

### Track 1

On a windy April Saturday in Hamden, Connecticut, where I live, I watched a group of kids test their baseball skills, in preparation for the Little League season. My son was among them; I'd volunteered to be a coach this year. On the following Thursday evening, I was to join the other coaches to select the team's players. My son played well but the competitors were strong and motivated to join.

### Track 2

Castel Beseno stands atop a hill between Rovereto and Trento, in the town of Besenello. Thanks to its strategic location along the road connecting Italy to Central Europe by crossing the Alps, it was the scene of important battles. Among which, the famous Battle of Calliano of 1487, fought between Tyrolean and Venetian troops who suffered a resounding defeat in their advance toward Trento. In 1973, the Count Trapp family, owners since 1470, donated the castle to the autonomous Province of Trento, which oversaw its restoration.

### Track 3

In 2008, Jill Lepore published "The Lion and the Mouse", an interesting article about a mid-century controversy that helped to rebuilt children's literature. Lepore describes how the publication of E.B. White's classic tale "Stuart Little", about an adventurous "mouse-child" born to a family in Manhattan, created a "shake" among critics and librarians because of its unconventional fusion of fantasy and reality.

### Track 4

The Gardens of Trauttmansdorff Castle, located in the town of Merano in northern Italy, is a botanical garden collocated into a twelve-hectare amphitheatre with an altitude differential of 100 meters. Trauttmansdorff offers spectacular views of exotic gardens and breathtaking vistas of the surrounding mountains and the spa resort town of Merano. Colorful plants from all around the world thrive and bloom in Trauttmansdorff's more than eighty garden landscapes.

### Track 5

Uniquely among Italy's chief cities, Venice came into being after the fall of the Roman Empire in the West. The Lombard hordes, whose incursions into northern Italy began in AD 568, drove great numbers of mainlanders onto the islands of the lagoon, previously the

homes of itinerant fishermen and salt workers. The isolated communities, literally islands of Veneto-Byzantine civilization, became part of the exarchate of Ravenna when it was created in 584.

#### Track 6

By the beginning of the 14th century the republic of Venice was swept into struggles on the mainland of Italy and in the Adriatic and Mediterranean seas. When the Scaligeri came to power in Verona, the republic made alliance with the Carraresi of Padua, with the Florentines, and with the Visconti of Milan, who feared the rise of a strong territorial lordship in the heart of northern Italy.

#### Track 7

I liked dinner with my parents and their friends in the dining room. The chairs were large and hard to move. Whenever I had to go to the bathroom, I would crawl my way under the table to get there. Some of the adults, when I brushed against their legs, made surprised sounds and said jokey things. I didn't understand what they said, but I laughed with them when tried to get out.

#### Track 8

Badly affected by the consequences of climate change, sub-Saharan Africa is now facing a severe post-Covid economic crisis, having experienced its first recession in twenty-five years. The climate and socio-economic emergencies collectively represent serious challenges for African countries, which must be addressed by local governments as policy priorities. A huge renewable energy potential could open the way for a green reconstruction, but would a "green growth" be possible in the face of Africa's energy access dilemma?

#### Track 9

The Super Bowl is the annual championship game of the National Football League (NFL). Since 2004, the game has been played on the first Sunday in February. The Super Bowl is among the world's most-watched sporting events and frequently commands the largest audience among all American broadcasts during the year. It is second only to the UEFA Champions League final as the most watched annual sporting event worldwide. Super Bowl XLIX in 2015 was the most-watched American television program with an audience of 114.4 million viewers.