

SEARCHING AL

ESCAPE GAME ON GENDER

Instructions

Print out every page of this document, you can print it in black and white, although colours are preferable.

On top of every page you'll find little symbols to place them in the right groups. The person whose task it is to prepare the game fills 8 envelopes with the parts needed for the chapters/riddles. As knowing what envelope contains what parts decreases the amount of fun in the game, maybe ask someone else to do it. On the face of the envelopes, you need to put a certain combination of symbols and words. The depiction of what the envelopes should look like in the end can be found in these instructions. After having done that, sort the bits by the markings and put them into the corresponding envelopes. The yellow pages in between these pages mark the envelopes and the notes on them. Close and seal the envelopes and - boom! - you're done.

To play this game, you need some things: You will need at least one pair of scissors and some pens and paper to write down some notes. You can think about having one person that reads out the tasks. Sometimes it can be helpful to split up into smaller groups that focus on certain tasks.

The general structure of the game works as follows: The story will lead you to different places in a specific order. Each envelope represents one of the places. In each of them, you'll find clues for the next one, and so on. You should have 8 packages/envelopes, one has the word "start" on it -> obviously this is the first one to look at.

The other 7 envelopes each have two pieces of information on them - a place, a number and a symbol. During the game there will be different hints and some riddles that lead you to either a place and a symbol. They should match one of the marks on one of the envelopes. This will be the next chapter of the story.

Take your time, the game is not about playing as fast as you can, if you need to have a conversation, feel free to pause. If there pop up questions for a group-discussion during the game, write them down and get back to them after the game.

SEARCHING AL

ESCAPE GAME ON GENDER

For you information

To refer to AL, who is the protagonist of this game, we sometimes use they/them-pronouns for AL.

Most people who identify as men or women either use she/her or he/him as pronouns (Example: She is very good at sports, but her drawing skills could be better/He likes to do ballet but he often forgets to take his shoes with him).

Some people don't identify with any gender. Some people's gender changes over time. People whose gender is not male or female use many different terms to describe themselves, with non-binary being one of the most common. Other terms are genderqueer, agender and more. So some people don't like to use the pronouns from above and use new ones or no pronouns at all, so they use their name instead (Example: AL loves icecream. Sometimes ALs need for icecream distracts AL from doing ALs homework.) In english it is quite common to use they/them as pronouns for a non-binary person. (Example: ALs favourite subject in school is english, they are really good at it. Also their grandma speaks english fluently.)

X
START

THE STORY



You are a big group of friends. As every week on a Thursday, you gather in your rehearsal space. This week, you're doing a workshop together, written by Laura Zielinski and Laron Janus. You've been told that this workshop deals with gender. You've heard a lot about that topic already although you still don't find yourself capable of pinning down the exact core of that - that's okay tho.

Once you've all gathered, you start to check in with everybody: Ask them how they feel, how their day and their week have been so far. When you spread out through the room to start with your warming up exercises, you suddenly realize something: Someone is missing.

AL.

You didn't notice they weren't there so far and now feel a bit guilty that you didn't. You start looking around for AL, search for them in every corner and behind all the curtains - were they here earlier? Nobody saw them. You last remember being around them, at least two days ago.

The more you look around, the more worried you get.

Once you've made sure that no human being could possibly be hiding in this room among you, you start to inspect further.

It is then that your phones start buzzing. AL's parents sent a message into a collective chat group.

"Hey everyone. We're contacting you on a serious and urgent matter. Our child AL hasn't returned home after school yesterday and we're really worried about their wellbeing. So far, we have nothing: No ideas, no information, no hope for a swift return. Could you please get in contact with us if you know anything about AL's whereabouts? Have you seen AL? Is AL with you maybe? Please get back to us."

Most of you are done reading the chat when someone in the corner suddenly shouts about having discovered something. There it is. A hint. Apparently AL was here. They left a note.





Hey everyone. We're contacting you on a serious and urgent matter. Our child AL hasn't returned home after school yesterday and we're really worried about their wellbeing. So far, we have nothing: No ideas, no information, no hope for a swift return. Could you please get in contact with us if you know anything about AL's whereabouts? Have you seen AL? Is AL with you maybe? Please get back to us.

Hello Mr and Mrs Batros. We've actually just discovered something... We were supposed to do a theater workshop but AL hasn't shown up yet. BUT AL actually left us a note. So far, we don't know where AL is, but we think that the content of the note leads us there. It's a bit cryptic but we'll manage. Don't worry, we'll find AL for you!

PLEASE FIND AL, PLEASE!!! We seriously don't know where to look - maybe AL didn't want *us* to find them, but since they left a note for you, maybe this is something of which you have better understanding. We urge you, please hurry, we're trying to reconstruct ALs past days to find them ASAP. Also, please let us know if you uncover something.





- Hi this is Al
you might have already noticed...
I am skipping the workshop ...
Ehm, sorry I guess. I don't know
- if you observed the conflict
yesterday after class, maybe
you all haven't heard the argument
right next to you, or you just
weren't brave enough to interfere,
- or you ignored it on purpose...
whatever! I need some time to
process this and find a way to
cope with everything. A work-
shop with you all doesn't seem
to be the right thing today. Come,
- try to find me if you find your
voice and your courage again ...



Coastyside

Beach

anywhere with
my friends

closet

a haunted
house

Our Safe Places

my
favourite
beach

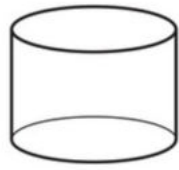
theatre

shopping
mall
my Grandma's house

woods
Lulu M.

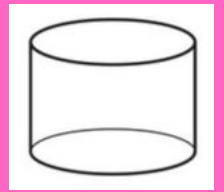
McDonald's

my
basement



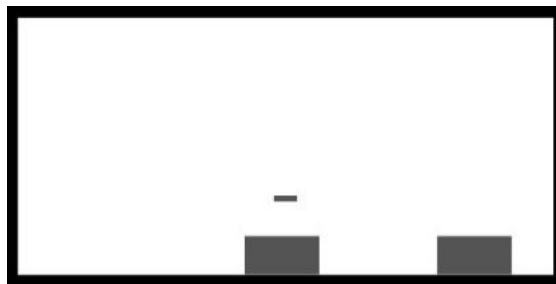
SHOPPING MALL

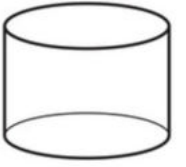
THE MALL

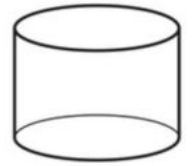


You enter the Shopping Mall. You know this place. Normally you come here after class, get a drink or snack and do some window shopping. AL would normally buy iced coffee. If someone really wants to enter a store AL grumbles around, rolls their eyes or even waits outside every now and then. Everyone actually believes AL loves being at the mall.

You divide into three groups. Each group goes to a different store and interviews people there.





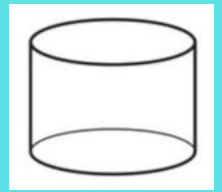


The phrase pink tax emerged in the 2010s. Pink refers to the fact products targeted to women and girls are often, stereotypically, pink in color. And because women's products are frequently more expensive than identical male ones, the price discrepancy has been likened to an unofficial tax. It's important to note that a pink tax is not explicitly mandated by governments in the way that a sales tax or property tax is. Instead, it's believed to be the result of systemic gender discrimination in society. Indeed, research—such as an influential one by New York City in 2015—found that, on average, women pay 7% more than men do for the same products. The discrepancy was especially noticeable in personal care products (razors, shampoo, etc.): 13%.



Consumers mocked BIC on Amazon after the company released its pink and purple "Pens for Her," featuring a "thin barrel designed to fit a woman's hand." Shoppers blasted Target when a store labeled toys in one aisle "building sets" and those in another aisle "girls' building sets." Consumers criticized PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi for suggesting that Doritos might develop lady-friendly chips that are "low crunch" because women "don't like to crunch too loudly in public"—an idea that never came to pass. Kleenex renamed its "Mansize" tissues "extra large" after 62 years in stores.

CARETAKERS ROOM



Group

Sorry Sir, we have a question. Do you have a minute for us?

Taylor

Yes if it's just a minute - no problem. Have you lost something? The Lost and Found-Box is at the information shelter on the 2nd floor.

Group

Ehm no we are not searching for something, but for someone actually.

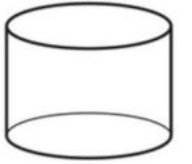
A friend got missing yesterday and we are trying to find them. We are very worried. We need to find AL before its getting dark outside... There is more of us asking different people here at the mall.

Taylor

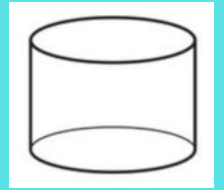
AL... mhm. This reminds me of something. Wait a minute. I found a drawing in one of the massage chairs. Heck where the hell have I put it, it must be in the trash can. Would you like to check?

Group

Yes of course!



H & N



Group

Hii! Was anyone working here yesterday also? We are searching for a friend of ours someone might have seen them... Anything that was unusual?

Ezti

I think Nik was here yesterday... She is in the back of the store.

Nik

Hi sorry. What is your problem?

Group

We want to know if something unusual happened when you were working yesterday?

Nik

Mhm yesterday was super boring, just a few customers. Very chill shift. Sorry, nothing special happened. But right before today's lunchbreak... grrr I am still in shock I think.

Group

What happened?

Nik

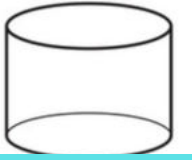
There was this girl, looking like a Runaway or homeless person or something and she tried to run with this jacket here. When I shouted after her my colleague grabbed her by the arm, she let go of the jacket and was gone.

Group

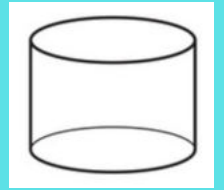
Can we look at the jacket?

Nik

Yes of course.



BOSSMANN



Group

Hello, we are searching for our friend AL, they ran away from school yesterday. Did anything noticeable happen here since yesterday? Do you work here everyday?

Galinda

Ehm no not every day. I was not yesterday. Let me think... Mhm maybe... So there was a weird looking boy earlier today. His clothes were dirty, as if he had slept outside or something and this smell urgh! Like a petrol station.

Group

Okay, maybe it was AL. What else can you remember about that person?

Galinda

He bought some girly stuff like a nailpolish or something, and chewing gum i guess.

Group

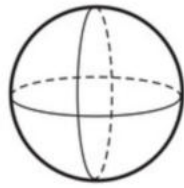
Okay thats very helpful, thank you for helping! Have a nice day!

Galinda

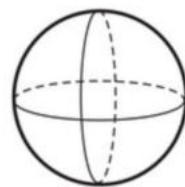
Sorry I couldn't help you more, but have a nice day and good luck!

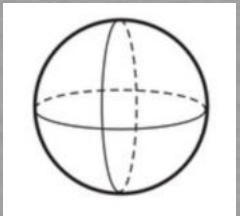
Galinda

Aaaah stop! There was something else! The boy had this huge metal star-thing-necklace around his neck. He hid it inside his shirt when he noticed me looking at it. Maybe it was stolen...



ROOFTOP



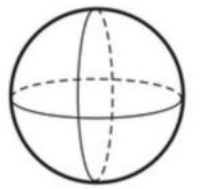


To Do Important

Book to lib-ora

Amow 10am

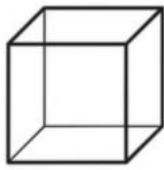




Waiting in the car
Waiting for the ride in the dark
At night the city grows
Look at the horizon glow

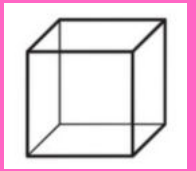
Waiting in the car
Waiting for the ride in the dark
Drinking in the lounge
Following the neon signs

Waiting for a word
Looking at the milky skyline
The city is my church
It wraps me in its blinding twilight



LIBRARY

THE LIBRARY

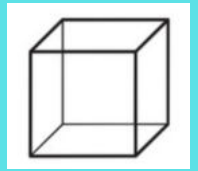


At the door of the library there is a sign asking the people entering: "Who to remember?".

You go inside and find several groups of people with books in their hands looking at the posters on the walls. You can't get through to the wall, so instead you take the exhibition catalog that's right at the entrance. Someone has marked a few letters in there.



THE EXHIBITION CATALOGUE



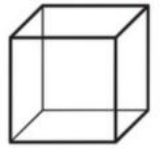
Last year, as part of the local Christopher Street Day, the project "Who to remember" began by queer youth and allies coming together to explore queer history. The initial question was: who do we want to remember?

In this exhibition we want to present these perspectives and introduce you to the work of some interesting personalities. On the street parade, other people were also asked who they think should be remembered forever. Some of these answers have been incorporated into the project. Hopefully, more pictures will be added in the coming months. Boro Öszi has lovingly illustrated the featured individuals.

So who do YOU think is missing here? Who would you add here? (Write a short text and create a little drawing, if you like send it her: whotoremember@gmx.net)



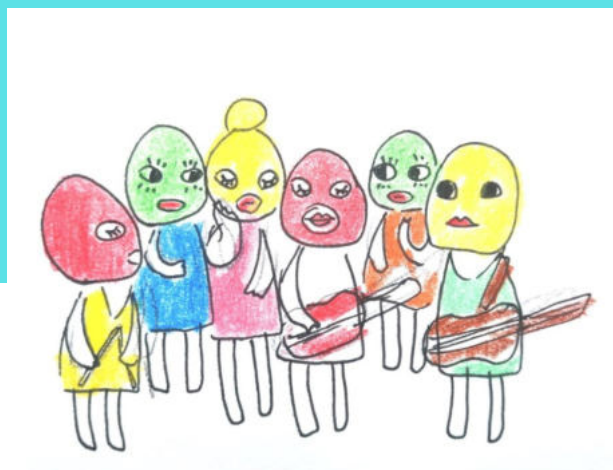
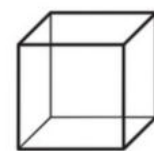
Judith Butler: Judith Butler (*1956) is an American philosopher best known for their work on deconstructing gender. Their books “Bodies That Matter” and “Gender Trouble” sparked huge debates in social and cultural studies, as their main essence was that there is no such thing as an inherent essence in gender (and even in sex!) – rather it is performatively constructed.



Alok V **Menon**: ALOK Vaid-Menon is an artist of many disciplines. They do literature, sound, fashion, self-portraits and social media and work mostly on gender and gender expression, as well as body diversity and belonging. Common topics are living in Europe as a Person of Color, body hair and breaking gendered fashion rules. Aged 29, they published their first book ‘Beyond The Gender Binary’ in 2020.

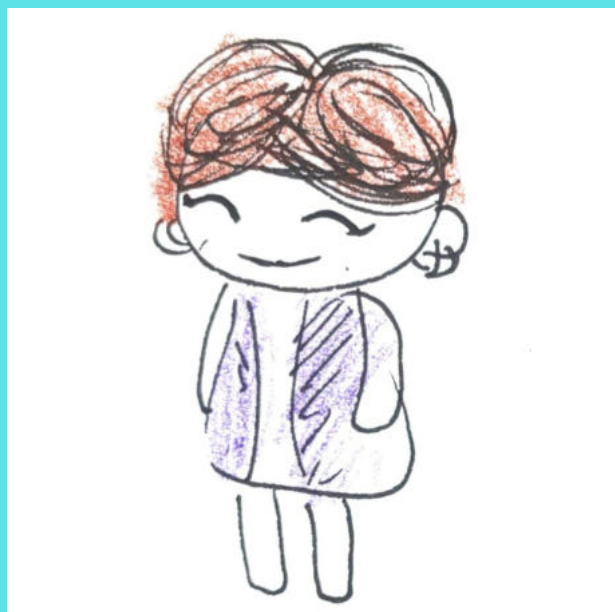
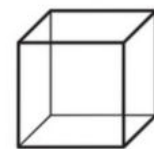


Olympe de **Gouges**: Olympe de Gouges was a French playwright and political activist, born in 1748. In 1791 she wrote « La Déclaration des droits de la Femme et de la Citoyenne » as a response **to** the “Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen” in which **she** designed a universal human rights draft that included the necessity of overthrowing a system of power of **men** over women. In 1793 during the French Revolution, she was beheaded for her treaty “Les trois urnes”.



Pussy Riot: Pussy Riot is a feminist **g**roup in Russia. Its known members are Nadezhda Andreyevna Tolokonnikova (*1989), Yekaterina Stanislavovna Samutsevich (*1982) and Maria Vladimirovna Alyokhina (*1988). There are at least 15 members of the group, but some had to flee the country and most of them prefer to stay undercover. Pussy Riot does punk rock and performance art, a lot of their actions generated public and international uproar, as they staged protests in churches and called for revolution, some of them ended in members being jailed because of 'ho**o**liganism'.

Marsha **P** Johnson: Born in 1942 in New Jersey, died in 1992 in New York City. Marsha P Johnson is/was sometimes referred to as a trans woman, a gay man or a drag queen. From stories about her/their/his life, it seems likely to assume that Johnson moved beyond the gender binary and Johnson's identity was never not fluid. Marsha **play**ed an important role in the Stonewall Riots, even more so in their reception as she wasn't the one to throw the first stone, as often claimed nowadays. Over the course of his life, Johnson was a well known drag queen and later also an HIV-activist. She even became a google doodle!



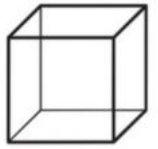
Simone de Beauvoir:

Simone de Beauvoir was born in 1908 and died in 1986. She was a French writer, philosopher and a feminist 'avant la lettre'. Her best known work is probably "The Second Sex" with the important phrase: "One is not born but becomes a woman." (This can be seen as a first distinction between sex and gender.)

Laurie Penny:

Laurie Penny was born in September 1986 in the United Kingdom. They have written scripts for Netflix's "The Haunting of Bly Manor" and HBO's "The Nevers". Laurie Penny is most known for their many books on feminist issues, most prominently: "Meat Market: Female Flesh Under Capitalism", "Unspeakable Things: Sex, Lies and Revolution" and "Bitch Doctrine: Essays for Dissenting Adults". They are one of the most prominent modern feminists.





GH7-G **The Second Sex**

504 **HEARTSTOPPER**

1312 **Lady Gaga: Behind the Fame**

TT4N **King Kong Theory**

IxA 535-C **bad feminist**

GF Fu **On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous**

LZ U **SPEAK**

GerBra7:1 **A MAGYAR NÖMOZGALOM RÉGI DOKUMENTUMAI**

Z-0-0 **Hold Your Own**

B C C **On a sunbeam**

B 6 C **Passing**

Bck **THE POEMS OF SAPPHO**

USS **Workin' It!**
RuPaul's Guide to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Style

HAF3 **Bitch Doctrine**
Essays for Dissenting Aults

LBTISK **Bi: Notes for a Bisexual Revolution**

E6 **This book is gay**

Hist 990 **WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HERE**

MA NT2 **Beyond the Gender Binary**

CC2 **La déclaration des droits de la femme**

XYZ1 **Paper Towns**

S1-TAT **We Should All be Feminists**

5 C C **Gender Trouble**

AB **Giovanni's Room**

A 4 **The Argonauts**

9L **Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda**

C0C **The Suffragette Movement**

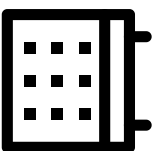
4<3 **The Color Purple**

SW8 **Sister Outsider**

His8 **Outrageous acts and everyday rebellions**

Lof **FELIX Ever After**

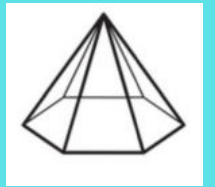
G i3 **Luke, I am your father!**





PLAYGROUND

THE SHIP



The moment you realize its the playground, you can immediately tell which one AI would choose. It is located between some tall houses. The toys are already old and most of them have small colorful doodles and stickers placed on them.

When the weather is bad and the playground is deserted, you can see the overflowing trash cans and the dirty surfaces that used to be bright red, blue or green.

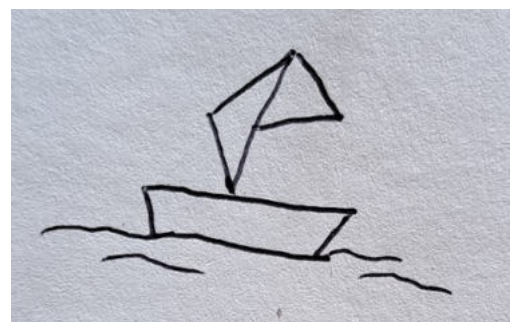


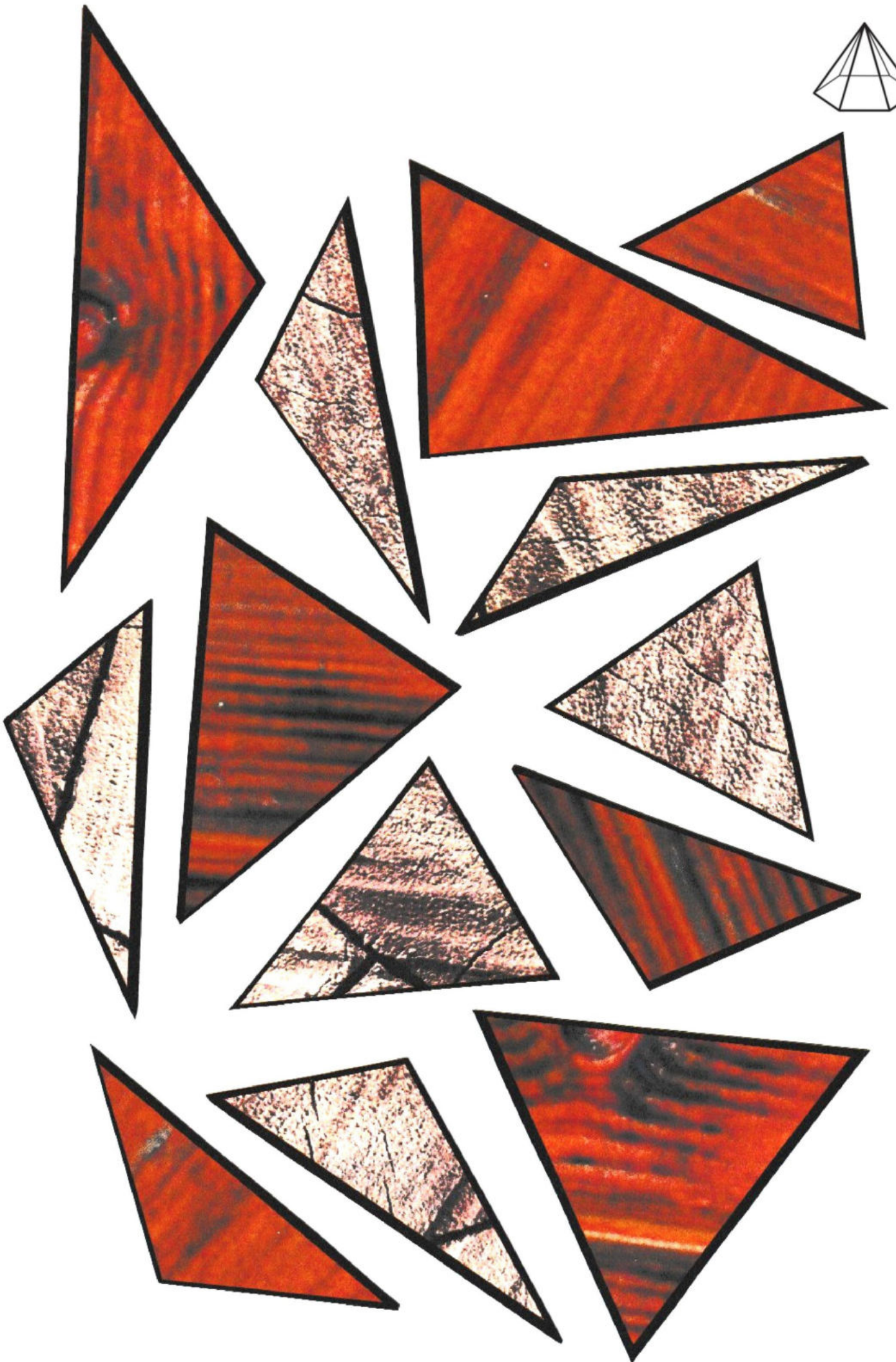


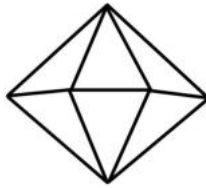
I see kids playing from here. Me hiding in the wooden ship. People don't let their children play here because of some broken wooden planks.

Some of the parents sit around the sandbox observing the children, sipping coffee from their to-go mugs, chatting or screaming at the children. "No Rosie, don't put that in your mouth", "Keep your braids in!", "Don't get so dirty please", "Alex, stop throwing sand at Clara. That's not nice. We don't do that." The mother is obviously not throwing sand at anyone... "Joey! Did you ask Kateryna if you could borrow her shovel?" Kateryna seems not too happy about it.

Actually Kateryna is crying. Her glittering crown slips half over her eyes. One of the diamonds falls into the sand. My mum gave me a crown like this as a present when I was little. I haven't seen it for years. One of the children is wearing a pink tutu under a blue waterproof jacket. They have short hair and wear glasses. Cute :) This child is quite focused. They are building something out of sand. All alone. They let the sand run through their fingers. They build this huge sandcastle with towers and gates and a wide moat.

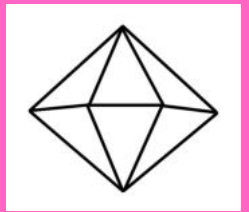






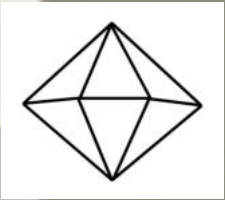
LOCKERROOM

THE LOCKERROOM



You go back to school. Some of you have a queasy feeling. You still haven't found AL and it's getting late. You wonder how AL's parents are doing. The gym is lit up, probably a gymnastics class or something. You enter the gym and turn into the hallway with the locker rooms.

One of them has a new key lock on it. To open it you need a code...



371

359

360

361



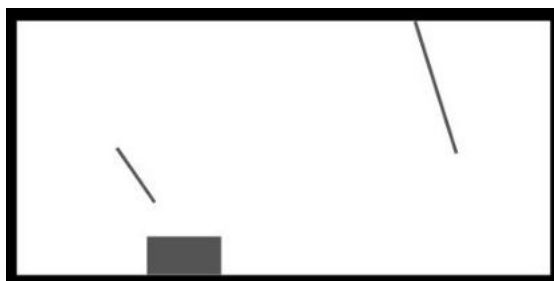
Cut the parts and put each one in an envelope.
Write the codes onto the three envelopes.

CODE 2573



You try to open the key lock of the locker.
It does not open.

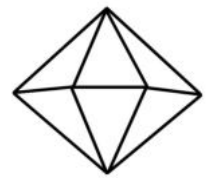
CODE 7532



CODE 5273



You try to open the key lock of the locker.
It does not open. One of you kicks the cabinet angrily.
Someone else tries shaking. No chance.



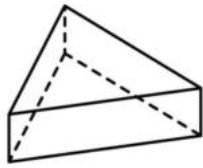
HEY MR AND MRS BATROS,

DON'T WORRY - WE MIGHT KNOW WHERE AL IS HEADED. WE'RE POSITIVE TO BE FINDING AL SOON. YOU'VE ASKED US TO RECONSTRUCT AL'S PAST DAYS, SO SINCE WE'LL NEED SOME TIME TO COVER THE HOPEFULLY FINAL DISTANCE, WE WANTED TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING WE'VE FOUND OUT SO FAR.

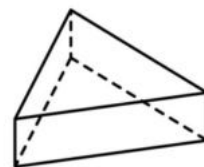
AL SEEMED TO BE VERY DISTURBED BY SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED IN WE COLLECTIVELY DIDN'T REACT TOWARDS IT IN A WAY THAT REASSURED AL- TO BE QUITE HONEST WE DIDN'T REACT MUCH TOWARDS IT AT ALL. AFTER THE INCIDENT, AL RETURNED TO, APPARENTLY IN ORDER TO FIGURE OUT SOMETHING FOR THEMSELF. AFTERWARDS, AL WANDERED TO WE ALWAYS HUNG OUT AT WHEN WE HAD NOWHERE TO GO. WE ASSUME SO, BECAUSE TODAY THEY HAD TO HAVE A STAR ON THEM. APPARENTLY, AL SPENT THE NIGHT OUT THERE, SOME PEOPLE WE MET EARLIER TODAY MENTIONED, AL HAD LOOKED QUITE DISHEVELLED. TODAY, QUITE EARLY IN THE MORNING, AL WAS AT THE IN THE CITY CENTRE, APPARENTLY THE EXHIBITION THERE HAD CAUGHT AL'S ATTENTION WHEN THEY RETURNED AT AROUND NOON, AL STROLLED AROUND THE

AFTERWARDS THEY MADE THEIR WAY TO THE CLOSE TO WHERE YOU ONCE LIVED, DO YOU REMEMBER THAT OLD WOODEN THERE? WELL, WE ASSUME THAT AL IS AT THE, NOT FAR FROM WHERE WE WERE AT THE TIME WE FOUND THEIR MESSAGE IN THE - AL WAS PROBABLY SIMPLY JUST ON ! BOLLOCKS! THAT WE DIDN'T LOOK THERE EARLIER, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN CLEARER TO US RIGHT FROM THE START! WELL, NOW WE'RE ON OUR WAY THERE, WE WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY AND THEN COME BACK TO YOU WHENEVER WE HAVE SECURED AL'S WHEREABOUTS.

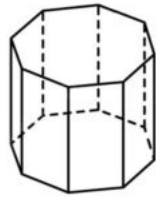
ALL YOURS, DON'T WORRY NO MORE!



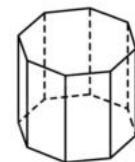
CLASSROOM



You search every single corner of the classroom. AL's seat is empty, there are no new stickers or drawings on the table. You won't get anywhere here. You decide to look elsewhere.



STAGE



Hi friends.

Congratulations. You found my last note. You have come here in order to find me, I know. There is no one here who wants to be found. The fact that you showed enough courage to solve the riddles that led you here is a good start. Thank you for that.

In the beginning I thought of this like a little game but now I think I don't want to continue playing. It wouldn't be fair. I want to imagine the future by myself to make it come true. Maybe it won't work but I think I want to try anyway. I am really serious about this one. What would have happened if you or someone directly showed commitment at that moment? The situation in the locker room was really harsh. Not only for me, but for everybody affected. Maybe that moment did to me what a tiny drop does to a glass of water that is already filled to the brim. One moment it is still containing itself, even if it is just due to the surface tension of the water. But when one further droplet, no matter how tiny, meets the body of water - it bursts.

I realized that the box in which I have to exist is too narrow for me. I no longer fit into it. All this: Am I a boy or a girl, is this character good or evil, do I love or hate my body, am I popular or unpopular. I believed everyone when they said I had to be one or the other. Nobody was telling me a different story, and it's hard to figure it out all by myself. I do not have the power to destroy this box and I do not know where I will end up when I leave it. Just like you. It's a dark place not knowing. But I guess it's where we all live, so maybe it is not that lonely after all.

A friend of mine once quoted some book by Laurie Halse Anderson... When people don't express themselves, they die one piece at a time.

