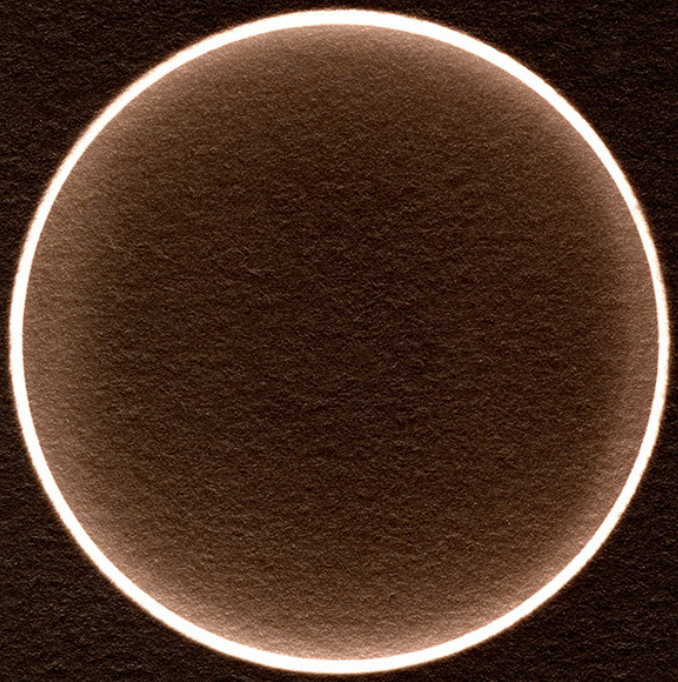


# HUMANITY, REVIEWED

*Artifacts*

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL EDUCATION

VOLUME 1

**Cover Art**
Casey McGuire & Mark Schoon
*Lunar Eclipse*
8x8 inches
Albumen Print
2023

# HUMANITY, REVIEWED: AN EXHIBITION

*"When my breastbone starts to hurt, and my throat tightens, and tears well in my eyes, I want to look away from feeling. I want to deflect with irony, or anything else that will keep me from feeling directly. We all know how loving ends. But I want to fall in love with the world anyway, to let it crack me open. I want to feel what there is to feel while I am here."* - John Green

Students in First-Year Writing classes at UWG on both the Carrollton and Newnan campuses have spent time this semester reading *The Anthropocene Reviewed*, a book of essays that explores how the world has been shaped by humans, for good or ill. The author, John Green, says that humans are "at once far too powerful and not nearly powerful enough. We are powerful enough to radically reshape Earth's climate... but we are not powerful enough to save those we love from suffering."

To make an effort to grasp the paradoxes of being human, the book "rates" items on a five-star scale.

Some artifacts are worthy of a high score, like Diet Dr Pepper. John Green loves Diet Dr Pepper because it is "profoundly artificial," and he says he thinks, "Look what humans can do!" every time he cracks open a fresh can. In contrast, Kentucky bluegrass, the lawn covering over 163,000 square kilometers in the United States, is ranked two stars, in part because it is actually too unnatural; when you cut your grass, you don't even get your hands dirty.

As emerging experts in writing, rhetoric, and critical and creative thinking, First-Year Writing students are participating in two events that invite them to consider what an ideal existence might look like, while grappling with the messiness of being human.

On the Newnan campus, UWG students are considering what it would mean to truly live, not merely survive, on Mars, including proposing what forms of government, art, culture, and economic organization would best suit a burgeoning new colony of humans. This inquiry will culminate in an event called *Mars Expo*, taking place on Friday, November 20. There, students will market their ideas for ideal colonies, considering what parts of humanity they would like to leave on Earth and what ought to be preserved as humans colonize the new frontier of Mars.

Here on the Carrollton campus, in anticipation of *Mars Expo*, we have designed Humanity, Reviewed, an Exhibition of the Human Experience. Here in Carrollton, students are displaying artifacts that represent their time on Earth as a guide to humanity for the future.




# "WAR"

## NIKOLAI E. SANFORD

★★☆☆☆

Mounted on a stark, painted black canvas, this collage of fragmented photographs confronts the heavy duality of human conflict.

I give my piece a 2 out of 5-star ranking as a heavy tally of our history.

While I know war has sometimes stood as a last defense for humanity, like joining the Allies in World War II, the crushing weight of senseless domination leaves me hollow. From the unwanted shadows of Vietnam to the ongoing tragedies in Gaza and Ukraine, this piece is my silent protest against a world that still bleeds for power.

# “WASHINGTON D.C.”

## JERMEL MATHIS

★★★★★

My artifact is a collage of photos that summarizes the embedded meaning behind my trip to Washington D.C. This collage describes the importance of the preservation of artifacts that represent overall changes within our society and humanity’s shared, ever-lasting attempt to maintain goodness within our society. During my trip, I visited landmarks such as the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, the Abraham Lincoln Memorial, and the Washington Monument. These memorials and remembrances of these historical figures represent our determination to continue their fight, whether it be the continuous push for equal civil rights legislation, desire for unification despite political divides, or search for the most representational leader.

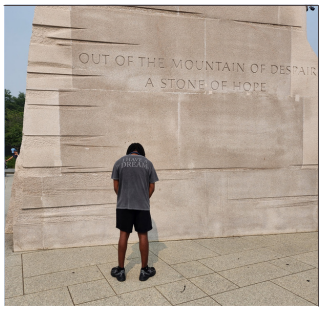
These qualities allow us to better understand how crucial Washington D.C. is in our continued development of our society; for this reason, I give Washington D.C. five stars.



King Memorial



King Memorial




King Memorial (Side)



Lincoln Memorial



Lincoln Memorial



Lincoln Memorial (Outside)



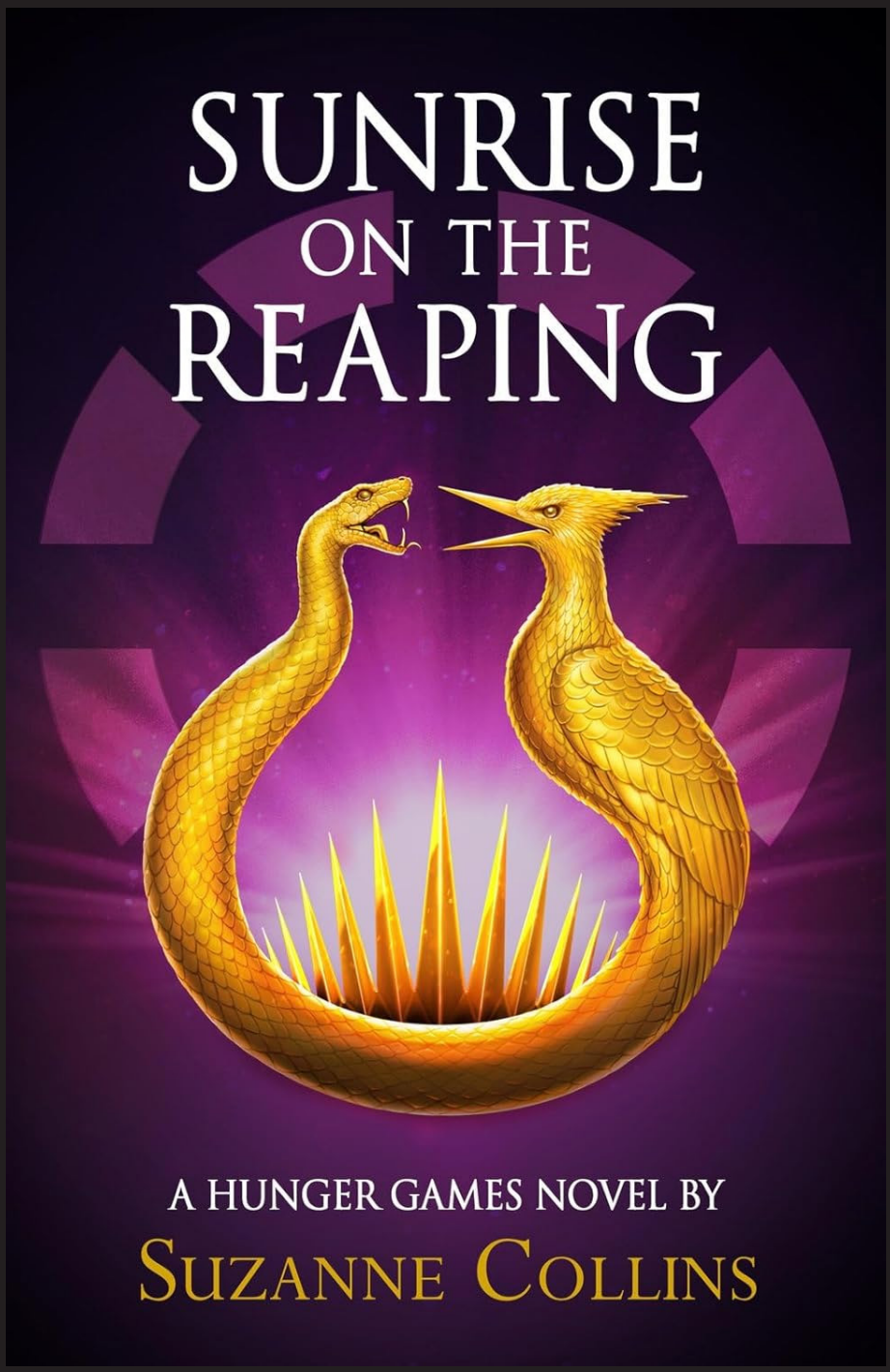
Washington Monument



Washington Monument



Washington Monument (From Lincoln Memorial)




## KARRA KOCH

★★★★☆

I chose to write about books, more specifically *Sunrise on the Reaping* By Suzanne Collins.

I gave them a rating of 4.5 stars because books are items that can inspire people to make a change, just like *Sunrise on the Reaping* did for me




# “MATTE BLACK FRAMES”

## CEDRIC STEWART

★★★★★

My square shaped matte black lens frames have been with me during my darkest days and brightest nights. My glasses watched me grow, change, and discover where I belong. Ive owned my glasses long enough now that they are less of an accessory and more of a witness. They’ve watched me fall in love, start college, lose direction and eventually find it again.

I give my Matte Black Frames 5 stars for durability, 5 stars for surviving my poor decisions and 5 stars for reminding me that seeing clearly has nothing to do with eyesight.




# “CHEERLEADING”

## SERENITY HAYES

★★★★★

This photo represents an important part of my life: cheerleading. My cheer shoes, uniform, and bag show the dedication, teamwork, and passion that came with being a cheerleader. Cheerleading has given me opportunities to grow, create meaningful memories, and build connections with others. These items remind me of the time and effort I put into something I genuinely love.

I give this artifact five stars because cheerleading has contributed to my personal growth and shaped a part of who I am.

To me, being human means discovering passions, forming connections, and finding joy in experiences that become meaningful memories. These items represent all of those things and remind me of a chapter of my life that I will always appreciate.

# “BASKETBALL SHOES”



## JACE PURDIE

★★★★★

These are my basketball shoes from junior year of high school. To somebody else, they might just look like regular shoes, but to me they mean way more. I’ve been through a lot of good and bad moments with these shoes, and they remind me of how far I’ve come. Basketball helped me build confidence and gave me something to focus on when things got hard.

I give these shoes five stars because they represent my memories, my growth, and how I kept pushing through everything.



## DREW LEWIS

★★★★☆

Worn out basketball shoes. I give it a 4 star ranking, I chose this rating because every shoes has a limit, you can’t just wear a shoe forever, and that’s with just regularly putting on shoes, but basketball shoes wearing them out, brings tremendous luck on the court. If you asked almost every nba player they’ve had a shoe that they’ve worn since high school and they keep them around for good luck, with no shoes, it can bring injury and all different types of problems because you haven’t broken them in yet.

If you played in 1 shoes all your life, your body going to naturally want that shoe.

# “CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES”

## EMILY MCDERMOTT

★★★★☆

The chocolate chip cookie is a timeless American classic for a reason. Warm, buttery, sweet, with melted chocolate all in one bite. For my family and I, nothing is better. None of this enjoyment would be possible without the ingenuity of Ms. Ruth Wakefield. The cookies creation was a clever accident. She threw some chunks of chocolate into batter and thus the chocolate chip cookie was born. I can still recall the smell that filled my childhood home as my mother experimented with different recipes. The chocolate chip cookie embodies the love and dedication a mother has for her family. From her I learned the science, but also the passion and love that goes into providing good food for those you cherish most.

I rate chocolate chip cookies a 4.5.






# “FOLDABLE FAN”

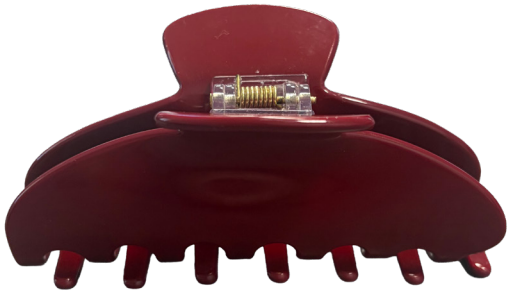
## MADILYN VEATCH

★★★★☆

It just looks like a cute bear but as you unfold it holds secrets. It lays a fan so tiny you can take it anywhere. There is a flashlight on the bottom, I’m not sure how it works. it’s always in my backpack just in case the hot days get to me. When it gets too hot in those early months, I can whip it out while everyone suffers that afternoon walk to class. I can even use my phone charger when it needs to be charged. Ive never actually used this fan, but it’s nice to know it’s there. If it wasn’t a known option I could reach for, I’m sure I would want it 10 times more.

But it is about to die, so I rate it 4 out of 5 stars.

# “CLAW CLIP”



## KILEY HAWARAH

★★★★★

I have a claw clip addiction. They allow my hair to be out of my face while still having my hair down. You may be asking, why not just a half up half down with a ponytail and do you really need the clip? The simple answer is yes. The clip doesn’t make a dent like a ponytail would. Claw clips can also be taken anywhere and I always have one clipped on the strap of my bag.

Overall I think claw clips are very useful and can be dressed for any occasion, so I would rate claw clips five out of five stars.




# "UNIVERSAL STUDIOS"

## MEEYA THOMAS

★★★★★

First opened in Hollywood in 1915 by Carl Laemmle, Universal Studios grew into Universal Studios Orlando. It includes four parks: Universal Studios, Islands of Adventure, Volcano Bay, and the newest park, Epic Universe. These parks showcase many roller coasters, rides, and attractions. Packed with special effects, guests are immersed into a lifelike world from their favorite entertainment. From fire breathing dragons to giant animatronics, Universal has it all. Visitors can ride thrilling rides, walk CityWalk, eat at many restaurants, or watch shows. Open all year with holiday themes, families have year-round fun.

For these reasons, I rate Universal five stars.



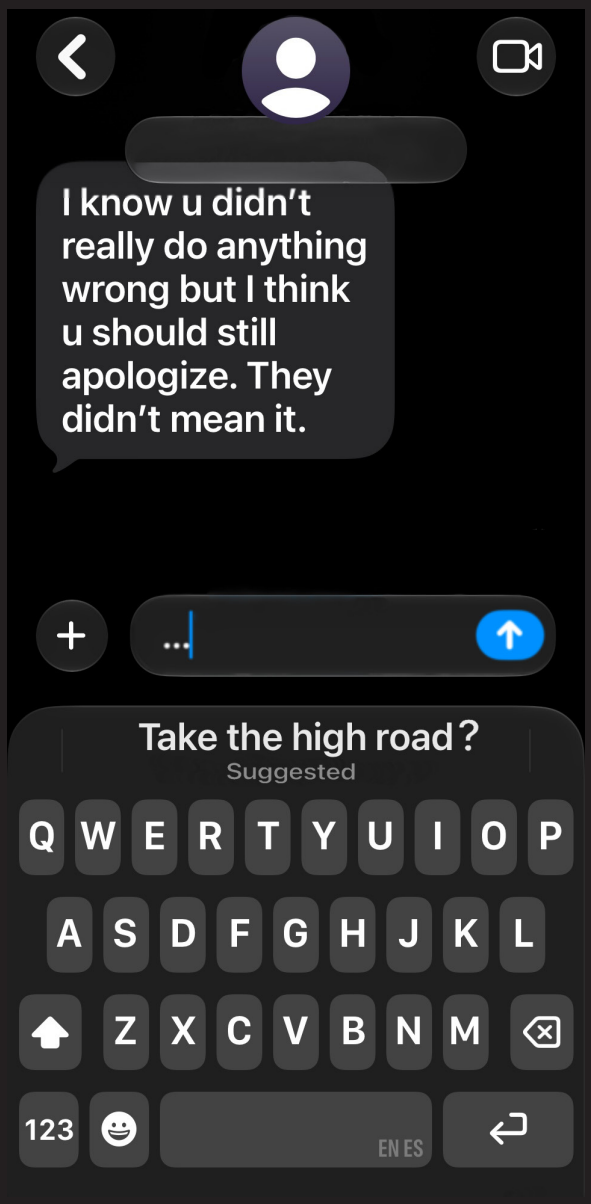

# "NYX EPIC INKY STIX"

## SASHA-GRACE PERSON

★★★★☆

I have tried many different black eyeliners but this specific one is the "Nyx Epic Inky Stix." I like this one specifically as it is a gel liner and it lasts much longer than some other eyeliners I have used in the past. My only problem with it is that it runs out much faster than a regular pencil you can just shave down. I chose this item because I feel as to me, it represents how my style has changed throughout my time in college, including the things I do with my makeup.

I give the "Nyx Epic Inky Stix" a rating of 4 stars.




# "THE HIGH ROAD"

## SONYA HOWARD

★☆☆☆☆

I chose to write about something I initially disagreed with. When I began, I think that The High Road was something that was noble, friendly, and showed the best parts of a person. I was thinking about going at it with a wild animal approach about how it's a risky road or a religious route about how a person's religion will encourage the high road, but I didn't resonate with either of these approaches well. The more I wrote about the idiom, the more I started to hate the concept of it. It rose specific emotions in me that contradicted everything I thought before I began typing. Past history and regrets of myself not being courageous enough to stand up for myself and compensating with those emotions showing other people I was better. After a while it takes a toll on your self-esteem. Evidently, when I got to the end of my essay I changed my mind on the high road.

I hated it. So, I gave it half a star.



# “MICKEY MOUSE-SHAPED CONFETTI”

## NOELLE ECKSTEIN

★★☆☆☆

This artifact is a piece of Mickey Mouse-shaped confetti from a Disney cruise I recently went on. As someone who has never attended any Disney theme park or cruise before, I was astounded by the Disney theming on the ship, which made me wonder why this ship was created. After all, the concept of “Disney” never would have existed, had Walt Disney not had an idea to create an animation business. Disney, as a whole, is a built environment, yet they market the byproducts of their manufactured experiences as “family magic,” leading consumers to believe that the only way to create joyful family experiences is by attending a park or cruise. Mickey Mouse is the face of this, making a cartoon character something that children of all ages can idolize, not the family connection the company markets to create. So, there I was, on a ship in the middle of the Caribbean, surrounded by Mickey Mouse-shaped confetti, no closer to my family because of a fictional character.

I give Mickey Mouse Confetti 2 stars.



# “JOURNAL”

## HONESTY BELL

★★★★★

This object is the single most important unnecessary object that I have ever owned in my entire life, and on top of this the most personable object. This burgundy, beat up, overfilled and plainly decorated journal is much different from my journals of before, my journals of now, and my journals of tomorrow simply because it holds my most important subconscious brain movies from when I was in elementary school up until today. Most of my dreams are in this unfinished and fairly ugly little book, the rest are to be added and if they are not written in smushed together tiny words that alternate color every other dream then they are on scrap pieces of paper and pictures that are shoved into the already existing pages, looking as if it is ready to burst. It is my most intimate thoughts and my most precious ideas in a time where generative AI is taking the creative out of creativity.



# “PS5”

## JORIM RAMIREZ

★★★★☆

My PlayStation 5 represents an important part of my life; it represents a world of memories, friendships, and excitement.

Over the past several years, my cousins and I have spent countless hours playing a wide variety of games and experiencing incredible stories through the console. For this reason, my development and understanding expanded without limit, with games capturing adventure, creativity, and endless possibilities. I give my artifact four out of five stars because the console delivers an advanced gaming experience and high-quality graphics, bringing people together, building friendships, overcoming challenges, and offering endless possibilities. It reminds us that sometimes the greatest experiences come not from the games themselves, but from the people and memories we create along the way.

# “RED BULL”

## HANNAH SCHUSTER

★★★☆☆




My personal vice is Red Bull. My mother would be very ashamed to know how much sugar Free Bull I have consumed. She swears that I am going to die of a heart attack. Red Bull first invented to cure jet lag in1982. Soon, after that the recipe was modified to include carbonation, the Red Bull company was launched in 1987. They got their foot in the door with college students, handing out free cases out free cases and hosting events. Then, sponsor high-adrenalin events to gain a fan base.  While I do not think for one second that Red Bull is health for you, even the sugar free version. I think I still gravitate and grad one because it helps me make the mornings a little bit bearable. Unlike coffee that I must brew and must doctor make drinkable Red Bull I can just grad and go. I also like the rush it gives me from the caffeine.

I give sugar free Red Bull 3 stars.

# “RANCH DRESSING”

## ELWYN CARPENTER

★★☆☆☆

From my dinner November 8th, 2026; a small (2 fl oz) ramekin that is about half full of ranch dressing. The container is black and has a clear lid, and the sauce is white with small flecks. I work at Applebee’s, and we use a TON of sauce. Sometimes I think about a third of my job is getting people cups of sauce and packing up sauce for to go orders. I discovered one night why we use so much sauce. I worked a mid-shift (12-9pm) and I didn’t have any food at home, so I used my employee discount to buy a “Mushroom Swiss Burger” for dinner. I was excited to eat my first meal ever from Applebee’s! Then I took a bite of the burger, and it was absolutely disgusting. It turns out I cannot stand the flavor of the oil they use at the grill. It tastes rancid, but no one else seems bothered. I was still hungry, so I poured some ranch onto my burger. Now I know the reason we use so much sauce is because people need it to mask the taste of the food. I give my half empty cup of ranch 2 stars because I would prefer live in a world, or at least work in a restaurant, where we serve good food, instead of covering up bad food with extra sauce.



*** My opinions do not necessarily represent the opinions of Dine Brands Inc. or its subsidiaries.*




# “CHEERLEADING RINGS”

## MADILYN VEATCH

★★★★★

A bold gold ring with black jewels on top and ruby red accents. The edges write national champion, the middle lays a bull. The 2nd ring is a thin, delicate gold band matching the statement ring. Around it are red and black jewels with state champions written. This championship ring is more than just a piece of jewels. Championship rings became an official, standard part of the high school cheer nationals culture during the late 1990s and early 2000s. While the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) established the first National High School Cheerleading Championship (NHSCC) in 1980, there was no single “first day” for rings. Instead, the tradition evolved through different stages across college, school, and all-star programs (Champ Trove). The important thing about being a part of history is how we are persisting. In these highly competitive environments, an unexpected outcome is the result of a team’s ability to preserve. To me these rings mean more than just winning a competition. Every time I look at it, it reminds me of all the dedication and memories that went to earning it. The gold, red and black details make it one of a kind.

I’m proud of what I accomplished and these rings remind me of all the effort I put into cheerleading, and how worth it, it was. I rate my rings 5 out of 5 stars.

# “LITTLE MERMAID DOLL”

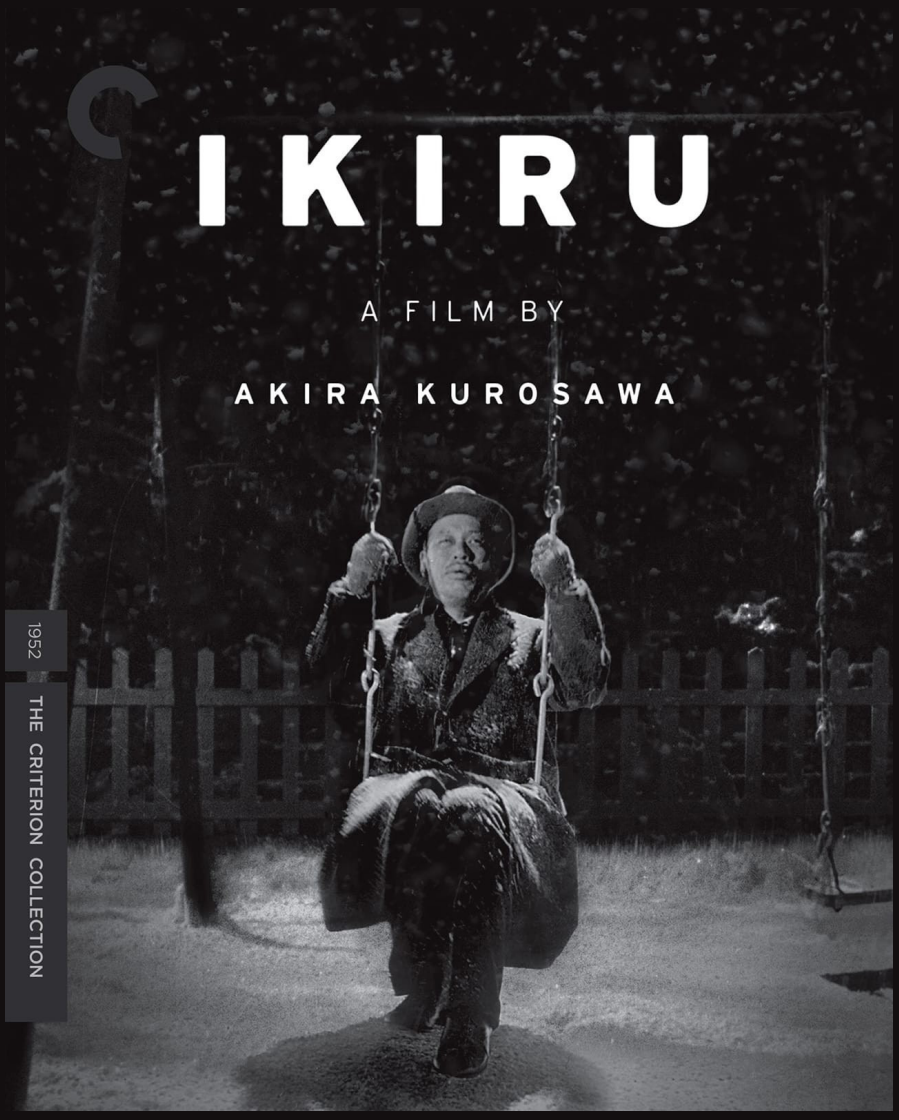
## MAYA THOMPSON

★★★★★

My object is a collector doll I received as a gift back when *The Little Mermaid* live action released. The movie meant a lot to me as a girl who’s loved ariel my entire life. I find it very sweet that some people have close identities with an item or character to the point where seeing those things remind people of them. The movie felt very dear to me as I saw myself even clearer in a character I already loved deeply. Even with all the backlash it received the feeling of finally being represented in something you love so much evens it out.

I give my object a 5, since it’s so detailed down to the packaging. Ariel, and *The Little Mermaid* are one of my favorite things, and I adored seeing people who look like me as ariel.






# "AKIRA KUROSAWA'S *IKIRU*"

**LOGAN LOVVORN**

★★★★★

My object is a criterion collection dvd of Akira Kurosawa's masterpiece *Ikiru*. It tells the tragic yet beautiful story of a man coming to find out he is dying, with little time left to live. He feels he has wasted his entire life going through the pointless motions instead of finding a purpose or enjoying the moments around him.

I give the film 5 stars because it is an incredible work of art that I think everyone should see at least once.




# "POLAROID CAMERA"

## LOUIE GRIGGS

★★★★☆

Polaroid Cameras are handheld cameras with the ability to print photos an instant after they are taken. First released to the public in 1948, Polaroids were seen as a modern miracle. Today, Polaroids are considered "old tech", but still hold a distinct level of popularity, especially recently. There could be many reasons for such growth in popularity, but above all is the ability for us to take a step into the past and stay there for a short time, permitting us to not worry about the troubles and grievances that exist in the world right now. A distraction, but also a beacon of hope that things were once good and can be good again.

I rank Polaroid cameras 4 out of 5 stars.

# "KYLIE SKIN LIP BUTTER"

## KALLI CLELAND

★★★★★

Today I brought my most valued lip product. It is the Kylie Skin Lip Butter in the scent butter cake. I love this product the most because of the way it feels on my lips. It is so soft and smooth when I put it on and it is not sticky at all. I absolutely hate when a product is sticky on my lips. Most of all, I love the way this product tastes and smells. I am not saying that I eat my lip product, but you can definitely taste it when you put it on. I carry this everywhere I go in my purse and it is always my go to. I love how it is the perfect size to where it does not take up much room and I love how instead of the top screwing off, it just pops off. I started using this product because my best friend had it and I fell in love with it. Since then, I have been using it everyday, gifting it to people, and sharing with people.

Therefore, I give my Kylie Skin Lip Butter 5 stars.



# “CONVERSE ALL-STARS”

## ELWYN CARPENTER

★★★★☆

We live in an amazing modern world where I can go to my electrically heated room, chose from an array of more clean, dry outfits than a mid-evil peasant saw in their entire life, and put my clothes in a mechanical dryer that will make them warm and fresh in 30 minutes no matter the weather, season, or time of day. I am eternally grateful that the things that spelled death for my ancestors, an early frost, the common cold, or getting all of your belongings wet during the cold and rainy season, are mere inconveniences in my modern life. The risk I run by getting my shoes and clothes wet is extremely low. I am not at risk of illness or frost bite simply because I got rained on. I try to embrace the temporary discomfort and inconvenience, and to teach myself that I can work through these things. I remind myself, as I am forced to walk through yet another puddle, that this problem is temporary, and cannot harm me. I feel a greater sense of power and connection with myself when I accept the harmless discomforts of modern life. Despite all of this, my shoes are still squishy and wet and gross and making a squelchy noise every time I take a step. And I am still just as uncomfortable as my, much more vulnerable, ancestors would have been if their shoes were wet.







# “JCLC METAL”

## DOBBS

★★★★★

The object I picked for this description is a medal I earned between my sophomore and junior year at JCLC (Jrotc Cadet Leadership Challenge) hosted at Georgia Military College. At this summer camp you would compete in events for a chance to earn awards, one of which being Junk Yard Wars, where you would build a raft out of junk and race 40ft into the water and back. My team won with a time of roughly 1:30, beating the second place by over 20 seconds. It would take me several months to get my medal due to issues with scheduling.

I give the medal 5/5 stars because it has a ton of good memories attached to it and marks a fun achievement while I was there.



# “HUMANITIES TREE”

## GABRIELA GALVEZ

★★★★★

This painting consists of two mediums: watercolor and colored pencil. The subject is of a tree located in front of the Humanities building and the newly built Pafford building. After spending a day with a friend–just painting this tree–the tree was torn down the next day. The news completely shocked me. I hadn’t even taken a picture of the tree, assuming it would still be there for me to continue painting. This situation leads me to believe that the continuing use of art to record things is extremely important. With the rise of easier access to photography, art has been used less and less to record moments in time. Maybe there’s a photo out there of this tree, but this painting shows the day before it was stripped from the ground. The painting shows this particular moment in time, and is the last known picture of this tree to be taken. I grieve the tree every time I walk past the ground it laid its roots in.

For this reason, I give art as a form of recording five out of five stars (5/5).

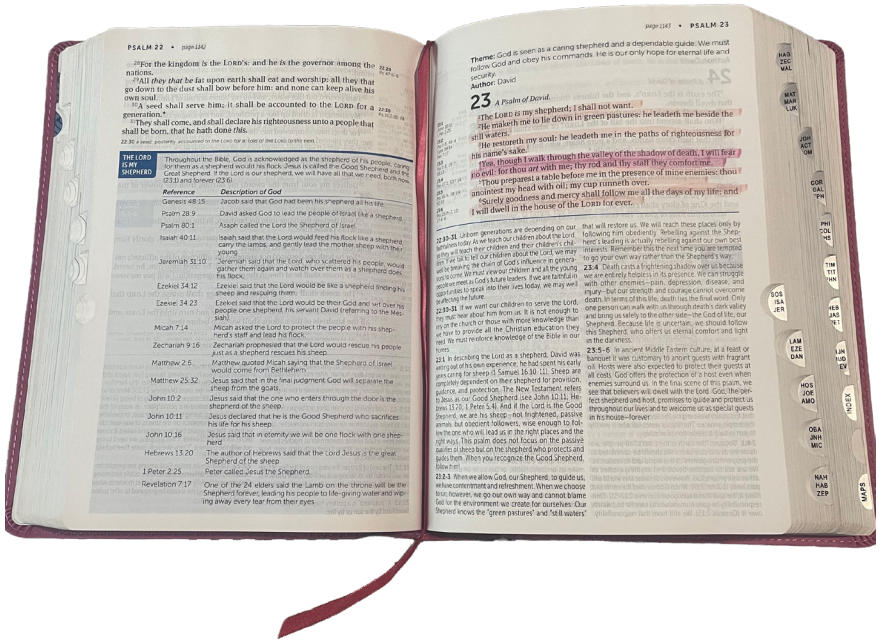
# “BIBLE”

## LIBBEE MCELWEE

★★★★★

My Bible that my church gave me for graduating High School. I chose this to be my artifact because my faith is important to me, and I wanted to share what continues to bring me closer to God. My favorite verse is Psalms 23:4 because it reminds me I don’t have to be afraid because God is with me. My Bible is a gift that I will always treasure because it reminds me of my faith and how important God is in my life.

I give it 5 stars because it is the best thing that I have received.




# “TAP SHOES”

## ANIYA THOMAS

★★★★★

These tap shoes represent more than just a pair of shoes to me. I’ve been tap dancing since I could walk, so dance has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. These shoes hold years of memories, hard work, performances, and growth. Something that started as a childhood activity became a part of who I am.

I give this artifact five stars because it represents a piece of my childhood that I will always carry with me, even as I continue to grow into new versions of myself.



# “NIGHT DRIVING”

## KELLIN A.

★★★★★

Night driving is a time to be vulnerable with yourself, or others if you chose, and think about everything and be open. We are all scared but we want to be seen, we want someone to hear us sing along with the radio, we want someone to know our deepest thoughts, we all want to be human, and that’s a scary thing to be. I guess what I’m saying about night driving is it’s a scary and dangerous thing to do but it makes you feel good, it makes you feel human.

For that I give night driving 5 stars.



# “UNO CARDS”

## KATIE THOMAS

★★★★★




The item I brought was a stack of Uno cards. I give this object a rating of 5 stars. I chose this rating because my family and I play a lot of Uno in our household. It’s like OUR family game! We have probably every Uno game you can think of. We probably might even win a family Uno tournament if people actually started to host them. This constant play of Uno all started from us playing game night every Friday, and it grew and grew into a strong tradition and family thing. Since I’ve played so much with my family, Uno to me becomes a competition or a war when my friends or other family ask to play it or pull out a deck of cards. All the skills and experience I’ve learnt from playing this game make me a whole different person when it’s time to play. I no longer see who I’m playing with as a friend but as an enemy. I play to win! I show no remorse! That’s what makes this card game so fun to me. I love placing that last card down, seeing their faces, and shooting that three letter word! I even do a little dancey dance when I win! Yes, It’s a deck of cards, but it’s no doubt you’ll have a lively good time playing it.




# “VOLLYBALL”

## MAKENZIE CORDELL

★★★★★

This may look like a simple volleyball, but it means so much more to me. It represents 5 years of my life spent playing a sport I loved. Volleyball taught me what it means to be part of a team, knowing that you win or lose together and that no matter what happens, you have each other’s back. Volleyball allowed me to make friendships and memories and experiences with me forever.

I give volleyball five stars because it reminds me that the lessons learned extend far beyond the court.



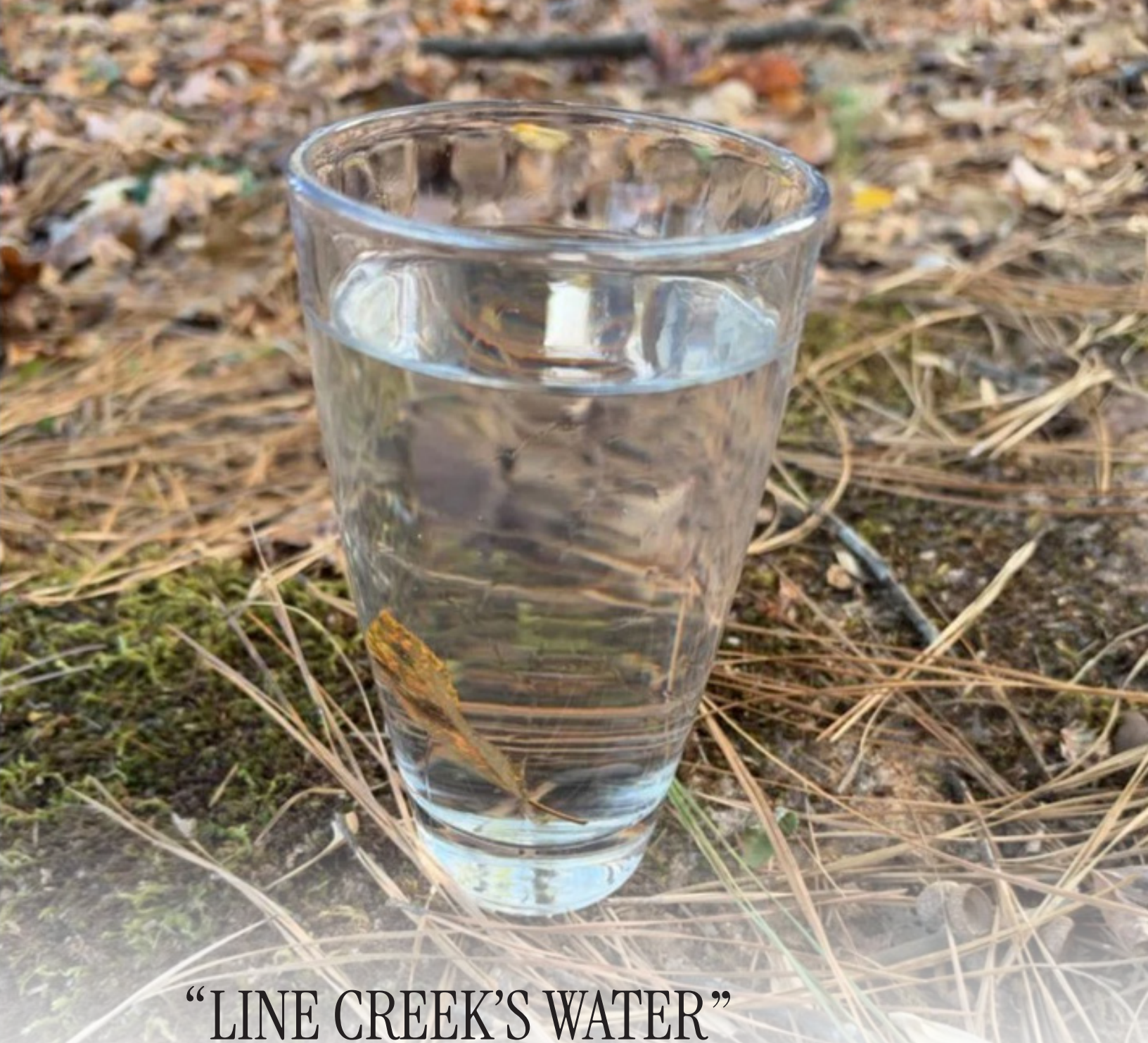

# "THE OUTSIDERS"

## BRECKEN PAYNTER

★★★★★

This is a signed poster from the musical outsiders when I went to go see it at the fox last year in November. I first discovered the book back in 7th grade when our class had to read it for an assignment. I remember the feeling of finishing the book and wanting more, it was an experience that I will never forget. 'The Outsiders' has meant so much to me, and it was the push that got me into reading. Now here I am majoring in creative writing all because of a book I read when I was 13. Seeing the musical version of it brought me many mixed emotions, I remember walking out of the theatre and breathing in the cold November air as a wave of happiness washed over me. If you haven't read the book or seen the musical, I suggest you go and do that.

That's why I rate this object 5 stars.



# “LINE CREEK’S WATER”

## MATT HEITSHUSEN

★★★★☆

Water, the source of all life and one of the essential building blocks needed when looking to form a successful community. For the township of Peachtree City their water is collected by a series of water withdrawal facilities that draw from three local rivers, that being the White Oak, Line, and Sandy Brown Creeks. To signify these all important facets of urban life I have gathered a glass of water from the depths of Line Creek about 2-3 miles away from the Newnan Utilities Water Withdraw Facility. If I were to rate these facilities and the function that they perform on a scale of one to five I would give them ★★★★☆, only subtracting one ★ because I’ve always enjoyed the water towers that these locations negate the need of.

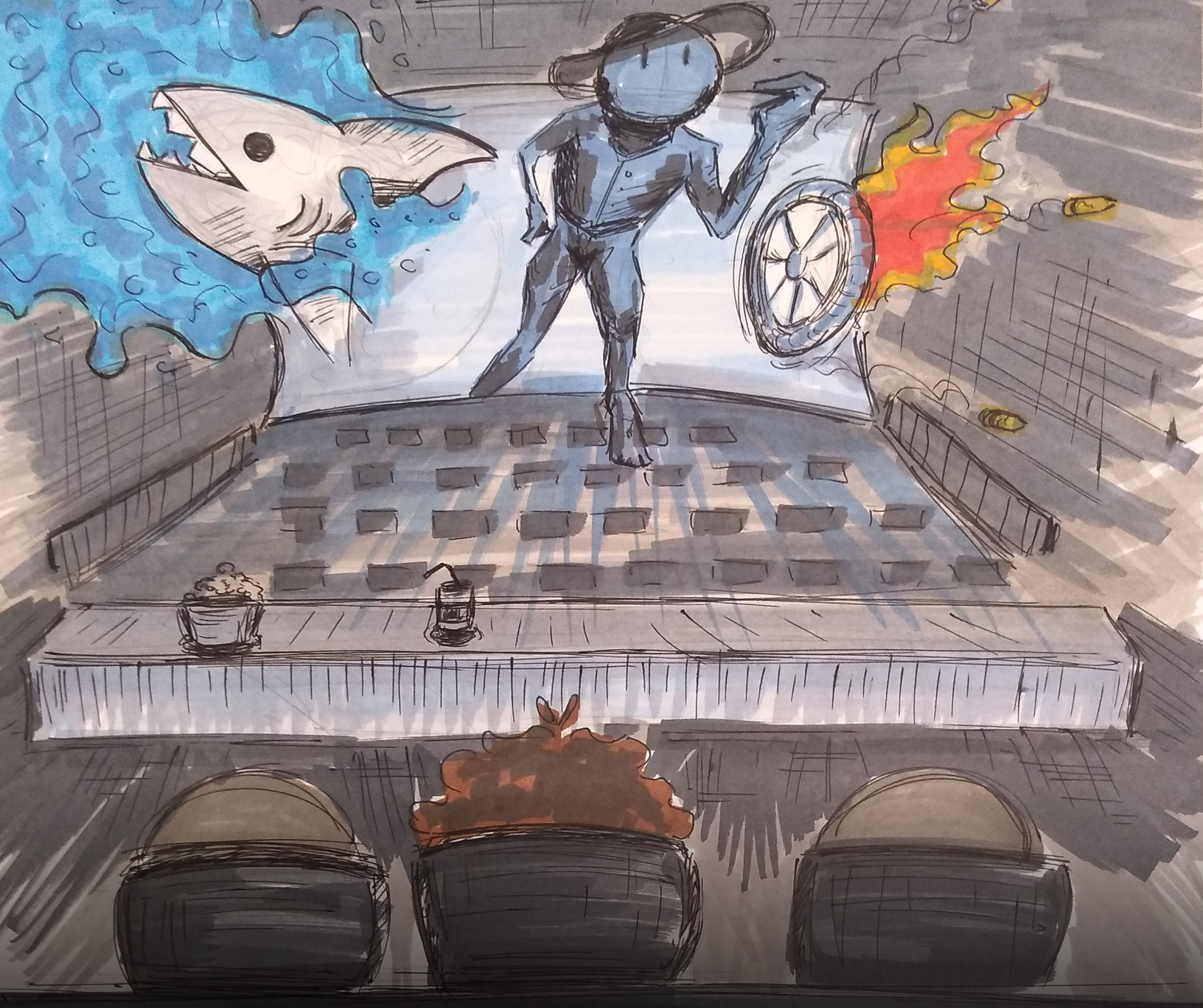


# “THE FORK”

## SOPHIA LEWIS

★★★★★

A fork deserves a 5-star rating as a human artifact to bring to Mars because it is an essential tool for everyday food consumption. It is lightweight, reusable, convenient, and takes up very little storage space. A stainless steel fork can last for years and can be easily washed and sanitized, reducing waste and the need for replacements. It is also multifunctional, allowing us to eat, mix, and prepare different types of food. Although it is a simple object, a fork helps maintain familiar eating habits from Earth and contributes to the comfort and quality of life of people living on Mars.



# “IMAX THEATER”

## LUCAS SILVA

★★★★★

My artifact is what the experience feels like at an IMAX theater. In this drawing with marker, pencil, and ink, I created an artwork that represents the feeling of IMAX in a visual way. I show how all the action and sounds of IMAX make it feel like you are right in each scene.

In the middle with the brown hair is me experiencing this amazing format, and in this experience, I gave it 5/5 stars.