

*"Out of limitations comes creativity."
Debbie Allen*

*"Instead of thinking outside the box,
get rid of the box."
Deepak Chopra*

What does it mean to think outside the box? You've heard the phrase a thousand times, usually encouraging new approaches to anything from solving a problem to writing a story. The box

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J

My neighbour is a
funny guy. He is rather
tall, a bit chubby and
has the nicest smile in

the world; a smile like a drug, that would reveal
all of the little wrinkles at the edges of his eyes
and the big ones that start at the wings of his
nose and fly until they touch the apricot
coloured lips of his.

I think he moved here after us, but it feels like
he has been here forever; he belongs to our
street so much that I can't imagine it without
him and his beautiful smile.

Whenever my parents were working and my
sister and me were alone at home, we would go
over to his house. My sister would head straight
to the little table that was set up there for her,
and start drawing with the crayons my
neighbour bought for her years ago. And I? I
would run to him and give him a big bear hug.
He has such a soft and huggable belly!
Or sometimes, when he isn't here yet (and
hopefully in the kitchen to get cookies from his
wife), I would steal my sister's chair and move it
in front of the tall wooden cupboard, so I can
step onto it and stretch my arms as far as I
could to reach the record player on the top
shelf. It was always a little success for my sister

if he would have started a peace campaign, or - a thought that makes him shiver - would have started to use the internet. But in the end, he knew that would never have been able to do any of this (especially the internet thing), and that he was happy without it.

Nowadays, I still visit my neighbour often. His wife still bakes me cookies and the jazz music is still there (but I can reach the record player without a chair now). I usually sit on the couch and do my homework on my laptop. After a while, Frank would get up from his big armchair and sit down next to me. He would look at my laptop screen and try to figure out what all those little icons

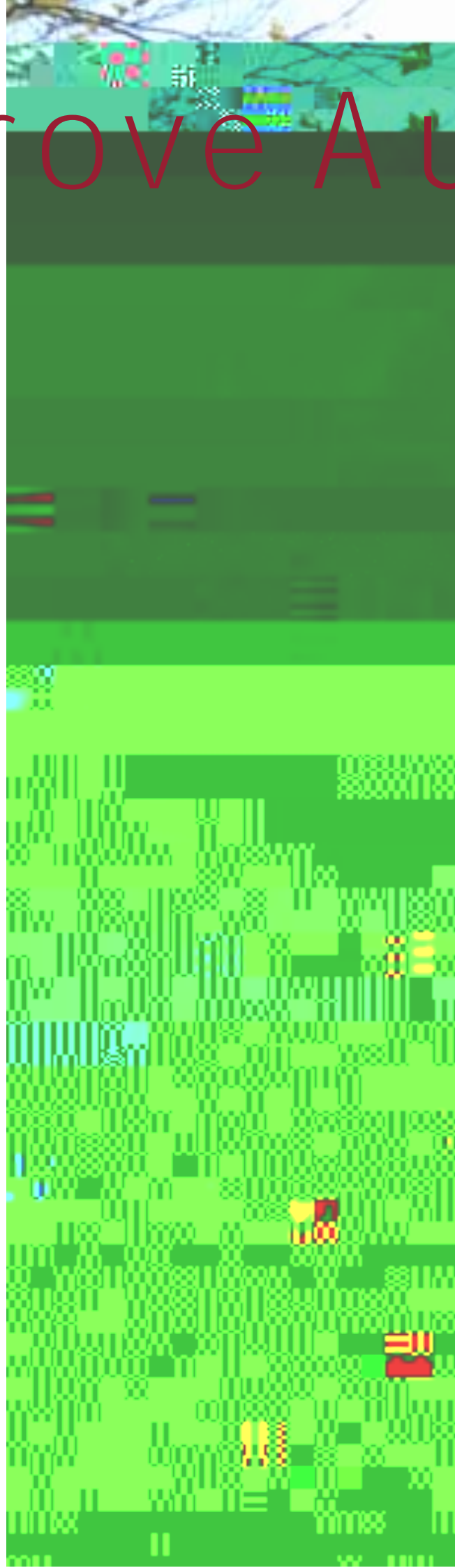
Bromsgrove Au

One Thursday morning at Bromsgrove the sun was emitting a warm glow over the students walking by Gordon Green, a large area of neatly cut lawn where every blade of grass, dew drop wet, reflected the rays of sunlight. Only the earth beneath, worn down by the footprints of teachers and monitors, hinted at the green's hundred-year history.

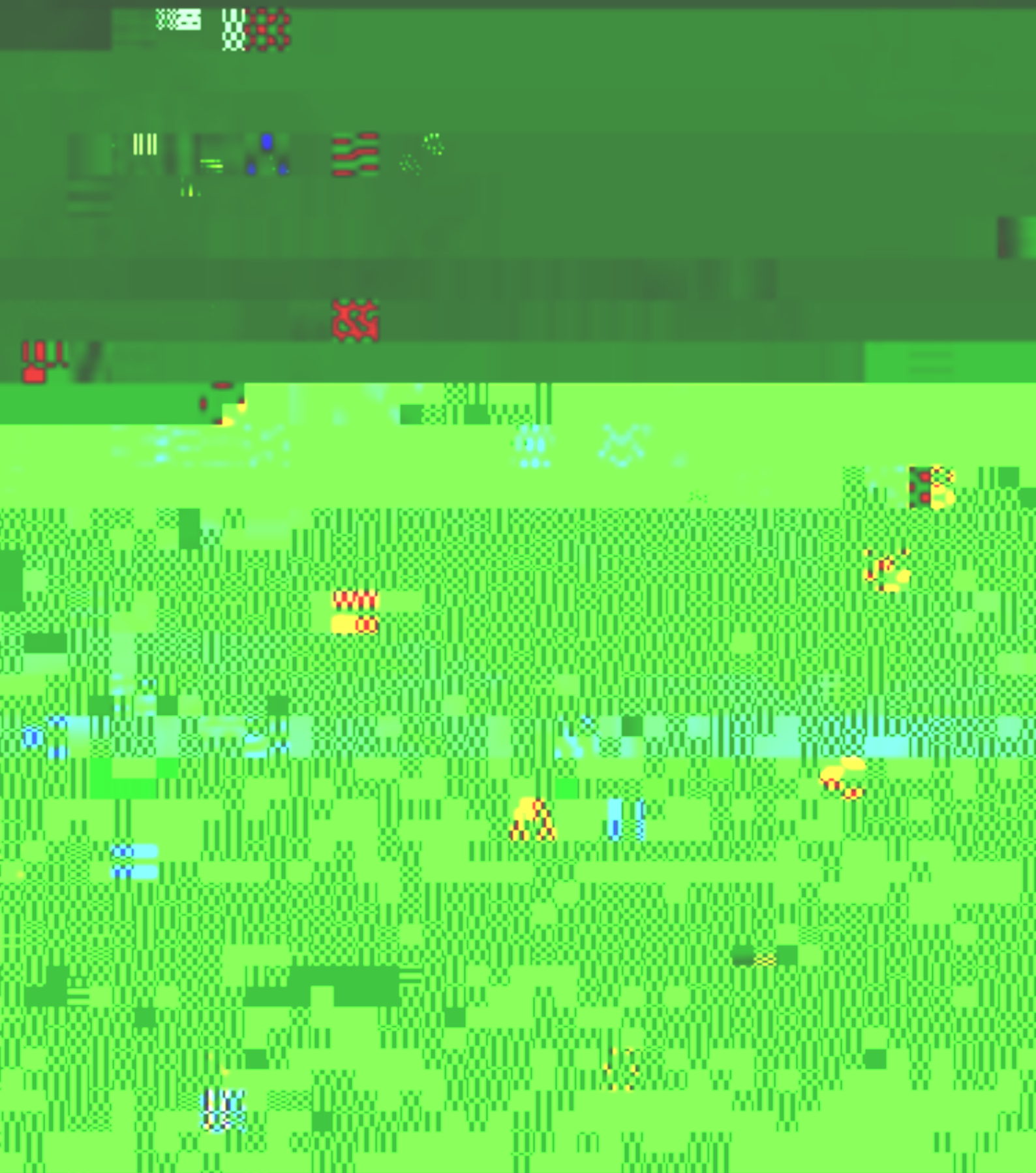
The trees bordering the green in neat rows were looking over the students as they went by, providing shade when sunny and protection come rain. That crisp day, the green leaves mottled with bright orange or crimson red provided beauty. Autumn was settling in.

The wall fringing School House and Wendron Gordon had been eroded over the years, the bricks clinging on during the harsh winters but nestling against each other during the summers. Small purple plants stuck their petals over the wall once in a while to catch a glimpse at their glorious surroundings, but they shut themselves away in the winter.

The birds overhead were singing gracefully; the



Autumn



Mr Tim Norton

Role

Director

Who's your favourite character and why?

Eugene - he always feels awkward

Do you have a favourite rehearsal memory?

The Saturday afternoon when we ran act one in 50 minutes

What's your favourite thing about the 50s?

It's not the 50s

Favourite Line?

before he left the locker room he smeared ben-gay in the team captain's athletic supporter

Cast

Tim Abbasov

Role

Roger

Do you have a favourite rehearsal memory?

We randomly burst into song and kept going for fifteen minutes doing Hairspray and Grease songs! Maybe longer!

Tom Anning

Role

Danny

Which character do you most relate with?

Doody - cause he's socially awkward

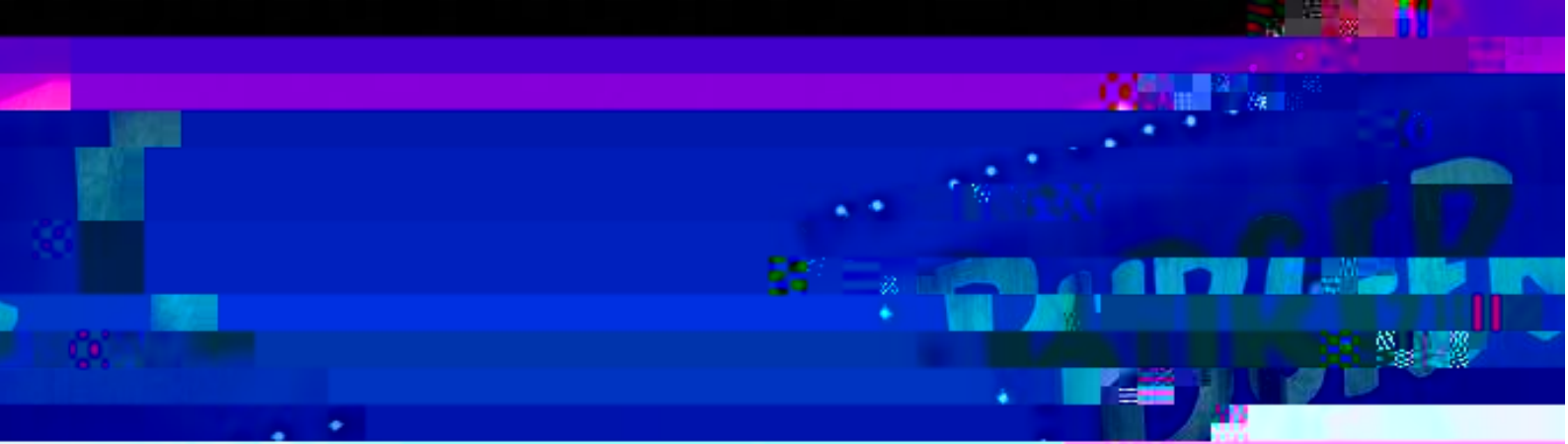
Do you have a favourite rehearsal memory?

Every single one with Matt Goodwin

What's your favourite thing about the 50s?

The style and the music and movies just made the 50s and helped the teenage culture

What was your experience learning lines?

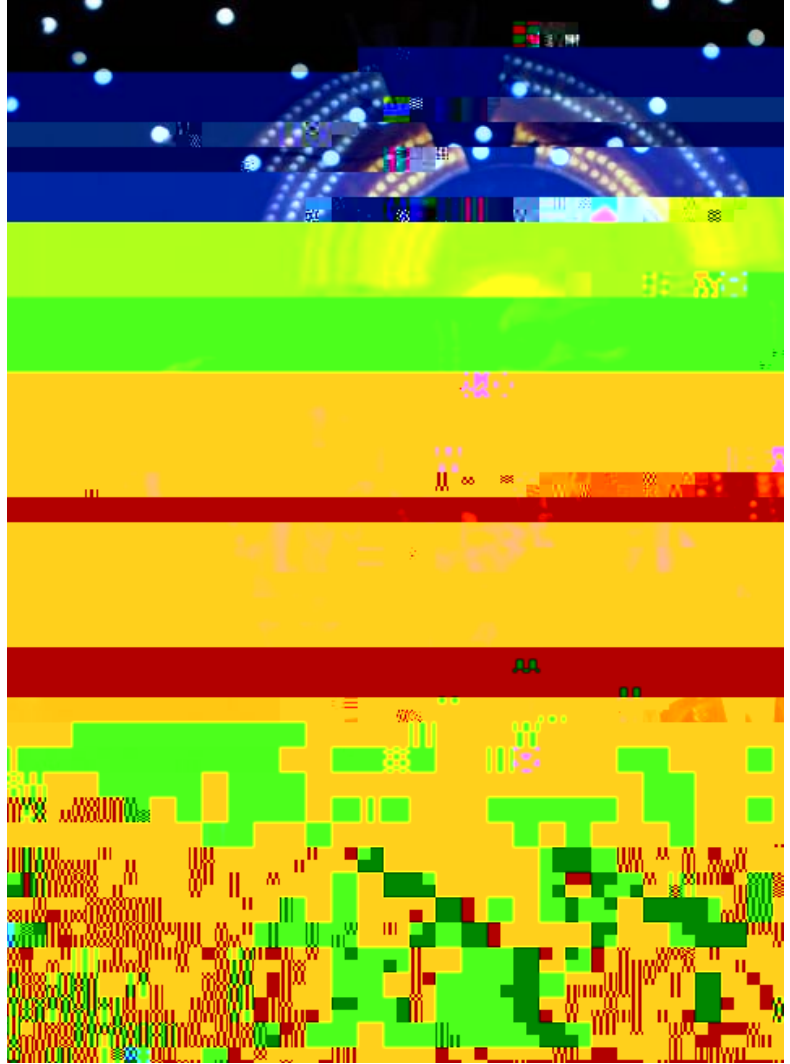


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Lauren Court

Role





Archie Holder

Role

Kenickie

Who's your favourite character and why?

Kenickie because I admire his bravado

Do you have a favourite rehearsal memory?

Through the whole dance [We Go Together]

Matt forgot his mic was on

What was your experience learning lines?

I don't know I haven't done it yet

Favourite Line?

Get bent LaTierri

Alex Moskalevskyi

Role

Brad

Who's your favourite character and why?

Sandy - she has the best character development

Do you have a favourite rehearsal memory?

When I dropped Cristian off the stage



Phoebe Fletcher

Role

Sandy

Which character do you most relate with?

Frenchie - because I know how it feels to fail, and have to pick yourself back up again as quickly as you can

Who's your favourite character and why?

I like Rizzo, I think she has a lot of depth and insecurities, and it's interesting the lengths she goes to hide those

Do you have a favourite rehearsal memory?

Probably when we first sang Freddie, my love with the band

Favourite Line?

Tell me about it, stud

Are there any in-jokes?

Every time the line 'honey' in The One That I Want comes up, Tom and I give each other a cheeky wink

James Gill

Role

Sonny

Which character do you most relate with?

Eugene - awkward

Who's your favourite character and why?

I like Patty, she's just really energetic and funny, and we can make fun of her easily

Do you have a favourite rehearsal memory?

When Amy's mic was on in 'We Go Together' by accident

What's your favourite thing about the 50s?

Everyone just lived in the moment

Favourite Line?

Annett's starting to get big knockers

Are there any in-jokes?

Alex's Waluigi impression

Grayson Leversha

Role

Vince Fontaine

Which character do you most relate with?

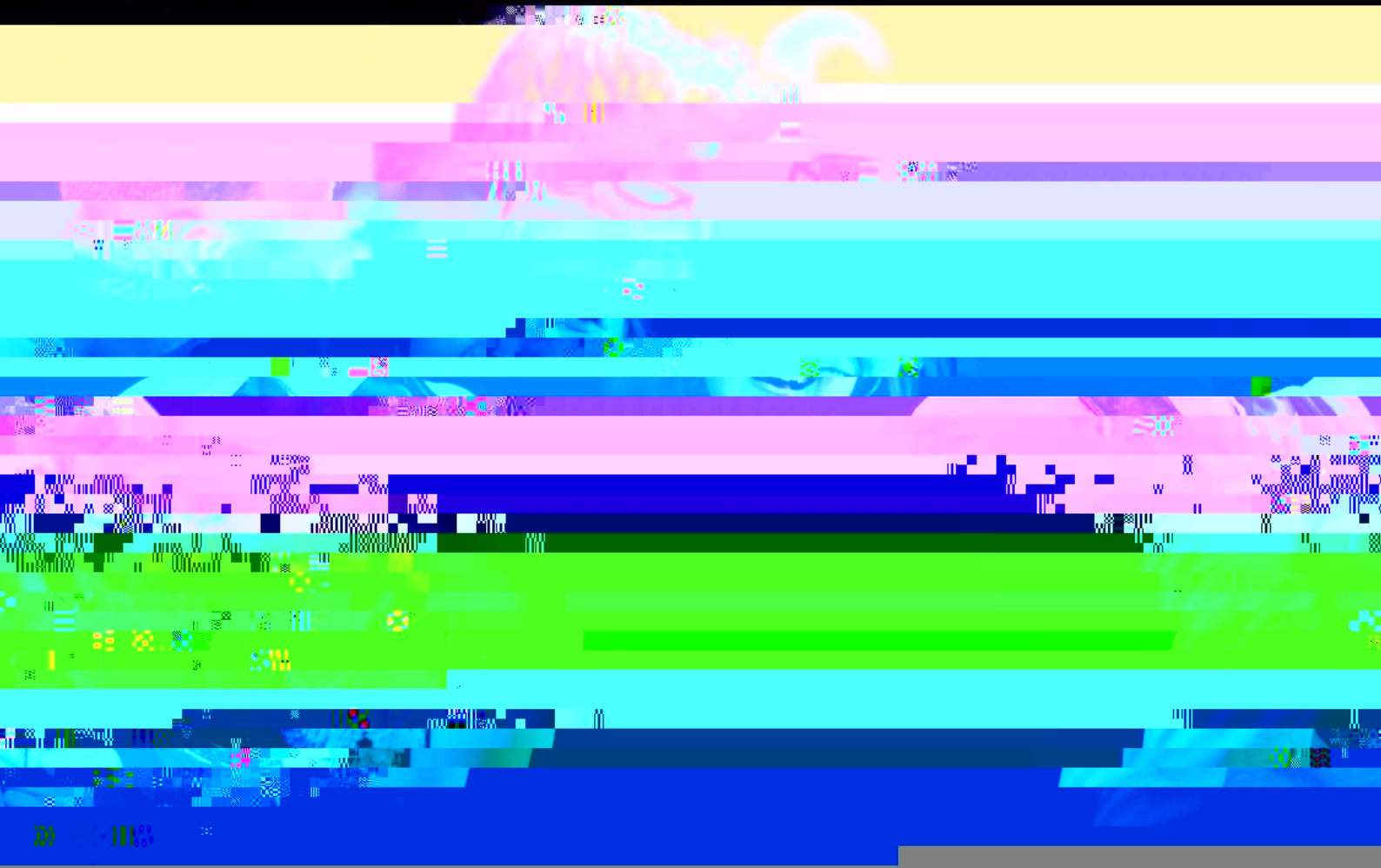
Vince Fontaine - very hyperactive and energetic

What's your favourite thing about the 50s?

The cars

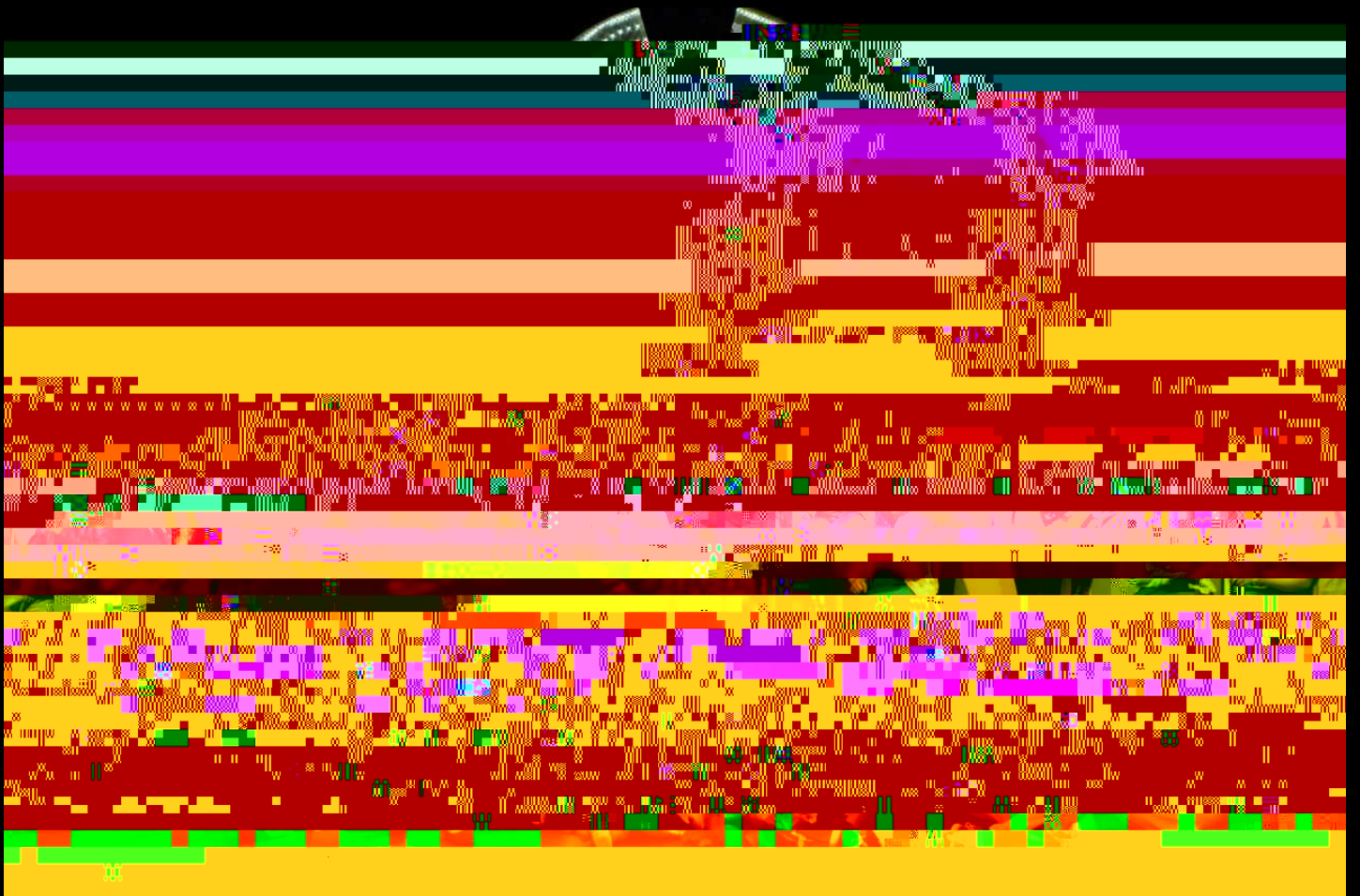
Favourite Line?

Okay, cats, throw your mittens around your r m [at] [the] [road] [qr] y m



Hugh Abrahams

Role
Eugene
Who



James Beattie

Role

Ensemble

Who's your favourite character and why?

Alvin Sanders because it's me

Which is your favourite song from the play?

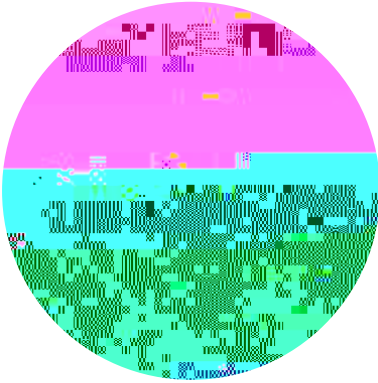
Those Magic Changes because I love the tune
- hit those notes

What's your favourite thing about the 50s?

What even happened in the 50s?

Favourite Line?

Humans of Bromsgrove

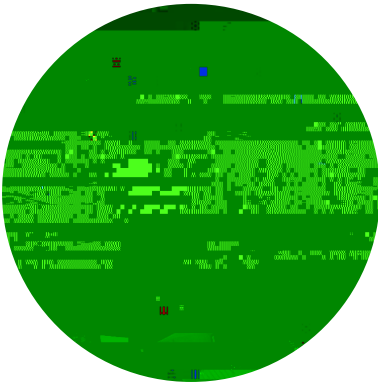


Dr Rimmer

Economics teacher

K \Uh'a U_Yg'mci 'Ub[fm3

Laziness and apathy towards other people and the planet. I think there is a human contract between all of us and I think we should do the best by each other. Although, I am sure that most people try!

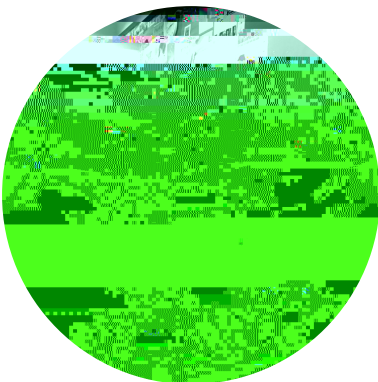


Ms Zafar

Head of History Department

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Cate Blanchett, Meghan Markle and Charlotte from SATC - sleek, sophisticated, restrained, timeless.



Lina

U6 student

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In my wildest dreams, I m living in a small cottage on top of a green hill in Scotland. I don t have any immediate neighbours, but there s some nice folks living down the road. My house is surrounded by really old oak trees; I have three chickens that have old lady names (helga, rene and Astrid), a dog and a vegetable garden that I treat like my fifth child. Every now and then I bake fresh bread and cook recipes from scratch. I have an old fireplace that keeps the house warm in the winter because the rest of my heating doesn t work. I spend my days reading every book I can find at the small bookshop and library in the village close by. And even though I don t really have a talent for writing, I am a poet and write sad poems. And I know this all sounds a bit idealistic - I don t have a job, but still have money, I don t pay taxes, but still live in my house. And I also know that my life won t work out this way. I m way too awake to see that this dream is only a dream. Actually that s not true, it could work, but I m just too scared to leave the known behind.



Edited by William H. Edwards