Games of the night and other writings Study Guide

games of the night and other writings offer a fascinating glimpse into the creative expressions of writers and enthusiasts who explore the themes of nocturnal adventures, mysterious encounters, and the evocative atmosphere that darkness often inspires. Whether in the form of poetry, short stories, essays, or reflections, these writings capture the essence of nighttime experiences, blending imagination with emotion. In this article, we delve into the rich world of nighttime games and literary works, examining their significance, themes, and how they continue to influence modern storytelling.

Understanding the Concept of "Games of the Night"

The phrase "games of the night" can be interpreted in multiple ways, each contributing to a broader understanding of its significance in literature and culture.

Literal Interpretation: Nighttime Recreations and Activities

Historically, "games of the night" refer to activities and recreational pursuits that take place after sundown. These might include:

- Nighttime sports such as nocturnal soccer or glow-in-the-dark laser tag
- Traditional games played around campfires or during festivals
- Indoor games like night-themed board games or puzzles

Such activities often foster camaraderie and adventure, emphasizing the thrill of engaging in play under the cover of darkness.

Metaphorical and Literary Interpretation

More deeply, "games of the night" symbolize the mysterious, unpredictable, and often subconscious facets of human experience. Literature and writings surrounding this theme explore:

- The hidden aspects of the human psyche
- Nighttime journeys into the unknown or subconscious mind
- The interplay between darkness and discovery, fear and fascination

Authors often use nighttime settings to heighten suspense, evoke emotion, or symbolize transformation.

Themes Explored in "Games of the Night" and Other Writings

The literary and cultural works centered around the night often delve into profound themes that resonate across genres.

Mystery and Suspense

Nighttime settings naturally lend themselves to mystery. Shadows, limited visibility, and silence create an atmosphere ripe for suspense:

- Detective stories set in the city at night
- Ghost stories and supernatural tales
- Unsolved riddles and secret societies active after dark

Fear and the Unknown

The night often embodies the unknown, tapping into primal fears:

- Fear of darkness and what lurks unseen
- Stories of monsters, spirits, or otherworldly beings
- Explorations of personal fears and anxieties

Transformation and Reflection

Nighttime can symbolize a period of introspection and change:

- Characters undergoing personal growth during night journeys
- Poetry capturing the quiet moments before dawn
- Reflections on mortality and the fleeting nature of life

Fantasy and Adventure

Many writers craft elaborate worlds where night is a time for magic and daring deeds:

- Mythical creatures emerging after sunset
- Night quests that challenge heroes
- Enchanted forests and midnight tournaments

Notable Literary Works Focused on the Night

Numerous authors have contributed to the rich tapestry of "games of the night" and nighttime writings. Here are some influential examples:

Edgar Allan Poe

Poe's works often explore the dark recesses of the mind, with stories like The Masque of the Red Death and The Raven embodying themes of darkness, death, and introspection. His poetry and stories evoke a haunting atmosphere perfect for exploring the mysteries of the night.

H.P. Lovecraft

Lovecraft's tales frequently feature cosmic horrors lurking in the darkness, emphasizing the insignificance of humans in the face of the unknown. His stories thrive on the eerie ambiance of night and the secrets it conceals.

William Shakespeare

Shakespeare?s plays, such as Macbeth and A Midsummer Night?s Dream, weave elements of night into their plots, highlighting themes of ambition, magic, and transformation under the cover of darkness.

Modern Writers and Genres

Contemporary authors like Neil Gaiman, Stephen King, and Cassandra Clare continue to explore nighttime themes, blending horror, fantasy, and mystery to captivate modern audiences.

The Cultural Significance of Nighttime Games and Writings

Nighttime activities and stories serve various cultural functions:

Fostering Community and Tradition

Many cultures have festivals, rituals, and storytelling traditions centered around the night, such as:

- Lantern festivals in East Asia
- Nighttime storytelling sessions in Indigenous cultures
- Full moon celebrations and rituals

Encouraging Creativity and Imagination

The ambiguity and mystique of the night inspire writers and artists to explore new ideas, challenge perceptions, and craft imaginative worlds.

Symbolizing Transition and Growth

Night often represents a liminal space?a threshold between the known and unknown?making it an ideal metaphor for change, introspection, and renewal.

How "Games of the Night" Influence Modern Storytelling and Gaming

The concept of nighttime adventures extends beyond literature into gaming and entertainment.

Night-themed Video Games and Board Games

Popular games incorporate night settings to enhance atmosphere:

- **Night in the Woods**: An exploration game set in a town that comes alive after dark
- **Bloodborne**: A gothic horror game with dark, nightmarish environments
- **Mysterium**: A cooperative game where players interpret visions received during the night

Role-Playing Games and Interactive Experiences

Tabletop RPGs often feature nighttime quests, mysteries, and encounters that challenge players? creativity and decision-making.

Impact on Horror and Mystery Genres

Nighttime settings continue to be central in creating suspense and fear in movies, TV shows, and books, reinforcing the timeless appeal of "games of the night."

Conclusion: Embracing the Night in Writings and Play

"Games of the night and other writings" embody humanity?s fascination with darkness, mystery, and transformation. From traditional storytelling and poetry to modern games and media, the night

remains a fertile ground for exploration, creativity, and reflection. Whether used as a backdrop for suspense or a symbol of change, the night continues to inspire writers and audiences alike, reminding us of the secrets that lie beyond the veil of darkness.

By understanding the themes, cultural significance, and influence of nighttime works, we can appreciate how "games of the night" enrich our creative and cultural landscape. Embracing the darkness allows us to confront our fears, explore our subconscious, and celebrate the magic that emerges when the world sleeps.

Games of the Night and Other Writings: An Investigation into the Art of Reflective Literature and Nighttime Narratives

In the landscape of contemporary literature, certain themes and motifs recur with captivating frequency?among them, the evocative allure of night and the introspective depths of personal reflection. "Games of the Night and Other Writings" is a collection that embodies this intersection, weaving together stories, essays, and poetic fragments that explore human consciousness after dark. This article embarks on an in-depth investigation of the collection's themes, structure, literary significance, and its place within the broader spectrum of reflective and nocturnal literature.

Understanding the Collection: An Overview

"Games of the Night and Other Writings" emerges as a multifaceted compendium, blending genres and styles to evoke the complex relationship humans have with night?both as a physical environment and as a metaphorical space for introspection.

Origins and Context

Compiled over several years, the collection reflects the author's fascination with nocturnal settings as catalysts for self-discovery and narrative tension. Drawing inspiration from personal experiences, folklore, and philosophical musings, the writings serve as a tapestry of nocturnal thoughtscapes.

The collection's emergence aligns with a broader literary trend that emphasizes interiority, emphasizing the mind's activity during moments of solitude and darkness. It resonates with the works of authors such as Edgar Allan Poe, Virginia Woolf, and contemporary writers like Joyce Carol Oates, who explore the liminal space between consciousness and subconsciousness.

Structural Composition

The collection is divided into three main sections:

- Nighttime Stories ("Games of the Night") ? Fictional narratives set predominantly in nighttime environments, often involving psychological or supernatural elements.
- Essays and Reflections ? Personal essays contemplating the significance of night, dreams, and the subconscious.
- Poetry and Fragments ? Poetic pieces capturing fleeting impressions, emotions, and symbolic representations of night.

This structure facilitates a layered examination of nocturnal themes, allowing readers to oscillate between storytelling, philosophical inquiry, and lyrical expression.

Deep Dive into Themes and Motifs

The collection's richness lies in its thematic depth. Several recurring motifs underpin the writings, contributing to a cohesive exploration of night and introspection.

Night as a Space of Transformation

One of the central themes is the idea that night serves as a liminal space?an intermediary zone where ordinary boundaries dissolve. Characters and writers alike find in the darkness an opportunity for transformation, whether personal, spiritual, or narrative.

- Symbolic Significance: Night symbolizes the subconscious, the unknown, and the hidden facets of identity.
- Narrative Function: Many stories depict characters confronting their fears or secrets under cover of darkness, leading to moments of revelation or change.

Games of the Night: Play and Perception

The phrase "Games of the Night" suggests a duality?playfulness intertwined with the darker, more serious aspects of nocturnal existence.

- Literal Games: Some stories portray characters engaged in symbolic or literal games?chess matches at midnight, hide-and-seek in shadowed forests?that mirror inner struggles.
- Metaphorical Play: The "games" also refer to the mind's playful yet treacherous tendencies during the night?dreams, illusions, hallucinations.

Memory and Dreamscapes

Nighttime writings often blur the lines between memory and dream, emphasizing a fluidity of reality.

- Memory as Narrative: Essays reflect on how memories surface most vividly in darkness, often distorted or reconfigured.
- Dream Imagery: Poetic fragments evoke surreal, dream-like visions, emphasizing the unconscious mind's activity.

Isolation and Connection

While night can evoke loneliness, it also fosters moments of profound connection?either with oneself or with others.

- Solitude as Creativity: Writers and characters find inspiration and clarity in solitary night hours.
- Shared Darkness: Stories sometimes depict communal nocturnal experiences, emphasizing collective human vulnerability.

Literary Significance and Influences

"Games of the Night and Other Writings" situates itself within a tradition of nocturnal and introspective literature but also pushes boundaries through its contemporary voice.

Connections to Classic Nocturnal Literature

The collection echoes themes from classic works:

- Edgar Allan Poe: Exploration of the macabre and the subconscious.
- Virginia Woolf's stream-of-consciousness narratives reflecting inner states during quiet, reflective moments.
- Henry James: Ambiguous atmospheres and psychological depth in night settings.

However, it also diverges by integrating modern existential concerns and experimental structures.

Innovative Literary Techniques

- Fragmentation: Poetic and prose fragments mimic the scattered thoughts that occur during restless nights.
- Second-Person Narratives: Engaging readers directly, creating a sense of intimacy and immediacy.
- Intertextuality: References to folklore, myth, and philosophy deepen thematic complexity.

Critical Reception

While some critics praise the collection for its lyrical beauty and philosophical depth, others note its challenging nature?demanding attentive reading and interpretation. Its reception among scholars and readers alike underscores its position as a thought-provoking, layered work.

Impact and Relevance in Contemporary Literature

"Games of the Night and Other Writings" resonates with current literary currents that value introspection, mental health awareness, and explorations of consciousness.

Reflections on Mental Health and Inner Worlds

The nocturnal focus aligns with contemporary discussions about the significance of sleep, dreams, and mental health. The writings serve as a mirror to the inner struggles and revelations experienced in silence and darkness.

Cultural and Philosophical Implications

The collection invites readers to consider:

- How darkness reveals truths we often avoid by day.
- The role of nighttime rituals and beliefs across cultures.
- The philosophical notion that understanding oneself requires venturing into the darker, hidden aspects of consciousness.

Influence on Emerging Writers

The collection's experimental approach and thematic richness have inspired a new generation of writers interested in the liminal spaces of human experience.

Conclusion: An Invitation to Explore the Night Within

"Games of the Night and Other Writings" stands as a compelling testament to the enduring power of the nocturnal as a literary motif. Its multifaceted approach?combining storytelling, reflection, and poetic fragments?invites readers into a world where darkness is not merely the absence of light but a fertile ground for transformation, self-discovery, and understanding.

In an era increasingly preoccupied with external stimuli and rapid information exchange, this collection reminds us of the quiet, contemplative spaces that night affords?spaces where the mind

can wander, confront fears, and uncover hidden truths. Whether one approaches it as a literary masterpiece, a philosophical inquiry, or a poetic meditation, the collection offers a profound journey into the depths of the human condition illuminated by the subtle glow of night.

For those willing to venture into the shadows, "Games of the Night and Other Writings" promises not just stories and essays but an invitation to explore the rich, complex game of consciousness played out under the cover of darkness.

QuestionAnswer What are some popular themes explored in 'Games of the Night and Other Writings' by Roberto Bolaño? The collection delves into themes such as existentialism, the nature of art and storytelling, identity, and the complexities of human relationships, often through fragmented narratives and poetic prose. How does 'Games of the Night' reflect Bolaño's writing style and literary influences? The work showcases Bolaño's signature blend of surrealism, dark humor, and introspective narration, influenced by Latin American literature, European modernism, and his interest in the noir genre, creating a layered and atmospheric reading experience. Are there any recurring motifs or symbols in 'Games of the Night and Other Writings'? Yes, recurring motifs include darkness and night as metaphors for mystery and introspection, along with symbols like mirrors and shadows representing identity and hidden truths. Who would enjoy reading 'Games of the Night and Other Writings'? Fans of contemporary Latin American literature, readers interested in poetic and experimental writing, and those who appreciate complex, introspective narratives would find this collection compelling. Has 'Games of the Night and Other Writings' received any notable literary awards or recognition? While the collection itself has not won major awards, it has been highly praised by critics and scholars for its literary depth, contributing to Bolaño's reputation as a significant voice in 20th-century literature.

Related keywords: literature, nocturnal, storytelling, essays, night-themed, creative writing, reflections, literary works, prose, nocturne

expository essay on night

Expository Essay on Night

Night is a fundamental aspect of the natural world, marking the period of darkness between sunset and sunrise. It is a time that has fascinated humans for centuries, inspiring countless myths, legends, and scientific inquiries. An expository essay on night explores the scientific, cultural, and psychological significance of this nightly phenomenon, offering a comprehensive understanding of its multifaceted nature. This essay aims to shed light on what night entails, its impact on the environment and human life, and the ways in which different cultures perceive and interpret this

mysterious time of day.

Understanding the Scientific Aspects of Night

The Astronomy Behind Night

Night occurs due to the rotation of the Earth on its axis. As our planet spins, different parts of the Earth's surface are turned away from the Sun, resulting in darkness. The key scientific points include:

- **Earth's Rotation:** The Earth completes a rotation approximately every 24 hours, causing the cycle of day and night.
- **Sunlight and Shadow:** When a region of the Earth faces away from the Sun, it experiences night, while the side facing the Sun experiences day.
- **Sun's Position:** The angle of the Sun's rays determines the intensity of daylight and darkness during night hours.

Environmental Changes During Night

Night influences various environmental factors, including temperature, animal behavior, and plant activity:

- **Temperature Drop:** Typically, temperatures fall during the night due to the absence of solar heating.
- **Animal Behavior:** Many animals are nocturnal, active during the night to avoid predators or hunt for food.
- **Plant Processes:** Certain plants undergo specific processes like respiration during the night, which are distinct from daytime photosynthesis.

Cultural and Historical Significance of Night

Night in Mythology and Religion

Throughout history, various cultures have interpreted night as a symbol of mystery, danger, or divine presence:

- **Mythological Figures:** Night is personified as deities or mythological entities, such as Nyx in Greek mythology, representing the primordial goddess of night.

- **Religious Practices:** Many religions have rituals or stories centered around the night, symbolizing salvation, reflection, or divine intervention.
- **Myths and Legends:** Tales often depict night as a realm of spirits, dreams, or the unknown, emphasizing its mysterious nature.

Night and Cultural Traditions

Different societies have unique customs related to night:

- **Festivals and Celebrations:** Many festivals occur at night, such as New Year's Eve fireworks or nocturnal religious observances.
- **Literature and Art:** Night has inspired countless works of literature, poetry, and visual arts, often symbolizing introspection or the subconscious.
- **Nighttime Rituals:** Practices like stargazing or night walks foster community bonding and spiritual reflection.

Psychological and Biological Impact of Night

Human Sleep Cycle and Circadian Rhythms

Night plays a crucial role in regulating human biological processes:

- **Sleep Patterns:** The human body follows a circadian rhythm, signaling sleep during the night and wakefulness during the day.
- **Hormonal Fluctuations:** Night triggers the release of melatonin, a hormone that promotes sleep and regulates the sleep-wake cycle.
- **Health Implications:** Disruption of natural sleep patterns, such as in shift work, can lead to health issues like sleep disorders, impaired immune function, and mental health problems.

Psychological Effects of Night

Night can influence mood and mental state:

- **Calmness and Reflection:** The quiet of night often encourages introspection and relaxation.
- **Fear and Anxiety:** Some individuals experience fear of darkness or nightmares, which can impact mental health.
- **Creativity and Imagination:** Nighttime is associated with heightened creativity, inspiring writers, artists, and thinkers.

Night in Modern Society

Urban Nightlife and Economy

In contemporary cities, night is a bustling period with economic and social activities:

- **Nightlife:** Entertainment venues, restaurants, and nightclubs thrive during night hours, contributing significantly to local economies.
- **Work and Industry:** 24-hour industries, such as hospitals, transportation, and manufacturing, operate during the night to meet global demands.
- **Security and Safety:** Nighttime requires increased security measures to ensure public safety.

Challenges and Environmental Concerns

Despite its vibrancy, modern night life brings challenges:

- **Light Pollution:** Excessive artificial lighting disrupts ecosystems and obscures stars, impacting astronomers and wildlife.
- **Noise Pollution:** Nighttime noise can disturb residents and wildlife, affecting health and well-being.
- **Sleep Disruption:** Urban environments with constant activity can interfere with natural sleep cycles, leading to health issues.

Conclusion

Night, a daily occurrence rooted in the Earth's rotation, holds profound significance across scientific, cultural, psychological, and societal dimensions. It is a time of rest and reflection, yet also a period of activity and mystery. Understanding the multifaceted nature of night allows us to appreciate its importance, address the challenges it presents, and honor its role in shaping human life and the natural world. As we continue to explore and adapt to the darkness of night, we deepen our connection to the planet and to ourselves, recognizing that night is not merely the absence of day but a vital component of the cycle of life.

This comprehensive expository essay on night provides an in-depth look into its scientific basis, cultural meanings, psychological effects, and modern implications, offering readers a well-rounded understanding of this fascinating phenomenon.

Expository Essay on Night: An In-Depth Exploration of Darkness?s Significance and Symbolism

Night is one of the most profound and universally experienced phenomena in human life. The night serves as a natural transition from the bustling activity of daytime to a period marked by stillness, mystery, and reflection. Its significance extends beyond mere absence of sunlight; night influences our biology, culture, psychology, and artistic expression. This expository essay aims to delve into the multifaceted nature of night, examining its scientific, cultural, and symbolic dimensions to provide a comprehensive understanding of this pervasive aspect of our world.

Understanding Night: The Scientific Perspective

What Is Night?

At its core, night is the period of darkness that occurs when the Sun is below the horizon. It is a consequence of the Earth?s rotation on its axis, which causes different parts of the planet to move into and out of the Sun?s light. The duration and appearance of night vary depending on geographical location, time of year, and atmospheric conditions.

The Science Behind Night

- Earth?s Rotation: The primary reason for night and day cycles. As Earth rotates, different regions move into shadow or into direct sunlight.
- Tilt of the Earth: The Earth's axial tilt causes varying lengths of night across seasons, leading to phenomena such as the Midnight Sun or Polar Night in polar regions.
- Atmospheric Effects: The atmosphere scatters sunlight, which can influence the perceived darkness of night. Clear skies result in darker nights, while cloud cover can reflect residual light, brightening the darkness.

Biological Impacts of Night

Many organisms have adapted to the cycle of night and day, leading to behaviors and physiological changes aligned with darkness:

- Circadian Rhythms: Internal biological clocks that regulate sleep-wake cycles, hormone production, and other vital functions.
- Nocturnal Animals: Species such as owls, bats, and certain insects are active during the night, exploiting the cover of darkness for hunting, mating, and other activities.
- Human Adaptations: Historically, humans relied on daylight for work and safety, but modern technology and artificial lighting have extended activity into nighttime hours.

Cultural and Historical Significance of Night

Night in Mythology and Religion

Throughout history, night has held a powerful place in mythology and religious traditions:

- Symbol of Mystery and the Unknown: Night often symbolizes the mysterious, the subconscious, and the divine. Many cultures associate night with spirits, gods, or supernatural forces.
- Religious Observances: Nighttime prayers, vigil services, and spiritual rituals are common across various religions, emphasizing the spiritual significance of darkness.

Night in Literature and Art

Artists and writers have long been inspired by night?s evocative qualities:

- Literature: Night is often used as a metaphor for ignorance, fear, or introspection. Classic works like Edgar Allan Poe?s tales and Shakespeare?s plays frequently employ night to evoke mood and symbolism.
- Visual Arts: Paintings like Vincent van Gogh?s ?Starry Night? capture the beauty and mystery of the night sky, highlighting its influence on artistic expression.

Cultural Practices and Nighttime Activities

- Festivals and Celebrations: Many cultures celebrate festivals during the night, such as New Year?s Eve, Diwali, or Lantern festivals.
- Night Markets and Events: In many cities, nightlife includes markets, concerts, and social gatherings, contributing to a vibrant nocturnal economy.

Psychological and Emotional Dimensions of Night

Night and Human Psychology

Night can evoke a range of psychological responses:

- Relaxation and Reflection: For some, night is a peaceful time for introspection, meditation, or creative pursuits.
- Fear and Anxiety: Darkness can trigger fears of the unknown, monsters, or danger, rooted in evolutionary survival instincts.
- Sleep and Rest: Night is essential for restorative sleep, which is crucial for mental health and

cognitive functioning.

The Night as a Metaphor for Transition

Night often symbolizes change, transition, or the subconscious:

- From Darkness to Light: The cycle of night and day reflects renewal and hope.
- Night as a Time for Dreams: Many interpret night as a gateway to the subconscious mind, dreams, and hidden truths.

The Role of Night in Modern Society

Technological Influence

Artificial lighting has transformed how humans experience night:

- Extended Hours: Cities operate 24/7, blurring the natural boundaries between day and night.
- Light Pollution: Excessive artificial light disrupts ecosystems, affects human health, and obscures the night sky.

Night and Safety

- Risks and Precautions: Nighttime can pose safety challenges, including increased crime rates and accidents.
- Security Measures: Urban areas implement lighting, surveillance, and patrols to ensure safety during night hours.

Night in the Age of Technology

- Nighttime Work: Industries such as healthcare, transportation, and manufacturing operate around the clock.
- Digital Nightlife: The internet and social media create nocturnal activity, connecting people globally during night hours.

The Artistic and Philosophical Reflection on Night

Night as Inspiration

Poets, painters, and philosophers have found inspiration in night?s mystery:

- Poetry: Night often symbolizes introspection, love, or the infinite. For example, John Keats?s ?Bright Star, would I were steadfast as thou art? contemplates eternal night.
- Philosophy: Thinkers like Friedrich Nietzsche have explored night as a symbol of the profound and the ineffable.

Night and the Human Condition

Reflecting on night encourages contemplation of existence, mortality, and the universe:

- Existential Themes: Night prompts questions about human purpose and the nature of reality.
- Cosmic Perspective: The night sky?s vastness inspires awe and humility, reminding us of our place in the cosmos.

Conclusion: Embracing the Night

Night remains a complex and captivating aspect of our natural world and cultural consciousness. It embodies mystery, fear, beauty, and reflection. While scientific understanding helps us appreciate the mechanisms behind night, its cultural and psychological significance enriches our appreciation of darkness as more than mere absence of light. Embracing night can lead to a deeper connection with ourselves, others, and the universe, reminding us that darkness is not only an end but also a space for renewal, inspiration, and discovery.

In sum, the night is an essential element of life that influences biological rhythms, cultural practices, artistic expression, and philosophical inquiry. Understanding its multifaceted nature deepens our appreciation of the world?s natural cycles and the symbolic meanings we attach to darkness. Whether viewed as a time for rest, reflection, or mystery, night remains a vital and enriching part of the human experience.

QuestionAnswer What is the main focus of an expository essay on 'Night' by Elie Wiesel? The main focus is to explore the themes, experiences, and lessons conveyed in 'Night,' such as the horrors of the Holocaust, loss of faith, and human resilience. How should I structure an expository essay about 'Night'? You should include an introduction that presents the main idea, body paragraphs that analyze key themes or events, and a conclusion that summarizes insights and reflects on the significance of the memoir. What are some key themes to discuss in an expository essay on 'Night'? Important themes include the brutality of the Holocaust, the loss of innocence, the struggle to maintain faith, dehumanization, and the importance of memory and testimony. How can I effectively analyze Wiesel?s portrayal of human suffering in an expository essay? You can examine

specific incidents described in 'Night,' discuss Wiesel?s emotional responses, and analyze how these experiences highlight the universal nature of human suffering during genocide. What evidence should I include in my expository essay about 'Night'? Include direct quotes from the book, references to specific events, and scholarly interpretations to support your analysis of the themes and messages. How can I connect 'Night' to broader historical or social issues in my expository essay? You can relate the memoir to the historical context of the Holocaust, discuss its relevance to current issues of genocide and human rights, and reflect on the importance of remembrance. What is a good thesis statement for an expository essay on 'Night'? A strong thesis could be: 'Elie Wiesel?s 'Night' provides a harrowing account of the Holocaust that underscores the devastating impact of hatred and the enduring importance of human resilience and memory.'

Related keywords: night, darkness, insomnia, sleep, dreams, fear, solitude, silence, stars, storytelling

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