

OWEN

MUNKELWITZ

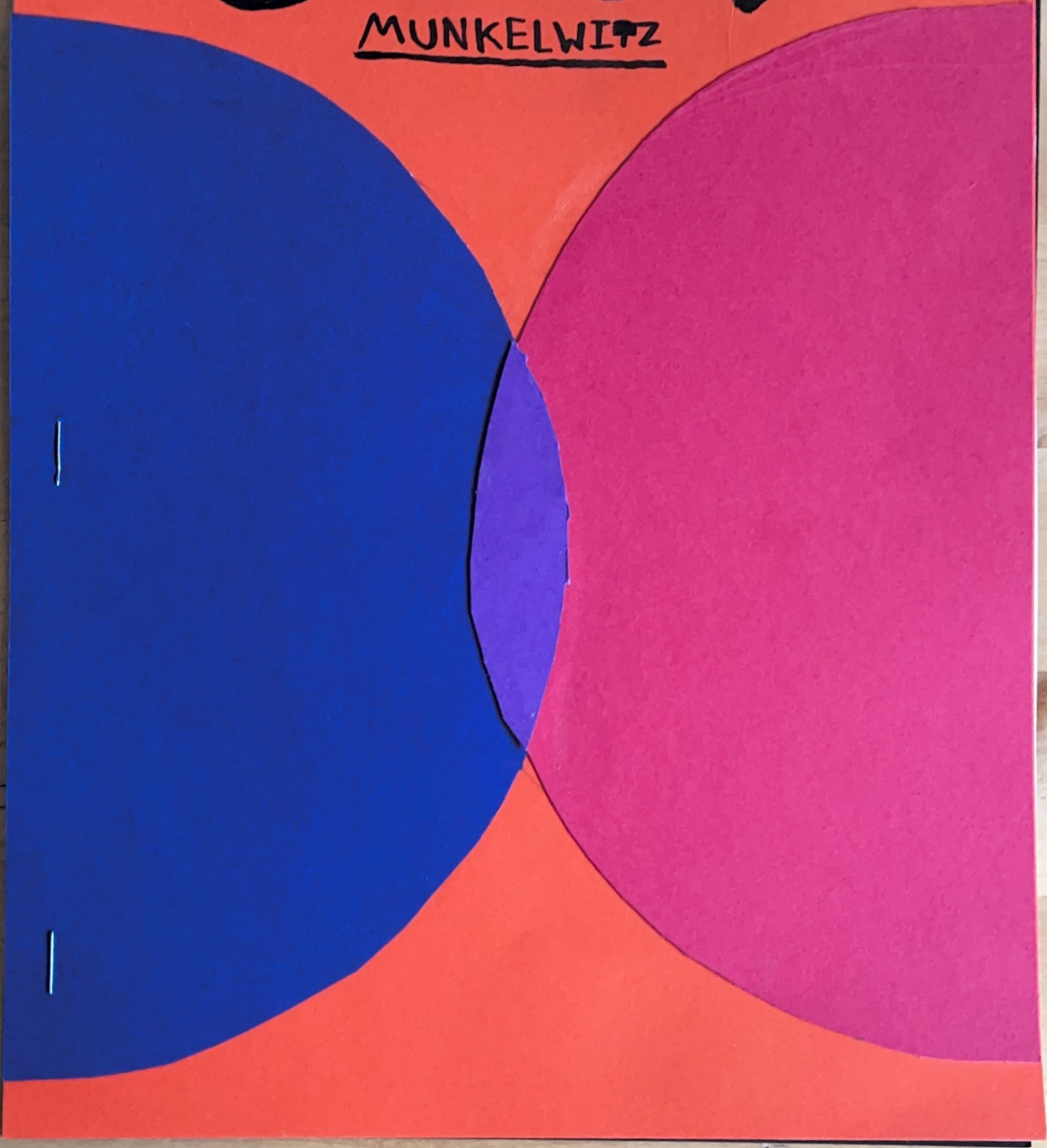


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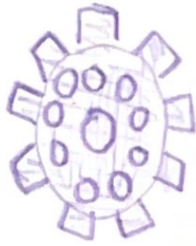
DEAR READERS

Dear readers,

My name is Owen Munkelwitz. When creating this booklet, my goal was to better inform the reader about the curious and creative side of me that isn't always visible. To adequately describe what I enjoy and the experiences that have shaped me today. And while it doesn't grasp everything there is to say about my identity, it encapsulates a significant portion of how I view myself as an individual. In this booklet, I will mention and elaborate upon my love for robotics. Stemming from working together to achieve a common goal instead of competing against one another and how these traits are crucial in the world we live in today. Throughout the blistering summers and the frigid winters, I am a product of my past experiences which will influence me in the present and to come.



Robotics



I've always been fascinated by how our world functions. How things are oriented or combined in just the right way to create something truly unique. How countless tiny organisms collaborate to form a single leaf. Several of the most sophisticated concepts and greatest feats revolve around the ideology of balance. Consider fossil-fuel-based energy sources. Once we discovered that these fuels could be used to power automobiles, factories, and machines at unprecedented rates, we were hooked. As time passed, we began to invest more and more each year, becoming far more efficient while also becoming increasingly more reliant on these resources. Crude would soon become the world's currency, and even the slightest drop in crude prices could plunge entire nations into mass instability. We are now dealing with the aftermath of this imbalance, such as widespread droughts, rising sea levels, ecosystem degradation, and so on. To mitigate the harmful effects of pollution, we must take immediate action doing so in a collaborative manner. These characteristics all apply to robotics, which may explain why I value it so highly. Rather than competing against one another, you work together to achieve a common goal.

I first joined the Penn Alexander robotics team in the fall of 2020. Because virtual school was in session at the time, several outcomes were altered, but even without being present in person, we managed to make the most of it. Although we did not work with a physical robot, we did not lose sight of the problem-solving aspect of robotics. We began planning how we would accomplish the tasks at hand, taking into account which objectives would take the least amount of time to complete but would yield the most points. That year's theme was getting people outside, and as part of that theme, we had to invent a concept to encourage people to go outdoors, whether it was an app that reminds you to go for a walk or a backpack with all the gym equipment you needed to exercise anywhere. Our team began working on the three slides, one at a time, which included the core values slide, the objective slide, and the invention slide. Later that year, we would present our slides to the judges, and as a part of our strong suit of working together and allowing everyone to contribute their ideas or considerations, we were awarded first place for core values. I would later rejoin the robotics team the following year, from 2021 to 2022, but this time in person. We would soon be advanced to the Mid-Atlantic robotics tournament, but due to a covid surge, we would be forced to withdraw.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to join the robotics team, and I believe that robotics has helped me become a better version of myself by teaching me how to collaborate while also teaching me the process of planning, coding, designing, and testing. Hopefully, in the future, I will be able to join the SLA Center City robotics team and continue this incredible journey.

Summer to Winter



A pivotal lesson in my educational history is that change is inevitable and you will have to adapt to whatever that change may be. For me, that change were the seasons. I would always long for the opposite season for which I was in. This Vignette is about the process of adapting to that change.

When summer arrives, you wish it was winter. You wish for the sweltering heat to disappear so you can drink a steaming cup of hot cocoa after venturing out into the frigid tundra. You wish to be with family and friends, playing board games and watching long movies. You wish to get away from the mucky heat and into a welcoming and cozy home. As the months pass, those same green leaves change to red and then orange to finally yellow. The smell of decomposing leaves and the chilling breezes of winter emerging. As the days begin to shorten, you yearn for them to lengthen. As the days begin with an ominous gloom rather than bright light streaking across the unlit sky. When you wish going outside wasn't comparable to setting foot on an uninhabitable planet. You wish it was summer again. You wish to open your door to life, not a black-and-white world. The first signs of life appear as the soil defrosts and uncovers the matted tufts of grass. People can be seen biking, running, and admiring the scenery that before was blanketed by a cloud-like coat of snow. Water starts to flow from previously frozen creeks, and the misty air is filled with the sweet fragrance of life. A rainbow appears as the sun's rays strike the minuscule droplets that linger in the air. Water seeps into the depths of the earth's surface as the remaining patches of snow melt, and the first audible sounds of birds tweeting and crickets chirping can be heard echoing throughout the dense forest. The perpetual noise of rapid water ramming and changing course as it traverses through the jagged rocks can be overheard by a nearby creek. Toads can be spotted leaping from the once jagged rocks onto the newly rounded-off ones blanketed by a jungle of ferns, fungi, and moss. As time progresses the forest begins to brighten and the leaves begin to fade into a hazier hue of green. The icky mud turns into a brittle clay as the sky begins to wither. The sky began to yellow and the world began to change. A change that I could not be controlled. A change that I would have to adapt to instead of avoiding. Otherwise, I would be stuck in a future world where it was winter instead of Summer. A world outside the present one.

Owen's PHILLY

FOOD RECOMMENDATIONS

- BAR FOOD LOCAL 44
- MEXICAN: TACO TACO ANEJO
- KOREAN: SOUTHGATE
- CHICKEN: WISHBONE
- PIZZA: DOCK STREET
- CLARKVILLE
- ICE CREAM & POPSICLES: POP SHOP SWEET CHARLIES JENIS SPLENDID ICE CREAMS
- THAI: PATTAYA THAI CUISINE CAFE
- GREENLINE
- KNOCKBOX CAFE
- VAGRANT COFFEE
- BOBA TEA: TEA-DO
- CHINESE: HANDY DYNASTY
- VIETNAMESE: VIETNAM CAFE

- 23 What this might be
- 24 English poet who wrote "The Highwayman"
- 26 World Cup org.
- 27 Digs in the ice?
- 28 Persian — (rug maker's deliberate mistake)
- 29 Humorist Bombeck
- 30 Early American pseudonym
- 32 Within
- 33 Prop that enabled Houdini to "walk through" a brick wall
- 35 Napoleonic —
- 36 Sounds of disapproval
- 37 Accept imminent punishment
- 39 Republic toppled in 1933
- 42 Red block in Minecraft
- 43 Rapper's highlights
- 45 Curse out
- 49 Word with open or pigeon
- 50 I, personally
- 52 Bird associated with bats
- 53 Place, side by side
- 54 Locations of East Asia
- 56 Six-Day War combatants: Abba
- 59 Natural fertilizer
- 60 Jack of old TV
- 61 Neighbor of Jammu and Kashmir
- 66 Instrument that makes a "beat" sound
- 67 Wrestler's rival
- 71 Caesar salad ingredient
- 72 M's rival here
- 79 Expanded
- 76 Works

- 93 What all companies try to make
- 94 Service charge
- 95 Scoring figs.
- 97 Lifts up
- 99 Literary utopia
- 100 Projecting edge
- 101 Deck out with space
- 102 The other side
- 103 Crackerjack
- 105 Longtime sports journalist Jim
- 108 See it-Across
- 109 Still competing
- 111 Sold out
- 114 Tour de France distance units: Abbi
- 115 " — hamburger"
- 116 Added paper to, as a printer

Today's puzzle and more than 9,000 past puzzles are available at www.nytimes.com/wordplay.

101 Sm...
104 Burd...
105 Large e...
106 Strong c...
107 Branch of... specializes in...
110 Name hidden backward in "
111 Actress Teri...
112 Davis of "Thelma...
113 Go to sleep, with "C...
114 Noted songwriter be... Wynonna Judd's "Tell Me Why" and Linda Ronstadt's "All My Life for long
116 — Martell, "Game of Thrones" princess
119 Goods for sale: Abbi...
121 George Washington chopping down a cherry tree, and others
122 Total mess
123 Bought refuges, in a way fish...
124 Heeded an owner's instructions

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DOWN
1 Circle created in 1864
2 Howler of a fly
3 Basset
4 Ham

