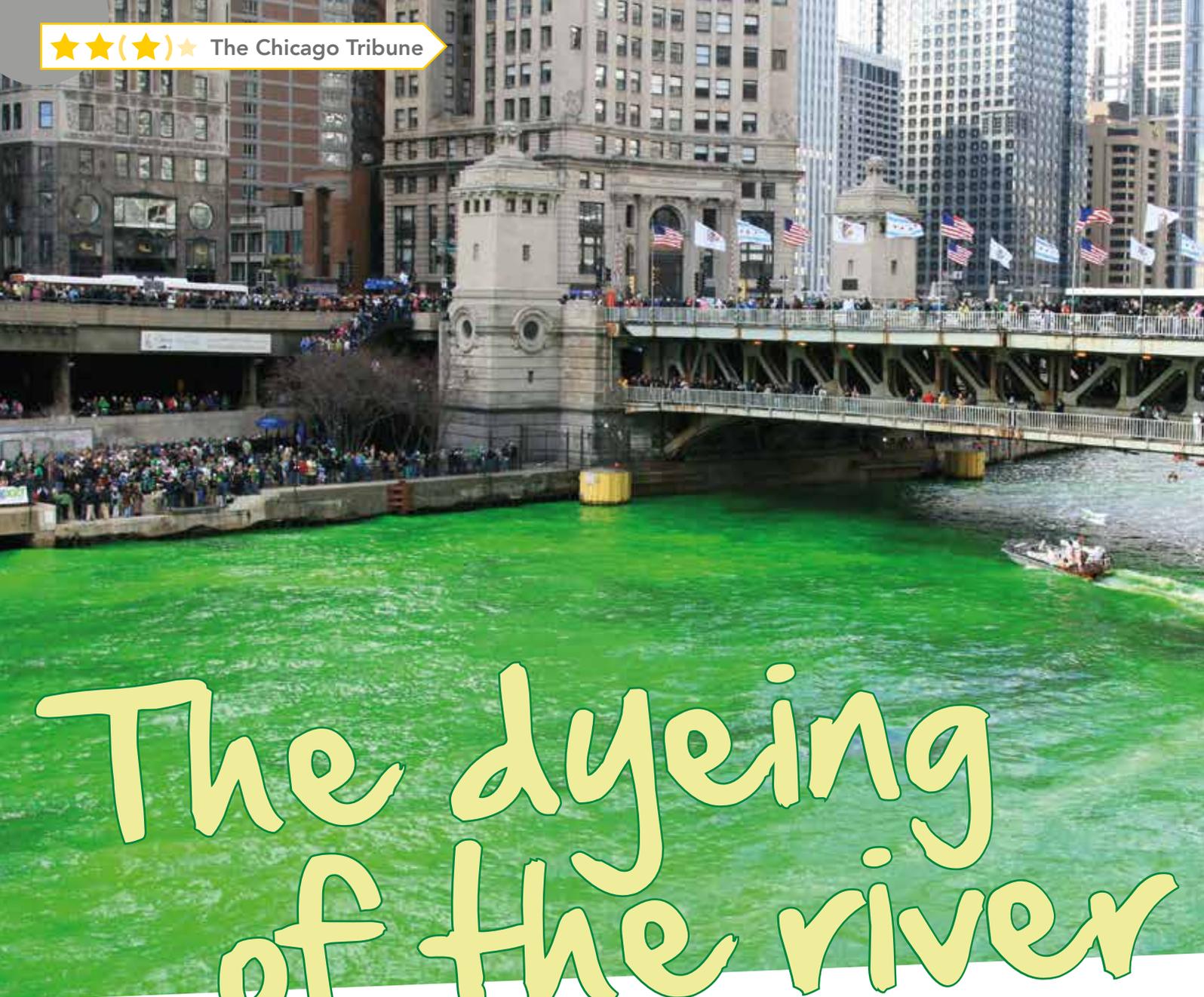


WR

WaspReporter



**St. Patrick's Day
is celebrated
all over the world**



The dyeing of the river

Every year, the Chicago River is dyed green for St. Patrick's Day by the Butler and Rowan families. The recipe for greenness is a top secret, and asking about it is akin to finding out where the leprechaun hides its gold

By LEONOR VIVANCO

¹ The annual dyeing of the Chicago River for St. Patrick's Day is a family reunion for the Butler and Rowan clans, the two families responsible for the tradition of turning the murky water into a bright 'Ghostbusters' Slimer green for more than 50 years.

¹⁰ Each year, the crew shakes an orange powder – a top secret recipe – into the Chicago River from a sifter.

The only way to become part of the six-person boat crew is to be related by blood or marriage to either Mike Butler or Tom Rowan. Their families have been involved in the tradition for decades, beginning when Butler, who worked for the Chicago Regional Port District, and Rowan's late father, who helped organise the Chicago Police Marine Unit, were asked to help dye the river.

Family tradition

The boats will be in the water by ²⁵ 9 a.m. Saturday when the dyeing of the river is expected to start, kicking off the city's celebration. Butler's son-in-law Jim Horath said he married into the crew and came ³⁰ aboard in 1993. He had seen the river dyed green but didn't know the Butler family was partly behind it until he started dating his wife.





decides who the next member is, family members said. The volunteer crew counts three sons-in-law on the Butler side and Tom Rowan, his brother and nephew on the Rowan side.

Orange dye

Four men on the main boat spread the 'leprechaun dust', as Marlene Butler calls it. The other two are on the chase boat that follows to stir

Four men on the main boat spread the 'leprechaun dust'

up the river and spread the green colour, a tradition sponsored by the Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Union. Only once has the event been replicated elsewhere – in the late 1990s when the crew took a trip to Dublin and dyed the Liffey River, according to family members.

Being one of nine children, Rowan, now 72, had the luck of the Irish when his dad asked him to join him on the boat. After all these years, don't even try asking what the orange recipe is. What he will share is that despite the protective gear he wears when he dumps the powder, the dye still gets everywhere – including under his nails and in his eyes, making him look like he has jaundice for a few days. He said one year when he

was under a black light at a bar he looked like a zombie.

With nearly 20 nieces and nephews, the Rowan side won't have any problem carrying on the family tradition. 'We should keep it going for a few generations to come,' said Tom Rowan, a retired police officer. One nephew is already on the crew, making it three generations of Rowans.

On Saturday both families will continue the tradition of serving up Irish coffee and hot chocolate on the Riverwalk at Lower Wacker Drive and Michigan Avenue for relatives and friends – a family reunion of sorts as the boats breeze by on the water. 'The whole family will be there,' Horath said. 'It's almost like Easter or Christmas.' <<

'When my wife told me, "That's my family," I was like, "You're kidding me." They're almost like idols and icons, especially on St. Patrick's Day,' said Horath, now 63.

Like the thousands of people who show up to watch the show, Horath looks forward to steering the boat – or as Rowan jokes, being the chauffeur – and hearing the crowd cheer. 'It's exciting. It's almost like you're an athlete and you're performing,' he said.

The downside is rejecting requests from 30 co-workers who want to get on the boat, said Horath, a Chicago Park District truck driver. His son Travis, a high school sophomore, is also champing at the bit to get on board, he said. But with a dozen grandkids on the Butler side, Travis might have to wait his turn. According to tradition, the family with a crew opening

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17, the saint's religious feast day and the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink, and feast – on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

Today, people of all backgrounds celebrate St. Patrick's Day, especially throughout the United States, Canada, and Australia. Although North America is home to the largest productions, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in many other locations far from Ireland, including Japan, Singapore, and Russia.



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Student File

The dyeing of the river ★★(★)

Reading • Language Organiser • Writing

Assignment 1

Pre-reading

10 ⌚



Step 1

Before reading the text, have a look at the words below. Tick the appropriate column for each word or phrase. Do this individually.

Step 2

Now get together in a small group and discuss the words. Explain the words that you know and write down their definitions in English. If none of you knows the words, try to make an educated guess.

Step 3

Now look up the words in a dictionary. How many correct definitions did you have?

		never heard of	somewhat familiar	can explain it well
1	leprechaun			
2	dyeing the river			
3	St. Patrick's Day			
4	saint			
5	anniversary			
6	Christian			
7	Lent			
8	prohibition			

Assignment 2

Reading

15 ⌚



A

Read the text and decide whether the following statements are *true* or *false*.

- 1 The Butler and Rowan families are most likely Irish families that live in Chicago.
- 2 An orange powder is used to colour the river green.
- 3 The tradition of dyeing the river green started in 1993.

- 4 Jim Horath cannot take part in the ceremony of dyeing because he is not a family member.
- 5 Altogether six people spread the leprechaun dust.
- 6 There are not enough family members to keep up the tradition.
- 7 St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17.
- 8 During Lent Irish people eat a traditional meal of bacon and cabbage.
- 9 St. Patrick's Day is celebrated only in Ireland.
- 10 Green is the Irish national colour.

B

Now team up with a classmate and compare your answers. Together decide on your final answers *and* correct the statements that you think are false.

Assignment 3

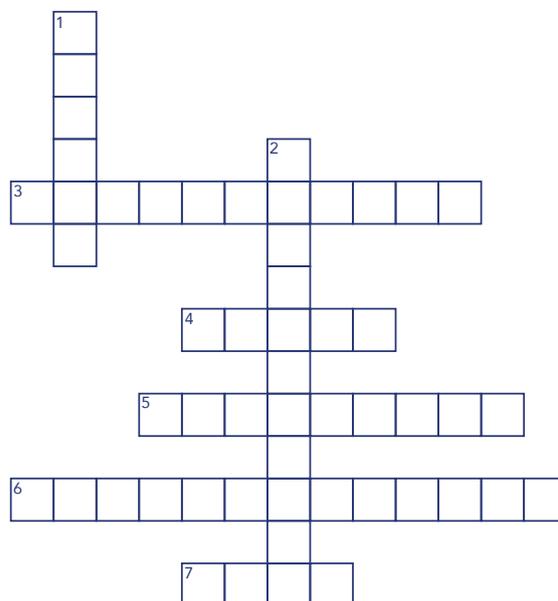
Language Organiser

5 ⌚



Fill in the puzzle.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| across | down |
| 3 a day of celebration | 1 changing the colour |
| 4 a holy person | 2 ban |
| 5 relating to a religion | |
| 6 religious feast day | |
| 7 period of fasting | |



assignments

Assignment 4

Pre-writing

20 



In different countries different days are celebrated or observed. Go on the Internet and search for information on a special day celebrated in the UK, USA, or in Australia (think, for example, of Halloween, Thanksgiving, St. George's Day, Guy Fawkes Day, Remembrance Day). You need the information for an essay in Assignment 6.

Step 1

Do a Google search on 'special days in' and then fill in the different countries: USA, UK, and Australia. Choose a day that you would like to work on.

Step 2

Having made your choice, select some websites that offer information on your special day. Read the information and summarise the main points in your own words.

Step 3

Finally, go through the websites again and make a list of at least 20 words and phrases that are connected to the day you chose and that might be useful for your essay.

Assignment 5

Pre-writing

20 



If you write an essay you first need to know what you are going to write about (the contents), but you also need to know how to structure your essay in paragraphs.

The definition of a paragraph is a sentence or group of sentences that support one main idea. The main idea in a paragraph is expressed in a sentence called the *topic sentence*. The rest of the paragraph explains, supports, illustrates, or elaborates on this topic sentence.

Step 1

Individually, go to the website bit.ly/wr-para and summarise the steps you have to take to write a good paragraph. Name at least four.

Step 2

Team up with a classmate and together choose one of the following topic sentences.

- 'Sunday is my favourite day because I spend it watching football with my dad.'
- 'Dogs make wonderful pets because they help you live longer.'
- 'Cooking requires a number of different skills.'
- 'Graduating from secondary school is important for many different reasons.'

Now individually write a paragraph of 6 to 7 sentences (including the topic sentence), working out the points that you found in step 1.

Step 3

Compare your paragraph with your partner's work. Discuss your choices.

Assignment 6

Writing

50 



An *expository essay* explains a topic in a logical and straightforward manner. The introductory paragraph contains the thesis statement or main idea. The next paragraphs – the body of the essay – provide details in support of the thesis. The concluding paragraph restates the main idea and ties together the major points of your essay.

Step 1

Take one of the special days that you selected in Assignment 4. Brainstorm on your topic. Look at the list of words and idioms that you made. Select a main idea (what is the main message that you want to convey) and write a thesis statement. A *thesis statement* usually appears in the introductory paragraph of a paper, and it offers a concise summary of the main point of the essay.

Step 2

Write the body of your essay (three paragraphs should suffice). Give examples or provide details and make sure every paragraph has a clear topic sentence. Don't discuss more than one main idea per paragraph (see previous Assignment).

Step 3

Write the concluding paragraph: come back to your thesis statement and round off your essay in a neat way. Also think of a catchy title.

Step 4

Read through your essay and check it on content first: (1) does the first paragraph introduce the topic in an engaging way; (2) does the first paragraph contain a clear thesis statement; (3) does each of the body paragraphs contain a topic sentence; (4) are the body paragraphs well developed; (5) are the body paragraphs logically connected to each other and to the thesis statement; (6) does your final paragraph contain a solid conclusion?

Step 5

Finally, check your writing on spelling and grammar. Use a spelling checker if you write on the computer. Hand in your essay.

The dyeing of the river ★★(★)

Asking about the recipe is <i>akin</i> to finding out where the leprechaun hides its gold.	<i>akin to</i>	gelijk aan, hetzelfde als
Their families have been involved in the tradition for <i>decades</i> .	<i>decade</i>	periode van tien jaar
They're almost like idols and <i>icons</i> .	<i>icon</i>	icoon
The dye still gets everywhere, making him look like he has <i>jaundice</i> .	<i>jaundice</i>	geelzucht
The tradition of turning the <i>murky</i> water into a bright 'Ghostbusters' Slimer green.	<i>murky</i>	donker, troebel
After all these years, don't even try asking what the orange <i>recipe</i> is.	<i>recipe</i>	recept, samenstelling
Only once has the event been <i>replicated</i> elsewhere.	<i>to replicate</i>	herhalen
His son Travis is a high school <i>sophomore</i> .	<i>sophomore</i>	tweedejaarsstudent (in VS)
His son Travis is also <i>champing at the bit</i> to get on board.	<i>to champ at the bit</i>	staan te trappelen
Each year, the crew shakes an orange powder into the Chicago River from a <i>sifter</i> .	<i>sifter</i>	strooibusje
Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were <i>waived</i> .	<i>to waive</i>	afzien van, opschorten

Breng actualiteit in je lessen met WaspReporter

Breng jouw lessen Engels nog meer tot leven met *WaspReporter*. Vier keer per jaar een modern tijdschrift voor de tweede fase met actuele authentieke teksten inclusief bijbehorende opdrachten. Je hoeft dus niet meer zelf op zoek naar geschikte teksten en opdrachten; dat scheelt tijd!

WaspReporter bereidt jouw leerlingen bovendien optimaal voor op het eindexamen met het speciale *Exam Issue*. Er wordt extra aandacht gegeven aan lees-, luister-, schrijf- en spreekvaardigheidsoefeningen en examentraining.

WaspReporter is een op zichzelf staand onderwijstijdschrift en kan daarnaast ook als ondersteunend materiaal worden gebruikt.

Meer informatie of een abonnement bestellen?
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