

## Lore Drop stuff to get you started:

### Approximate Reading Levels:

Text A:	Text B:																																								
<table><tr><td colspan="2">Readability Scores:</td></tr><tr><td>Flesch-Kincaid Reading Ease:</td><td>74.6</td></tr><tr><td>New Dale Chall Readability:</td><td>4.4</td></tr><tr><td>Spache Readability Score:</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Readability Grades:</td></tr><tr><td>Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level:</td><td>5.6</td></tr><tr><td>Gunning Fog Index:</td><td>8.4</td></tr><tr><td>Coleman-Liau Index:</td><td>9.9</td></tr><tr><td>SMOG Index Score:</td><td>9.2</td></tr><tr><td>Automated Readability Index:</td><td>4.6</td></tr></table>	Readability Scores:		Flesch-Kincaid Reading Ease:	74.6	New Dale Chall Readability:	4.4	Spache Readability Score:	5	Readability Grades:		Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level:	5.6	Gunning Fog Index:	8.4	Coleman-Liau Index:	9.9	SMOG Index Score:	9.2	Automated Readability Index:	4.6	<table><tr><td colspan="2">Readability Scores:</td></tr><tr><td>Flesch-Kincaid Reading Ease:</td><td>77.8</td></tr><tr><td>New Dale Chall Readability:</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Spache Readability Score:</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Readability Grades:</td></tr><tr><td>Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level:</td><td>5.1</td></tr><tr><td>Gunning Fog Index:</td><td>7.8</td></tr><tr><td>Coleman-Liau Index:</td><td>9.1</td></tr><tr><td>SMOG Index Score:</td><td>8.9</td></tr><tr><td>Automated Readability Index:</td><td>4</td></tr></table>	Readability Scores:		Flesch-Kincaid Reading Ease:	77.8	New Dale Chall Readability:	4	Spache Readability Score:	5	Readability Grades:		Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level:	5.1	Gunning Fog Index:	7.8	Coleman-Liau Index:	9.1	SMOG Index Score:	8.9	Automated Readability Index:	4
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**Connections:** Science, T.V, Video Games

**Key vocab:** fungus, parasitic, spores

**Warning:** Talk about zombies

**Feedback:** Our main goal is engagement and a bit of whimsy, but we don't want to spread misinformation either. Please email: [nadgeniuslabs@gmail.com](mailto:nadgeniuslabs@gmail.com) to let us know how we've done, or to give suggestions for our next Lore Drop!

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<https://buymeacoffee.com/nadgeniuslabs>

## Zombies Among Us (Text A)

Imagine what it would be like if you lost total control of your brain. Your body went places and did things that you did not want it to do. You randomly just up and left your home without saying anything to your family or your friends. Sounds like the start of a scary science fiction movie, but actually this scene is realer than you might think! It isn't zombies or electronic nano-chips taking over though, it's mushrooms!



Cordyceps are a type of **fungus** found all over the world. There are over 750 different species of cordyceps and many of them are **parasitic**. This means that they find a host, usually an insect or spider, to infect.

Instead of reproducing with seeds like plants, mushrooms usually reproduce with **spores**. The cordyceps spores lay hidden in the soil until an unsuspecting bug comes along and walks overtop of it. The spores then use the host's body to grow. Once the ant is infected, it starts to lose control of itself. The fungus starts to replace the host's body with itself! Imagine a mushroom slowly eating your brain and replacing it with more mushrooms! With a brain full of fungus, the cordyceps get the zombified ant to climb high up into a tree away from its hive. Once the ant is high up on a branch, the mushroom delivers its final blow to the poor host. It keeps growing and growing until it bursts out of the ant's head.

The ruthless life cycle of these mushrooms are so terrifying that they have inspired a zombie-apocalypse video game and t.v. series called, "The Last of Us". These mushrooms aren't just nightmare-fuel though. Some of the 750 species of cordyceps are edible for humans, and even have been used as traditional medicine! Studies have researched using cordyceps to help reduce inflammation and boost your immune system. Isn't it wild to think that the same mushroom that can be medicine for humans, could be a real-life zombie horror for an insect!

## Zombies Among Us (Text B)

Imagine what it would be like if you lost total control of your brain. Your body went places and did things that you did not want it to do. You randomly just up and left your home without saying anything to your family or your friends. Sounds like the start of a scary movie, but actually this scene is realer than you might think! It isn't zombies or electronic nano-chips taking over though, it's mushrooms!



Cordyceps are a type of **fungus** found all over the world. There are over 750 different species of cordyceps and many of them are **parasitic**. This means that they infect and take over another living thing, usually a bug.

Instead of reproducing with seeds like plants, mushrooms usually reproduce with **spores**. The cordyceps spores lay hidden in the soil until a poor bug comes along and walks overtop of it. The spores then use the host's body to grow. Once the ant is infected, it starts to lose control of itself. The fungus starts to replace the host's body with itself! Imagine a mushroom slowly eating your brain and replacing it with more mushrooms! With a brain full of fungus, the cordyceps get the ant to climb high up into a tree away from its hive. Once the ant is high up on a branch, the mushroom finishes off the poor host. It keeps growing and growing until it bursts out of the ant's head.

The scary life cycle of these mushrooms are so bad that they started the idea for a zombie horror video game and t.v. series called, "The Last of Us". These mushrooms aren't just nightmare-fuel though. Some of the 750 species of cordyceps are edible for humans, and even have been used as medicine! Studies looked at cordyceps to help boost your immune system and reduce swelling. Isn't it wild to think that the same mushroom that can be medicine for humans, could be a real-life zombie horror for an insect!