

THE WEST COAST LAMPOON

#1

The Brainrotter's guide to studying
Mrs de Voss' Biography
Immortalised Memes
Whispers

*For those affiliated with brainrot, here are the symbols which recommend which articles not to read based on scale of attention span needed (They are found on the bottom left corner of every article):

◆ No attention span needed

● Just don't read

★ Moderate attention span needed

H i d e
H o s s



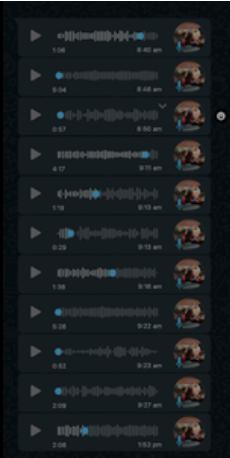
Biography - Vida de Voss

Where did my weekend go?

When our dear editor in chief decided to assign me to the ‘interviews’ section of the paper, I thought I’d struck gold! All I had to do was come up with some fun and insightful questions, transcribe the responses and call it a day.

(cough, cough)

Next thing I know, I’ve received an hour’s worth of voice notes containing the densest lore-drop in PSS history – all this courtesy of our friendly neighbourhood Doctor of English Literature, none other than Mrs Vida de Voss.



A portrait of a professor senior lecturer:

“You can be resilient, you can be powerful when you’re not stuck on that little island of yourself and your ideas of the world.”

Mrs de Voss is undeniably an unusual teacher – she has a peculiar approach that definitely stems from her very unique background and experience.

There was, however, something else that struck me throughout the interview, or actually in most of my conversations with Mrs de Voss. There’s this clear re-orientation of what ‘success’ really is.

I think this perspective is best captured by: “Success derives itself from freedom, not freedom from success”

But what exactly do we mean by freedom here?

Freedom doesn’t just mean the absence of some physical constraint; here, it’s a sort of ‘peace’. A peace and a certainty that stems from becoming the ‘master of your own ship’ – realising that it’s you who determines how you feel or react combined with acknowledging that in spite of this control of yourself, you’re actually really small.

For her, seeing herself as just a small part of a much larger reality allows her to rise above personal disappointments – and even emotional wounds. That shift in perspective grounds a deep sense of peace and steadiness; she has come to understand that a greater truth exists beyond her own experiences—one that enables her to transcend the inward gravity of ego.

We can accomplish a whole lot by taking that step outside of what we ourselves believe and looking at things in context. Pain, heartbreak, that person you just wanna defenestrate so badly – they all tend to become a lot more manageable when you look at a situation as a whole.

I’m already starting to sound like a self-help guru, so I will leave it at that. I think you’ll pick up on what I’m getting at later in the piece.

Let’s shift our focus onto how exactly we got here.

Vida de Voss - a lore drop:

Our story begins back in the '70s with de Voss becoming the firstborn daughter to a clerk and teacher, right here in Namibia. She wouldn't stick around for long, though. After matriculating, it was right off to South Africa for degree number one: Law.

Or not? *Funnily* enough, de Voss failed her second year - twice; with the identical mark.

Kicked out of the degree her parents wanted her to pursue, she headed down a different route. Here we encounter degree number two: Philosophy.



An honours, a year in England, a tour of Europe and a Master's of Philosophy later, de Voss encountered a problem: philosophy isn't very... profitable. To this, our heroine arrived at a peculiar solution: degree number three - English Literature. Coincidentally enough, it's far easier to get a job lecturing English than it is Philosophy, so after a stint in the US, de Voss returned to Namibia and taught English Language and Literature at NUST.

Bored of that, she found her way into the activism scene, becoming the director of the feminist organisation, 'Sister Namibia'. This is why she can be seen creating the girl's safety group in school.

De Voss describes this time in her life as 'transformative', characterised by personal development, exposure to the reality of the world, and so much travel. During these years, she also acquired her PhD, married and had her children.

Now, it's back on to NUST for a final time.

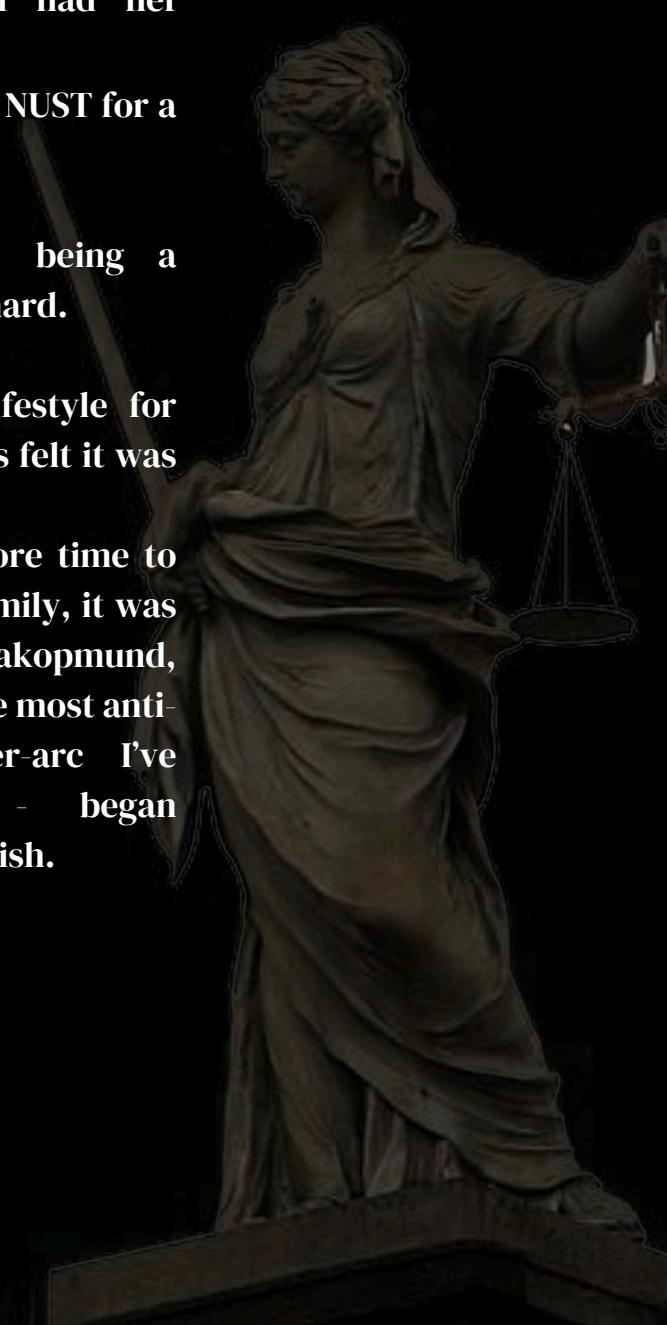
Thing is, though, being a lecturer is... kinda hard.

After living that lifestyle for many years, de Voss felt it was time for a change.

Wanting to give more time to her children and family, it was away to little Swakopmund, and - completing the most anti-climactic character-arc I've ever witnessed - began teaching IGCSE English.



Fun fact: Mrs de Voss is the only PSS staff member to have a whole ahh wikipedia page dedicated to her.



Well, that's enough of me yapping. We posed some questions to Mrs de Voss that we found to be befitting of her stature, let's allow her to speak for herself.

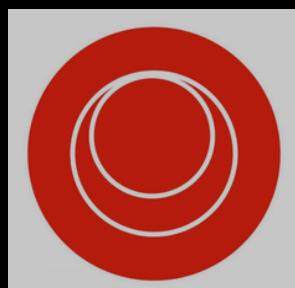
1. If schools didn't exist, how do you think society would organize learning?

"If schools didn't exist, people would probably flock to the centres of growth and success - around those achieving what we want to achieve ourselves.

If I wanted to be a great gardener, I would probably flock to where great gardens exist. I would probably gather around those who manage gardens that I would like to emulate.

We would learn from one another, be it online or face-to-face. We would go to the places and people where we want to end up at.

Learning would be more personal and less general, with experts in a specific discipline tasked with teaching their field of expertise."



Sister Namibia

2. What role should schools play in shaping social values and ethics?

"Before embarking on this question, we need to recognise just how complex it is. We hear different opinions of what is 'good' or 'right' from our families, our churches, from media - ethics simply aren't a black-and-white concept that schools can drill into students.

So what role should schools play? Teach critical thinking.

Teach students to question the ideas thrown at them. Teach them to question the spaces they operate in; the movies they watch; the impact of music on their emotional state and everything in between.

Each of us makes our decisions based on what we agree or disagree with. I might be taught Christian values, but if I disagree with that, then I will still choose to live out my life in a way that I feel is right.

Even further, we must bring up the theory of nature and nurture.

When growing up, we have all these different ideas impressed on us, we're taught what to think of as right or wrong. But this is just how we are nurtured. There also exists my nature, something else, what is what is fundamentally within me, what I am without all this teaching and outside influence.

We have to teach people to analyse how they are nurtured, so that they can recognise what their nature is and how to find a midway between the evil and the good in society, what they're taught and what lies in themselves; for this is a battle that we all fight throughout our lives."

3. What are the defining qualities of a good teacher?

"I'm glad you say qualities and not quality. There are quite a few of them.

The first is probably being familiar with your material, knowing your subject well, in addition to being willing to equip yourself, to further that knowledge in your field when you find it is inadequate.

You also need to be good at conveying all this information: there's a big gap between understanding content yourself and being able to convey it effectively. You need to find methods to teach to convey the information so that it's understood, so that it will stick. Along with this, though, you need to recognise that there will be some people that you can only do so much for or for whom you will need to try a different approach. People are different and our ability to learn is greatly influenced by what's going on in our personal lives.

Lastly, you also need to be a bit of a peoples' person. You need to have an interest in and care for your people; realising that they're also human and want to be recognised. It's important to bring that humanity and identifiable personality because, ultimately, teaching is a relationship between the student and educator."

I do apologise if this article made your brain hurt a little - trust me, it did the same to mine.

A very dear thank you goes out to Mrs de Voss for her time, willingness and crazy resume.

Adieu,
Ayden Herbst

THE BRAINROTTER'S GUIDE TO STUDYING

Okay chat, I know we all **cooked** by brainrot, so imma keep it simple.

When it comes to studying, you're not the problem. The world just be gatekeeping the secrets to making it work. Not me though.

Before anything, regardless of how you do it, never extend your sessions past 30 minutes. Your attention span is just **not that guy**. You wanna stop at 25, then take 5 off. Repeat.

Also, next time you study chemistry just do a little experiment. A good one is to test the flammability of your highlighters. Seriously though, whether you burn them, (please don't) or just get rid of them, The point is, you've got to stop thinking of highlighters as a way to 'study'. Don't get me wrong—highlighters are great for the ***vibes*** and for flagging key info. But you don't actually learn just by highlighting. Honestly, just get some LED's or sm.

Now that that's out of the way, let's get to the good stuff.

Take it as slow as that one teacher talks. You're not gonna spend the entire afternoon studying. Every time you plan to do so, you set yourself up for failure. Start small. Even if it's a single session. Get the snowball rolling. It'll become easier, then you can incorporate longer periods.

Next, you need to realize that fun does not equal distraction. The best way to recall is to stimulate your brain. Music while studying is **not** a cardinal sin. Neither is getting up from your desk and moving somewhere else.



Movies, and video game soundtracks are literally designed to immerse you deeper into the experience. Why would studying be different. These soundtracks usually evoke emotions on top of that, which boosts memory even further. So does changing your location every now and again to keep you alert and out of autopilot mode. But, stick to non-lyrical music, and 'Just Dance' is a little too far when it comes to moving around.

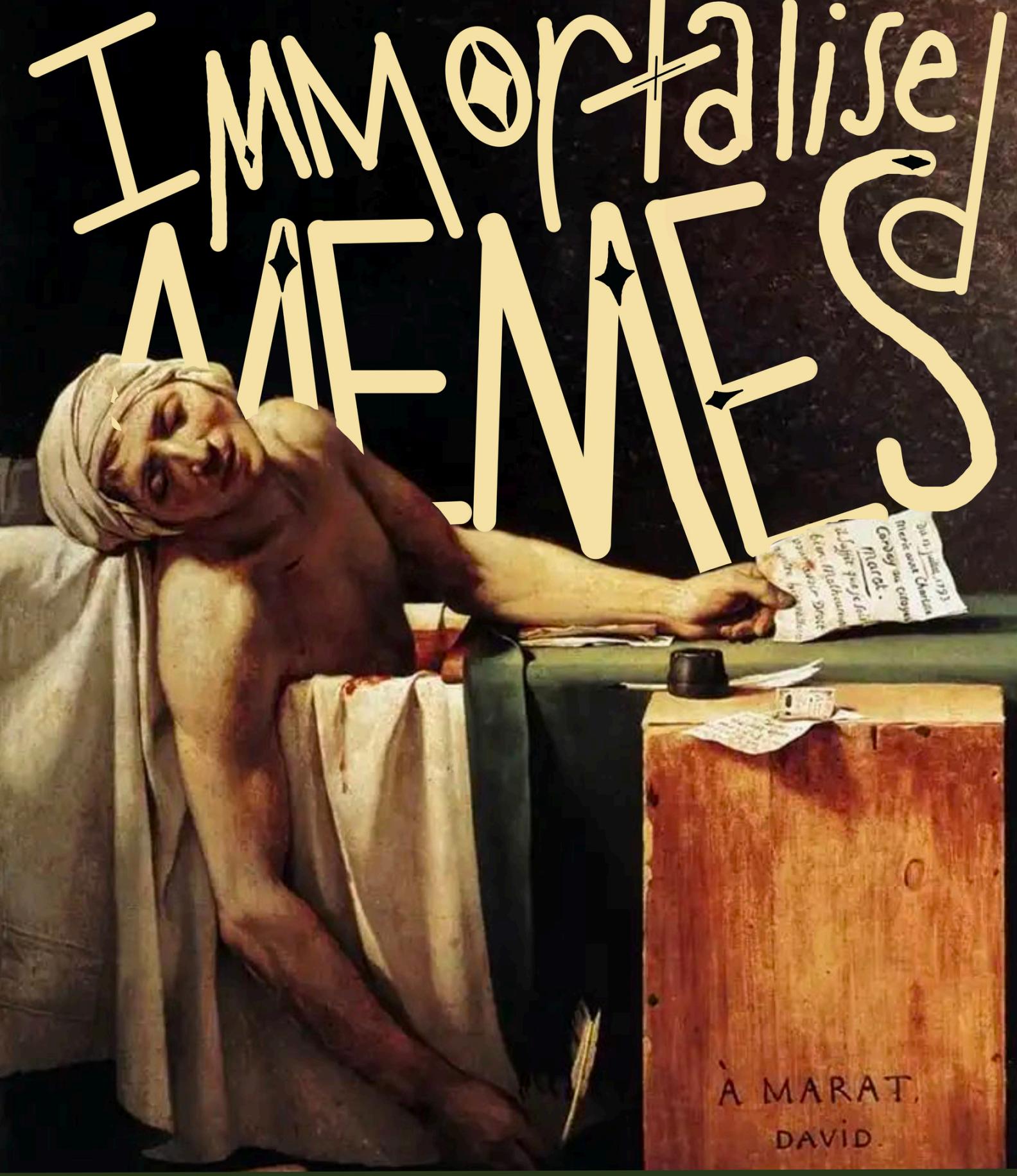
Speaking of, start walking backwards while reading your notes out loud. Just trust me on this one.

Once you've got that down, start yapping to the furniture. Fake it till you make it comes in handy. Since we all know that energy can't be created nor destroyed, but only transferred - Explaining topics you don't understand transfers your cluelessness to the listener. And I find that furniture is best at listening. Avoid the mirror though, - you'll be too distracted by the gorgeous person on the other side.

Finally, If you need some extra motivation go study in public like the **Main Character** you are. Cafe's, park benches, anywhere really. The mild fear of someone silently judging you for being on your phone instead of your notes? **Powerful**. Be sure to have a cap, headphones, and a mysterious notebook to maximise aura.

But If you don't want to go through all the aforementioned effort... Just sleep with the textbook under your pillow.





A wise man once said:

“We’re all pawns controlled by something greater. Memes, the DNA of the soul”

-Monsoon

Meme history

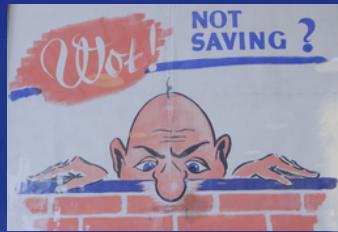
Memes as a concept need no introduction, but you'd be surprised just how far back they go. Before modern cell phones or even the internet were invented, memes were spreading across the globe.

Let's talk about World War 2.

Throughout all of the second world war, a specific piece of graffiti was repeated all around the world, drawings of a bald man with a squidward-esque nose peaking over a wall with the caption "KILROY WAS HERE". Wherever American soldiers went, this phrase followed without fail.



Each discovery of Kilroy was more bizarre than the last, from the crown of the Statue of Liberty to the inside of the nuke at the Trinity Test site, tracking them all down would be quite the adventure. The meme originates with Joe, or James J. Kilroy, a shipyard inspector in the United States who was notorious for slacking off. In an attempt to get the accusations off his back, he would tag areas he inspected with the phrase "Kilroy was here", to show that he had actually done his job. Due to his job as an inspector the phrase popped up in peculiar places all around marine vessels, and with time, sailors and soldiers repeated it until it took on a life of its own.



Though the phrase originated in the United States, the image was picked up from the many interactions between American soldiers and British soldiers, as in the UK, a popular 'meme' critiquing current events or situations was called Mr. Chad. Usually having the phrase "Wot, no...." as a form of criticising the government or society at large for things they lacked, however specifically in WW2 it was used to point out deficiencies caused by war time rationing and economy.. Closely resembling the modern meme:



Soldiers picked up the iconic and easily replicable sketch and applied the phrase "KILROY WAS HERE" as a caption, birthing the new Kilroy.

Meaning:

Kilroy became a meme-icon among American soldiers, similar to a figure like Chuck Norris , he was seen as a super-soldier who worked for Americans, but was always one step ahead. The idea was no matter where you went, the super-soldier Kilroy had already been there, already made his move, was already scheming his next. It became an inside-joke and challenge among soldiers to tag increasingly absurd places with Kilroy, to show just how thorough the 'super-soldier' was (hence Kilroy being in the statue of liberty)

Though it was humorous and soldiers understood the joke, there was a certain fellow who did not like the idea of an American super-soldier always one step ahead of them.



The mean mustache man

The Kilroy meme had become so prominent that it showed up in increasingly remote locations with reports even citing that the tag showed up in places that the military was not even known to have reached yet. A certain austrian painter, the mustache man had believed that due to the fact Kilroy was in these remote locations and even on bombs the nat-zo-nice people had acquired from the US government, that Kilroy was an actual spy working for the US. 120 degree salute man had even been reported to have had some of his best men working on the case of finding Kilroy.



Kilroy - The Alpha release of Chad

In the end Kilroy was a viral trend, a challenge, a glorified and comical fictional icon, and such a prominent global phenomenon that it even caught attention from leading powers as an actual threat of some variety. When reflecting on it we can see the seeds of modern memes, the extreme exaggeration of skill and merit from Gigachad, the viral challenge reminiscent of Meme-Audios repeated across reels and tiktoks, and the fact the mustache man considered a literal meme a potential threat being a plot right out of South Park.

Whispers

TEA & GOSSIP

PIPING HOT FROM THE MOUTHS OF PSS MEMBERS
"GOSSIP GOES AROUND LIKE SNAKES IN A CAGE, BUT HERE THE SNAKES ARE FRIENDLY,
AND THEY INVITE YOU TO TALK WITH THEM..."

Q: If PSS had a reality TV show, what would it be called?

A: "Conradie: The Musical"
"How to lose your mind in ten days"

"STuPiDiTy in the building"

"Red is the new black"

"50 shades of pain"

"Corruption in ten fonts"

"Criminally stupid minds"

"Prison break"

"Liechti's machinations"

"Stuff that entertains Conradie"

"The Bachelor: Teacher edition"

"So you think you can pass?"

"The walking deadlines"

"WW2 Colourised; Ngandu's tests"

"Breaking sad"

"Who wants to be emotionally unstable?"

"Parking lot road rage"

Q: What's the funniest excuse you've given for not doing your homework?

A: "My grandpop died"

"My parrot ate it"

"Gaslit the teacher into believing they didn't give homework"

"The Wi-Fi went out, and by the time it came back, I'd spiritually disconnected too."

"I was too busy crying over the last assignment you gave us. This one just felt like salt in the wound."

"My printer said, 'Nah homie'"

"I did it, but I didn't want to embarrass everyone else with how good it was."

"Turns out, binge-watching 12 episodes of a show doesn't leave room for productivity."

"Brain said no."

"I wrote it in invisible ink. Trust me."

"I left it in my dreams where it belongs, along with all my ambition."

"I was doin da math, but the math started doin me. Im forever scarred"

"Homework is temporary, napping is eternal"

Q: If you could write an anonymous compliment to someone, what would it say? [Brackets are the person directed to]

A: "You have nice feet"

"You have a very proportional face (Qismah)."

"You're so skibidi"

"You have very fluffy hair hair (Paulo)"

"You are very funny (Putjo)"

"Lexi, you're an awesome friend, and you bring a smile to everybody's face"

"That face is lethal"

"I get abs every time you open your mouth"

"You're very kind (Helana)"

"Your aura is unmatched"

"You have beautiful birthing hips."

"You look like a meerkat. In a good way."

"You have the clearest eye whites. Most people's eye whites are red or veiny, but yours are very bright and clear."

"I like your collarbone, very seeable."

"You're someone I'd want to see right before I die."

"The sugar mommies and sugar daddies want you"

"Im crazy, yes thank you myself very much"

"You have the kind of charisma that could rally raccoons into battle. (Nellao)"

"Ane and Arne are very cute together, I call them 'Ipad kid X Hockey Baddie'"

Q: What is the most absurd/hilarious quote your friends/loved ones have uttered?

A: "Take Ai away from the proletariats"

"Not the most hilarious, but Valentino once thought we said "monkeys falling off the stool" after we said "magies vol, oogies toe" after we finished eating"

"One of us has a brain and it's not us"
"

" if you laugh and giggle you can make your booty shake and jiggle"

" You have less efficacy than two old people consummating"

Q: What was something your parents said to you when you were younger that turned out to be true?

A: " I'll give you a reason to cry"

"Yeah everyone says they'd never touch alcohol as a kid and then look what happens."

"Being patient always pays off"

"When you get older, you start liking foods that you used to hate, especially vegetables."

"That I'd miss my siblings when they went aboard to study."

"Not everyone are your people and that's ok."

Q: Which teacher would make the best supervillain?

A: Ms Grabowsky (4 mentions)

Mrs Conradie (3 Mentions)

The rest all had 1 mention:

Mrs Gressman

Mr Moolman (Revenge arc)

Mrs Liechti

Ruby

MR ZESTY

Dagmar

Mrs Joone

Mrs de Voss

Mrs Smith, she would hit us with that text analysis.

Mrs Rautenbach 100%

Not a teacher, BUT IM GON BE A VILLAIN CAUSE THESE TEACHERS BE ABANDONING US LIKE A FATHER LEAVING FOR MILK. SIDEYE THAILAND CHEMISTRY TEACHER.

Q: What do you think your last words would be?

A: I would probably eat a slice of cake and then say: "that's to die for" ☺

"I'm gonna go buy a Woermann Brock burger"

"I knew I shouldn't have eaten that"

"can we get kfc"

"Stay breezy lil homies, love y'all bunches."

"Something along the lines of ' i love you' or ' go live life!"

"That won't be in the test."

"I'm cooked"

'finally"

Q: If you saw your friend eating boiled chicken without spices or seasoning, what would you do?

A: "boil them idk"

"Start praying for them and call a mental hospital."

"Look upon with disgust and question if their ancestors would think of them"

"Stare loudly"

"If I had seasoning available I would offer it to them"

Polls!

“Summon the abuelas, Nigerian aunties and Nonnas to ‘politely teach’ them how to cook.”

“I would make a joke or say something sarcastic hopefully making us both laugh.”

“Stare at them in disbelief and ask them what they’re doing.”

“I wouldn’t be surprised, for a matter of fact the chicken and the pan would probably be burnt”

“Dude why you be eating like a prisoner of war?”

“impoverished ahh”

Q: When you go back to your high school reunion, what would your former classmates think of future you?

A: “Probably something like ‘Who’s that Femboy’ lmao”

“How is she still so lit and funny??”

“Damn she lost weight and she's rich that's so cool”

“I'd probably still be myself”

“I feel like no one would be surprised”

“That I'm still kind and down to earth.”

“Gang imma be real, I aint living to see a high school reunion.”

“One of two possibilites, I don’t make it to the reunion cause I died or ‘DANG SHAWTIE LOOKIN GOOD”

“Omg what a diva”

“She’s that famous actor!”

Q: If you listen to music, is there a specific genre/piece that you vehemently hide from everyone because its too ‘weird’ or “they won’t match my freak” etc, according to you?

A: “minion covers of songs :(“

“any weezer song. :3”

“Hatsune miku and jack stauber”

“Am Anfang by the wise guys (it’s German vocals so it’s instantly judged)”

“The real slim shady - medieval bardcore edition”

“Bastard (The Album) by Tyler the Creator”

“Soda pop by the Saja boys, I will lose Aura if I’m caught listening to it”

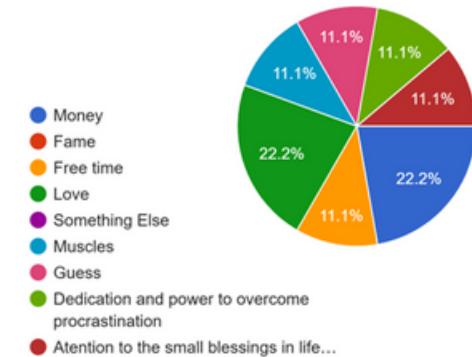
“Minecraft villager remixes”

“Lava Chicken”

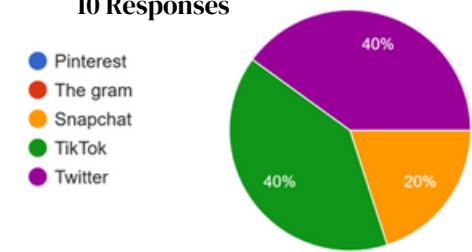
“Not music, but ASMR, I hide that like its cr*ck”

“The tiktok songs like ‘Tourner Dans Le Vide’, they are so great, just so overused”

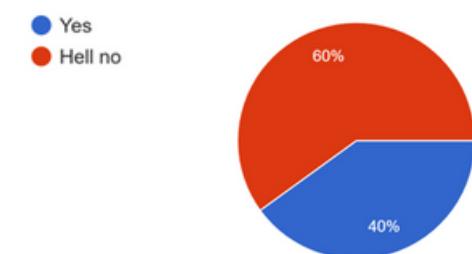
Q: What's one thing you wish you had more of?
9 Responses



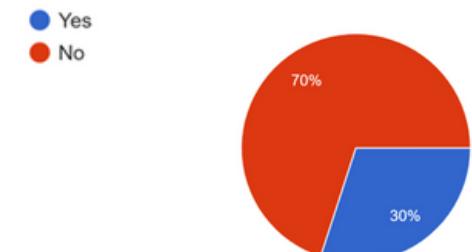
Q: Which app would you obliterate?
10 Responses



Q: Would you swap weekend days with Saturday and Wednesday, so that you have more intermittent breaks, but less longer breaks? So it would be; Work, work, break, work, work, work, break.
10 Responses



Q: Would you choose to know when you will die?
10 Responses



The West Coast Lampoon

Tis' the end of the first edition of the new papers.
A gigantasorous thanks to the team, Mrs de Voss,
and most importantly,

Thank you

for reading this. We hope it brought a little sparkle to your day <3.
Remember to stay happy, and healthy in these trying times.
Until next time

