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## Stanley middle schoolers headed to OM World Championships

Submitted by Manju Lind



From left: Sanika Khamkar, Lauren Brekke, Shriya Lind, Sophia Moore, Raini Chugh, Aleah Mathai-Jackson, David Siu Photo provided

spontaneous "think-on-your-feet" challenge.

For the long-term problem, the Stanley team reinterpreted the Greek classic "The Iliad," devising a "Trojan Horse" and a figurative "wall." Featuring a required Greek chorus, "Iliad" character, and unusual statue, the team tells the story of two rival grocery delivery companies, a theft, a clever ruse, and the retrieval of a prestigious award. The team's elaborately engineered set, costumes, and props - made almost entirely from recycled and upcycled materials - earned them first place for overall style in their division at the Northern California championships.

While the long-term problem requires months to solve, the spontaneous problem involves solving a surprise verbal, engineering, or combination problem in under 10 minutes. The team captured second place for their division in the spontaneous portion of the Northern California championships.

Since the state competition, the team has been refining their solution and preparing to send materials to the championship. The costs of attending the competition, including shipping their multi-paneled set, are high, so the team is looking to the Lafayette community for support. They will be out in the Lamorinda area raising money for the competition this month.

If you're inspired to support this creative group of middle schoolers and help them represent Lafayette on the world stage, you can donate directly by visiting their campaign at [gofundme.com/StanleyMiddleSchool-OM-2023](https://www.gofundme.com/StanleyMiddleSchool-OM-2023).

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