

THE LION'S CHRONICLES

ISSUE 9



GENDER INEQUALITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY: DOUBLE PERSPECTIVES



What comes to your mind when you hear the words “Gender Equality.” Most likely you think of a group of feminists aggressively protesting for rights you think they already have. This visualization has become so popular that there is even a name for it. “The Feminist Agenda”.

If you don’t live in a progressive society, being a feminist is an insult. In Baku, this is certainly the case. We are discouraged from speaking out in fear of being perceived as “man-haters”. Being a feminist is not about tearing men down, and creating a society in which women rule. Being a feminist is about empowering women, and creating a society in which men and women are given the same opportunities to become successful. Even though we live in the 21st century, oftentimes it feels like our mindset is stuck in the past.

Up to today, women are constantly discriminated, degraded, and treated unequally from men. The UN Women’s committee has reported that worldwide 35% of women are subjected to domestic violence. Adult women account for nearly half (49%) of all human trafficking victims detected globally. Women and girls together account for 72%, with girls representing more than three out of every four child trafficking victims. Most time women are discouraged from speaking out by their family members when they’re experiencing domestic abuse or any form of discrimination and violence.

We have fostered a society in which women can’t speak out because they’re afraid to. The way we raise young girls compared to the way we raise young boys proves this. When a little boy playfully hurts a little girl, we are told that they’re doing this because they “like” us. From a young age, we are telling girls that it’s okay if someone hurts them because that is how affection is shown. The common phrase “boys will be boys” is used to excuse this toxic behavior.

When debating whether gender equality should be implemented in our society, many argue that women and men can never be equal due to biological differences. I hate to burst your bubble but the so-called “biological differences” mean nothing in our world today. Before civilizations formed, humankind’s main goal was survival, so qualities such as physical strength, and agility were more valued. No one cared about politics, art or science, people were too busy trying to run away from predators. Today our society values intelligence over strength, mental durability over physical. What keeps our world running is our innovations. Our main goal as humankind is to improve our living standards and make our world more comfortable through innovation. Science states that women and men do have slightly different brain compositions.

Where males contain more grey matter in their brain causing them to be more spontaneous in their actions, females contain more white matter leading to more complex connections between ideas. So the bottom line is that we are humans from the 21st century, stuck in the mindset of hunters and foragers. Our society is structured through these stereotypes that value masculine qualities more than feminine ones when in reality both qualities have equal value. Gender is a race in which some runners compete only for the bronze medal. So should you follow the example that society has set for us? Are we going to continue disempowering girls, or will we make a change? The time has come for change. The past is filled with heartbreaking mistakes that we have committed as an active society, but we can change them. Start a conversation. Don't allow dreams to be broken. Don't let the stories of women who have been killed and abused by their partners stay silent. Your gender should not make you subject to discrimination by our society. The world of humanity is possessed of two wings: the male and the female. So long as these two wings are not equivalent in strength, the bird will not fly. Until womankind reaches the same degree as man, until she enjoys the same arena of activity, extraordinary attainment for humanity will not be realized

Leyla Iskandarli, AS

It's well-known that sexism is one of the main and most discussed social problems of the 21st century. The issue of women's rights and their importance in society is being raised more and more frequently nowadays. And due to the recent events in Baku, it would be worthwhile to talk about it again and to speculate on this topic from different points of view. In this article, I will look at this problem from a male perspective and try to discuss sexism in general. First of all, why does sexism still exist in our time? The answer to this question lies in the conservative thinking of people. Nowadays, people struggle to accept new rules and changes in their social lives and often choose to live by the principles their ancestors used to live. And if women didn't have any rights and freedom in the past, then, respectively, little could be changed in the modern conservative society.

However, in the 21st century, people increasingly attach importance to this issue. A lot of meetings, events, and protests are held all over the world (including our country) to make the concerns of women's rights heard by society. Personally, supporting these protests is extremely important in our time, as we have to remind the society that all people, regardless of their gender or race, have the right to live a happy life without constant threats from the outside. After all, it's pretty sad to observe the miserable state the world is in because of the existence of such term as sexism in the 21st century. We are entering a new era of information technology, 5G networks, and wireless connections, but some people are still judging and oppressing other people because of the factors that they are not able to influence, e.g. race or gender.

Will anything change for the better in the future? Well, I believe that if humanity unites and pursues a complement policy regarding women's rights, this issue will disappear. But it's not as easy as it sounds, as it's extremely difficult to make the people get rid of their life principles and make humanity act as one due to different views on different things. People have lived in societies where women have been oppressed for centuries. And nowadays, when the issue of sexism is risen by the international communities, these people simply cannot accept women's rights. It takes generations for humanity to get used to new rules and orders. All we can do now is protest and wait until the idea of rights for females integrates into families of conservative people.

I truly believe and hope that one day, people will abolish those stereotypes about women and oppression of any kind of person. We live in a time when our planet is globalized like never before, and people of completely different types live together. And this is why humanity should try as hard as possible to avoid inequality of rights between all of these people as it is necessary to keep a social balance between them and to avoid a potential feeling of resentment from any part of society.

Rustam Nabiyeu IGCSE-2

Domestic Violence: What is it? And Where Does It Even Begin?

Domestic Violence, an act of violence or abusive behavior directed by one family or household member against another, has existed (in one way or another) throughout history. For generations, it was taken for granted against women. And in many communities today, domestic abuse is still a common mode of assault. But really, where does all of this start? Let's slowly walk back into history to see if we can find a recorded beginning.

Today

According to the World Health Organisation, it is estimated that 35% of women are assaulted (mostly by men) every year and 38% of all murders of women have been caused by some sort of assault. Moreover, the Mankind Initiative tells us that as of 2018, for every three victims of domestic abuse, two were female, one was male. The reason for this is our cultures- in many of which it is absolutely normal to abuse a spouse, more specifically, a wife - and the ways in which we have been raised to believe that this is more or less correct.

Imperial China

Imperial China, especially from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century, has been described as the "best and worst of times" for women by Ropp S. Paul, an author featured in Women's History Review. He says that "On the one hand cultural literacy was becoming increasingly common for Chinese women. At the same time, these women were highly restricted by law, were strongly admonished to remain behind closed doors, and forcibly encouraged to do so by the sharp pains of footbinding" hence, were subject to patriarchy and domestic violence, which was an issue just as symbolic here, as it was in every other corner of the world at the time.

Roman Empire

The Roman Empire, one of the most prominent and influential empires of all time, is infamous today for how it treated its women. Beatings, divorce, even murder were private rights of the male head of household and only women from the higher classes could even hope for divorce from abusive marriages. Females were considered to be the property of the oldest man in the family they were born into/ married into, making domestic violence a very common feature here.



Ancient Greece

Similar to habits in Ancient Rome, Athenian men were given the responsibility of maintaining family pride, causing social pressure to be harsh on others and 'do what the others do'. Children were considered to be equal to slaves and were beaten by the male head of the household on a regular basis. Women were looked at as the property of the men in their house and were also regular victims of violence.

We have understood that domestic violence has been constantly featured throughout history. By analyzing patterns, we see that it is most common in violent societies that run as patriarchies. These expect the man of the house to be responsible for everything that goes on, causing social pressure to keep everything under control, hence giving way to their decision to take the aid of domestic violence to prevent humiliation. This also allows us to conclude that the beginning of domestic violence isn't somewhere in history, rather it is rooted, like most other things in the surrounding environment (the society's expectations) and the human nature of responding to it (meeting its goals through the aid of violence).



Our Extraordinary October

The spookiest month of the year is over, and our memories from it are anything but mediocre.

Although cut short by our autumn break, we managed to do a lot during October.

The month was kicked off by Daniel Berdichevsky delivering a presentation to students at Narimanov Campus about our high schoolers' favorite international competition: World Scholar's Cup, the local round of which will be held in Baku in January.

While on the topic of high schoolers, we can't help but mention how a group of 9th graders, accompanied by Mrs. Zahira and Mrs. Sabina, taught PreLANDAU students Maths and English on the second week of October. Aysel from 9H, who taught English, gave her impression, saying "The students were a little shy at first but opened up to us and showed their magnificent skills later. I was amazed and can't wait to teach them again!" Meanwhile, Ali from 9S described his experience teaching Maths stating "It was quite interesting to teach someone topics that your teacher taught you. When you see students understand what was explained, you become very proud

In between all of this, LANDAU also participated in a drawing competition hosted by the Indian Embassy. The winners, Khadija and Ziya, prepared their colorful drawings of Mahatma Gandhi to honor the social activist's 150th anniversary. Shortly after, the spookiest part of the month began: Midterms, followed by parents' evening. Everywhere you went, you would be met by a student going over their notes, skimming through the PDF pages of a book, or mentally preparing themselves for two periods of writing as fast as possible. All in all, our exam week really awakened the spirit of working hard and not getting enough sleep. On the contrary, the next week passed quicker than lessons where you actually have fun.

Even the day after parents' evening my peers were in good spirits - we really did do our best this semester!

All the fun was reserved for Friday, the 25th of October. At first, it was hard to tell whether there was a dress code no one told you about, and you had to come dressed as the Joker. As the clock neared half-past eight, you started to notice the various characters our students had dressed up as. And yet, Friday wasn't all fun and games for some of us. The elections for the 2019/20 High School Student Council were held during the first two periods.

Despite the choices being difficult to make, we all had a great laugh, especially thanks to some Spirit Team and Event Organiser nominees.

If you want to know more about your student representatives, make sure you read this year's President's article on Student Council's plans. The rest of the day was spent watching movies, playing games and taking pictures with Mr. Adam. Additionally, this year's 8th graders had a masterclass on self-discovery and choosing a career path with Oxford University graduate Mr. Cameron Alexander. Well, that's arguably the best way to wrap up the fall term.

But that's not where October ends for all of us! As you might already know, two of the teams that participated in the Hague's Global Round are currently preparing for the Tournament of Champions, which is to be held at Yale University. In order to be fully prepared, they are being trained by Mr. Cameron



One of the enthusiastic participants, Rustam from 9S, puts it this way, "We are looking forward to presenting our country in the best way and accomplishing things we didn't accomplish in the Hague round." We wish them all the best and hope they have a great time in the Tournament of Champions in November!

Malahat Mammadova IGCSE-2

Study Tips From Landau Students and Teachers

Exams are finally over and the results are out. Every single student asks the same question after each exam, “What did I do wrong while revising?” I know that it is not easy to revise for every single subject and still get high grades on all of them, but it is possible. Most students make the same big mistake. They think that reading their notes will give them all the knowledge that they need for their exams. Here are some tips from Landau students and teachers on exam revision.

Making a plan

You may think that you are wasting time planning, but it is the complete opposite. Yes, you may waste 10 minutes on it but then, you won't have to question which subject to study for a whole hour. While making this plan, you should also leave some time for breaks. Taking breaks during revision gives you a higher chance of remembering the material.

Learning key terms, formulas, and dates

Without learning key terms or formulas you won't be able to achieve high grades. Have you ever seen any physics exam without a need for formulas? Me neither. On many exams, it will not be asked for the key term definitions, but it will be really useful for you in order to get the highest points on the questions. Teachers will see that you learned the topic well.

Asking yourself questions

Your brain cannot revise a lot of information in a small period of time, you should challenge it. What you can do is ask yourself some questions about all the topics in the exam. It will show your weaknesses and you can improve them. Just remember to not implement this technique one day before your exam. Add body text

Practice

Practicing is very essential for every single exam without any exceptions. For IGSCCE and A-Level students, all the questions have the same style every year. Teachers give you the same style of questions so you can know which types of questions you will have. It doesn't only relate to IGSCCE and A-Levels, you all have chapter questions or activities in the book. It is important to do most of them before the exam.

Taking notes

This is the most general tip; however, many people still do it the wrong way. Note-taking is really effective when you are doing them at home and/or in class. You should not make all your notes in a day or a week before the exams.

Involvement in class

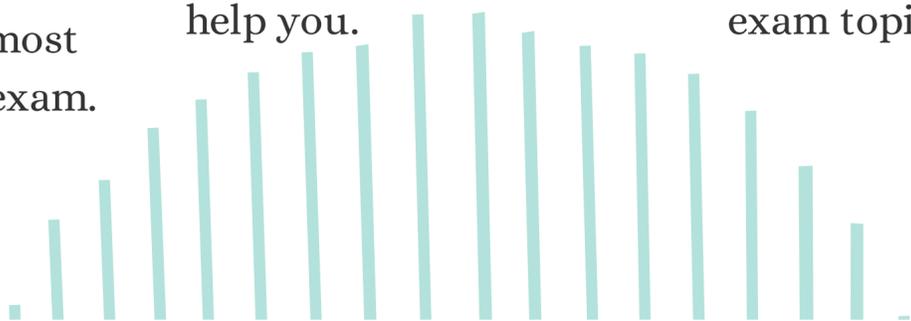
Everybody should be active in class. You should ask questions, answer questions and listen carefully. I know for sure that some of you think that they can go home and read the topic themselves. Then why do you need teachers? Definitely not to give you homework and check exams. Teachers are trying their best to help you with understanding the material and when you don't ask your questions, they don't know your gaps and cannot help you.

Do not forget about the textbook

While having your notes, you may forget about your book. But it is very useful to look through your books several times. Some of our books have many examples and solutions for every question type and after going through them, you will have a general idea about question types and solutions for them.

Mind Maps

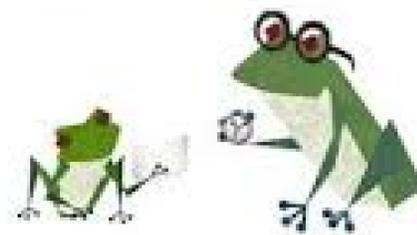
One teacher gave me a really useful tip which I am sure not all of us used. It is a mind map. What is a mind map? It is a graph with the main topic and its subtopics and their subtopics and etc. While having a mind map, you will definitely not forget any big details about the exam topics.



For those who struggle with Biology, there is Bioninja. Even though it has been created for IB Biology specifically, you can still find just the right amount of summary PDFs for any standard or higher level topic.

Learning languages can be rather boring, and Conjuguemos is here to fix that. Although the name may be misleading, the site offers much more than lists of conjugations, including listening and vocabulary games. You can easily impress your German and French teachers with all that new vocabulary!

Conjuguemos



Learn your verbs

Brain POP

When it comes to Economics revision, there is no better option than investopedia.com and dineshbakshi.com. While Investopedia gives real-world examples and uses videos to explain concepts, the latter provides you with past paper practice.

Anyone who has ever had Geography lessons knows just how tough it can be when it comes to giving causes and effects, as well as showing the correlation between topics. Time for Geography is here to help you out with a multitude of insightful videos on any topic, whether it be the carbon cycle or the formation of volcanoes.

It's common knowledge that flashcards can be great when studying new terms, formulae, and languages. If you hate the hustle that comes with handwritten flashcards, look no further than Quizlet. It is frequently used by Year 9 students and is also known as Mr. Adam's favorite app.

There you have it. If you use these sites for revision, I guarantee that you will come closer to achieving your targeted grade. Best of luck, and make sure you take breaks in between your study sessions!

Malahat Mammadova IGCSE-2

THE LION'S CHRONICLES' 2019 PLAYLIST

Want to join the Newspaper Team?

Send a piece of your work
(art, article, memes, etc.) to this
email:
iskandarlileyla@gmail.com



Does Homework Actually Work?

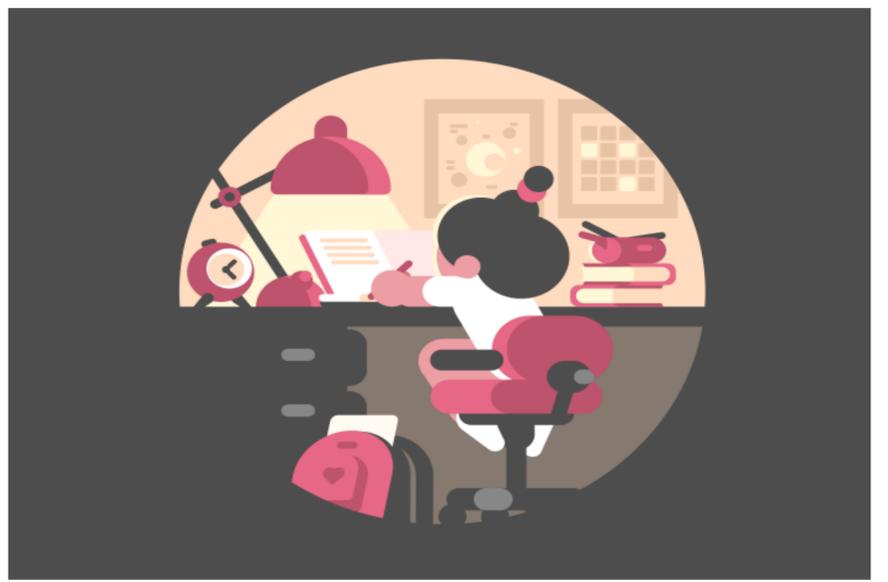
Dear students, let's talk about the most unloved part of being a student: homework. Does homework actually work? Should we spend all of our free time doing it? Do we need homework? Let's find out! For starters, let's travel back in time to the mysterious past. Each time you return from school, tired and without any desire to start studying, do you think about who invented this torture for us students? To my little surprise, it was an Italian (they constantly create something), named Roberto Nevilis, a strict teacher from the famous town of Italy, Venice back in 1095. Various sources state that Roberto did not see any progress and dynamics in the performance of students and the hours spent at school did not give a positive result. Being a very ambitious teacher, he invented the so-called punishment. At that time, it was forbidden

to beat children. To replace this, he introduced to the world a new method of "torture": homework, also known as several hours of work after classes to improve students' results.

From all this, we can conclude that you were not mistaken all this time because it turns out that homework is indeed a real punishment.



After some time, debates and discussions began to take place in America because of homework, which was regarded as a trifle by everyone back in those days. In January 1900, Edward Bok wrote a scandalous editorial about homework with the headline 'A National Crime at the Feet of American Parents.' "The child is made to study far, far beyond his physical strength, and consequently his mental good," Bok said. He believed that the child had the right to return home without "burden" on his shoulders in the form of homework and go out playing with his peers or just spend time with his family.



"To rob a child of the playtime which belongs to him is a rank injustice," Bok argued. "No child under fifteen years of age should be given any home study whatever by his teachers."

In October of 1900, Bok followed up on his assertion, writing that since it had been published, the magazine had received "hundreds of letters from teachers and parents" who "urged the elimination of this evil and injury from the lives of our children". Bok suggested that parents could act by sending notes to teachers "stating that under no circumstances whatever will the father and mother permit any home study by the child." And according to the editor, thousands did just that.

Moreover, the most comprehensive research on homework to date comes from a 2006 meta-analysis by Duke University psychology professor Harris Cooper. He found a positive relationship between homework and school performance. According to the experiment, students doing homework were much stronger in lessons than those who ignored homework. However, this relationship was stronger and more effective in high school students attending 7th to 12th grade. And in the lower grades, the correlation was rather weak.

Cooper's analysis focused on how homework impacts academic achievement, such as test scores. His report noted that homework also helps improve study habits, attitudes toward school, self-discipline, inquisitiveness, and independent problem-solving skills. On the other hand, some studies he examined showed that homework can cause physical and emotional exhaustion. Despite the weak correlation between homework and performance for young children, Cooper argues that a small amount of homework is useful for all students.

Second-graders should not be doing two hours of homework each night, he said, but they also shouldn't be doing any homework.

For decades, the standard of homework was the "10-minute rule," which recommends doing a maximum of 10 minutes of homework per class per day. For example, second graders should do about 20 minutes of homework every night. High school students should do homework for about two hours each evening. Onward, the Massachusetts primary school announced a new program that eliminates all homework, which in turn increases the school day by two hours to provide more studying hours in the classroom. "We really want kids to go home at 4 o'clock, tired. We want their brain to be tired," Kelly Elementary School Principal Jackie Glasheen said in an interview with a local TV station. "We want them to enjoy their families. We want them to go to soccer practice or football practice, and we want them to go to bed. And that's it."

But what is the conclusion that we can reach from this? There are so many opinions and sources, most of which are different. Some argue that homework should be banned, while others want to keep it. And the main points which should be followed by homework are not always justified, such as:

1. The need to structure the educational system
2. To allow students to earn part of their studying credits at home where they can focus on the particular subject in silence
3. Help children understand the covered topics through reviewing
4. Improve the set of necessary skills: knowledge of history, reading & comprehension, writing skills, basic count, and research skills.

So I advise you to just keep up with the program and do your homework - but keep in mind that if there is too much of it, you have every right to debate with the teachers and bring weighty facts that I presented to you. Well, now it is time for me to go to finish homework.

Laman Aleskerova IGCSE-2

5 Books We're Loving This Month

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a bored person with nothing else to do must be in want of a book. Well, let us award you just that, five magnificent books to read this November.

1 "In the midst of life, we are in death."
"- And Then There Were None, by Agatha Christie "A great autumn read, due to how perplexing and unsettling the story is," says Malahat Mammadova. A mystery which "keeps you guessing till the very end since every character is a suspect".
Observe 10 different people, different in every meaning of the word, meet at Soldier Island thanks to their generous host U.N Owen, or Unknown. Witness their confusion (and deaths) first hand as they try unraveling who their host really is, and reach a "delightfully shocking conclusion."

2 "Well, there is only one piece of advice I can give you' said the wisest of wise men. 'The secret of happiness is to see all the marvels of the world, and not forget the drops of oil on the spoon.'" - The Alchemist, by Paulo Coelho
A book that is necessary for every Landau student- there are few such books that are so motivating. Let's hear Leyla Iskandarli's thoughts: "The story of a simple Shepherd's dream and destiny to explore the world and find its riches sends a powerful message of following your dreams. The challenges that our main character faces in search of his destiny allows us to compare our own destinies with him. I like that the book is reminding us to never give up on what we believe in, but also to not lose ourselves in the search of our destiny."

3 “We are stardust brought to life, then empowered by the Universe to figure itself out - and we have only just begun.”- Astrophysics For People In A Hurry, by Neil deGrasse Tyson
As long as the title may be, this book is actually the briefest in this list. If you have ever looked up into the sky and wondered “What goes on in there- and why?”, this book is definitely for you. Don’t fear the complicated language, Neil Degrasse Tyson has written it so that everyone can understand.

4 “When faith dies, the culture dies, the civilization dies, the people die.”- Suicide Of A Superpower: Will America Survive to 2025?, by Patrick J. Buchanan
A must-read for those of us who breathe politics, and the cause and effect model. Rustam Nabiyevev says, “The book talks about the modern problems of the US and the entire Western civilization and how it and its people have changed in 50 years. It also talks about the origins of those problems and explains why those nations are losing their dominance in an international arena and what makes people change their mindsets.”

5 “History is something that very few people have been doing while everyone else was plowing fields and carrying water buckets.”- Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind, by Yuval Noah Harari
Simply put, this book is a summary of life but could teach you so much more. “ The book is very informative, interesting and engaging. The best part is that Harrari uses easy language and a very entertaining way of explaining things. I would recommend this book to anyone, starting from an aspiring doctor, to a bored teenager,” says Humay Mustafayeva.

Smrithi Chandra IGCSE-2

MEMES Of The Month



WHAT OUR SCHOOL IS UP TO IN DECEMBER

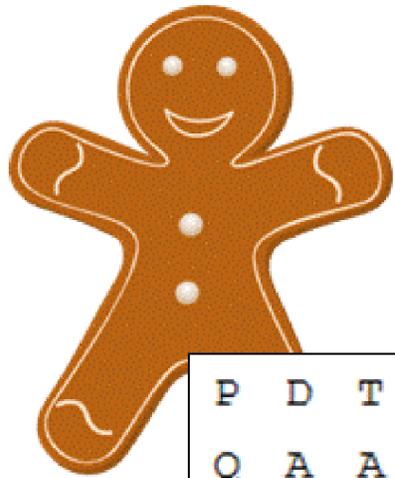
Dec 9-14: End Of Term Exams

Dec 18: Meme Day

Dec 19: Ugly Christmas Sweater Day

Dec 20: School-Wide Christmas Celebration

Dec 23: Christmas Break Starts



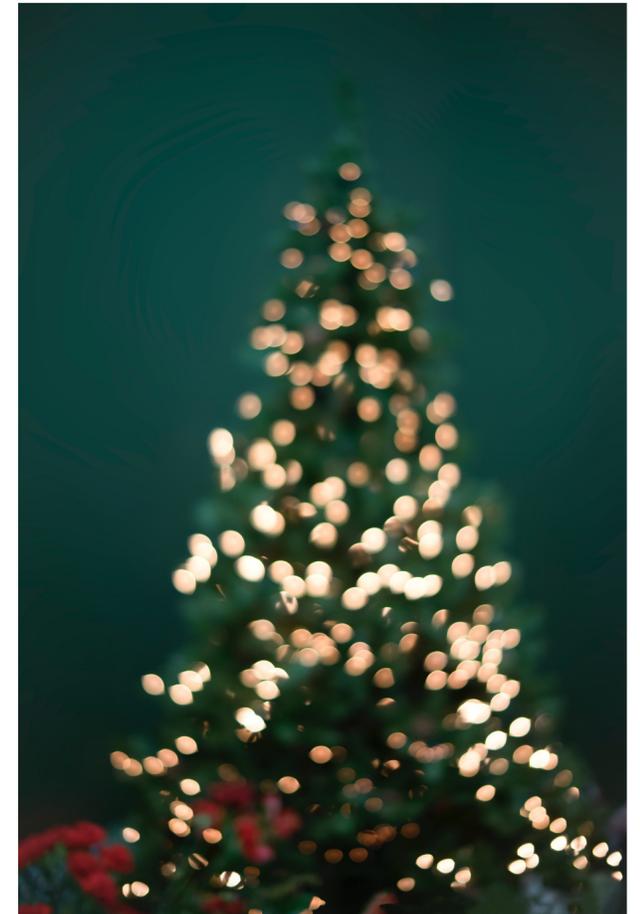
CHRISTMAS TREATS

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BUCHE DE NOËL
CANDY CANE
CHOCOLATE
CLOVES
COOKIES
CRANBERRIES
EGGNOG
FLAT BREAD

FRUITCAKE
FUDGE
GINGERBREAD
GOOSE
GRAVY
HAM
MINCEMEAT
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ORANGES
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SCRUMPTIOUS
STUFFING
SUGARPLUMS
SWEET POTATOES
TURKEY



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