

Backup Plans for Your Dark and Gloomy Future

MARISHA AZIZ

No matter how much we hate the classic essay topic of "What I want to be when I grow up," we all have life goals. Some of us aim for certain professions, like being a doctor or a teacher. Some of us aren't that specific; we just want a nice big pile of money. Some of us are selfless enough to prioritize making the world a better place. However, there is an alarmingly large group of us who have wasted our precious time hanging out with friends, on the internet, or just sleeping. For those of you who are obviously not going to achieve your goals because you were too busy putting up Game of Thrones statuses on Facebook to study or finish your pending work, here's a list of alternative aims that you might like to pursue, to not make your life a total waste.

Set up a cha-er tong:

The only qualification you need for this is the ability to make tea.

Con: You'd probably have to set up over an open drain, so you'd have to get accustomed to the smell.

Pro: Imagine if you set up right next to the business that rejected you at your interview. How easy would it be to slip some laxatives into the tea ordered by the



PHOTO: DARSHAN CHAKMA

interviewer who didn't cut you some slack? Although, if this thought crosses your mind, you should probably consider "Criminal Mastermind" as a future career, too.

Give out well-meaning advice through articles on youth magazines

This one's a bit of a paradox: the reason you're following this path is because

you procrastinate away all your time and have very low motivation and drive, but to write regularly, you need a lot of motivation and time. If you have the enviable talent of giving great advice to others while your life falls apart spectacularly, you will shine in this particular field. The best way to ignore your own problems is to help others through theirs. Take my

word for it; I do this all the time.

Become an internet star

The difficulty of this lifestyle depends on your intentions. If you want to make a positive change or help other people overcome their problems, it'll take lots of time and dedication. You are, however, incapable of investing time and dedication in things that aren't video games or TV shows, so you'll have to resort to putting up viral videos to get followers. This is 2016, so content obviously doesn't matter. As long as there's a short, enjoyable catch line (preferably a swear word or insult of your own invention), you'll receive heaps of attention. Who cares if it's negative?

Be the unofficial food-tester for your mom

If all else fails, you can always just live with your parents and serve as the taste-tester for the dishes your mother cooks every time guests come around. This would be a promising future, with many advantages like sleeping in your own bed, not worrying about rent, getting free, delicious food, etc. Of course, you'll be the object of scorn and ridicule for all of your family and friends. If you're actually desperate enough to be looking to this article for advice, though, you're probably used to it.

DEALING WITH A DROP IN GRADES

MAYABEE ARANNYA

It happens to most of us. You might have done excellent in Grade 8 and suddenly fallen behind in Grade 9. You might have been praised for your performance in one semester, only to do be ridiculed in the next. Things change, and sometimes they seem out of our control.

Yet they aren't. They don't have to be. If you already know what's bugging you, that's half the battle.

It might be because you don't fit in anymore. We are all born with unique talents and once we know what they are, all we wish to do is spread our wings and soar high. Now, if your talent is, for example, being able to solve advanced level maths at ease, fly all you want. But what if your talent is drawing? Composing songs? Rapping? You can fly, if that's the case, too.

Don't give up on what you're passionate about. Get organized. Make a schedule. Set time aside for both studying and practicing your passion. Soon, you'll notice you're doing better in school. You need to do something that gets your mind off of academics and makes you happy. Doing well in something you love doing also helps you gain a sense of achievement hence, you don't feel like you're not good at anything.

Sometimes, you might be trying hard but as

studies are getting more advanced, you're falling a little behind. That's okay. Peer pressure doesn't need to exist. Take your friends' help. Ask your teachers for extra lectures. If you're not doing as well as you did in elementary school, it doesn't matter. A 90% when you were little and a 90% now aren't the same. Your parents need to know this and if you can't explain it to them, take the help of elder siblings or older friends who have already been through what you're in now. Ask them to talk to your parents. You might be surprised how easily parents get convinced when someone more experienced says the same things as you do. Remember, you can always make up for a bad exam next time unless it's a critical one like an A level exam. Even then, you might be able to recuperate through other means such as taking the SAT exams to go to the USA for higher studies.

You could be having issues with friends or your significant other. Maybe it's come to the point where you don't like going to school anymore because of it. You can no longer concentrate on studies. At times like this, you need to remember that you're all going through the exact same phase. You're somehow part of the same battle, and you're the only ones that can help each other. If you keep fighting, you'll harm each other. Be the bigger person and talk to them about your future.

If you're being bullied or blackmailed or anything else that is hindering your academic performance, you don't need to keep quiet about it. Open up. Your parents and teachers will come to your aid. Most people want to help you, so don't hesitate to ask.

Mayabee Arannya is a confused soul still searching for a purpose. Give her advice on life at [facebook.com/mayabee.arannya](https://www.facebook.com/mayabee.arannya)

