

THE IMAGINE SOCIETY

OCTOBER 28, 2020



SPECIAL ISSUE CELEBRATING **INTEGRITY**
KIDS OCTOBER EDITION VOLUME 14!



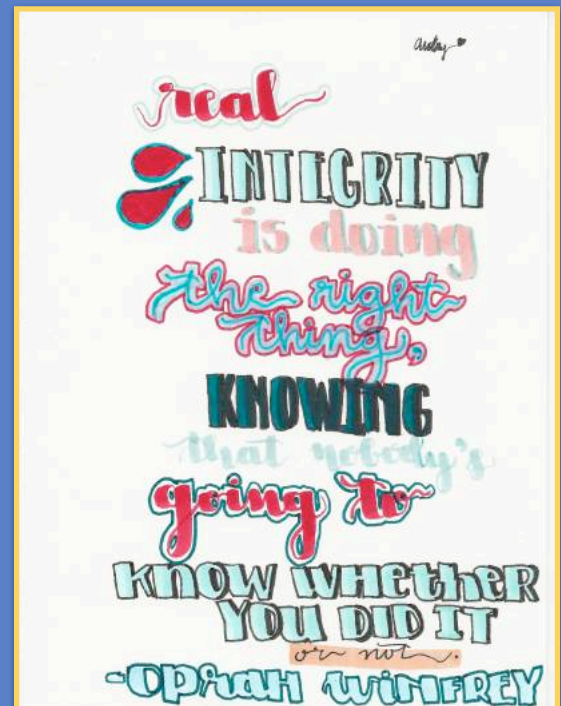
"A bright future beckons. The onus is on us, through hard work, honesty and **integrity, to reach for the stars."**
- Nelson Mandela

INTEGRITY

by Elle Ferretti-Gray

What does integrity mean to me? I hadn't asked myself this question before starting this essay, and it got me thinking about what integrity means. The classic, universal definition of integrity is honesty and morality. But what are morals, what are my values? What should everyone's values be? There are certain attributes that are universally accepted and appealing such as honesty, politeness, and kindness. I had not given much thought to how my morals shaped me, but why?

When I asked myself what I valued in myself and



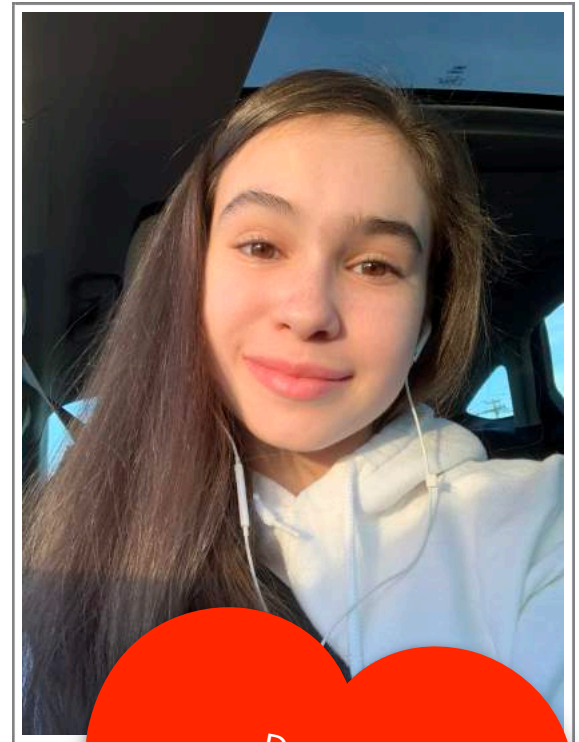
Inspirational Artwork by Audrey (11)

...continued from page 1

others I found that the answers were simple; I value honesty, kindness, loyalty, and trustworthiness. I have never had to think about why I value what I value, why these specific values compromise my definition of integrity. Then I realized, you don't learn what integrity is or what values go into it, you simply embody them and seek them out. Integrity is not learned nor is it thought about, it is recognized and appreciated when it is apparent and the glaring absence of it is utterly disdainful. I realized that it is not discussed unless it is lacking, which got me wondering why that was.

Why don't we discuss integrity? Why don't we teach the benefits that come with having integrity? Certainly, humankind would be better off with more manners and values. Then it hit me; we don't teach integrity because it is believed to the default. We don't talk about it because it is expected of us, and most of us expect it of ourselves. Some people do not value integrity, because some people do need to be taught what to value. That's where the line between nature and nurture in terms of integrity gets blurred. We are taught not to steal or cheat, which are two of the factors and beliefs that go into honesty. We know to love and sympathize because both of those are attributes of being human, of living in this world. To teach these values, really to teach what integrity is nearly impossible because while some of these values are not inherent and therefore must be learned, how can you teach what love is? How do you teach what integrity is? That is what struck me when I defined integrity for myself, that I could only define integrity as it pertained to me.

When I asked myself what integrity meant to me, I did not expect to go on a journey of realization and dip my toe into the water of the nature vs nurture debate, but I did. Integrity is indispensable, it is of paramount importance and value. I wondered why it wasn't taught, why I was never asked to think about it or define it. Values are not taught because one cannot learn what to value based on another person's values, but they are learned nonetheless. That's why integrity is so important because when a person has integrity, you don't think about it or question or try to understand it. That is the value of integrity, the unspoken hero of pleasant interactions and the foundation of all relationships. The genius and downfall of integrity is that it is so often overlooked until it is lost.



Dear Elle,
your Imagine Family loves
you! Thank you for your
very important essay.
xoxo

Elle Ferretti-Gray (15) is in 10th grade at Avenues the World School

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MASKED CHILD OF NATURE

by Zaylen Palacios



Zaylen Palacios (13) is in 8th grade at Friends Seminary

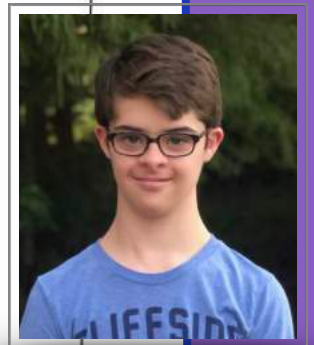
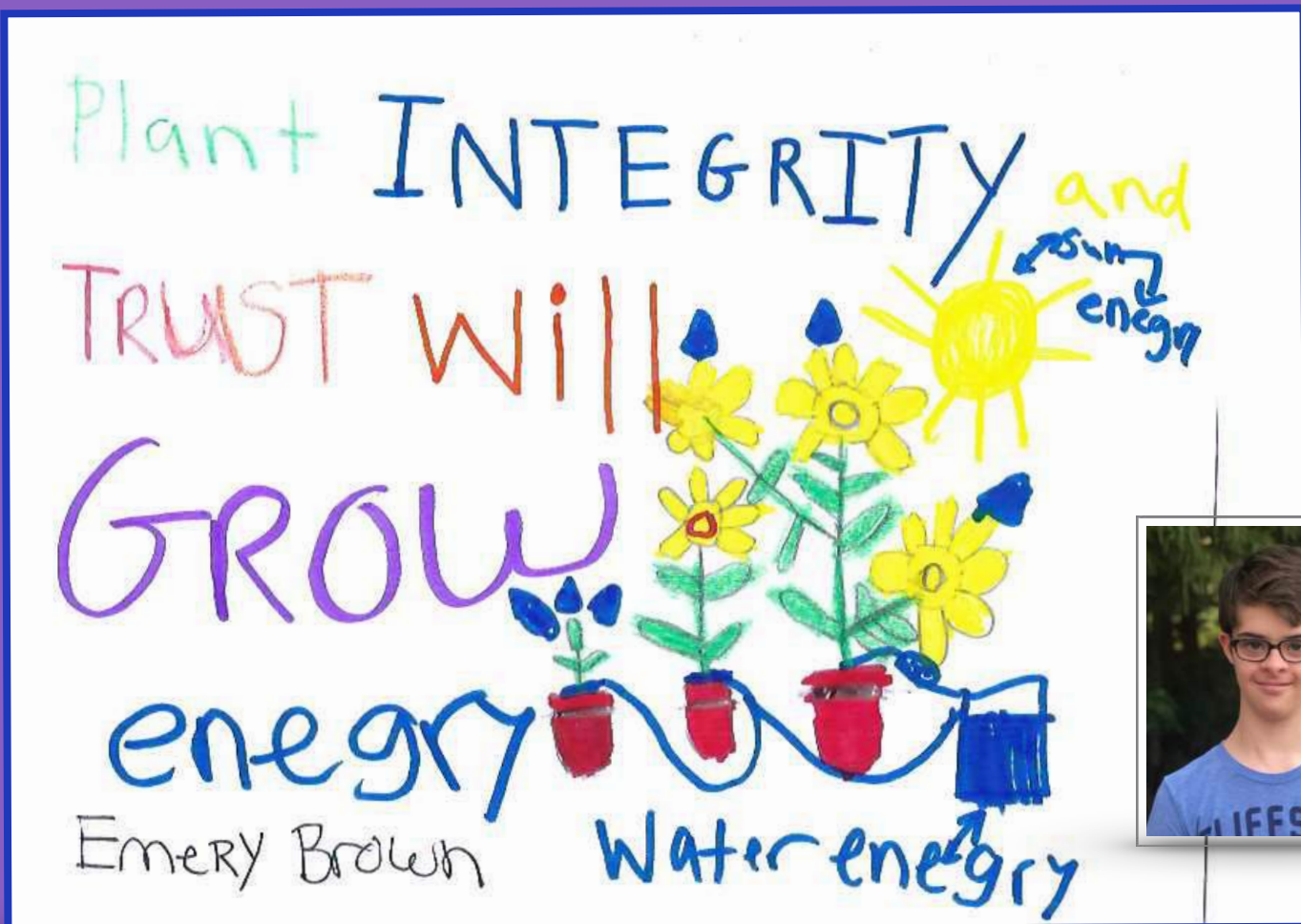
Brilliant artwork
Zaylen!



We know how hard
you worked on
it!

These past months in New York City has been very rough. Who would have ever thought that COVID was going to take over. I have been able to see my friends recently. But I am not able to do the things that I used to because my mom fears I may get COVID. My brother goes to college now and I don't get how he is able to leave to go to school and my mom is not as worried. But if I leave the house without my mask she is worried. I know COVID is a real thing. It just seems like there can be more ways to bring things back to normal.

- Sekou Kourouma (15)



- artwork by Emery Brown (16)

Why I Admire Robin Klueber

by Josh Lupton

I admire Robin Klueber, the religious education director at my church and the head of the food pantry where I volunteer. I admire Robin because of her dedication to helping those less fortunate, her positive attitude, and her efficiency.

Robin has been running the food pantry at Ascension Church for many years, and I have never once seen her complain about the work in the three years I have worked there. She spends the majority of her days organizing and moving boxes of food to where they need to be for when we distribute them. When I volunteer, I get pretty worn out. But Robin never seems to get tired. She just keeps working.

Robin is incredibly dedicated to making sure the pantry is run correctly. She never cuts corners to get the work done faster, and she always tries her hardest. Her positive attitude shows when something goes wrong and she fixes it without ever making a big deal of the problem. This past summer, when we were preparing for the July 4 weekend pantry distribution, Robin realized that we did not have enough strawberries to distribute to everyone receiving food. Instead of getting frustrated with the chaos as we were preparing for the event, Robin quickly sent a couple of volunteers to the grocery store nearby to pick up more strawberries and rearranged the remaining workers to new tasks to prepare everything as needed on time. The entire operation did not skip a beat and the problem was solved.

Robin's efficiency is always on display. As a group following her lead, the food pantry helpers are able to perform an amazing amount of work in little time. Robin always has a plan for everything, and she knows how to put different people on different tasks. She always has multiple things happening at the same time, and she can keep track of them all at once. She is a great leader for the food pantry, as well as for our religious education.

Robin is a dedicated, positive, and efficient leader. I look up to her and aspire to be everything she is when I grow older.



We
think you're pretty
awesome
too Josh!



Josh Lupton (13) is in the 8th grade at Anderson School

How to Save a Life: Organ Donation

by Dave Figaro & Nellie Fitzpatrick

On October 18th we participated in a lecture about the work of [LiveOnNY](#). [LiveOnNY](#) is a nonprofit organization committed to helping New York live on through organ and tissue donation. The organization helps bringing hope to the nearly 10,000 New Yorkers currently waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. The organization educates people on the importance of organ donation and encourages willing individuals to sign up as registered organ donors.

We learned in the workshop, presented by the leadership of [LiveOnNY](#), that the greatest thing to overcome in the process of signing up organ donors is helping to sort through the misconceptions about the organ donation process. Once people are educated, they become more aware and often open to the possibility of donating. [LiveOnNY](#) did a great job of presenting organ donation to us; the workshop included teens from the Spirit Squad, Warriors and The Imagine Society.

Some may hesitate at the sound of donating parts of your body; but [LiveOnNY](#), an organization that ensures the donors' families are their utmost priority makes the organ donation experience more pleasant. [LiveOnNY](#) only accepts organs of those who have already passed on because they believe in finding somebody kind enough to give a part of them for another's survival. This gives the gift of allowing another live their life to the fullest.

We also learned that there is a richness in the gift for both the donor and the receiver. They also try to match donors' locally. Many times, the recipients write back to the donors' families, as a sign of gratitude and thanks. We were amazed to learn that even in the time of their relative's death, greatness was achieved & part of their family still lives on in the world bettering human life.

The next stop for [LiveOnNY](#) would be to identify more organ donors in the northernmost parts of our great city, as they have already gotten 37 % of people and counting to sign up and be future organ donors! With the help of the Spirit Squad and The Imagine Society doubling that percentage is beyond achievable especially with the unanimous support system of [LiveOnNY](#). Now, all we need is you! If you are interested in learning more about the process please contact Scott Wohl at swohl@liveonny.org at LiveOnNY and let them know the Spirit Squad and The Imagine Society sent you.



Thank you Dave and Nellie for helping to educate on this vital issue!

Dave Figaro (17) is a Senior at LaSalle Academy

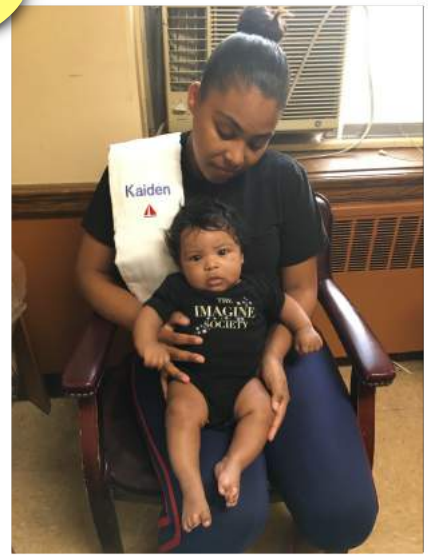
Nellie Fitzpatrick (15) is a Sophomore at Convent of the Sacred Heart

IMAGINE BABY SHOWERS...

To celebrate the lives of the babies born into the Siena House Shelter during the pandemic and the courage of their beautiful mothers, The Imagine Society has begun an ongoing project of Imagine baby showers! We've provided baskets filled with gifts - personalized books, personalized burp clothes, adorable outfits, onesies with The Imagine Society logo, toys, and beauty products for the mamas. All beautifully packaged with a handwritten card from our teen leaders! Along with delicious cupcakes (from La Dolce Italia bakery in Flushing), fresh flowers, and rainbow balloons these showers make the new mamas feel so special and supported by their community. Thank you to teen leaders Zaylen Palacios and Sabrina & Alessia Turner for putting together these beautiful gifts! See more photos of these joyful events below!



...and IMAGINE BABIES!



BLACK LIVES MATTER ACROSS THE USA

Welcome to Part Four of our special four-part series in which Imagine Teens interview photojournalist and friend **Tobias Everke** @tobias_everke about his travels throughout the United States during the Black Lives Matter movements across this country.

We finish this series with **Paul Bloom (age 16, a Senior at Bard High School Early College Manhattan)** and Part Four: Atlanta and the Killing of Rayshard Brooks. We at The Imagine Society would like to take this opportunity to share our immense gratitude to Paul for conducting these thought-provoking interviews and to Tobias for sharing his time and meaningful photos.

PB: First, for background, when were these pictures taken and where?

TE: We left the occupied zone in Seattle when we heard about the Rayshard Brooks killing and arrived in Atlanta one day after the Wendy's was burned down.

PB: What happened in the days or weeks preceding this?

TE: The Rayshard Brooks shooting happened during a time of heightened awareness for police brutality, after Breonna Taylor and George Floyd.

PB: In the last installment, it seemed that you arrived in Seattle after much of the unrest had subsided, but you seemed to be in the thick of it here. What did it feel like being a photo-journalist in Atlanta at this time?

TE: It was pretty raw. The burned out Wendy's still smelled smoky. There were no police tapes or for that matter, not a single policeman around. Only (angry) neighbors, some speeches and then a crowd of about 200-300 people started walking to the nearest police precinct. Everything felt pretty organic and not pre-organized.

PB: Much of the news coverage in the last couple months has shown incredible hostility from protestors, rioters, and police (typically in riot gear) being directed towards media personnel. How did you feel that each of them treated you? How did they treat each other?

TE: Yes, I had seen those clashes between demonstrators and police and sometimes the media on TV. As a visual person with a creative mind, I imagined the worst, and was of course not prepared or properly dressed for 'urban warfare'. No helmet, no gas mask, no bulletproof vest, as many other journalists have as a standard outfit covering these events. So, for about a mile the protesters walked peaceful through a nice residential neighborhood. Then the street was blocked by police in riot gear with an armed, military style vehicle behind them. The March stopped, and some protesters and journalists warned of teargas. I was a bit worried because I had not protection. The police informed the protesters by bullhorn that they were breaking some city ordinances and local laws in regards of curfew etc. and that if they would not disperse they would be arrested. Then, and in retrospect I think that was very smart, the frontline police officers all put their gas masks on and stepped two, three steps forward, which gave everyone the impression the action was about to start. But since most



PART FOUR: ATLANTA & THE KILLING OF RAYSHARD BROOKS

demonstrators were regular folks and not professional demonstrators, they left and within 10 minutes the whole demonstrations dispersed and was over without any violence.

PB: How many of these protests were designed to produce good optics? For example, holding a "defund" sign in front of cops in riot gear makes for an interesting dynamic. Were there any parts of this that you were barred from covering?

TE: I do not think anything was designed (for good optics). The demonstrators or in this case the guy with the sign wanted to show it to the police. He was pretty outspoken and one of the last protesters left, that's why he stands by himself in front of the police line. The photo is almost too obvious (and therefore looks a bit staged). It was not, I'm sure, two or three other photographers have the same shot. I would have loved to take a photo from behind the police lines, but was not allowed to go there. I am not sure if the police are legally allowed to block me as a journalist, but it was not the right time to argue.

PB: Is there anything you would want someone to know about your time there that we cannot get from your photos?

TE: Yes, I was really surprised that in a city like Atlanta, with its large black population, in a time of the BLM movement, not more people showed up to protest. On the one hand you have young white kids and families going out on the street in New York and across the country to support BLM and then a harmless (drunk) guy gets shot multiple times in the back, while he is running away and almost nobody shows up. In a black city. That surprised me.

PB: How would you describe your journey through these cities covering a pandemic and a national crisis? Because this is the final interview in this series, are there any thoughts you want to end on?

TE: The journey continues for me. It started with covering the Corona pandemic, then the BLM protests and now I cover the elections. Each of them very frightening in their own way, but the last one definitely was the most eye opening. Each taught me that there are many, many things left to make this country a better place or to come even close to the ideals the founders had envisioned.

TOBIAS' FINAL THOUGHT: *My final thought would be for you and whoever reads this, please go out and vote. It matters. If you are too young to vote, push your parents and relatives to vote. Talk about things and ask questions. Always ask questions. Ask yourself when you hear something if it makes sense. Be open minded and critical.*

PAUL'S FINAL THOUGHT: *Wrapping up this series with Tobias, I am left with a sense of civic duty: a duty to protect my neighbors from a pandemic and discrimination, and a duty to uphold the values that make this country a beacon of hope and freedom. Though we tend to consider social issues as separate entities, our humanity and empathy necessitate that we approach each one in the same way. We need moral clarity and a mutual respect for each other.*

There will always be things that we debate and disagree on, but the only way to achieve productive resolutions requires that everyone is treated with dignity and respect – especially if we consider them our "enemies." *Anything other than empathy and understanding will yield our society polarized and paralyzed. People protest injustice because they have faith that we can change. People respond to aggression with more of the same, but through compassion and compromise, we can achieve this country's founding dream.*

*In this sense, Tobias could not be more right. Exercising our voice and opinion through a ballot is the ultimate form of communication and democracy. We may disagree with our neighbors, but we do not respond with personal attacks. We acknowledge differences and seek to rectify them with the policies of our favored candidate. **Protest and activism and voting are not mutually exclusive. You cannot have one without the other. It is important to exercise the rights and duties of a democratic citizen because we must move forward as a collective and society.***

Please see the next page for Tobias's photos from Atlanta and the Killing of Rayshard Brooks



The drive-thru lane of the Wendy's which Rayshard Brooks blocked after falling asleep in his car.



Demonstrators pose for pictures in front of the burned out Wendy's.



Neighbors are shocked, in disbelief, seem hopeless and ready to protest outside the burned down Wendy's.



At the end of the demonstrations, only a handful of protesters were left. This one stood in defiance and held up his sign in front of a strong police presence.



These neighbors showed their support of the demonstrators by raising their fists.



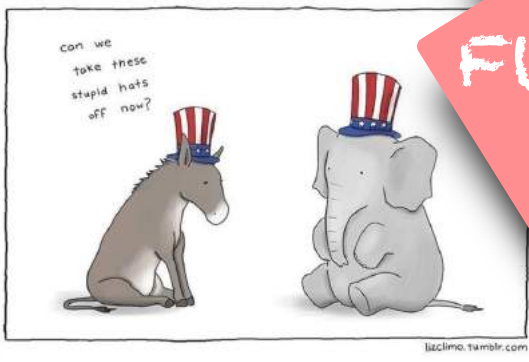
Neighbors left flowers in front of the Wendy's in memory of Rayshard Brooks.

FUN PAGES

Edited by
Junior Member
Katie Gaffigan
(11)

Katie's
Fave
Memes
:)

Lol!



FUN FACT: American women gained the right to vote less than 100 years ago. The 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote, was ratified in 1920. Women had to fight **HARD** to get the right to vote. The women's suffrage movement lasted decades before the 19th Amendment was passed, and it was another 45 years before the Voting Rights Act of 1965 became law, prohibiting racial discrimination in voting.

Parent intervention for campaign 2020 TV ads...



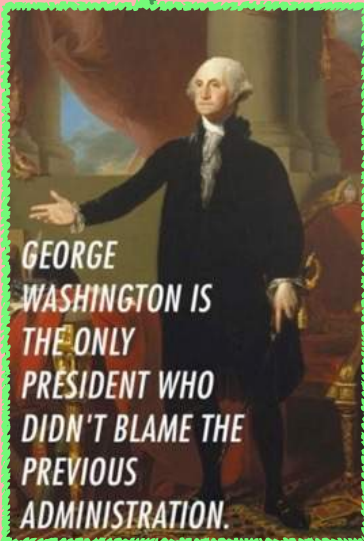
WORD PLAY

VOTE
THE CHANGE
YOU WANT TO
SEE IN THE
WORLD.

Edited by Junior Member
Katie Gaffigan (11)



Election Word Search



k h c t i i z j h m b p q v q t o d v o b o g y i z x n b n
t a w w f j m r c o n s e r v a t i v e t x j t n e y g l f
n b f e l b n i a q c s c y k l i b e r a l e x r a j o u k
j g x c e a n g r h s g p q z f b e t l y p k l z r g v e e
f x a o f k o h b k e t h c a m p a i g n v o t e m m e k f
n x e n t d b t z p m m w z w g n l u k h u h s p c i r v h
m w q o b m i m m i g r a t i o n n i h y n b i c r a n w h
i w n m l z b g e k q z d c h o i c e f b z u x x y m m j s
s d f y f r e e d o m m t c d s k e n d e m o c r a t e y e
s j e m h l z r m d n n u d u i j a t p r k d c t f j n r z
u t a i g p i r n i n d e p e n d e n t y r m p f v p t q l
e a g n o z f y f a n k b z w y f v z d r l a f r i g h t s
s x j o q m z m u m b f n q w u o l b m y p i j p g u v o u
m e j r r e p a e s u v d r f z x w f w i o s b q t d j e r
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b q m t u u a d i j v j o x q w f y w b h h t h r r b i a i
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j g e e p o l r k k j z w a y n z p k r t v v n a i n y e b
i i n s r c l i e v r e p u b l i c a n v o q g e m f p l g
v h n j e i c n b q n l d l g a n x n a k q u b s n m b u o
q z h g s a q g e f k j u x b a g t g b y f n i b a s f z y
w w r y s l r a y q d v v e a p f f v x q h z n g i v t y o
q f d c i j r x t r u m p j n s n m h p l h z e o t d b d e
b e g r o u g q j a w q a w l d n x m f r w h v z o k e s s
h d t f n s m r n b q q s m i l f b n s u m u x v a h i n i
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t r x y d i e j t p p e a c b v i o e z d u e q u e a k a w
b a i r a c i s m y r r t f i b e m r h j n r e d d n v l s
q l w q o e k q u y o n e t n c p e d i p o p u l a r x x n
g g d s w h i g z m h d s r v y c n u v m l q j s a o b x y



Electoral College
Suppression
Republican
Liberty
Freedom
Issues
Women
Vote
Right

Gerrymandering
Immigration
Government
Popular
Economy
Choice
Trump
Blue

Social Justice
Independent
Democrat
Liberal
Racism
States
Left
Red

Conservative
Minorities
Campaign
Federal
Rights
Biden
Life
Taxes