



A gift for the sole

SAMIN SABAH ISLAM

Socks are great stuff! Whether they are ankle length, knee high, boot liners, or perhaps, the lace, fuzzy or woollen ones, all socks have a tender way of hugging our feet and shooting warmth all the way to our hearts. They do great things, from setting a little mystical elf free to being your morning hide-and-seek companion all throughout life. So why not spread a little love, warmth and magic and throw around socks like confetti as a present for any occasion.

IT'S A GIFT FOR EVERYBODY

Socks are for everybody. You can gift socks to people ranging from your best friend to your grandmother to your new born cousin. They're both age and gender neutral. Everybody needs socks. You simply cannot go wrong with a nice pair of these feet huggers, which is a huge relief for us last minute gift shoppers.

IT'S PRACTICAL

As a present, socks are great investments. You may not necessarily receive an overwhelmed response or a huge grin from the recipient, but rest assured your gift won't sit around lonely in a box in the attic. They're not an average box of chocolate, thrown away after consumption, but a lasting gift. At some point the recipients are likely to run out of clean socks and thank their lucky stars for you and your thoughtful gift.

THEY DON'T BREAK THE BANK

Here's my favourite thing about socks, they don't take a huge bite out of your wallet. Of course unless they're the designer bedazzled ones, but let's face it, it's not like you're buying socks for the queen! You can find some real nice, cosy elegant socks that cost less than a regular cappuccino. It's the perfect gift to fill that gift box and leave some change in your wallet. A treat for your friend, and a treat for you.

YOU CAN GET PERSONAL

Socks may seem generic and not so thoughtful, but you can actually get pretty personal with some good old patterns in the socks. Socks come in a wide variety of colours and designs to cater to favourites. You can make your dog lover friend feel special with some paw printed socks or buy some classic retro polka dotted or striped socks for the aesthetic Instagrammers out there. And the choices are endless for Potterheads. There's a pair for pretty much every occasion, interest or mood. A theme based sock gift shows the recipient that you care, and that you've been listening.

THEY'RE AN EASY FIT

Presenting socks eliminates the lengthy process of calculating what size would fit them, living through the awkwardness of buying them a size too big and of course the exchanging debacle. The general sizes of socks vary from newborns to school goers to adults. It's not exactly rocket science.

SOCK PUPPETS!

These days, socks don't please kids as much as a new Gameboy or a smartphone does. Show them how socks can be just as fun if not more. Socks aren't your single purpose, boring, average Joes. They're so much more. Attach a few buttons to them and show these vegetable brained kids the magical world of sock puppets. Next time you're wondering the stores, pulling your hair out figuring out what to get them, just stop by the sock counter. If you like them then you should just put a sock on them!

Samin Sabah Islam believes, there are very few problems in life, if any, that a good nap can't fix. If she isn't asleep, your queries may be answered at sabahsamin11@gmail.com

Stages of an eating challenge

NAFIS IMTIAZ ONISH

The only thing we, as a nation, love more than food is, well, free food. Therefore, every new restaurant that comes along with their assortment of generic fast food decides to utilise this collective affinity towards free food to their advantage. In our current "restaurant economy" eating challenges are where all the buzz is generated.

The challenges are usually pretty simple: finish irrationally ridiculous sized burgers or a monstrously spicy plate of wings or pasta in a really short specified time without drinking fluids in between. If you finish within the given time, you walk out a proud man without having to pay anything. If you cannot, however, you have to pay the bill alongside paying with your burning rectum.

Growing up with my head buried in Archie comics, I have always been enthralled by how a skinny person like Jughead crammed burger after burger into his tiny stomach. Therefore, when this fad began I just had to jump on the bandwagon. So, here I present a generalised account on how the challenges go down in case you are considering taking one up.

STAGE 1: EYE OF THE TIGER

You are super hyped up. You have been starving yourself since the previous day and now you are ready to gulp the burger down in a go. Like a ravenous vulture, you eye up the skyscraper of a burger. The thought of free delicacy makes your taste buds tingle with glorious anticipation as the fragrance of mass produced cheese take over your senses. And so, it begins. You relish the oozy goodness of the template sauce and a masala doused patty. "Free food for life!"

STAGE 2: KEEPING AT IT

A couple of bites in you start realising that this is probably not how one should

eat a burger. As all the goo starts precariously running down your chin to your elbows, you do your best to protect the new floral shirt you bought for this occasion from Gulistan. Nonetheless, you dig in like a primitive beast.

STAGE 3: INTROSPECTION

You start questioning your decision. "What have I gotten myself into? Is this worth it?" As the spices numb your taste buds and the ludicrous patty seems ever so daunting, you reflect on all your life choices. Boy oh boy, did you make some awful decisions: "Who let me be an adult, again?"

STAGE 4: REALISATION

You start realising that nothing in this world matters and money is of no value. You are a part of the bourgeoisie being exploited by the capitalist system. But you will not accept defeat. You most certainly won't throw the towel and let them get away with this. You renew your dying fervour and gobble up whatever is left.

STAGE 5: DEFEAT

No matter whether you complete the challenge or not, you go home feeling defeated. Your tummy does its best to tell you how stupid the entire idea was. As you try to console your flaming stomach you realise that it probably would have been better to stay home and listen to 6 hours of K-pop or Lana Del Rey. You swear to never ever try anything similar again.

And then a couple days later, you see this bizarre new place come up with a spicy ramen challenge. You whisper to yourself, "I've gotta try it out."

Nafis Imtiaz Onish believes grinning is the answer to everything and avidly loves art, astronomy & all things nerdy. Send him Carl Sagan fan art at nafisimtiaz17@gmail.com

