the 18th century.

They prepared all the necessary things such as swimsuits, water, fruit, sunblock and of course a football. After some hours of driving, they arrived in Duluth, and Laura could smell the lake through the car window. It was an incredible experience for her.

They spent the day at the lake, Peter rented a small boat in order to sail and try to fish, but after two hours they couldn't catch anything; however, they were so happy that they had spent time together. When they returned to the beach Laura sat under the sun and Peter played soccer with some people there. Also, they ate some hotdogs for lunch. They had a great time together, but the best part of the day was coming.

It was a little late, the sunset was a couple of hours away when Peter took Laura's hand and down on his knees asked the most important question in their life: "Laura, will you marry me?". The moment was perfect. In Laura's head, everything was going around in circles right in front of her eyes. She was thinking in all the beautiful moments they had had together during the last two years.

Then, the earth stopped, and a big silent covered the moment they could feel the silence in their bones, after a minute Laura screamed from her heart and began crying like a baby. After a minute had passed by, she decided to run away the farthest away from Peter as she could get. She had a big secret that Peter did not know about it, her mother was the only one who knew it.

Peter was surprised; he didn't know what to do. He was shocked, and he imagined the situation in another way; however, he tried to run behind Laura but after a few miles she was away.

He was devastated; he was in love with Laura. He drove home at night but he didn't remember the road, in his mind he was only thinking about Laura, and how she ran away. He tried to talk and look for Laura several times. He also called her, but she didn't answer the phone, and he sent a lot of letters without any answer. She just disappeared from his life, he was very depressed and for the first time in his life he thought about suicide.

After six months Peter received a letter from Laura, in the letter she apologized about the situation and told Peter the secret:

"Sorry Peter, but I have cancer and I'll die soon. I love you and thanks for the wonderful day that we had the last time we saw, ...

God Bye Laura."

Peter read the entire letter and began crying. He called Laura's mother and she told him that Laura had died two weeks ago. That day in the afternoon Peter went to Laura's grave, he forgave her and promised to love her forever.

War in Red Moon 2.3

By Ricardo Rodríguez (ILE Student)

Along time in a galaxy far away, I had an important mission with my friend the Worsos. The mission was to remove a being that was damaging the balance of that specific planet. We traveled around the galaxy, and we arrived in the wild world. At that moment our weapons were damaged by solar radiation, but that did not affect us because we made our defense weapons in that wild world. The name of the world, that we fought, was red moon 2.3. In that world there was no vegetation, and the only things that existed were a lot of kind-hearted robot. They drunk volcano lava, the cute robots were blue like the infinite sky, but something extremely mischievous was going on. The volcano lava was being contaminated by an evil android of a stellar nation, so it was stealing peace to redmoonian because the volcanic lava changed the software that they had designed. The new behavior that they acquired was devastating, and they wanted to kill the other robots, the Worsos and I. The infected robots and the android knew that I am the only Jedi survivor. When I found the android, he was of pure nickel. He told me that he wanted to murder me, and his real name was Chewbacca. I was furious because a powerful android wanted to kill me, and I did not have the necessary forces to fight, so for that reason I escaped from the place that Chewbacca took over.

The Worsos, and some robots that were not contaminated, and I practiced for six years. Our practices included disabling the robots that were contaminated, and collecting old spare parts that we could use in the future, so for that reason we decided to go where our greatest enemy was. Along the way they were making weapons to attack Chewbacca with great force. Also, we fought between us in order to make us mighty, and increase our fighting tactics. We created the most powerful way, we lost half our army, but we also killed some Chewbacca's soldiers. The war was very strange, but I had hoped to kill Chewbacca, and give back the happiness to the robots from that devastated world. When I faced Chewbacca again, I was not afraid. I focused on winning, and I only thought to activate the deadly weapon that it had taken us six years to build. At that moment, Ten Worsos began to fight with Chewbacca. They cut the legs, but that did not have an effect because Chewbacca repaired itself, and he shot at them. Because they went out, I started to fight with my nickel gun. When we hit, we kept the same level of fighting, Then, he began to warm up, and it was there when the temperature that he transferred affected me because I activated the secret weapon. The secret weapon was a refiner of metals when I pushed on the big weapon, Chewbacca started to bawl. I was cheerful because I thought that Chewbacca was going to die, but something began to ring, the sound was a bomb of destruction. I thought this was my utter destruction. I thought my life was over there.

The only way out was to call through a wireless communicator to my friend, and I alerted him about the big explosion. I told them that we had to flee from that world because we could die. Five minutes later, we were leaving the gravity zone of the planet Red Moon 2.3. My friends and I were satisfied, but the impact of explosion was so intense that it had opened a black hole in the galaxy, and this black hole made us travel through a lot of galaxies. We arrived at a peculiar planet. It looked like the Earth, but this was black and white. I was afraid of what would happen to us on that planet, but at that moment I was blissful because the war had ended. My friends warned me that the colorless planet had given us access, and they will give food to our troops. I will always be grateful to the Gingjanto.

British Tea Culture



Introduction

Tea is a British cultural phenomenon far surpassing the flavor of the beverage itself. It is intrinsically tied to the political events of the British Empire; used to incite rebellion and promote the interests of the crown. It created a unique social forum for women during the Victorian period and remains an essential part of British culture today, evoking images in the collective psyche of a suburban housewife quietly waiting for the water to boil.

Tea Culture in British People's Daily Life

Traditional afternoon tea, as the Victorians would have had it, consisted of dainty sandwiches, scones served with preserves and clotted cream, cake, and an assortment of delicate pastries alongside tea from India or Ceylon poured from silver tea pots into bone china teacups. Today, afternoon tea is likely to be a biscuit or small cake with a mug of tea, created with a teabag and hot water. Milk is frequently added, with sugar add-

ed less frequently.

The custom of afternoon tea is almost obsolete in daily practice, yet it is still observed in the British cultural imagination. Hotels continue to offer afternoon tea, yet the tea rooms serve as a tourist destination and a relaxing change of pace instead of a daily habit. Tea is the drink of the British Empire, a vital element to its developing economy and dominant navy during the 17th century, as well as a cultural symbol that transcended social class during the Victorian era. It continues to exist today in suburban homes across the country with prefabricated tea bags as an essential piece of Britain's living history.

History of British Tea Culture

Despite the eventual importance of tea to British politics and culture, Britain was the last of the three great sea-faring nations to gain access to the all-important Chinese and East Asian trade routes providing the necessary leaves. Dominant Portuguese

and Dutch traders blocked the island country, and the first samples of tea did not arrive until the middle of the 17th century. Tea's eventual arrival was a combined result of the international power Queen Elizabeth I amassed during her reign as well as the future King Charles II's marriage to the Portuguese Infanta.

The famous East India Company was founded on December 31st, 1600 by Queen Elizabeth I as part of her campaign to increase Britain's power. Access to the riches flowing along the trade routes from the east were essential in the age of European monarchies to gaining political significance on an international scale. Queen Elizabeth understood this, yet the company was unable to gain a base of operations until Catherine de Braganza brought the territories of Tangier and Bombay to Britain as part of her marriage dowry in 1662.

Although Queen Elizabeth I had brilliantly united the country under the glittering symbol of herself as head of the monarchy, the country was torn apart by civil war just forty years after her death. The future king of England, Ireland, and Scotland: King Charles II, was thrown into exile and the current monarch, King Charles I was executed. The future King Charles II's marriage to the Portuguese Infanta.

Ironically, this ensured tea drinking was established as a tradition because the exiled king-to-be was destined to grow up in the Dutch capital.

Accustomed to the Dutch custom of drinking tea, he and Catherine de Braganza, his Portuguese bride, brought the tradition with them when they established command. Tea had officially been introduced to Britain. Access to tea was guaranteed through the monopoly the East India Company would soon possess over trade in India and China.

Despite the beverage's reputation as an upper-class drink later in British history, it was its popularity among the lower classes that ensured its survival during these early years. London coffee houses began to sell the drink, cutting into the profits of both tavern owners and the government, who depended on taxes from liquor sales.

Charles II attempted to curb the popularity of tea by prohibiting its sale in private houses, an act which would ultimately prove unenforceable. In 1676, the first tea tax was passed and by the 18th century the duty on tea reached 119%. The government had found a way to profit from the beverage, but the high taxation encouraged another industry- tea smuggling.

Ships from Holland and Scandinavia would bring tea to the coast and British smugglers would unload the cargo, moving into through secret passages into hiding. The practice was ended when William Pitt the Younger intro-

duced the Commutation Act in 1784, dropping the tax from 119% to 12.5%. This was too late to prevent the loss of the American colonies; however, which had revolted in 1775, due in part to the high taxation.

An additional problem with the booming tea culture was the massive amount of currency leaving the country to pay for the foreign product. Had the money left the country, Britain would have been bankrupt and the physical currency would not have been transportable around the world. The solution was to grow inexpensive opium in India and use it as a means of exchange. The addictive drug would create an incurable demand, ensuring an unending tea market.

By 1840, the final aspect of British tea culture had been introduced to the public: afternoon tea. Anna, the seventh Duchess of Bedford was said to have introduced the custom to curb her hunger at around four o'clock in the afternoon because dinner was served fashionable late at

eight o'clock. By the 1880s, the idea had caught on and a new social custom was created.

In theory, the practice was universalizing and followed by both upper and lower classes. The upper class would take low or afternoon tea shortly before the fashionable promenade in Hyde Park while lower classes would take high tea in place of dinner. The name high or low tea derives from the height of the table the tea was served on. High tea was served on a dinner table, quite literally higher than the low tea of the aristocratic class.

Tea gardens were another extension on this tradition, allowing women to enter a mixed public setting for the first time without social repercussions. Typically open on the weekends, the gardens would provide entertainment and dancing, allowing British society to mix freely across class lines. The tea garden, with its accompanying tea dance, would remain popular in Britain until World War II.



NEW ENGLAND FALL FOLIAGE

TOP PLACES FOR LEAF PEEPING (2)

BY MICHELLE MORENO, SEP. 25TH, 2018, DESTINATIONS, NORTH AMERICA, USA, VEGAN&SPICE BLOG



This month we continue with the recommendation of the best places in the US to observe and enjoy the fall season.

Massachusetts

Fall is splendid in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts. Williamstown is the ultimate New England college town and home to the incredible Clark Institute. In nearby Adams, Mt. Greylock at 3,489 feet is the highest peak in the state. Visibility on a clear day is up to 90 miles. Ascend via the auto road or hike one of the many trails.

At Bear Swamp in Ashfield, hike through rugged forest, studded with the remnants of water mills and maple sugaring works, to the Apple Valley Overlook for vistas of nearby orchards and the distant Green Mountains. Peaked Mountain in Monson, MA, provides incredible, 360-degree views of valley farms, Mt. Monadnock and Wachusett Mountain. In Shelburne Falls, enjoy the last vestiges of summer surrounded by autumnal color while crossing the town's famous Bridge of Flowers. Grab a bite at Hearty Eats with many vegan options.

Cape Cod isn't just for summer visits to the Cape Cod National Seashore. Autumn is cranberry harvest season in southern Massachusetts when the scarlet berries are collected from flooded bogs. Marsh grasses take on a golden hue and trees surrounding numerous lakes and ponds pop with color.

Rhode Island

Rhode Island's brightest colors come in October, especially in the heavily wooded areas of the north and west. The Blackstone Valley is home to the Slater Mill Historic Site, considered the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution in America.

Lincoln Woods State Park in Lincoln, RI, is an easy drive from Providence. Multiple trails track through the woods and around the lake.

Take a train excursion from Woonsocket to Putnam, Connecticut to view the foliage and attend Putnam's annual Great Pumpkin Festival. The two-hour journey, each way, takes place on October 20th this year. Advance tickets are required.

Connecticut

The Litchfield Hills is the first region of the state to see color. The city of Kent is a center of culture and glorious colors of the season. Visit local farm stands, antique stores, waterfalls and covered bridges. Mountain View Farm, dating from the 1700's, offers organic produce in a gorgeous setting. At Macedonia Brook State Park, hike the Cobble Mountain Trail to the overlook for views of the Taconic and Catskill Mountains. The Goodwin Conservation Center in Hampton is an environmental education facility. Located in the

James L. Goodwin State Forest, another great location for leaf peeping, visitors can access 14 miles of trails on 2,000 acres.

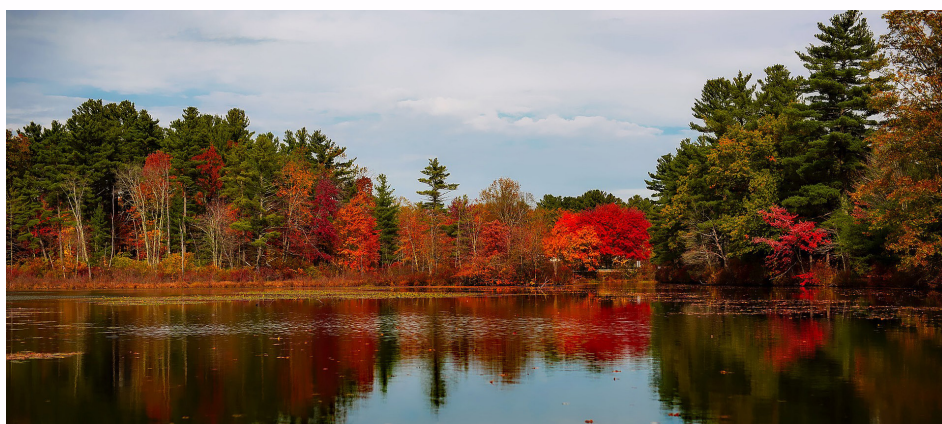
Southern Connecticut is one of the last holdouts for fall color. Gillette Castle State Park, home to the 24-room mansion built by William Hooker Gillette, proffers extraordinary views above the Connecticut River. Visitors can also book an ex-



curSION on a steam train and riverboat cruise in Essex to take in fall's last hurrah.

If You Go

There's no doubt that New England's fall foliage is top notch but weather conditions and climate change play a role in the length and exuberance of the season. Peak leaf-peeping dates can vary and some years colors are greatly subdued. The good news is that the 2018 foliage season is expected to





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Five Basic Websites on Visual Impairment That Everyone Should Know

[Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#)

This website contains a wealth of information related to services for students with visual impairment, not just in Texas but throughout the United States. Other countries also reference the website on a regular basis. The school's website provides information on services provided for residential students who reside on the campus in Austin, Texas, as well as the more than 10,000 Texas students with visual impairment who receive their education in their local school districts. The website's home page provides links for Short Term Programs, the TSBVI Outreach Program, web-based learning and webinars, publications from the TSBVI Curriculum Department, and numerous other resources and articles related to services for students with visual impairment. Watch for new features as www.tsbvi.edu is updated this summer and throughout the year.

[The Perkins "family" of websites, from the Perkins School for the Blind](#)

The main website of the Perkins School for the Blind addresses needs of both teachers and parents of students with visual impairment. Perkins was the first school for the blind in the United States and continues to serve students on its campus in Waretown, MA. It also provides comprehensive infor-

mation and resources through a variety of venues, links, and other sponsored websites, including:

a.) Perkins eLearning

This is Perkins' online learning platform and has resources and professional development opportunities for teachers of students with visually impairment, including students with additional disabilities and/or DeafBlindness. It includes teaching and parenting resources, publications, and informational blogs and serves as an information clearinghouse on resources pertaining to blindness and visual impairment.

b.) Perkins Scout

A part of Perkins eLearning, Perkins Scout is a searchable database of carefully evaluated online resources related to blindness and visual impairment. The website mascot, a dog guide named Scout, helps retrieve the information, all of which has been reviewed by Perkins experts. Scout answers questions about visual impairment, has links for areas of the ECC, and includes information on various eye disorders, the anatomy of vision, support organizations, and vision simulation videos and activities. The link to "Ask Scout" is popular with both students and adults.

c.) Wonder Baby

Perkins WonderBaby website provides resources, information and support to parents and families raising children who are blind. Providing a voice for parents and family members, WonderBaby helps connect the families of students with visual impairment with other families, answers questions, and provides articles and information on a huge variety of topics related to raising a child with a visual impairment. Especially helpful is its information on specific eye conditions and the impact of a visual impairment on the development of young children.

d.) Paths to Technology

It is a new website from the Perkins School for the Blind, designed to assist educators and families in learning and staying current on ever-changing technology for students with visual impairment and blindness. It is designed to help answer questions from participants about specific types of technology. Students with visual impairment are common bloggers, sharing their issues and suggestions related to technology.

Paths to Literacy

A joint project between Perkins School for the Blind and Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI), this website seeks to assist both educators and families in the quest to provide literacy experiences for children who are blind or visually impaired. The information on this site ranges from a basic overview of literacy to various stages of development and special challenges, as well as an exploration of different media (print, braille, auditory strategies). This website is very interactive, including blogs, questions, and shared information from participants throughout the world.

American Printing House for the Blind

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) is the world's largest nonprofit organization creating educational, workplace, and independent living products and services for people who are visually impaired. It is the official supplier of educational materials for visually impaired, school-age students in the U.S. and designs and manufactures textbooks and magazines in braille, large print, recorded, and digital formats. APH also manufactures hundreds of educational, recreational, and

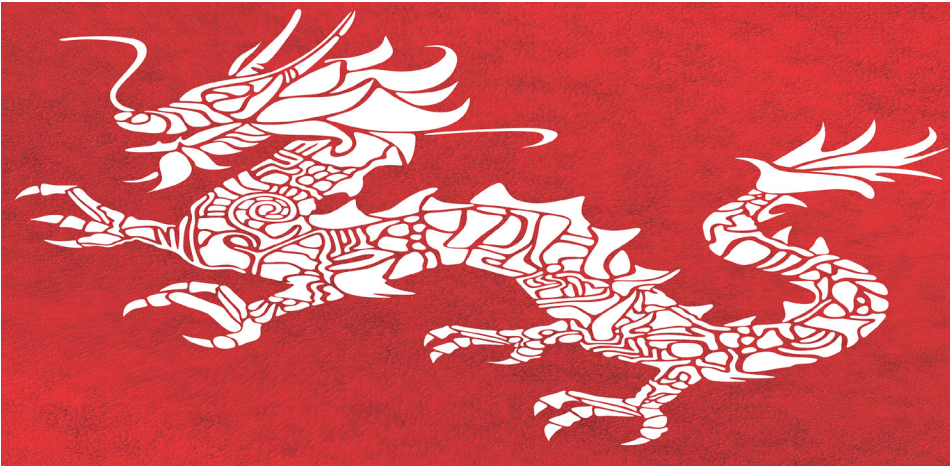
daily living products. One popular online service is the Louis Database at www.louis.aph.org, a free tool to help locate accessible books available from organizations across the US. As the world's largest company devoted solely to researching, developing, and manufacturing products for people who are blind and visually impaired, APH is a valuable resource for educators and families.

American Foundation for the Blind

The mission of the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) is to "remove barriers, create solutions, and expand possibilities so people with vision loss can achieve their full potential." With a very comprehensive website on all things related to visual impairment, AFB provides information for professionals and families, publishes books and periodicals (including the leading journal in our field, *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness*), and has links to a whole "family" of sites: VisionAware (medical information and living with vision loss), the Braille Bug (a link with basic information on braille, suitable for children), AccessWorld (technology news for people who are blind or visually impaired), and an eLearning Center for professional development ("accessible, affordable, and authoritative webinars, courses, and continuing education credits" for TVIs and COMS). The website also has links to a variety of blogs for both educators and families and seeks to address the needs of people with visual impairment at all stages of life, "from infancy to education, career, and retirement."



The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo



Stieg Larsson takes what seemed at the outset to be a juicy locked-island-mystery plot and turns it first into an insightful family saga and then into a scathing political and social commentary that forces us to think about such a wide variety of themes and aspects that we normally refuse to accept as part of society.

Do not mistake this for a mere fictional work with imagined crimes. It has firm foundations in reality. In my opinion, the whole plot is a thin wrap-sheet thrown around the brutal truths of real crimes. Larsson has extensive knowledge of the most heinous crimes and he has written extensively about them for his entire professional career. This expertise shows through in his description of such acts of unimaginable cruelty with an almost nonchalant objectivity, with a careless leaving out of the gory details and focus on the trivial aspects of the act that sends shivers down our spine.

Larsson uses his investigative style of presentation and his two main characters and an extremely dysfunctional family to work in an amazing variety of potent themes into his first book.

Larsson seems to be sending out a warning about how deadly information can be in the wrong hands and

how easily accessible any private info about you stored in digital form is. You are exposed and absolutely naked to a determined digital assault and there is nothing you can do about it. Of course in the novel it is never misused but the threat is always hanging in the air – if an uneducated girl and her friends can get the most private information about the most protected individuals in the country, what kind of a world are we heading into? And is it really bad? Food for thought...

Feminism

No matter which way you look at it, this work will have to be defined as one of the most wrathful outcries against society's attitude towards women. The entire story is about the enormous acts of cruelty committed against women and the absolute indifference to it by everyone who is supposed to care. It is also about the different responses that these women have in such an uncaring society.

Morality and Allocation of Blame

The book is truly about three paths that a victim can take after an abused childhood.

One of the characters suffers abuse and decides to become an abuser himself and embrace it as a fact of life

The second one suffers abuse and decides to run away from that life and live faraway and sheltered. No attempt is made to punish the abuser or to report it.

The third character too suffers abuse but decides to confront it and return it with a vengeance. No violence or abuse is tolerated and any reaction is justified for this character.

The fourth is the invisible character of what we expect a person to do in such a situation – report it, seek help from the authorities who are supposed to protect them. The society around and the grim reality that prompted the book gives the outcome to this course of action.

Now the key point to me was that Larsson does not condemn any of them – he makes different characters speak in defense for each of these responses and lets us wonder about which course can ever be called right. In the end he manages to condemn both the society as a whole as well as us, the individuals who allow the society to be so. A caricature of morality.

Law, Crime & BDSM

Larsson's extensive knowledge about the worst forms of crime and the procedure of law allows him to give a gruesome reality to what we usually consider to be just sadistic fiction. He convinces the reader that it is real and all around us if we only cared enough to look.

All the villains have a Windows PC and all the heroes have an Apple notebook. Splendid thing to use in a book about corporate morality among other things.

To learn more about this book, go to:

[The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo](#)

“English For You CR” Presents, How Can I Describe my Current English Level?



In most job interviews, or when you're simply talking to a foreigner, you will have to talk about your current level of English proficiency. How can you describe it? Are you advanced, beginner, or just intermediate? Should you say you have an 80%, 90% or 99% of English?

First of all, percentages like those **DO NOT** mean anything. They are just numbers used with no academic, linguistic, or professional criteria. In theory, if you can say most things in English, human resources recruiters claim, you have an 70% or more of English. If you're fully bilingual, then you speak English to a 99%. Is this true? Of course not!

That's why languages are measured by the Common European Framework CFE: Thus, you can be a beginner (A1), lower intermediate (A2), intermediate (B1-B2), higher intermediate (C1), or advanced (C2). Keep in mind, though, that most people (even in their own language) will NOT reach a C1 or C2 level. These levels are normally certified by international proficiency tests like the TOEFL, IELTS, or TOEIC, used for academic or professional environments.

So, what level do you have? If you're taking classes, check what your course program, textbook or teacher says regarding your current level. If you have taken the exam, you can talk about those categories with confidence.

Remember: be frank and tell people that you are still learning the language. They will understand and agree that learning English is a process that never ends. Keep it up!

You can listen to our podcast including this section, music in English, and more in:
www.EnglishforYouCR.com and www.facebook.com/english.foryoucr

You can listen to our podcast including this section, music in English, news, and more in:
<http://www.EnglishforYouCR.com> and www.facebook.com/english.foryoucr

Lilliputian

adjective [lil-i-pyoo-shuhn]

-extremely small; tiny; diminutive / petty; trivial:

EXAMPLE:

-Our worries are Lilliputian when compared with those of people whose nations are at war.

www.dictionary.com



Huacachina, Oasis Of America

Huacachina (from Quechua wakachina guard, conceal, possibly shortened from wakachina qucha meaning 'hidden lagoon') is a village built around a small oasis and surrounded by sand dunes in southwestern Peru. It is about five kilometers from the city of Ica in the Ica District of Ica Province. The oasis was introduced as a feature on the back of the 50 nuevo sol note in 1991. Huacachina has a permanent population of around 100 people, although it hosts many tens of thousands of tourists each year.

Huacachina is built around a small natural lake in the desert. It is commonly referred to as the "oasis of America", it is a resort geared to local families from the nearby city of Ica, and increasingly as an attraction for tourists drawn by the sports of sandboarding on the sand dunes that stretch several hundred feet high. Other popular activities include dune buggy rides on buggies known locally as areneros.

According to local legends, the water and mud of the area is therapeutic. Both locals and tourists often bathe in the waters or cover themselves with the mud in an attempt to cure ailments such as arthritis, rheumatism, asthma and bronchitis.

Legend holds that the lagoon was created when a beautiful native princess removed her clothes to bathe, but after looking in a mirror she saw a male hunter approaching her from behind. Startled at the intrusion, she fled the area leaving behind her mirror which turned into a lake.[8] Other versions hold that she fled, leaving the pool of water she had been bathing in to become the lagoon. The folds of her mantle, streaming behind her as she ran, became the surrounding sand dunes. The woman herself is rumoured to still live in the oasis as a mermaid.

Information taken from: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huacachina>

Phot Credit: <https://pixabay.com>