



SPARKPOINT

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THE LUCK OF THE
DRAW

Inside:
Learn about how the concepts
of luck, fortune and fate have
impacted on societal
development.

Welcome

It being issue 13, I thought it was only sensible to tackle the peculiar worlds of luck, chance and fate. There are moments at which things just seem to go right for no particular reason – and also times at which it seems that circumstances are conspiring against us. The human compulsion to look for patterns and traits in these situations has produced some extraordinary behaviour over the centuries.

Happenstance

When you appeared it was as if magnets cleared the air.
I had never seen that smile before
or your hair, flying silver. Someone
waving goodbye, she was silver, too.
Of course you didn't see me.
I called softly so you could choose
not to answer—then called again.
You turned in the light, your eyes
seeking your name.

Rita Dove

POEM OF THE WEEK

fatidical

adjective

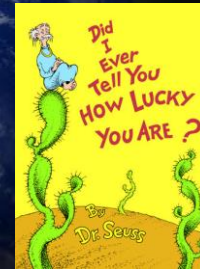
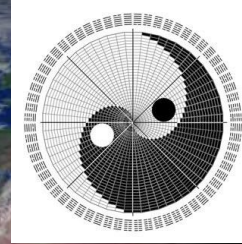
Having the ability to foretell the future – specifically in a negative fashion.

WORD OF THE WEEK

The story goes that Paul McCartney dreamed of the melody of this hit song in its entirety and was delighted, when he woke up, to discover that Yesterday was in fact an original creation.



MUSIC OF THE WEEK



READING THE FUTURE

The I Ching Book of Changes has been a fundamental part of Chinese culture for centuries – perhaps even for Millennia. Using a combination of symbolic interpretation and emotional intuition, this is a truly fascinating and unique system of divination – perhaps providing the inspiration for Lyra's Alethiometer in Pullman's *Northern Lights*. Click the link to find out more.



CONFOUNDED FATE

Not many people could argue to have had a worse run in with fate than Oedipus. Having received bad news from the Delphic oracle before Oedipus was even born, his father tried to put measures in place to allow his son to escape his fate. Sophocles relates the tragic consequences of this action superbly well in his tragedy *Oedipus the King*. Click the link to read an extract.



HOW LUCKY YOU ARE

Dr Seuss, a core feature of American children's literature, uses clever rhyming and accessible language not only to inculcate skills of reading and writing, but also to explore more subtle philosophical themes. Click the link to listen to a (very amateur) reading of this particular book, which reminds us that though we may be feeling down, things really aren't all that bad...



Mysterious, anonymous street-artist Banksy chooses his locations for installations well. The ability of the owner to sell this work allowed the survival of a youth club in Liverpool. The most recent recipient of a work, however has been less lucky!

IMAGE OF THE WEEK