



TYPES OF LAB PARTNERS

ZARIN RAYHANA

THE CONFUSED ONES

First of all, they are *always* confused. They will keep asking you whether to use the distilled water or the tap water (even if there were clear instructions), forget the names of the equipment, and mess up the chemicals. Secondly, this person will depend on you for the rest of the experiment even though they could clearly try harder. On a brighter note, they will do the legwork for you so you can finally take a deep breath and appreciate their efforts.

THE CHILL DUDE

This dude is cool with anything and everything, and always answers questions based on his wild guesses. Don't know which chemical to use next? Pick whatever the other team's using and it will be all good. Don't know how to calculate percentage error? Just ask the other team about it or make up your own equation. Voila!

THE FUTURE IVY LEAGUERS

There is always that person who is a little too intense about the experiments. I am here dotting down approximate measurements so I could be done with the class as soon as possible but this person shakes his head, takes the sample again and wastes fifteen minutes of our existence to get an answer 0.005 less than my approximation. This person is also the one who juggles school and surprisingly still ends up with fives in all his exams. They will make you question yourself if you are doing enough for your future, or if you are just turning into one of the slackers.

THE TALK SHOW HOST

"And then she said..."

An hour with this person and you will

have memorised the entire dating history of your class. You will also most probably have forgotten about which plant slide you were supposed to view next. Even though they do a good job at keeping you entertained, you will definitely end up getting a B on that paper. Moreover, there is no getting rid of this person now. The next time you meet them, they will be ready with another vat of the freshest gossip.

THE DISAPPARATING WIZARD

They excuse themselves to go to the toilet and disappear, or God forbid, flush themselves down to the Ministry of Magic, from where it doesn't seem like they will ever return. Hasta la vista, buddy.

THE EYE CANDY

Now, these people are distractions in the laboratory. Be it a girl or boy, they will always catch your eye and will make you wonder how just lab coats could look so good on a person.

THE JOKER

They will lighten up your mood by making science jokes and at the same time help you with handling the chemicals. They are also the ones to hit on others with pickup lines such as, *"Are you a charged atom? Because I got my ion you"*.

Nevertheless, you will love these kinds of people as long as they don't turn out to be one of the burnouts with no passion for studies.

Zarin Rayhana is a self-aggrandizing ambivert who ponders over philosophical epiphanies during rainy evenings and waits for her crush to jump straight out of her favourite novel. Treat her with novel suggestions at ericaavianazarin@gmail.com

Life in a meme deprived world

VERONICA GOMES

For the nights are no longer dank, and we're left with tears...

I unlocked my phone to open the dialer, reminiscing the times when the aura radiating from my cellular was much more amiable. The Wi-Fi connection was once my getaway button, never ceasing to shower my lonesome soul with an overwhelming amount of notifications as a result of my friends tagging me in the unforgettable "posts that shall not be named".

2021- The year that changed our lives forever. It was the year of the great orange man's demise. So unbearable was his frustration that he had decided to ban all forms of social media mockery dedicated to him as they successfully portrayed an uncanny resemblance to his time in office. Everyone rejoiced in the idea of his future absence but soon the creators of this lost art started experiencing troubles. They couldn't find any content for creating new art and the ones which they did make just weren't dank enough. Giving in to their frustration, fast-forward half a decade, here we were in a world filled with empty scrolls through Facebook with nothing but remnants of what was once the littest social hub the world had ever known.

Zoning back to reality, I clicked on "The Hourly Starlet" to check the news. After flipping through a few "lost robot" announcements and an official address from President Kanye justifying his controversial decision of introducing R&B freestyling in congress meetings, I came across the dreaded article heading "Fifth Meme anniversary - gone but not forgotten."

"Meme" - The slightest glance at the word opened up a window leading to memories of a whole other world I had chosen not to commemorate. Flashbacks of the never-ending array of LMAO-ing on the humorous posts consumed me whole. It soon brought me to the realisation of how long it had been since I had possessed a smile so broad that it looked like I had a hanger stuck inside my mouth. Letting out a sigh of utter despair, I pressed the home button. It was time.

I opened the rusty

Facebook icon (yes the unused apps had rust all over them-courtesy of the new iOS update) and braced myself for the disappointing view. My notifications were flustered with invites into "meme-withdrawal" support groups but knowing this was a burden each of us had to carry on their own, I ignored them. The number of meme-hate groups was on the rise, establishing their dominance with their hate posts now that they could finally come out of hiding. The toll of sad and ANGERY reacts was on a record high.

A few rebels were often seen protesting with the little stream of followers they still had. Interestingly their posts, even though positively reacted by a small fan-base due to fear of their accounts being reported, had a bigger love-to-total reactions ratio than all the hate posts combined. Subsequently I smiled. There was still hope.

After scrolling a little while longer, I decided it was time for me to let go again.

"Until next time," I whispered to my long lost companion.

Veronica Gomes is a devout Coldplayer and Sherlockian who is convinced her dog has secret pet parties at her place when she's not around. Email her at gomesveronica1997@gmail.com

