

# THE EPOCH TIMES

# LIFE &

# TRADITION

UFABIZPHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK

## A Class All Their Own: Ladies and Gentlemen of the Old School

JEFF MINICK

Back in high school, I spent a summer working as an orderly in the recovery and operating rooms of Forsyth Memorial Hospital in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. On my first day on the job, I watched a certain Dr. Norfleet performing a nephrectomy on a patient. Later that evening, I told my father, a family physician, about the experience.

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Manners were the most easily recognizable mark of men and women of the old school.

## Why the Current Flight to Small Towns May Save America



JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

ANNIE HOLMQUIST

A friend of mine decided to shake the dust of the city off his feet last year and migrate to a more rural area. Reflecting on the move, he seemed surprised at how much he's enjoying the change. My takeaway from our conversation was that his life was fresh and new now that he had left the problems of the city.

Having a community of reasonable people to live among wasn't so bad either.

My friend isn't the only one who made such a change in the past year or so; Minnesota Public Radio highlighted the trend in a recent story titled "Ready for a change: Couples go all in on small-town life." The article describes how James and Katrina Ball uprooted their children from the Cayman Islands to settle in the small Minnesota town of Battle Lake at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic so they could be near Katrina's parents.

**Those who move say they love the connected feeling that a small community brings.**

People watch the Fourth of July parade wind through downtown Deer Isle, Maine, on July 4, 2019.

Not intending to stay for the long haul, they find themselves still living there—and not only surviving but thriving in their new community.

While it once was the norm for small communities to empty out as their young people moved to the cities for bigger opportunities, it seems a reverse flight is beginning to take place—slowly, perhaps, but definite nonetheless. While some may see this as regression, it actually is progress, since a return to the rural, local community will eventually bring restored freedom and virtue to America's citizens.

Those who move say they love the connected feeling that a small community brings. Mentioning a fall festival that Katrina helped organize, the Balls expressed their surprise at how helpful and participatory everyone was.

*Continued on Page 3*

THE EPOCH TIMES



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ART EXPLORATION FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

# A New Year, a Time for Reflection

ANDREA NUTT FALCE

The New Year offers an apt opportunity to reflect upon life and work.

Life is full of refreshing cycles. Marked by a process of gradual growth and change, the movements of life can be beautiful.

They are also purposeful. Whether you have celebrated many or few New Years, there is much to learn by persevering in hard work and thoughtful examination.

It's easy to take the daily cycles of life for granted. People perform them so many times. We eat, drink, sleep, and wake. Yet ordinary rituals are meaningful. They point to the necessity for mankind to rest, refresh, and reflect.

Take dinnertime, for example. Sharing a meal with gratitude during the ebbing hours can be rejuvenating to all aspects of personhood.

By the dinner table in my home, there is a large window that overlooks a breezy bayou. It's moving to watch the changes of days, nights, and seasons as we gaze through it. There are also several paintings hung on the walls: portraits, still lifes, and landscapes, thought-provoking to look into. We rotate them periodically because fine art is a fine aid to reflection and appreciation for life.

Hans Fredrik Gude was a Norwegian fine artist particularly skilled at painting reflections. Born in Christiania (now Oslo, Norway) on March 13, 1825, and deeply influenced by his homeland, Gude became a master of seascapes. He used his gifts to study water, nature, and light, in order to pay tribute to the beauty of life. His work never underwent a drastic change in style. Rather, it grew like a good man, steadily maturing until his paintings became a worthy contribution to humanity's view.

In early student life, after studying with the artist Johannes Flintoe, Gude was encouraged to attend the Academy of Art in Düsseldorf, Germany. Upon application in 1841, however, he was rejected. Not only was he turned away, but he was also advised by artist and professor Johann Wilhelm Schirmer to give up. Instead, Gude attended private lessons. In 1842, he was finally accepted into the academy, entering Schirmer's relatively new landscape painting class. At first, Gude was considered a fairly average student. Gradually, he progressed to being described as "very talented," though he often struggled to see eye to eye with Schirmer.

Slowly, Gude developed into an accom-

**Gude learned to appreciate the splendor of creation firsthand. It seems his vision grew stronger as he learned to view the world with humble wonder.**



"Brenning Ved Hanko," 1890, by Hans Gude.

plished landscape painter, though he was unable to render realistic figures. Perhaps because viewers are prone to scrutinize their own forms more distinctly, and perhaps because the human form is so wonderfully complex in its creation, figurative art tends to be more challenging to master than landscape or any other painted subject. Early into his career, Gude struggled to capture human likenesses to the point where he needed to collaborate with another artist, Adolph Tidemand, to paint the people in his compositions. He came up with a solution to complete his work, and he kept practicing. Gude studied and worked until he was able to master not just landscapes, but also figurative scenes.

In 1854, at the age of 29, Gude was hired as a professor of landscape painting at the academy in Düsseldorf. Several more prominent artists turned the position down on account of its lower pay, but Gude was grateful for the steady income and became the youngest professor there. He also replaced his former teacher, Schirmer.

During the first part of his career, Gude tended to work from short sketches of landscape subjects that, once begun, were rendered and finished almost entirely in the studio. This was different from prevailing trends in Britain, where plein air painting (art created outside while observing the natural subject) began to be more celebrated. Thus, when Gude exhibited his work in the prominent art circles of London in 1863 and 1864, it received poor reviews. He was not bitter about the hard reception. Once again, he chose to learn from his lack of success, saying, "My English stay was of great benefit to me in that I freed myself from many of the prevailing

studio maxims by being alone and in a landscape so new to me that it forced me to observe more keenly."

Later, when he went to accept additional professorships, he was noted for encouraging budding artists to work more directly from life. Paintings created en plein air tend to be more stirring and authentic. Gude learned to appreciate the splendor of creation firsthand. It seems his vision grew stronger as he learned to view the world with humble wonder.

Overcoming rejection, inability, and even mediocrity, Gude became a professor at three different German universities over a span of 45 years. Gude produced many of his great works while also working eight-hour days as a professor. Because Gude was strongly affiliated with German academia, critics and competitors sometimes suggested he wasn't truly a Norwegian artist. Gude was offended by the suggestion. He was in fact passionate about his heritage and became a notable mentor to many Norwegian students. The effects of Gude's Norwegian upbringing remain profoundly evident—especially in his seascapes. He was also criticized for being an academic painter at a time when tides were turning away from such modes.

Gude didn't apologize for being a traditionalist. He was often slow to change and thoughtful in consideration. Once the tenacious artist came to understand a good way forward, his paintings would become more prodigious than the works of others who simply followed trends. Gude remained faithful to observations about life, choosing neither to idealize nor to distort. He faced the regular struggles of work and life with determination. He accepted the slow pace of positive growth, season by season, task by task. In this way, he left a record of humble perseverance that embraced the truth and yielded fruit.

Gude became the recipient of medals and honors including the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Olav. Today, he is remembered as one of Norway's greatest landscape painters. His majestic scenes remind all viewers that between dawn and dusk, mountain and sea, youth and old age, the cycles of life aren't simply circular. We are, in fact, on a linear journey. There is an alpha and an omega. No man nor woman can see all the way to the beginning, nor to the end, but what we can do is reflect on life, and grow, effort by effort. In diligence and humility, fathomless beauty might be found.

Andrea Nutt Falce is a happy wife and mother of four. She is also a Florentine-trained classical realist artist and author of the children's book "It's a Jungle Out There." Her work can be found at Andrea-Nutt.com



A portrait of Hans Gude, 1861, by Julius Amatus Roeting. The National Museum of Art Architecture and Design Oslo.

1. "The Foot of Romsdalshorn to the Right," 1894, by Hans Gude. National Gallery of Denmark.
2. "A Norwegian Seaport," 1892, by Hans Gude. National Gallery of Denmark.
3. "By the Mill Pond," 1850, by Hans Gude.



## FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES

### Who Has Seen The Wind?

Christina Rossetti

Who has seen the wind?  
Neither I nor you.  
But when the leaves hang trembling,  
The wind is passing through.

Who has seen the wind?  
Neither you nor I.  
But when the trees bow down their heads,  
The wind is passing by.

### WHAT DID THE CARTOONIST DRAW BEFORE HE WENT TO BED?

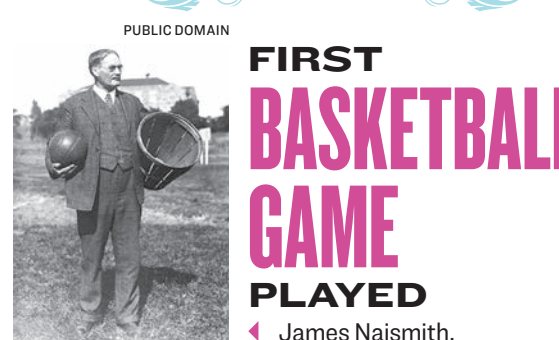
THE CARTOONIST



### Creativity is intelligence having fun.

ALBERT EINSTEIN (1879-1955), THEORETICAL PHYSICIST

## This Week in History



James Naismith.

**FIRST BASKETBALL GAME PLAYED**

On Jan. 20, 1892, the very first game of basketball was played at a YMCA in Springfield, Massachusetts. The game's inventor, James A. Naismith, a Canadian American physical education teacher and coach, led a rowdy class suffering from a bit of cabin fever. In an effort to expend their energy and give them an indoor sporting option, he created the now-famous game of hoops.

Naismith went on to write the original rulebook of basketball and founded the basketball program at the University of Kansas. He lived to see basketball played in the Olympics and the NCAA tournament established.



Coach James Naismith (first R, back row) and the University of Kansas basketball team in 1899.

By Aidan Danza, age 15

## TRACKING ANIMALS

### Tracking animals is a very fun thing to do.

By far the easiest time to do it is when there is fresh snow on the ground. Simply follow the prints and see where they lead you.

#### RABBIT

Rabbits are a common animal that are hard to spot because they are most active at dawn or dusk and are very fast and wary. In the snow, they leave distinctive tracks: two large, splayed feet in the back and two small paws in the front. A relaxed rabbit's tracks will be close together and in clumps, denoting a rabbit that is hopping slowly. A scared rabbit's tracks will be far apart, indicating a rabbit that is bounding or running. This goes for all animals, as well.

#### SQUIRREL

Squirrel tracks are different from rabbit tracks. It can be hard to see in deeper, powdery snow, but squirrels have long toes with claws on the ends. The hind feet are bigger than the front feet, but nowhere near the size of the rabbit's feet.

#### DOG

Of course, dogs vary greatly in size, but all their tracks are similar. They have one paw pad, with four far-apart toes with claws.

#### FOX

Fox tracks are extremely similar to those of a dog. However, most dogs don't roam freely in the woods or fields, they walk on leashes, next to human tracks, or at least they stay close to the house if they are allowed to roam a little. Fox tracks are also more elongated than dog tracks, and the paw pad is smaller and farther from the toes than that of a dog.

#### CAT

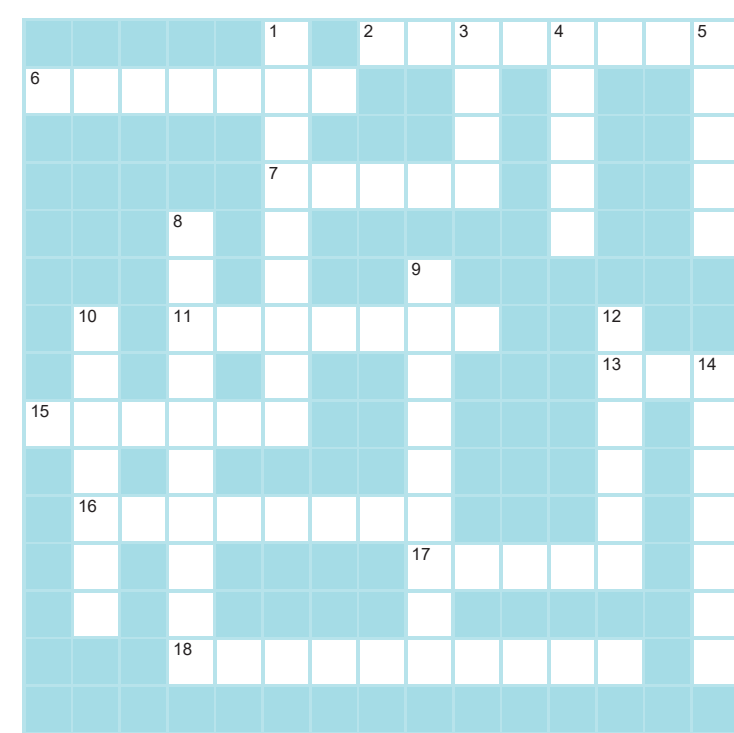
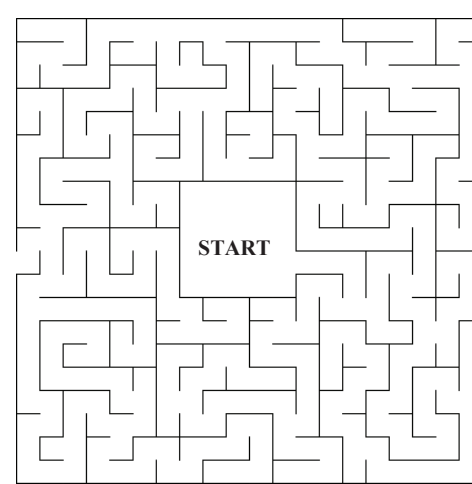
All cats have similar tracks. Domestic cats have small tracks, similar to dog tracks, with a paw pad and four toes. However, claws aren't visible, since cats can retract their claws, and the toes are much closer together at the front of the track. Wild cats' tracks are bigger (depending on the track) but still similar to the domestic cat.

#### BLACK BEAR

Bears have similar tracks to dogs, but they have five toes, and the foot is more compressed. The hindfoot has a longer pad, almost resembling a human foot, but bears have large claws. The tracks are around the size of a human hand or bigger.



## AMAZING ESCAPES!



USE THE FOUR NUMBERS IN THE CORNERS, AND THE OPERANDS (+, - AND X) to build an equation to get the solution in the middle. There may be more than one "unique" solution but, there may also be "equivalent" solutions. For example: 6 + (7 X 3) + 1 = 28 and 1 + (7 X 3) + 6 = 28

Easy puzzle 1

3	8		
66			
1	6		
+	-	x	÷

Solution For Easy 1

1 x 9 = (6 + 8)

Medium puzzle 1

1	16		
82			
1	5		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Medium 1

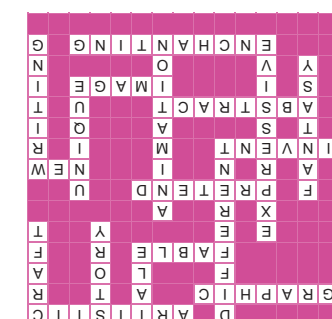
1 + 1 + 5 = 81

Hard puzzle 1

21	24		
84			
2	22		
+	-	x	÷

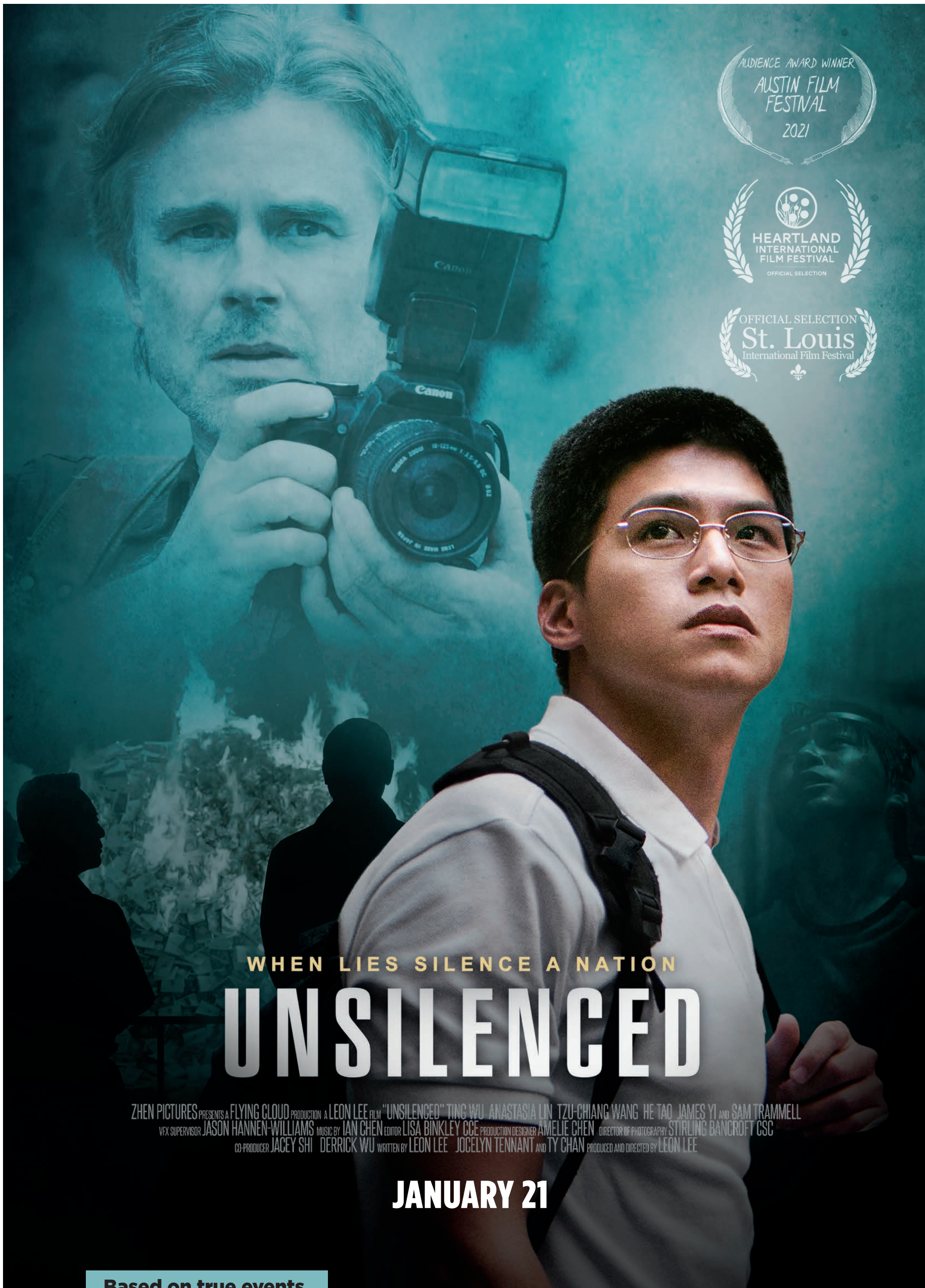
Solution for Hard 1

12 x (22 - 2 + 2) = 84  
2 x 12 = (22 - 2)



- ### Across
- 2 Creative (8)
  - 6 Visual (7)
  - 7 Teaching tale (5)
  - 11 Simulated (7)
  - 13 Novel (3)
  - 15 Make up (6)

- ### Down
- 1 Distinctive (9)
  - 3 Yarn (4)
  - 4 "Once Upon a Time..." (5)
  - 5 Weaving, e.g. (5)
  - 8 A pantomime is \_\_\_\_\_ (10)
  - 9 "Akira" artform (9)
  - 10 Genre for the Harry Potter books (7)
  - 12 Creative pieces of art are all \_\_\_\_\_ (6)
  - 14 Creative way to share stories (7)
  - 16 Ill-defined (8)
  - 17 Picture (5)
  - 18 Charmingly appealing (10)



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CO-PRODUCER JACEY SHI DERRICK WU WRITTEN BY LEON LEE JOCELYN TENNANT AND TY CHAN PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY LEON LEE

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- Somerdale, NJ (Philadelphia): Cinemark Cooper Towne Center
- Newark, DE: Cinemark Christiana
- Pittsburg, PA: Cinemark Robinson Township
- Fairfax, VA (D.C.): Cinemark Fairfax Corner 14
- Newport News, VA (Norfolk): Cinemark City Center 12
- Raleigh, NC: Cinemark Raleigh Grande



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