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Section Intro: Chronicles of Culture

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Culture is ubiquitous; it's in everything you do and passed on through everyone you do it with. It's in the games you play, the pictures you repost, the cartoons that light up your TV on a Saturday morning, and the meals your family makes at night. All of these shape you.

Through assessing the dangers of popular culture, examining who has access to it, and reconciling how cultural identity evolves and changes with a person throughout their life, this section explores the ways in which culture influences and in turn is influenced by our actions.

In “Lolita: Making Abuse Palatable?” Chloe Langerman explores how the narrative of Lolita has circulated across time and media. How can a story evolve past the bounds of its narrative with the help of an endlessly screenshot-able film? How can a book written in 1955 continue to play an active role in the way young women think about femininity?

In “What’s Up, Doc? The Underfunded Artist,” Ilhy Gomez Del Campo Rojas describes the challenges faced by independent animation artists, who are often snubbed at award shows like the Oscars and fail to receive the exposure they deserve.

In “Cultural Resistance, Courtesy of Minecraft and Reporters Sans Frontières,” Chloe Kiser discusses censorship and the important role of the Uncensored Library. Through Minecraft, an independently made video game that popped up in 2009, a team of creators came together to build a digital library of knowledge containing information that would otherwise be inaccessible. Demonstrating the indomitable nature of the

human need for cultural exchange, people come together to stand against oppression, defend free speech, and work toward a more open and equitable society.

It is often hard to accept a new culture. The sheer amount of cultural variation that accompanies moving to a new place can feel like a slap in the face. The world around you might seem unrecognizable. In “Reconciling Conflicting Cultures: Combining American and Russian Communication Styles,” Polina Ilyin grapples with this experience. She helps us see the ways in which our environments fundamentally shape us. She encourages deeper cultural understanding by illuminating the roots of misunderstanding.

No matter how far you travel, your culture will always linger. The prime place to reconnect with your roots is home. In “Sunday Sauce,” Ava Lombardi describes the feeling of coming home and being reminded of family traditions. This piece shows that culture runs strong, whether it is in the customs you live by or something as simple as a family’s homemade meal.

Culture can mean so many things; it is a complex and multilayered concept. In this section you will get a glimpse of how culture is unique to each writer and develop an admiration for all the culture surrounding you. There are analyses and critiques of the world and of the art within it; intricate images of cultural experience and observations are woven together. This offers a unique look into others’ experiences of the world in which we all exist.

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