

HAPPINESS
COMES IN



Happiness comes in waves

by:onna Richburg

Dear readers,

I am Onna richburg. A friendly, compassionate and gentle 9th grader. This magazine should show who I am, how I feel about different things, and how I define happiness. I decided to write about things that made me happy because I feel that is my most shown emotion. I like to live in the moment, and find the light in the darkness. I think it's very important to stop, realize the bad, let it hurt, let it go, and move on, because your past doesn't need you, your future does. I've learned that not every moment is a good one but every moment spent being miserable is a moment I will never get back. Taking life for granted is the biggest mistake anyone could make. In this magazine I decided to focus on my happy place, the place that made me realize life is too short to wait for fun. "Good things come to those who wait but, but better things come to those who go and get them" - anonymous. I hope this letter shows why little things like sunsets and picking flowers mean so much to me and gives a little more representation of who I am and how I want to be seen.

Sincerely, onna.

My Passion

In the poconos sits the biggest natural lake in Pennsylvania and it's where I spend my best days. Harveys lake PA has got to be my favorite place ever. I've been going to the lake every summer since I was born and there's so much to say about it.

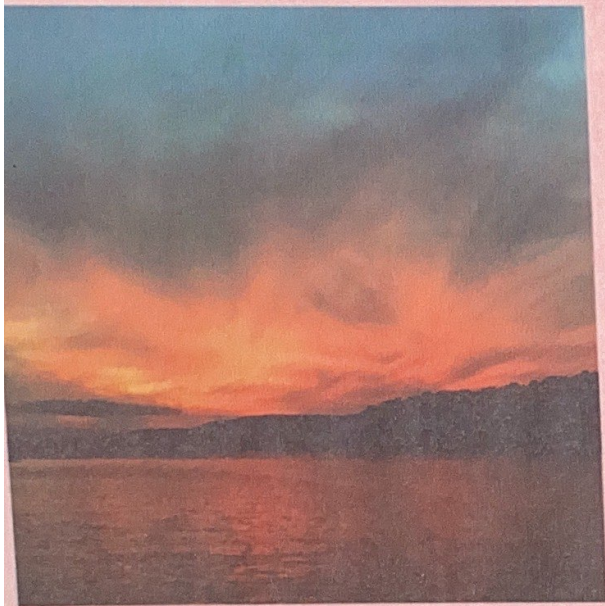
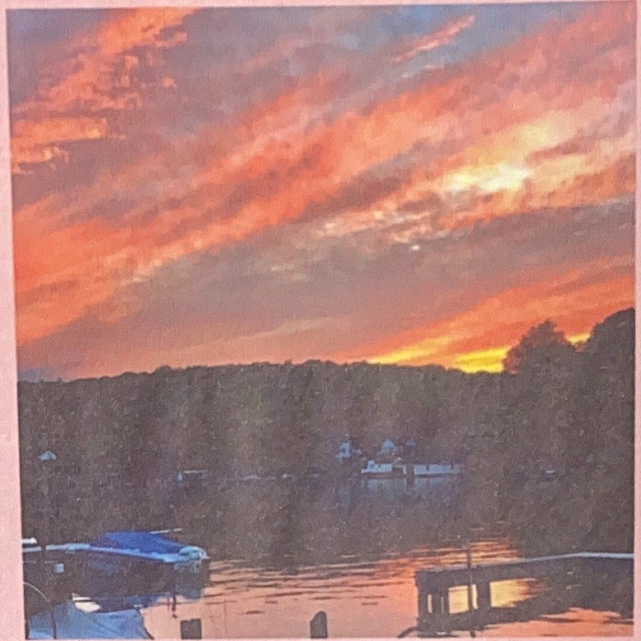
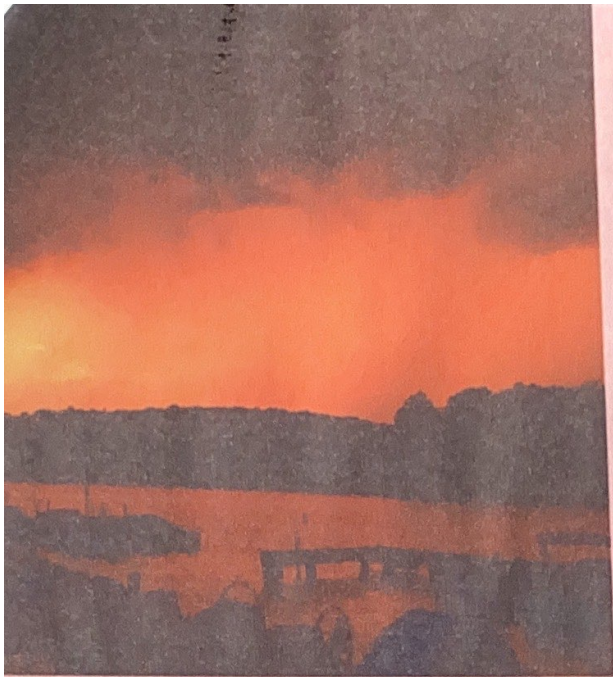
The air is fresh and the water crystal clear and deep. When I jump in, the cool water cleanses my soul and the waves wash away my worries. When I look into the water I see my reflection, my best self. I am happy, relaxed and free. I love watching the lake, and the little ripples form big waves. I love watching the sun reflect off the water leaving a soft glow on the lake.

At the lake I have everything I could ever ask for and everything I love, my best friends. I could try to put together a breathtaking speech and string together beautiful words, but nothing will ever cover the amount of love I have for them. We wait almost a year to see each other again after the final days of summer. We wait through fall, the cold and dull winter days, and the anticipation of spring to summer. A lifelong friendship built on so many good memories is just one of the many amazing things that is waiting for me at the lake. One day we linked our pinkies and made a promise. Convenience does not decide our friendship, we chose each other with intention and purpose. I've had many friends before but this friendship is different. No words can describe it, but it's very special to me.

In the early mornings we go paddle boring to the lily pads, it calms me. The morning breeze gives me a fresh breath of air pushing my paddle board slowly forward. It lifts the weight of my back and carries it away. In the mornings the water is calm and so still, a great start to the day. Sometimes we pick flowers to bring back to our parents, sometimes we leave them alone. When we get back I walk over to the boat club and meet back up with my friends.

A Lot of the time we go on boat rides. I prefer sitting in the back because I like to watch the emerald green color in the water that follows the boat's wake. Blasting music in the boat is my favorite, screaming my favorite songs with my friends always feels good. My days at the lake are eventful. We are always doing different things and always making more memories. Jumping off the dock, watching fireworks, having picnics, swimming in the rain, swimming in the sun, running in the sand, and staring at the stars is just one wave of happiness in my lake.

Always on the move but we never go too long without watching a sunset. People say "go where you feel most alive", so i go to the lake. Every moment is like golden hour, except it glows different there.

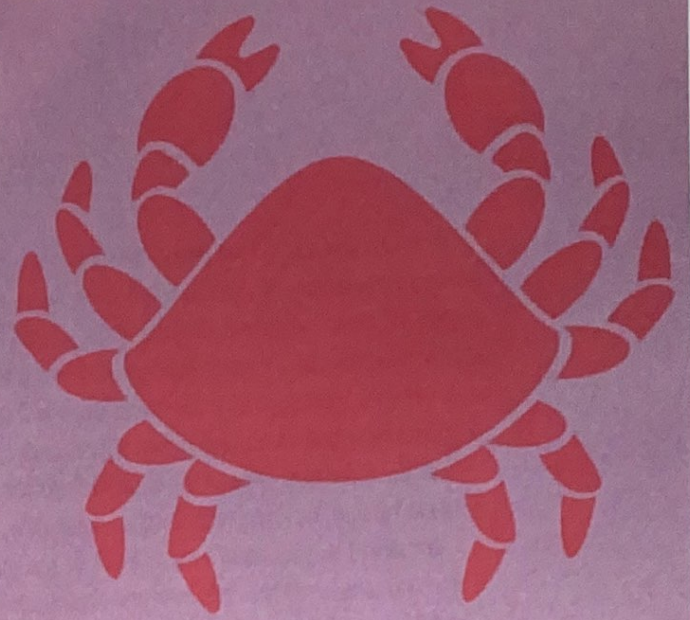


Harvey's lake



Cancer ♋

*I was born July 1st
2008, which means
my zodiac sign is
cancer.*



*Cancers are
represented by the
crab and is a water
sign.*

Traits of a cancer

- soft*
- loving*
- hyper emotional*
- values friends and
loved ones*

Learning experience

Ever since I learned to read I've hated it. The old boring books that were at my school made it hard to concentrate and enjoy the book. I had absolutely no love for reading. Everytime I opened a book I was miserable. In my reading class everyone had to pick a book from the class library to read at home everyday for homework until they finished the book, once they finished they would pick a new book, and the cycle would continue. When I would go to the class library I never saw any books that interested me. All the books were long, and about harsh topics or uninteresting. I wasn't willing to try and read any of the books in the library because I thought that after all the books I read, every one would be boring. So, when it was time to pick my books I would stand in front of the book shelf looking through all the books trying to find a semi-interesting book but I never did. Eventually I would start to stand in front of the book shelves the whole class, and of course the teacher didn't like that. After she noticed I was having a hard time choosing books in a reasonable time, she gave me a 5 minute time limit to pick a book. If i didn't pick a book in the time option to pick the book closest to me or she will pick for me. This made my reading experience even worse. Being pressured to pick a book was how I ended up choosing the worst books. The books I ended up choosing were completely random, and I dreaded reading them. When it was time to pick my first book of sixth grade, I was not excited. But this year was different, I had a new teacher for sixth grade reading. He was new to me and to the school. The teachers called me up to his desk and told me it was time to pick my book. I walked over to the bookshelf nervous. I didn't want to make a bad first impression on the teacher so I tried to pick a book quickly. I looked for a couple minutes and rushed through the book bins, then my teacher walked over. I thought he was going to tell me to hurry up like my other teachers, but instead he came to check in on me. He told me he noticed it looked like I was having a hard time finding a book. I explained to him my trouble throughout the last years and that I was not passionate about reading. I also told him that I would love to enjoy reading because it would make my homework a lot easier but the love has not come to me yet. Then he walked me over to the other side of the room where all the package boxes were. He opened the boxes for me and in them were a bunch of books in all different colors and genres. He told me he was planning on setting up a special book shelf with new, trendy, and interesting books but he didn't get the chance to unpack before the first day of school, so I was the first one to pick a book from those boxes. My teacher bought all those books with his own money just for the students. He also told me when he was younger he didn't like the school's selection of books either, so that's what inspired him to buy all the new books. That day I was able to connect to my teacher and find books I was willing to read. Reading class was much more enjoyable for me when I found out not every book is a 5000 word story written in the 1980s. I was introduced to so many more types of books I never knew existed, like graphic novels and short stories. I liked those books because the mood was brighter and happier, and the storyline line wasn't depressing. Even though I'm still not in love with reading, I became more open minded about it and trying other things.

Bucket list

- Go camping
- Go snorkeling
- Learn to make friendship bracelets
- Visit Italy
- Go to a drive in theater

