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I'm Not a Little Stitious- I'm Superstitious

By Brenna Reilly '18

According to Big Think's survey of 2,000 people, 40% of Americans consider themselves superstitious.

Knocking on wood after saying something optimistic reigns as the most popular superstition. The tradition is believed to have started in medieval times. People knocked on pieces of wood from crosses as a connection to divinity, thinking it was giving them good luck.

The fear of the number thirteen, scientifically known as triskaidekaphobia, is also a widely accepted superstition. Many public places try to avoid the number 13—airports usually do not have a thirteenth gate, and several hotels do not have a thirteenth floor.

Some believe the fear of the number thirteen originates from the Last Supper. Judas, the one who betrayed Jesus, was the thirteenth person to be seated at the Last Supper.

Paraskevidekatriaphobia is the fear of Friday the 13th. The date is thought to be the unluckiest day of the year.

This phobia dates back to Adam and Eve. Many think the day Eve

ate the forbidden apple was the first Friday the 13th. Others associate the fear with Friday, Oct. 13, 1307—the day Philip IV of France arrested the Knights Templar, a medieval Christian order that sought the protection of Europeans visiting the Holy Land and carried out bloody military action in the Crusades.

According to U.S. News, Tuesday the 13th is a more terrifying day in Spain and other Spanish speaking countries.

Martes, the Spanish word for Tuesday, stems from Mars, the Roman god of war—connecting *Martes* to the idea of blood, violence and death.

Before Christians adapted superstitious behaviors, they originated from pagan traditions to avoid bad luck and attempt to explain nature. According to Psychic Library, those in ancient time periods believe spirits and the spiritual world were connected to animals and nature.

Watch out! This year Friday the 13th fell in October, the spookiest month of the year!



What a Time...To Be Dead!

By Mary Skoberienda '18

This October 31, as families in the United States fill bags of Halloween candy in preparation for the arrival of neighborhood trick-or-treaters, families in Mexico will prepare intricately decorated altars to welcome the spirits of loved ones.

The Day of the Dead, known as *La Día de Los Muertos* in Spanish, is a three-day celebration beginning on October 31 and lasting through November 2. The holiday, known for its extravagant festivals honoring deceased loved ones, originated in Mexico, but has spread globally. Several cities in the United States with large Mexican influence, including Tucson, Chicago, Los Angeles, Fort Lauderdale, Austin and San Antonio celebrate the holiday with parades and festivals.

This Latin American holiday dates back to the sixteenth century, when Pre-Hispanic indigenous people held a strong belief in the afterlife and the importance of communication with ancestors. After the arrival of the Spanish, the holiday continued as a mixture of Catholic and regional Aztec traditions. Largely considered a Catholic holiday, The Day of the Dead corresponds to All Saints Day (November 1) and All

Souls Day (November 2).

The Day of the Dead celebrations extravagantly welcome deceased spirits back into their families. According to tradition, children, or *angelitos*, appear at midnight on October 31 to spend time with family, followed by adults the next day.

In order to greet the spirits, foods, like tamales, *pan de Muertos*, and sugar skulls, along with scented marigolds often cover a special altar, called the *ofrenda*. Families in some communities even spend the entire night in the beautifully decorated local cemetery, transforming the holiday into a lively celebration with music, food and conversation.



Decorative skulls for Día de Los Muertos

Halloween and the Day of the Dead share more similarities than

simply a date. Both widely popular holidays previously originated from the concepts of spirits returning to life. Halloween, however, typically connotes "evil" spirits causing chaos rather than the cheerful welcoming of familiar, friendly spirits. Halloween traditions have progressively traveled to Mexico, where costumes and masks are sold alongside Day of the Dead preparations, adding to the festivities.



It's No Laughing Matter



By Ailene Woznicki '18

For a brief moment, it seemed as though the days of crime-committing clowns had passed. But thanks to director Andy Muschietti, nightmares of clowns will only increase with the release of new movie, "It."

Based on the 1986 novel by Stephen King, "It" takes place in a town called Derry, where a shapeshifting clown named Pennywise wreaks havoc on the town every 27 years. The first version was originally released in the fall of 1990, so it is only fitting that the remake would come out precisely 27 years later in 2017.

While memes of Pennywise the Dancing Clown have graced Instagram and Twitter providing much needed good chuckles, the children in "It" experience anything but laughter with Pennywise (Bill Skarsgård). The main character, Bill Denbrough (Jaeden Lieberher), an eleven-year-old boy with a stutter, leads his affectionately named Losers' Club to find out what happened to his missing younger brother,

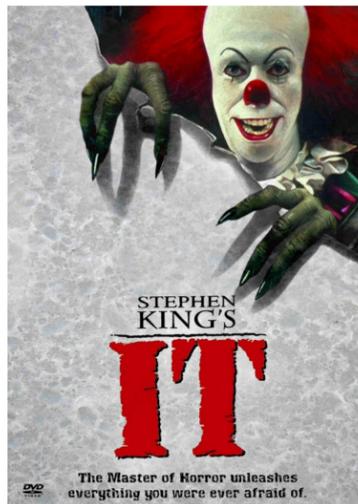
Georgie (Jackson Robert Scott).

"It" assembles a squad of early and preadolescent ghostbusters as varied as an infantry platoon in a World War II combat picture," writes New York Times critic A.O. Scott. This gang includes wildly inappropriate Richie Tozier (Finn Wolfhard); the quiet, homeschooled Mike Hanson (Chosen Jacobs); sheltered, anxious Eddie Kaspbrak (Jack Dylan Grazer); doubtful and logical Stanley Uris (Wyatt Oleff); and the curious new kid in town Ben Hanscom (Jeremy Ray Taylor).

Beverly Marsh (Sophia Lillis) is a young girl who is bullied at school and has a bad, but undeserved, reputation for being promiscuous. While the girls at

school do not accept her, the boys in the Losers' Club welcome her, where she experiences her first sense of belonging.

"That was the closest [Bever-



Terrifying new poster for 2017 "It" proves darker than original.

ly] ever gotten to having a person who actually loved her. Wow, that was depressing!" Lillis said.

King is known for his psychologically chilling thrillers. "It" is no exception. This film "pick[s] up on one key element of the novel, and King's writing in general,

that often goes missing in films based on his work: the notion that young people are uniquely burdened with atoning for the inequities of the adult world," writes

Variety's Andrew Barker.

Beverly's father is seen few times throughout the film, but it is implied that he is abusing Beverly. According to Vanity Fair, while her role is mature, "portraying Beverly's unhappiness wasn't a new challenge for 15-year-old Lillis," who has often played roles of troubled characters. Beverly's actions demonstrate her mental and emotional troubles.

The same theme applies to teenage bully Henry Bower (Nicholas Hamilton). While Bower's father is not shown until later

in the film, Bower's mental instability becomes apparent early on in the film. His bullying becomes more and more violent, and he seems to find a sadistic pleasure in hurting others. The only time he shows fear is around his father, implying that he and his father have a troubled relationship.

The children in the movie have many challenges and burdens to deal with, but are not given comfort or help from adults. The adults seem simply to move on and forget about each kid who goes missing. In true King fashion, each underlying issue comes to a head in an unsettling, and horrifying way.

The film comes to a close, and the most suspenseful words that appear on screen: "Part 1." Director Muschietti confirmed there will be a sequel, which follows the same characters in adulthood. Muschietti hopes to begin preparation for the movie as early as next year.