

Activity Sheet



Ever wondered what values the five stars on the Singapore national flag represent?

The exhibition *5 Stars: Art Reflects on Peace, Justice, Equality, Democracy and Progress* is Singapore Art Museum's (SAM) endeavor to interpret the five values through contemporary art. Contemplate commissioned works by five notable representatives of art in Singapore and reconsider what these values mean to you.

Name: _____

School: _____

➔ **When in the Singapore Art Museum ...**

DO...



Stay with your group at all times



Pay attention to the guided tour



Use the drinking fountain and toilet facilities properly



Use pens or pencils to draw and take notes



Use the brochures and gallery guide to learn more about the artwork



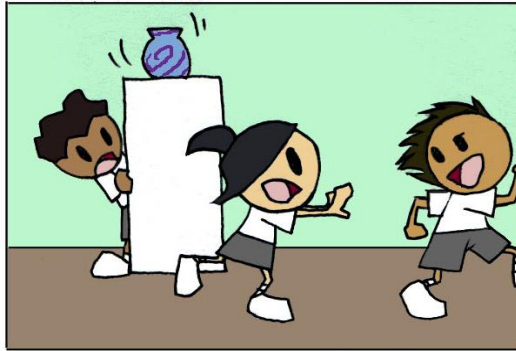
Store your bags in the bag cage (but keep your valuables on you!)

➔ **When in the Singapore Art Museum ...**

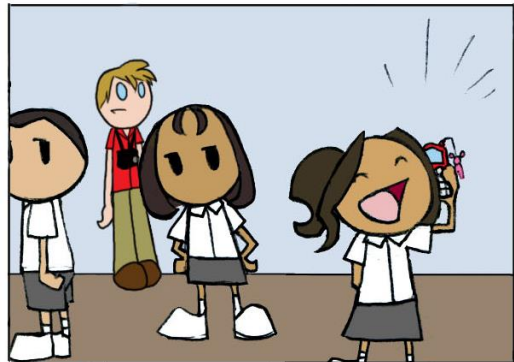
DON'T...



Don't touch the artwork or walls



Don't run or play in the galleries



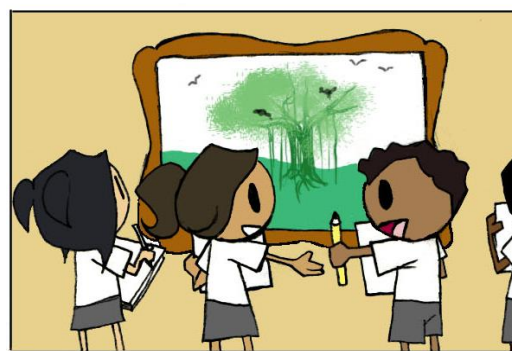
Don't talk loudly in the galleries as you may disturb other visitors



Don't eat inside the museum



Don't use flash when taking photographs



Do not write on or against the wall



Image taken from <http://www.nhb.gov.sg/resources/national-symbols/national-flag>

1. Singapore's national flag was created to give its people a sense of identity while expressing the hopes and ideals of its people. The five stars represent the values of Peace, Justice, Equality, Democracy and Progress. What do the other parts mean?

Find out and write the answer below!

Crescent

Red background

White background

 **Head to Gallery 1.10**


Here, you have Singaporean artist **Ho Tzu Nyen** interpreting the value of **Justice**.

2. Before you enter the gallery, find out the title of the artwork:

3. The title is part of a famous phrase found in the text *Meditation XVII* by English poet John Donne. What is this phrase?

NO MAN _ _ _ S _ _ _ D

4. What do you think the above phrase means?

 **Who are they?**

John Donne (1572 – 1631) was a leading English poet who became the dean of St. Paul’s Cathedral, London in the later part of his life. He is considered one of the greatest poets in the English language, and his verse, treatises and sermons were among the best in the 17th century.

5. The artist adapted the lyrics of his soundtrack from these words written by John Donne:

“No man is an island entire of itself;
every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main;
if a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were,
as well as any manner of thy friends or of thine own were;
any man’s death diminished me, because I am involved in mankind.
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee.” ~ John Donne, *Meditation XVII, Devotions upon Emergent Occasions*

Listen carefully to the music in the gallery. Can you hear which word the artist has changed?

Psst: one of the walls around the gallery may just be of some help!

6. Why do you think he changed it?

7. How did you feel when you were inside the gallery?

8. What do you think evoked this feeling?

Hint: What can you see, feel, and hear?

abc What do they mean?

Evoked: Bring to one's mind a feeling, memory or image.

9. What does Justice mean to you? Draw/write in the space below:

10. List 5 words associated with Justice; draw/write down the situation you may find them in:

Word	Word	Word	Word	Word
Situation	Situation	Situation	Situation	Situation

Psst: If you're at a loss, check out the **Crescent Room** for some clues.

11. Besides a judge in the courtroom, who else metes out "justice" on a daily basis?

abc What do they mean?

Mete: Split up or hand out.

Judiciary: People related to the administration of justice in a country, such as judges.

Did you know?

The most senior judicial officer in Singapore is the Chief Justice. Besides being responsible for the Singapore judiciary, the Chief Justice has other appointments and duties outside of the court system. One of the special duties includes appointing and serving on a judicial panel to recommend whether members of parliament can remove a president from office.

"I'm no idealist to believe firmly in the integrity of our courts and in the jury system – that is no ideal to me, it is a living, working reality. Gentlemen, a court is no better than each man of you sitting before me on this jury. A court is only as sound as its jury, and a jury is only as sound as the men who make it up." ~ Atticus Finch in *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Follow the quotes of **Justice** up to the second floor; where quotes on **Democracy** lead you onwards to the next gallery on the third floor.

 **Head to Gallery 3.10**

You have arrived in the gallery containing Singaporean artist **Matthew Ngui**'s installation *Every Point of View*.



Matthew Ngui, *Every Point of View*, 2015, Plastic pipes, real-time video projection, Dimensions variable, Collection of Artist, Singapore Art Museum Commission.

12. Have you noticed the seemingly random black alphabets painted on the vertical white pipes? What purpose do you think they serve? Walk through the forest of pipes and head towards the end of the gallery to find out.

Here, you will find various statements on the idea of *Democracy*. Pick the statement that resonates the most with you and write it down below:

If you feel strongly for this statement, you can vote for this quote in the **Crescent Room**.

Psst: You can vote for any other quote you encounter throughout the exhibition as well!

abc **What do they mean?**

Resonates: Agree with, calls to mind images, memories and emotions.

13. The statements from different people are responses to two questions about *Democracy* posed by the artist:

- What do you think are the two most important elements that make a Democracy?
- How do you think the above is or could be realised fully in Singapore?

How would you respond to /answer the same two questions?



Discussion Time

14. Walk back into the installation and look for the statement which you relate best to. Can you find the exact location where the statement may be seen in its entirety?

The optical effect of anamorphosis is used to create this artwork. After experiencing this artwork, what do you think the Singaporean artist is trying to depict about *Democracy*?

abc What do they mean?

Anamorphosis: distorted image that appears normal when viewed from a precise point.




Did you know?

The Ambassadors by **Hans Holbein the Younger** contains one of the most famous examples of anamorphosis in painting. The painting is a portrait of two powerful men with objects displayed in between them. The most notable symbol in the work is the distorted skull at the bottom of the painting. The artist painted this as a visual puzzle; what do you think it means?

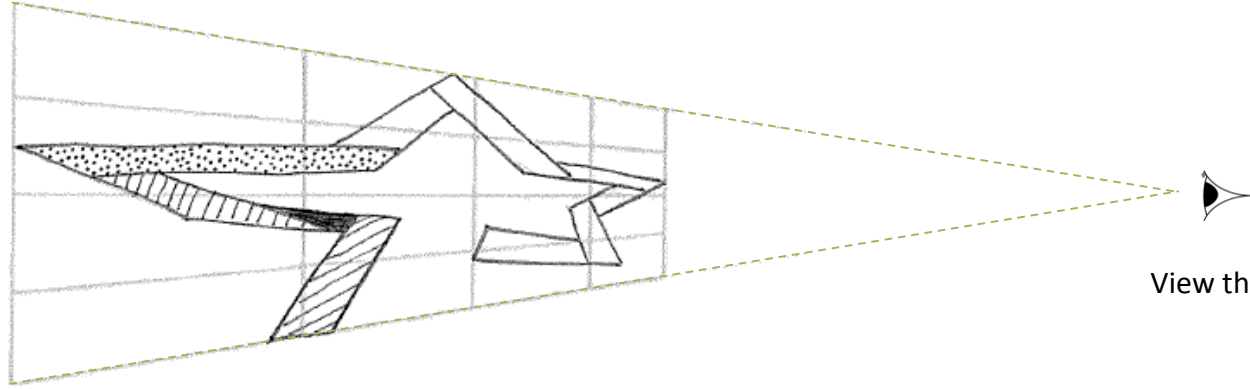
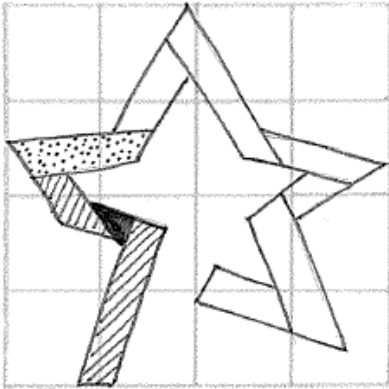


Hans Holbein the Younger, *The Ambassadors*, 1533, Oil on oak, 207 x 209.5 cm, The National Gallery, London

 **Let's try this**

15. The artwork *Every Point of View* uses the optical effect of anamorphosis. Create your own anamorphic drawing in the grid below.

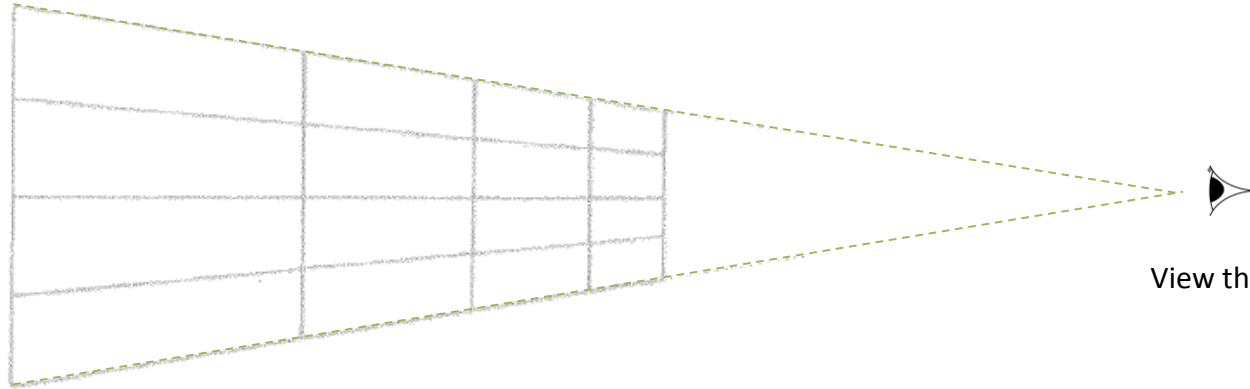
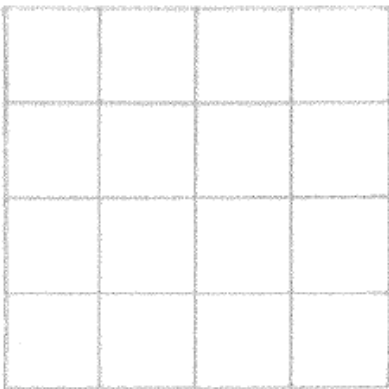
Example using the key visual from the *5 Stars: Art Reflects on Peace, Justice, Equality, Democracy and Progress* exhibition.



1. Draw an object of your choice in the grid.

2. Draw the same object at the same points on the distorted grid below.

3. Look at your drawing from this point.



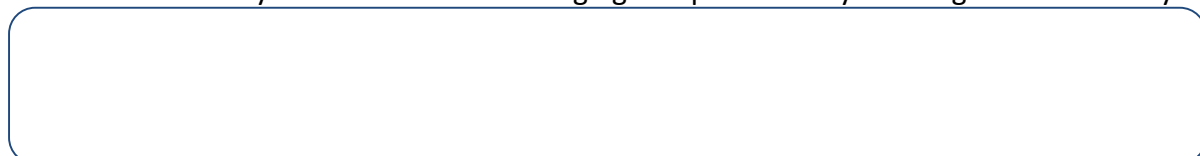
➔ **Head to Gallery 2.10**

Walk down from the gallery of **Democracy** towards **Progress**.

16. Stand in the middle of the gallery; listen and observe Singaporean artist **Zulkifl Mahmud's** *Raising Spirits and Restoring Souls*. How many types of sounds are there? Where do you think the sounds are coming from? Draw/describe the objects that are producing the sounds in the space below:



17. Listen to the rhythmic beats and the singing of a phrase. Do you recognise the melody?



*Hint: It is sung daily by every school child in Singapore.

18. The melody comes from Singapore’s national anthem, *Majulah Singapura*. What are the lyrics of the phrase that is sung in the original language of the anthem?

19. The Malay lyrics of the phrase translate to “*Let us progress towards happiness together*”. What does happiness mean to you? Draw/write it down below:

For an in-depth discussion of the levels of happiness, head over to the Crescent Room to reflect on the different elements that contribute to one’s happiness.

20. How will you progress towards your idea of happiness?



Who are they?

Zubir Said (1907 – 1987), also known as Mr Mari Kita (the first two words of Singapore’s national anthem), was a prolific composer who composed at least 1500 songs that include film, popular and national songs. He wrote the music and lyrics to the Singapore national anthem *Majulah Singapura* in 1958 and declined payment from the government due to his strong sense of patriotism towards his country.

21. In Zulkifle’s installation, the phrase that translates to “*Let us progress towards happiness together*” is sung by children from disadvantaged backgrounds, whose parents are unable to care for them. What do you think the Singaporean artist is trying to achieve by involving this community?



Discussion Time

22. If everyone’s idea of happiness is different, is it possible for everyone to progress towards happiness together? How can that be achieved?

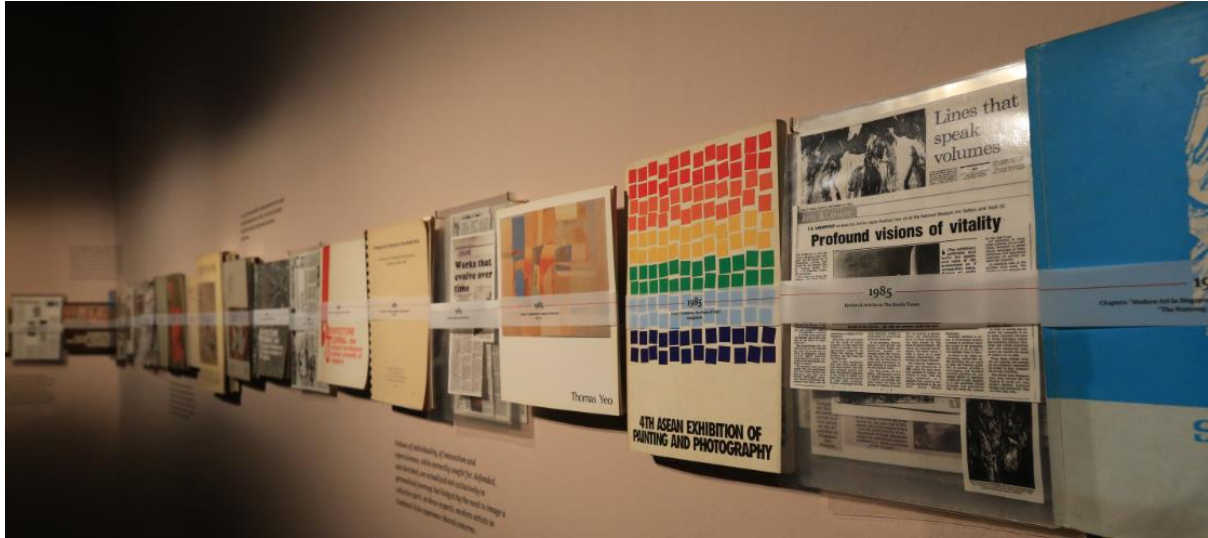


Fun at Home

In the spirit of “*Let us progress towards happiness together*”, ask a few friends and create a sculpture made up of modular origami together. You can find more guidance and inspiration on how to fold these modular origami in the **Crescent Room**.



23. Proceed deeper into the gallery and stop at an installation with books mounted on the wall. You have arrived in the gallery of **Equality**, represented by the installation *Of Equal Measure*, dedicated to **T.K. Sabapathy**.



T.K. Sabapathy, *Of Equal Measure*, 2015, Books, mixed media, video and artworks by Kumari Nahappan, Elaine Navas and Tan Swie Hian, Dimensions variable, Books and artworks: Collection of T.K. Sabapathy, Artworks: Collection of the individual artists



Who are they?

Singapore's foremost art historian and educator, critic, writer, curator, Thiagarajan Kanaga Sabapathy (b. 1938) is fondly known to his peers, fans and students as T.K. Sabapathy. He has devoted his life towards establishing art history as an academic discipline in Singapore, seeking to highlight the value of art and its study in our society.

24. Walk along the gallery and follow the books that contain T.K. Sabapathy's writings over four decades. Find the title that you find most intriguing and write down what you think the book may be about.

25. T.K. Sabapathy has researched and published many books on art, artists and art history. How do these books contribute to his cause?

Food for thought: Take a look at the art history books in the reading room next to the gallery before answering!

26. What do you think is the concept/idea behind this installation?



Let's try this

27. Within this gallery, three artists pay tribute to Sabapathy through three very different portraits. How would you pay homage to someone whom you admire?

- a) Make a list of your ideas.
- b) Choose one that you find most relevant to your cause.
- c) Present it in the most suitable way below.

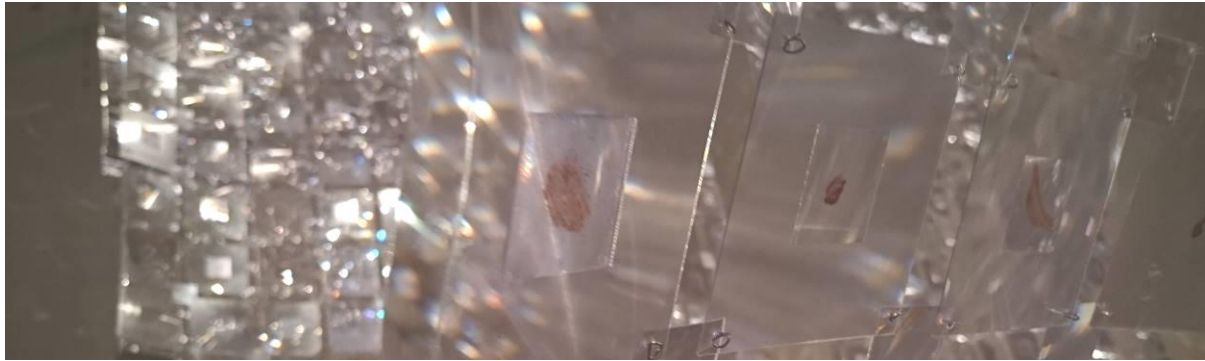
You can draw, write, or create a collage!

abc What do they mean?

Tribute: Something you do, give or say that shows thanks, respect or appreciation.

Homage: Special honour or respect shown publicly.

28. Walk into the last space where thousands of prismatic lenses – known as Fresnel lenses – are joined together. This space contains the installation *Bloodline of Peace* by Singaporean artist **Suzann Victor**. Be careful not to touch these lenses.



Suzann Victor, *Bloodline of Peace*, 2015, Fresnel lens, blood and metal pins, 400 x 216 cm, Collection of the artist, Singapore Art Museum commission.

abc What do they mean?

Prismatic: something that is in the shape of a prism or has the properties of a prism – a glass or transparent object that separates white light into a series of colours.

Fresnel: a flat thin piece of plastic made up of concentric rings (like the rings of tress) that magnifies and focuses light.

Who are they?

Fresnel lenses are named after the French engineer and physicist Augustin-Jean Fresnel (1788 – 1827), the inventor of Fresnel lenses. Fresnel lenses were first adopted in lighthouses and now used in many other applications – for instance, car headlamps. His Fresnel equations on waves and reflectivity also formed the basis for many applications in computer graphics, such as the rendering of water.

29. The lenses are joined together to form one large object. What does it remind you of?

30. Look at the lenses carefully. What does each of them contain?

31. Blood has often been associated with life, pain and death in idioms. Can you think of 5 such idioms and their related meaning? Write them down below. The first one has been done for you!

Young blood	Younger member of a group, who is full of energy

abc What do they mean?

Idioms: a group of words that has a different meaning when used together; often as a form of expression.



Fun at Home

Armed with your list of blood-related idioms, have an “idiom showdown” with your friends or family. See who can come up with the most idioms. You can extend the challenge to idioms related to other words.

32. Why do you think the artist used blood as a significant part of her work to represent Peace?

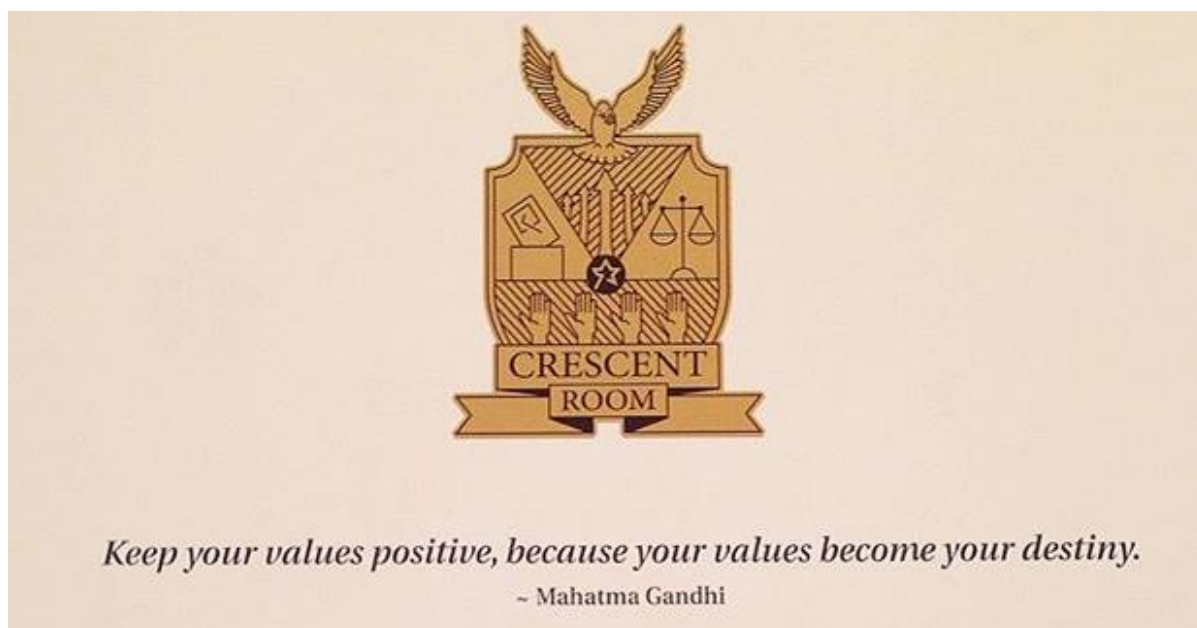
33. This artwork by Suzann Victor is titled *Bloodline of Peace*. What do you think the title means?


Psst: bloodline refers a set of ancestors of line of descent of an important person.

34. “When the power of love overcomes the love of power
the world will know peace.” ~ Jimi Hendrix

Besides the power of love, what other powers can contribute to peace?

Psst: Check out the Crescent Room for some clues!





Let's try this

35. Singapore's national flag is the country's most visible national symbol, and reflects the nation's ideals, beliefs, and values of **Justice, Democracy, Progress, Equality** and **Peace**. The flag was first created to represent Singapore shortly after it became a self-governing state under British rule in 1959, and adopted as the national flag when Singapore became an independent nation in 1965.

Do you think the same ideals, beliefs and values are still relevant today? What other values would you add to our five values and why?

S/N	VALUES	REASONS
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

My day at SAM...

Complete this page and pass it to your teacher to deposit at the SAM Front Desk

Name	School	Age	Exhibition title

I found the activity sheet...

Very easy Quite easy Okay A little difficult Very difficult

I found the activities in the worksheet...

Very interesting Quite interesting Okay Not so interesting Not interesting at all

I would like future activity sheets to have...



3 things I have learnt...



2 things I would like to find out more about...



The thing I enjoyed the most at SAM...

***For Teachers to note:**