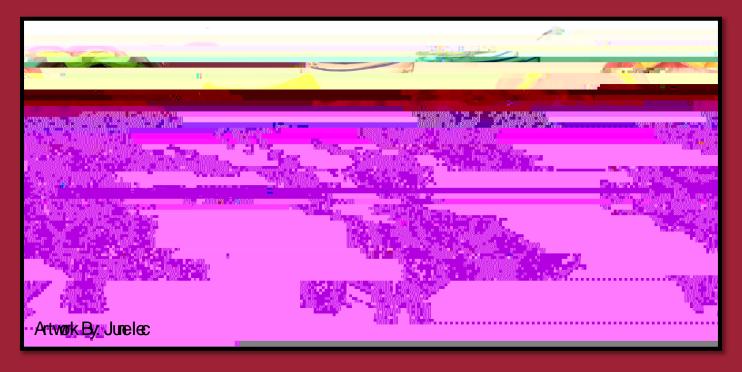
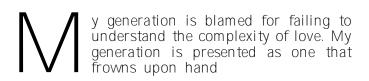


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By Nanci Burbidge

'I have a platform and I should be using December 2015 saw the release of debut it to spread good.' album "Blue Neighbourhood by Australian singer-song writer, Troye The record, a series of electronic-pop Sivan. The ten-track record follows style tracks, manages to tie together a Sivan's EP Wild released earlier in September of last year.

Troye Sivan, 20, who was shortlisted as one of *time.com*'s *MostInfluential Teens* in 2014, first made a name for himself on YouTube, where he now has over three million subscribers. It was here where he was spotted by a Hollywood producer and went on to have a role in 2009's *X-men Origins: Wolverine.*

As an openly gay artist, Sivan has used his popularity and large following to help the LGBT community. In an interview with the *Gay Times* during October of 2015, Troye expanded on his involvement within the gay community,

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Inspired greatly upon the famous BBC4 programme Desert Island Discs the school magazine has decided to take its own slant. Here, every month, we will be asking a member of the school body some quick fire questions about themselves and most importantly, what they would take with them to a desert island.

Mr. Clague, Headmaster

What is your favourite book? Riddley Walker by Russell Hoban. It is a unique view of a dystopian future in which the English language unravels and echoes of the past are misinterpreted. One of the few books I will happily reread.

What is your favourite film? The Castle. As much as it hate to admit it, something brilliant from Australia. A comedy about a working class family fighting for the right to stay in their beloved home. True laconic Aussie humour at its best.

What do you like most about Britain and miss most about New Zealand? What I like most about Britain is the new adventure it is offering me; new people, different perspectives, the exploration of remarkable places. I relish the profound sense of culture and history, yet the future is minimisend needs no sense of such ing stuck in the past.

What cay be miss most about lew Zaland?
Having then an Outdoor Education instructor for most of my life, this is the mountains and for the vers and the sea. There's plenty of wilderness in Britain of course and to be honest it's probably more the busyness of the job that keeps me away. But I do miss walking through a rugged landscape confidently knowing the names of every bird and tree. Something to work on over here.



What is the best piece of advice you could give anyone? The best piece of advice I could give, comes in the form of a favourite quote:

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without being told or encouraged to do one replies, specific thing by the majority of others. However, no, this is not to be. I feel that this control of the 'done' thing is so plainly obvious, and yet nobody seems to understand its restrictive conformity.

Let me use an example to try and explain the 'done' thing better for you, the reader. As listening to the radio is one of my many hobbies, I'll make up an example, using persons A and B. Let's say that person A really enjoys listening to Radio X (a relatively new rock and guitar music based station), whereas person B rather prefers listening to BBC Radio 2 (a much older radio station that has been around for as long as anyone can remember). Person A says to person B, "my life seems to involve having a laugh with Chris Moyles on Radio X in the morning, then easing into the movement of my work. I then come home, sleep and the cycle continues." Person A is trying to get across to person B the repetitive nature of everyday life, by using his own daily routine as a bit of analogy. He was probably therefore expecting person B to reply with something to do with this said topic. However, person B very abruptly and simply asks, "Why don't you listen to Chris Evans?" (Completely expecting that person A knows who Chris Evans is and what radio station he is on, being BBC Radio 2). Having disliked Chris Evans, and finding more humour in Chris Moyles, person A responds by saying, "I don't really like him. I like his television work, but I don't find much entertainment in his radio show". D% AV tR tQe \$os€d@rQnGed nature of person B, they simply look at person A strangely, as if they come from a different planet, and walk away. The 'done' thing within this analogy was that most people listen to Chris Evans on BBC Radio 2, and j**WsX'b@daUseN**pe**LsVrFE`A**vas different and liked Chris Moyles on Radio X more, he was somehow neglected from society and a conversation. This was due to person B's ignorance and closedminded nature. But, why couldn't person A continue in the conversation? Why should anyone be restricted to what most people do? Surely noone should be restricted to the 'done' thing in order to be accepted?

o you follow the crowd? Do you do Using another example, this time music tastes, we things because most of the people can use stereotyping to demonstrate how the around you have done the same? In this power of the 'done' thing. Using person A and B modern day and age, there are many again, let's imagine that person A likes 70s rock people who strongly believe that there is an and pop music, and person B enjoys keeping up-to 'absolute' or 'certain' way to live one's life. This -date with all the rap music that is continuously could be phrased as the 'done' thing. In the 21st coming out. Person A finds himself listening to a Century, where racism, sexism and ageism is 70s rock song, and person B comes up to him, apparently sorted, you'd think that people would noticing it. Person B decides to ask, "Why are you have the freedom to do what they think is right, listening to that? That song is so old". Person A

Fog. Fog dipping behind every corner, every alley. Fog weaving between each bar and plank of scaffolding, cluttering every structure throughout the neighbourhood. Fog nipping the dripping noses of every shivering

ever, there were no books, shelving or chin and 'clicked'. carvings, just a glass wall behind a "I'm the best." His grin was so large it clear mahogany desk. Sat stalking the scrawny, pale man dressed in a modern and apparently expensive suit. He

- "Moody wanted us to play a game." John had taken to letting Bob do the talking.
- "A game?" Rattigan replied. A mo- towards the window. ment passed and from his pocket the beaming Bob withdrew a revolver and silencer. After clearly showing the armament to Rattigan he opened it hitting Bobs face, then a second out letting all but one bullet from their place.
- "Roulette? I was hoping for something more original." He grinned with a mixure of mockery and bliss.
- "I have a soft spot for the classics."
- "Why are you here?" asked Rattigan, "Next time Mister, watch which way not really caring.

A bear skin rug was strewn across the "I told you. You like to play games, floor, mouth agape, while the sealing take risks and Moody just wants to had a series of intricate card patterns see how good at it you really are." He coating it. Truly it was a gentleman's grabbed the gun from Bob's hand library. At the back of the room, how- over the desk, pointed it under his

almost appeared to touch the base of two gas they entered was a young, ehis ears. ##Ypassed onnthe ganY "Yuonur pDon't..." pleadeonthe hm turn," he said expectantly.

might have been conceived as hand- "All right." Bob pointed at himself, some if not for his grotesquely point- huffed and 'clicked'. Rattigan's eyes ed nose and front teeth that appeared narrowed and sharpened. He pointed, to be attempting escape from rest of this time at his eye, with no hesitation his moth. "So you Moody's boys then. and 'clicked'. Bob said nothing; he'd You know I should go and pay her begun to treat the game as more of a another visit. It's been a while since I choir. He started to repeatedly roll his stopped by the church. I kinda owe eyes as if to say 'let's get to the fun them an apology, after that incident part'. It was, again, loaded, aimed and with the acidic holy water." He turned then came the familiar 'click'. The his head and sniggered to himself, mantle was passed on to the now "That was one hell of a baptism." His visibly worried Rattigan. He'd relucattempt at a joke was not well re- tantly pointed at his chest and... ceived by Bob who'd now taken the paused. "Go on, Mr Rattigan." Bob seat across from the man, leaving teased, "I'm waiting." His breathing John to stand behind him, arms fold-quickened, he turned his head and... 'clicked'. A wave of relief covered Rattigan. Bob was unchanged. The gun was taken, aimed and Rattigan quivered. The both of them left their chairs and the millionaire backed

"I don't take chances."

"Shame." Rattigan threw a punch knocking the revolver backwards. Seconds later the two rolled round in a frenzy on the floor each lunging for the other. The brutal, yet brief cock fight was drawn to a swift halt with a single word from the now armed

you whack a gun."

"Good boy, Johnny."

"Get up!" he now referred to Rattigan. He gestured for Rattigan to face the glass; with no unwillingness whatsoever he did.

"Ok Johnny I've had enough. Go on...

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By: Madalina Macadrai

The world is filled with beautiful places, but looking past the usual very popular touristic destinations, a fresh variety of holiday spots could become your new favourite places.

For the lover of exotic places (with a twist)

Curação - Southern Caribbean Sea

This island is owned by the Dutch and has been voted one of the best islands in the Caribbean. It's not a common island- the town is built in the Dutch style, however it is surrounded by tropical areas. Basically, you get the best of both worlds- an exotic Holland.

The island does have the typical characteristics of a holiday island: you can visit the beautiful beaches, lay in the sun and also go to amazing parties. The

weather is stable and the nature is splendid with a lot of vegetation but also a rich marine life. The place to be!

For the lover of oriental, cultural sites

anliurfa - Turkey

The city is commonly known as Urfa and dates back 3,500 years. It is a town with stunning architecture but also the Turkish legend that Abraham was born in a cave there, make this historical city both mystical for the 'explorer', but also relaxing for a different holiday experience. The main attractions

TOP 3 UNIQUE TRADITIONS

Liberty Guillamon

One of the reasons I was so excited to come to Bromsgrove was because of the many different nationalities that this school has and its abundant diversity, and I definitely was not disappointed. In just over a term here, I have learnt so many interesting things about different cultures, many of which seemed like odd concepts to me at first but played such a massive role in peoples' lives. The top three most unique ones I have ever heard about are:

I have a confession to make: this essay was No. Our lives are made of more than knowledge, producing the thought "I can't write this!" I am of emotiontoo logical, too absorbed by the complexity of our world, too easily distracted by the "how" and "whys", to let myself fall in love, fall into the vicious circle of relationships, fall into the normal trap of teenage emotions. I could spend hours defending the genetically inherited selfishness of humans or debating if our Universe was just a matter of pure coincidence, but day dreaming about finding true love always seemed too... clichéd for a 17 year old girl.

Still, I found thinking about what I would have written engaging: would I have analysed the biological explanations of what is love? Would I have dissected the mathematical truths about finding true love? Or maybe I would have proudly presented my own conviction that knowledge is above all?

One day I got distracted by the pile of books spread next to my bed, trying to recount all of the ideas hidden between those pages. Randomly opening them, I suddenly got caught in a thought experiment: if we were to remove love from who we are, from the world we live in, would all the knowledge accumulated by humanity have any value? Would these small treasures suddenly turn into the dust of ignorance?

Give it a moment of thought: these days, cosmologist are "playing" with the idea of multiple universes, in trying to get to the conclusion that our universe is just an alternative to the uncountable number of different worlds. There is nothing special about us, except for some well-placed random numbers. In the same manner, the evolutionary theory reduces humans to simple products of nature, removing any sort of spiritual reason for our existence. Now, our obsession with finding a scientific explanation to everything, leads us to efface profoundness even from some of the most deeply rooted human emotions. But if the final answer of science is that humanity as a whole has no significance - then shouldn't we give up on it all?

never intended to be written. I still remember more than facts, more than a constant pursuit clearly how, at the moment of hearing the title towards universal truth. Our lives are made of of the essay, all of my neurons fired at once, stories, experiences, people and a huge amount