



# Spotlight

Dear Reader,

My name is Melissa Marquez. "We all know that SLA is made special by the people in its community. All of us come to SLA with varying experiences, backgrounds, and values that make up our diverse identities. **So, who are we, at this moment in time? What identities make up the SLA Class of 2026?"**-Ms. Gikins. By writing my magazine I get to express who I am. I get to identify myself and my voice.

My passion project is about two things. My passion-I love reading sci-fi/manga/fantasy books whenever I am sorta free. There are books about well-being, action, or history, which are fairly significant. "Red Queen" by Victoria Aveyard was one of the first books I was interested in. Reading takes me to a world full of imagination. I can become a part of the story, even if I'm not one of the characters. Reading helps take the stress of the day off your shoulders. It has the ability to bring joy, as well as give us something to look forward to. Also, My experience- "I never thought advisory happened to be a necessary class. You just walk into the classroom, sit down, and wait till it ends. The silence of the school is something I never heard before. Just waiting in a somewhat dark room, sitting next to the door. The lockdown was due to two students talking about shooting up the school. Students were stuck in a sorta dark, silent room, for an hour. Nothing really happened that day besides sitting inside a room filled with silence.

Hope you enjoy it, Melissa Marquez

## Reading is a Hobby-

One of my many hobbies happens to be reading. I love reading sci-fi/manga/fantasy books whenever I am sorta free. On the one hand, reading has the ability to exist as a fun activity; as well as, on top of the other hand, it happens to be informative. For example, there are books about well-being, action, or history, which are fairly significant. I even remember the first book I happened to be interested in.

I walked into Barnes and Noble with my favorite aunt. Though I wasn't quite into books I decided to generally look around for anything that for all intents and purposes seemed interesting. I picked up a book two shelves away that was by the ground titled "Red Queen" by Victoria Aveyard. The book tells about a 17-year-old girl, who lives in a dystopian world where status generally depends on the color of your blood. Those with red blood happen to be commoners yet those with silver happen to be royals who actually possess special powers. I took a couple of minutes to read through the book. Then my aunt came out from around the corner of the shelf. She asked about the possibility that the book piqued my interest, and to be honest, it did. My aunt bought me the 345-page chapter book.

It was December. I'm halfway through the book on top of page 180. She hands me a gift even though Christmas happened to be a week ago. I opened the somewhat heavy gift to reveal a box. Turns out she bought me the other two sequels of "Red Queen". Reading takes me to a world full of imagination.

I can become a part of the story, even if I'm not one of the characters. Authors have the ability to make worlds that readers only wish existed. Reading gives me an existing opportunity to escape into any world with longing possibilities. An existing world where I don't have to talk to everyone I meet—a world where I don't have to make constant decisions.

Reading helps me to relax through stressful situations. It takes my mind off of difficult issues I'm dealing with. It's such as looking at an existing transcript that belongs to an existing movie that hasn't been written yet. Another benefit happens to be that reading doesn't hurt my eyes. Staring at an existing screen every single day starts to give me a headache. Meanwhile, I have the ability to read for two hours straight(unless something gets in the way of my attention).

Hobbies happen to always be a good benefit. It helps to take the stress of the day off your shoulders. It has the ability to bring joy, as well as give us something to look forward to. They also help us to discover new things. We tend to discover new hobbies when researching our current ones. We also make new friends when we share our likes, our dislikes, and our interests.

Lockdown:

Another day of sixth grade. It happened to be sunny out. We walked inside the school to the smell of freshly brewed coffee. I take a right down the long hallway and ascend the stairs. I go to my locker and unpack my bag. I gathered what I needed in order to be prepared for my first-period class. I walk into my advisory to begin my day. I never thought advisory happened to be a necessary class. You just walk into the classroom, sit down, and wait till it ends. Finally, the bell rings. Indicating our next class. I walked across the hallway from my advisory to my first-period class. English class. I entered and sat down at my assigned desk.

Thirty minutes passed, while we continued to sit in our seats in this bright classroom, listening to the teacher lecture us endlessly. We hear the intercoms come on, waiting for them to speak and make sounds. "Lockdown! This is not a drill. Lockdown! This is not a drill." Great a real lockdown. Just my luck. I sit against the cold wall, just waiting. Just waiting in a somewhat dark room, sitting next to the door. The silence of the school is something I've never heard before. You could hear what was going on on the floor beneath us. You could hear people walking, though it didn't seem like they were doing anything, just walking around. Hearing them ascend the stairs made me think we weren't in any actual danger. I heard them walk past the door.

I assumed it happened to be the police officers due to the fact that the heavy breaths didn't quite sound like a human. It sounded as if they had a dog with them. I distinctly remember the sound of the helicopter above the school. Though we couldn't see it, we knew there was one. Every one of us thought we were going to be on the news. The intercoms come back on. "The Lockdown has been lifted, everyone can go back to their day. Everyone is currently in their third-period class." Says the same woman who announced the lockdown. Third-period? We were stuck in a sorta dark, silent room, for an hour! I mean at least I got to learn what a non-prodigal lockdown is.

The story behind the lockdown happened to be that two kids were talking about shooting up the school. Nothing really happened that day besides sitting inside a room filled with silence for about an hour. The dismissal was the same. It was during the same time that we got out every day. Though there weren't any cops in my sight. I thought we would at least see one or maybe two cop cars at the time when we got out of school. I will say on the possibility that you have the desire to search up the event you would have to search "Labrum Hancock on lockdown" with the reporting being from CBS Philly.

Did you know...

The top three video games in the world are...

Fortnite	Apex Legends	League of Legends
39 Million	50 Million(1 Month)	32 Million
		

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