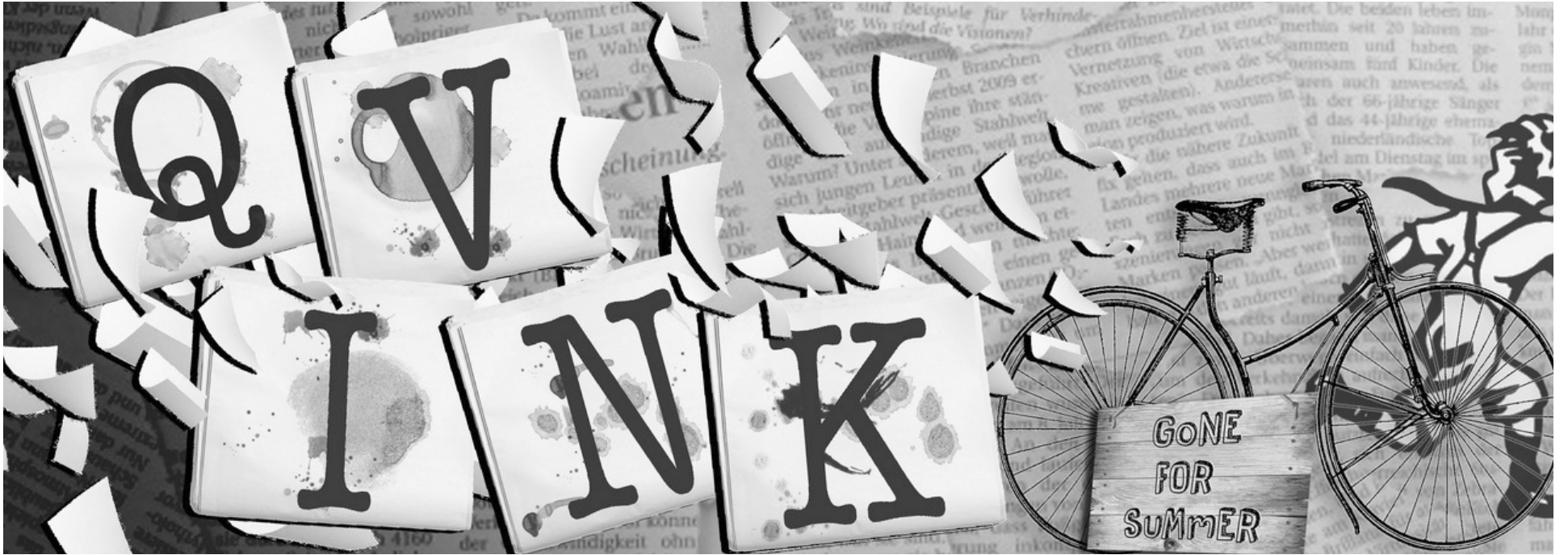


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The Flip



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June

Issue 4 (That's right! FOUR!)

In QV Glee, it's not chorus as usual

Daria Perez

Just down the hall from the main office at Quaker Valley Middle School, you might be used to hearing students in chorus practicing the same kind of songs that they sing every year: holiday jingles and some more recent stuff for the spring concert. Looking in the room, you can see some students who are loving it, but it's hard to please everyone in a class as big as chorus.

On the other hand, many students who aren't crazy about regular chorus are having a blast being part of QV Glee, Quaker Valley Middle School's very own show choir!

What makes QV Glee different from chorus? "Everyone wants to be there," said Mr. Valenzi.

Now in its second year, QV Glee is definitely different from chorus. Mr. Valenzi said, "I always wanted to have a show chorus."

He went on to explain that when glee clubs became more popular because of the popularity of Fox's Glee and the film Pitch Perfect, the time was right to start a glee club right here at Quaker Valley.

One of the things that make QV Glee so much fun is the focus on popular music.

Nick Tusick, a member of QV Glee, said, "The best part in QV Glee is being with friends." He continued, "My favorite song that we do is 'I'll think of you'."

Sarah Trapizona, another QV Glee member, said that she loves QV Glee because it is "not a big class." She explained, "There are just a few kids in it. Being in a smaller group, you can really hear everyone's parts."

Last week, QV Glee got on stage and performed at the Spring Concert on May 27th. There, the group performed "I'll Think of You", "Forget You", and "The Cup Song" from Pitch Perfect.

Anyone who enjoyed the QV Glee performance should go to see Mr. Valenzi. He said, "There no limit to the number of people in the class. This year, we had 12 members; last year, we had 32."

Even if you are leaving the building at year's end, there is still time to get in on show choir. If you missed out on QV Glee while in middle school, you can try out for it in ensemble in High School.

CSI treehouse project draws national attention

Rebecca Graham

"Wow!" is a common exclamation uttered by both parents and students every year at the CSI Showcase. There, a wide range of incredible projects created by eighth graders is on display. These range from homemade computers to custom-designed roller coasters. Among the projects this year was a first for the Creative Showcase of Innovation: a full-size treehouse made by Elise Truchan.

The inspiration to build the treehouse was simple. "I have seen a lot in books about treehouses, and I had a sudden urge to build one for CSI. I don't really know what made me want to build a treehouse, but it was just a really cool idea," said Elise.

Cool is only the beginning. The treehouse is luxurious and extensive, featuring two levels and a clear roof.

Despite the incredible design of the treehouse, someone in the neighborhood was not happy with it.

"About a week after I finished building the treehouse, there was a note on our door that was from the Leet Township Borough," explained Elise.

The note explained that laws were broken and demanded that Elise tear down all of her hard work. Leet Township Borough investigated the treehouse after a resident of Truchan's neighborhood complained about the treehouse.

This shocked Elise, as she thoroughly checked the Leetsdale website to see if there were any laws that she would be violating if the treehouse were built in her front yard. She never found anything.

"My parents first got the note but didn't tell me about it right away because I was on vacation. I still don't know who



Courtesy of Elise Truchan

Elise Truchan proudly stands with her treehouse, the subject of quite a bit of controversy.

complained, but I was very sad and devastated about the news."

The note and ruling caught the attention of many news stations.

"I first did an interview with The Sewickley Herald, and it was on the front of the newspaper there; then, KDKA came and did a whole segment on the treehouse and me," explained Elise.

"After that, the story broke out onto lots of websites. Then, on Memorial Day, I did a live interview on [Fox and

Friends], which is [broadcast nationally on Fox News]. It was cool!" said Elise.

Now, the story is all around the world, being featured on websites in Russia, India, Zimbabwe, Singapore, the UK, and other countries.

Perhaps after all of the publicity the story is getting, the Leetsdale Borough will have a change of heart regarding Elise's treehouse.

"I don't know what is going to happen, but I am still expecting to take it down

on October 1st," she said.

"I would hope it would stay up for maybe a few years...I've done homework up there, read, had sleepovers, and played family game night up there," Elise said.

The treehouse has helped Elise in other ways, also. "First of all, I've learned how to build a treehouse. [I have also learned] a lot about laws, and that it's not good to break them."

QVMS Orchestra wraps up a successful year with hospital visit

Abby Shurmatz

Hands positioned and minds set on the music, Quaker Valley 8th grade orchestra students ready themselves to play the piece in front of them, as the silent audience waits for the melodic piece or funky fiddle tune to begin.

This may sound like a typical concert, but when this orchestra packs up their instruments and music stands and departs to play at Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, it is a whole different story.

On Friday, May 29th, Quaker Valley Middle School 8th graders were given the opportunity to play for Children's Hospital patients and their families for the second time this year. The orchestra was able to play a couple of pieces for patients and staff at the hospital, hopefully bringing a little more joy to the day.

Mrs. Nye, who organized the event, said, "I think that it is a great growing experience for everyone involved, students and patients alike."

Isabella Steinley, a violinist, said, "It was a fun experience that allowed us to bond with kids less fortunate [than we are]."



Courtesy of QVMS Yearbook

This year's QVMS Eighth Grade Orchestra hit the road for shows at Children's Hospital.

High school jitters and excitement fill QV eighth graders

Kenna Bates

At this time of year, there seem to be a few questions and thoughts running around every eighth grader's head.

"Wait, when is that final?"

"What time does this class end?"

"Summer is almost here!"

Underneath it all, everyone is thinking about high school: classes, lunch schedules, and actual schedules.

The biggest mystery of all, though, can be summed up with one question: What will high school be like?

Senior Julia Nelson described what she expected as a freshman on the first day of school: "When I was going into freshman year, I wasn't really even too worried about the transition. I felt

like my eighth grade classes had prepared me pretty well. After I made my schedule, I started to get really excited. Then, the summer work was pretty similar to what I had in middle school, so that was fine."

Tenth grader Trystan Bates said, "[I thought that freshman year would be] a lot harder than it actually was because all of the teachers would say, 'You have to get ready for high school'; ... it's not as hard as they made it out to be."

Julia Nelson also said, "On the first day for Freshman year, the rest of the school isn't in the building. That was so helpful. It takes away the pressure of trying to find classes through a sea of people that you don't know."

She continued, "Everyone there is

just as lost as you are, and the teachers are on the lookout for people who need directions. It's a great transition day. The teachers will be pretty understanding for the first week or so if you have trouble getting to classes. It doesn't get stressful when everyone is in the building either."

All of the students that survived say that the first day of high school is easy and not as impossible to conquer as everyone might think that it is.

With all of this being said, one might wonder what eighth graders are expecting.

Eighth grader Carson Riker said, "I expect everything except for the workload to be better."

That doesn't sound too bad, but Nina Wiggins looks forward to something a bit more specific:

more freedom.

She said, "I think when we get to high school, we will have a lot more freedom and responsibility...It is going to be part of what makes us ready for college and the 'real' world."

Julia Nelson confirmed this, as she said, "The teachers trust the students more, so there is more freedom. You have more of a choice in the classes that you take. So yes, high school will be more work and there is more pressure to do well, but there are so many rewards. It will be what you make of it. If you go in with the mindset that it will be a drag and just a ton of stress, it will probably be a drag and a ton of stress. But if you want it to be a blast, you can make that happen, too."

"High school will be more work and there is more pressure to do well, but there are so many rewards. It will be what you make of it."

Julia Nelson



Courtesy of Olivia McMullan

Eighth graders get together for one last dance before moving up to the high school.

Eighth-grade-itis strikes QVMS upperclassmen

Rosalie Daval

The Urban Dictionary, an authority on all words not real, defines "senioritis" as "a crippling disease that strikes high school seniors. Symptoms include laziness...a lack of studying, and a generally dismissive attitude. The only known cure is a phenomenon known as graduation."

Here at Quaker Valley Middle School, there is a slightly different and less severe version of this affliction: Eighth-Grade-itis. This phenomenon is showing up more and more among QVMS's oldest students as the year's end approaches.

"We've all seen those eighth graders who have Eighth-Grade-itis," said Katherine

Blaugrund, a current eighth grader. "Along the way, we swear that we will never get it. Among my friends this year, I have really seen a lot of people not go through with that promise."

Many other students agree. As finals are coming to a close, many eighth grade students feel as though their duties to middle school have been fulfilled.

"We are just so excited for summer," said Abby Sanders.

Even Quaker Valley Middle School's student council president is feeling the effects of Eighth-Grade-itis.

"I've seen it in my friends and in myself," said Nina Wiggins, this year's president. "It is so hard to keep pushing through, chugging

along, and doing homework. I know I am leaving, and I am trying to not let my determination drop."

Although it is most commonly seen in eighth graders, this general fatigue is felt by many in the building.

"I feel that people of all grades get tired...at the end of the year," said Blaugrund. "In eighth grade, finals are a bit longer and harder and you have to study more, but I think that there is also a form of sixth and seventh-grade-itis."

No matter how severe the case of Eighth-Grade-itis, students can always find comfort in one fact: summer is just around the corner.

What bugs Grubb? Tissue Issues!



Emma Grubb

Around this time of the year, almost every student with allergies faces the daily struggle of sneezing, coughing, and the symptoms of a runny nose. We also tend to make ourselves comfortable with the location of the local tissue box in each classroom. But a new issue has recently occurred this allergy season... and it bugs Grubb!

Missing tissue boxes in classrooms have always been an occasional problem, but day after day in the recent weeks, more boxes have disappeared. The culprit is the allergy season, and nobody is happy.

Seventh grader Jillian Um-

stead said that the recent tissue deficiency is "pretty inconvenient when you have a cold."

The teachers themselves also had some thoughts on the issue.

Mrs. Jackson, who has been hit pretty hard by the tissue shortage, described the measures she went to stop her students' runny noses.

"I had to provide students with napkins to take care of their facial cleansing," she said.

Mrs. Jackson added, "It was very defeating to have students go to the office and be rejected of tissues."

Mr. Truchan said, "We need more Kleenex, but the office is

doing the best they can!"

Mrs. Savage in the office kindly explained why the issue has occurred. She said, "We simply ran out. We order them from Safran's and they were out of cases." She added that the school then had to order the tissues from the Safran's warehouse.

Although some teachers suffered more than others, Senora Hollein says she did not even realize the problem occurred! She informed us, "I buy Puffs with lotion."

Mr. Forrest, on the other hand, said, "If everyone wore long sleeves, this would not be an issue."

Field Day TOP 10



Rosalie Daval

Here at Quaker Valley, Field Day is a time-honored tradition. Students every year look forward to certain parts of this day, and there are also very specific aspects of the day that are mutually disliked by all.

We asked Quaker Valley students what parts of Field Day they were most looking forward to, and what parts they were looking forward to the least. This is a list of the top ten most common answers. Do you agree with what these students had to say?

What QV students are looking forward to the most:

10. Spending the day in the sun
9. Sitting under the giant striped parachute from elementary school
8. Eating the wonderful food
7. Water balloon fights
6. Hanging out with friends
5. Cheering on teammates
4. Playing gigantic games of tug-of-war
3. Taking fun selfies
2. Being first in line for food
1. Winning the team sports

What QV students are looking forward to the least:

10. The lack of real sinks for washing hands
9. Rope burns from tug-of-war
8. Attempting to dry off after water balloon fights
7. Fighting for space on the fields
6. Two words: porta potties
5. Mosquitoes
4. Running out of your favorite food before it is your turn
3. Being in the back of the line for food
2. Sunburn
1. Losing team sports

Looking back at summers gone bye

With vacation just days away, Quakers talk about their favorite summer memories

Kyle Torbic

Who doesn't like summer vacation? Swimming in a nice, cool pool. Sipping lemonade under the blazing sun. Maybe it's to get a break from school, spend more time with friends and family, or even sleep in until the afternoon. Almost everybody looks forward to summer vacation.

Whatever the reason may be, we look forward to summer. With vacation just a few days away, some QVMS students and faculty took a minute to walk down memory lane and relive some of the best moments of summers gone by.

David Lipton, an 8th grader, likes his summer cool and refreshing. He said, "Some of my favorite summer memories have been swimming and having fun by the pool".

This pool passion is also shared by 8th grader Andres Hübsch. He said, "My favorite summer memories were spending time at the pool. I especially remember doing flips off the diving board."

Mo Moeslein loves spending the



Courtesy of Grace Shaner

Taking a swim is a favorite way to spend a hot summer day for most people; Grace Shaner, though, likes taking her horse Finnegan for a dip, too.

summer days with her relatives. Her favorite summer memory is "going to Minnesota with [her] family and staying at Baylake Resort."

Christian Johnston likes to spend his summers in a different way. His favorite memory wasn't in the pool, but on the grass. Christian said, "My favorite summer memories are playing TBBB (tennis ball baseball) every day with my friends from the neighborhood".

This affection for summer baseball is also held in the heart of John Vorberger. John said, "I would have to say that my favorite summer memory is playing in baseball tournaments".

Michael Tanabe of 8th grade did not need much time to think of his fondest summer memory. He said, "My favorite memory of summer was winning my golf tournament. This is

my favorite memory because I shot my best score, a 77. If you don't know how good a 77 is, it's like scoring 100 runs in a baseball game".

Luke Saftner also did not need much time to think of his favorite summer memory. He exclaimed, "I remember playing spotlight throughout the whole neighborhood around 10:30 or 11:00 at night. This is my favorite memory because spotlight is a lot of fun".

Local Instagram mogul Ms. Bruno said that she loves "going to Hank's and getting frozen custard and then going to Jerry's Drive-In in Bridgewater" on summer evenings.

Similarly, Alexa Ford sees summer as the perfect time to spend the day "eating ice cream with [her] friends."

Lastly, Kenna Bates, a regular writer for this publication, recounted a favorite summer memory that many of us might see as a nightmare: "Getting off the bus on the last day of school and getting hit with food."

Whether you like summer for the pool, baseball, golf, or spotlight, summer is the time to relax, have fun, and, in some cases, clean food out of your hair. It is the time to take a break from school and stay up late. Don't let the precious summer memories pass you by. Summer... here we come.

Don't let the precious summer memories pass you by.

What to do when you run out of summer fun

Abby Shurmatz

It's inevitable.

There comes a time during summer when you can not find anything to do, or you are just sick of going to the pool or playing outside.

Still, there are better things to do than sitting on the couch, sucking up the A/C, and playing Clash of Clans. Here are some summertime DIYs that don't cost much and can give you something to do.

OPTION 1

Looking for a fun activity to do outside and sick of plain old sidewalk chalk? Try making chalk spray!

There comes a time during summer when you can not find anything to do...

Chalk spray is easy to make with just a few ingredients from around your house-- paint, water, cornstarch and soap. Once mixed, all you need is a standard spray bottle and you're ready to go. Anyone can have fun spraying the streets with this cool idea!

OPTION 2

One way to keep that summer heat away is to make homemade popsicles. With just some soda or juice, Dixie cups, popsicle sticks and a type of candy or fruit, you could have delicious popsicles to refresh and rejuvenate your body.

OPTION 3

Another great way to keep away those heat waves is to make fresh lemonade. A classic summer treat, lemonade can also be used in making a lemonade stand with your friends or be served at a party.

Sick of making powdered



Courtesy of Sofia Zipparo

Of course, if you run out of things to do in the summer, you could make a new friend like Sofia Zipparo did.

lemonade?

Here's a simple recipe that can be made in minutes:

- * ¾ cup of lemon juice
- * 2 quarts of water
- * ½ cup of white sugar

Instructions: Mix all ingredients together in a pitcher and serve with ice.

OPTION 4

One last way to kick off a summer night party is to have a sundae bar.

Who doesn't like ice cream and candy all served in the same place? Pick an assortment of ice cream and toppings and you've got a crowd pleaser.

Hopefully these ideas will improve your summer!

Nearly Pitch Perfect

Pitch Perfect 2 surpasses the original with more music and comedy

Emma Ruhl

The Barden Bellas are back! With the same characters in front of the camera in Pitch Perfect 2, the a cappella group is going again.

The sequel starts with Beca (Anna Kendrick) and Fat Amy (Rebel Wilson) leading their group to another

Pitch Perfect 2 is funnier than the original!

Emma Ruhl

victory. Beca is now the official leader of the group with Chloe (Brittany Snow) tagging close behind.

Though it may seem that their a cappella lives are going strong, a disastrous performance screws up the lives of the group during a hilarious show for the president and first lady.

The following day, they all are prohibited to sing a cappella or perform in front of a crowd. That sets up this comeback story sequel.

This was probably one of the funniest movies that I have seen. Pitch Perfect 2 perfectly picked up where the first movie ended, with the Bellas winning the nationals and pursuing their a cappella dreams.

Directed by Elizabeth Banks, who also appears in the movie as Gail, the host of the cappella sing-off, the second movie is better than the first. Pitch Perfect 2 is funnier than the original

and has more a cappella sing-offs.

Though superior to the original, Pitch Perfect 2 does have its awkward moments that are uncomfortable to watch. One example comes when Beca is trying to talk smack. She says, "Your sweat smells like cinnamon!" Even if Elizabeth Banks was trying to show the viewers that Beca was having trouble with rude comebacks, the line didn't produce laughter in the crowd. For the most part, though, the jokes strike the right chord.

With rumors of Pitch Perfect 3 now circulating, you better get to the theaters or drive-in and watch this movie before it is gone.

Editor's note: students should be aware that Pitch Perfect 2 is rated PG-13.



Universal Pictures

Fresh off their national success, the Barden Bellas are underdogs once more in Pitch Perfect 2.

Settle it in Smash!

The newest entry in Nintendo's popular brawler ups the ante

Will Torrance



Nintendo

Mario, Megaman, and Wii Fit Trainer are only a few of the characters who bring the battle to the Wii U.

The characters beat the heck out of each other until they go flying off the side of the screen and explode. Players then respawn and continue to do so until time runs out.

I love this game, but I do have a few problems with it. To start off, Nintendo is now evidently scraping the absolute bottom of the barrel in search of new characters to add, only to find some of the most mediocre heroes ever to grace a cartridge or disc.

One of these characters named Shulk is not at all popular here in the states; moreover, he has a confusing move set.

One highlight of many matches is the Final Smash, an event that does not necessarily occur in every game. A character's Final Smash can be activated by grabbing the Smashball; once the ball is acquired, a character can unleash a ridiculously powerful special move.

I do have a few favorite char-

acters who do not have a Final Smash that I enjoy; Mr. Game & Watch comes to mind here. Duck Hunt Dog, however, has a really interesting Final Smash, in which a flock of ducks flies in front of him. If the character is hit by that flock, they will be carried into a shooting gallery, where a lineup of Wild Gunmen open fire, and the opponent is slammed by a heavy barrage of eight-bit bullets. Each character's Final Smash has a reference to his or her own game and each does something to injure or destroy the opponents.

If I could give this game a rating on a scale from 1 to 10, I would most likely give it a 9.5, since there were some things that are problematic. If you want to go check out the game, do so! In fact, I recommend this game to those of you who are huge Nintendo fans that like button-bashing games.

Insurgent may diverge too much from its source material for fans

Emma Ruhl

Think of a book series and ask yourself: "Was it turned into a movie series?"

Was the movie series amazing when you saw it? Did each movie of the series satisfy you as a fan of the books? Did you want to keep going? Did you want them to keep coming out, one after the other?

What are you thinking of?

I'm thinking of the Divergent series. The first film adaptation, Divergent, was amazing.

You'd expect Insurgent, the adaptation of the second book in the series, to be amazing as well, but guess what? With this most recent entry, the movie series slips away, leaving Insurgent to

seem like it was never a part of the Divergent saga.

Insurgent continues the story with Tris, Four, and Marcus's chance to end the tension between Abnegation, Amity, Candor, and Dauntless vs. Erudite.

In order to escape the clutches of Jeanine (Kate Winslet), Tris Prior (Shailene Woodley) and Four (Theo James) are on the run, searching for allies to help them survive. Tris and Four are eager to learn why Tris's parents (played by Ashley Judd and Tony Goldwyn) surrendered their lives for what they are hiding. While Tris, Four, and Marcus are running for their lives, Jeanine is anxious to capture the right Divergent to help her with something that will, maybe, help her and her Erudite people.

A year ago, Divergent became a very popular and a must-see

movie for kids around the middle school who love the book. Much of the movie's popularity was a result of it staying mostly true to the book.

This is not something that Insurgent did well.

There was one big difference during the movie that separates it from the book in a negative way.

Warning: spoilers follow...

While watching, viewers may ask themselves several questions:

"Where the heck did a box come into play?"

"Why are Tris's parents trying to hide it?"

"When did it ever occur in the books?"

In the book, there was no mention of a special box that had to be hidden from Jeanine and the Erudite.

The screenwriters just added it in. There was no point adding it. Without the radical change, Insurgent would be a fine movie. Though it does add urgency to the movie, the special box just doesn't match with the book. It was never there, so it should not be in the film.

However, all of the action in the movie was amazingly awesome! Director Robert Schwentke made it look like real life. The action parts of the movie "which took up much of the time" "were the good part of the film."

If you are a fan of the books and can live with some pretty major changes to the story that you love, you might want to check out Insurgent when it comes to DVD and Blu-ray in August.

Insurgent continues the story with Tris, Four, and Marcus's chance to end the tension between Abnegation, Amity, Candor, and Dauntless vs. Erudite.

Emma Ruhl