



MARCH 2022

Imaginari Spectra

EDITORS IN CONVERSATION



Nithil: Hi guys!

Chiraayu: Hey! Guys, don't you think we are late this time?

Akshaya: What? Nope we are on time, Chiraayu😊. Why do you think that?

Chiraayu: yea, yea we are on time

Nithil: May be because a lot of things happened in February and we haven't published a Feb edition?

Akshaya: Oh yeah, may be, but no worries, we got you covered, this edition is filled with all the events, write-ups, inter-school competitions...

Chiraayu: And of course how can we miss? our students' creative pieces!

Nithil: Right!

Surodeep: Also, guys, may I announce a new member has been added to the editorial team - Vijay!

Akshaya: Right, we are very happy to have Vijay with us!

Nithil: Welcome to the club Vijay!

Vijay: Thank you guys. So what are we waiting for? Take a look at all the pics of events, creative pieces, and more interesting stuff!



SNIS RUN FOR CARE 3.0



snis!





INTER-HOUSE BASKETBALL

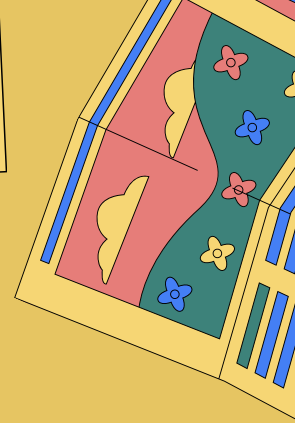
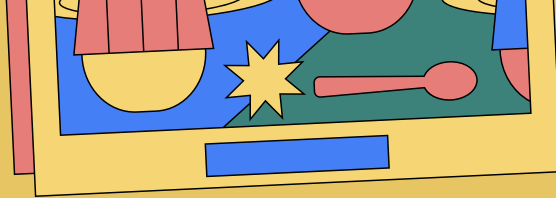
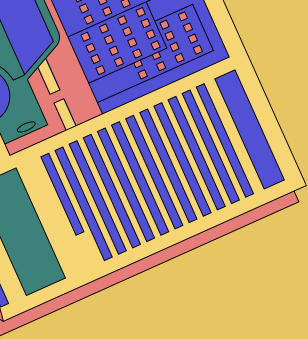


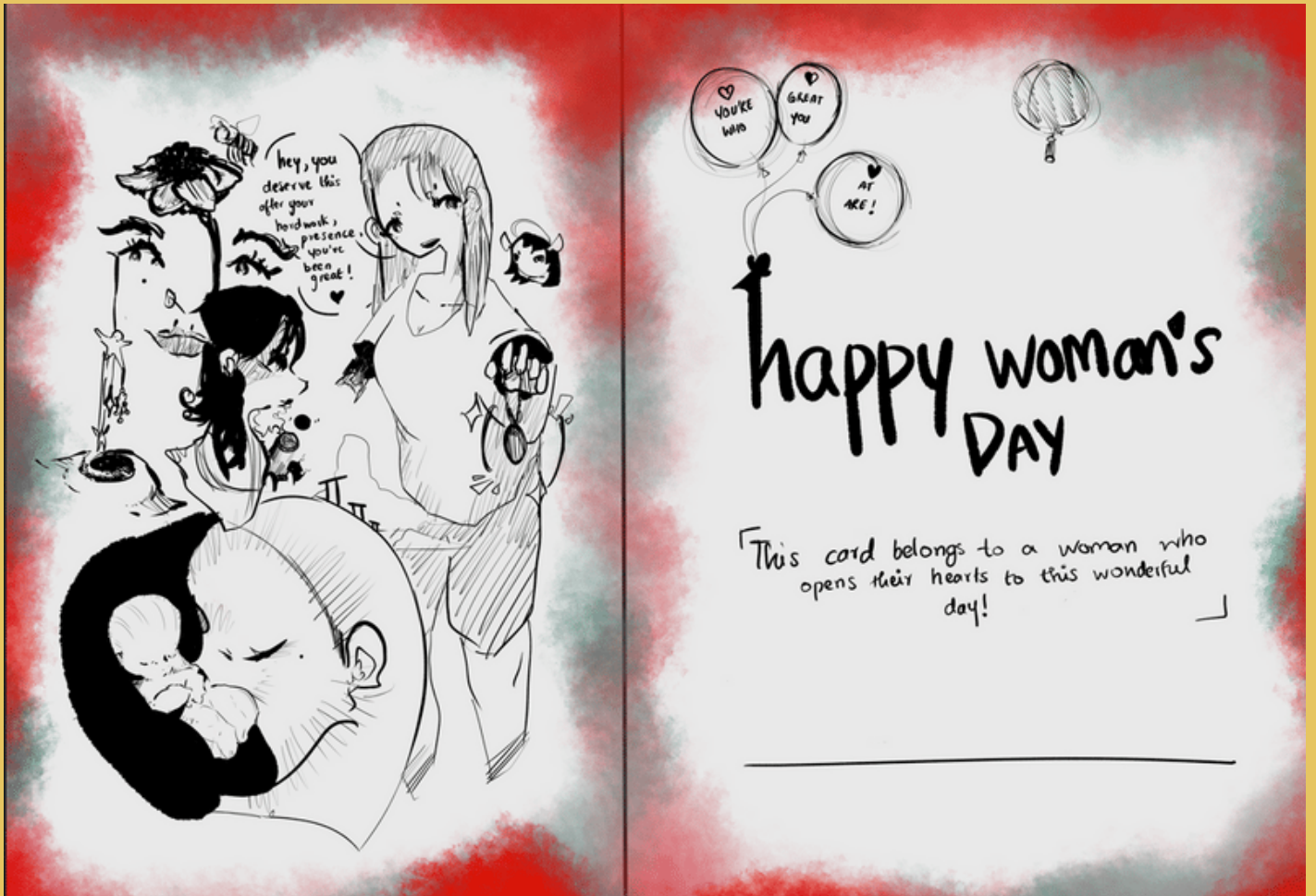
WOMEN'S DAY



CELEBRATE
WOMEN



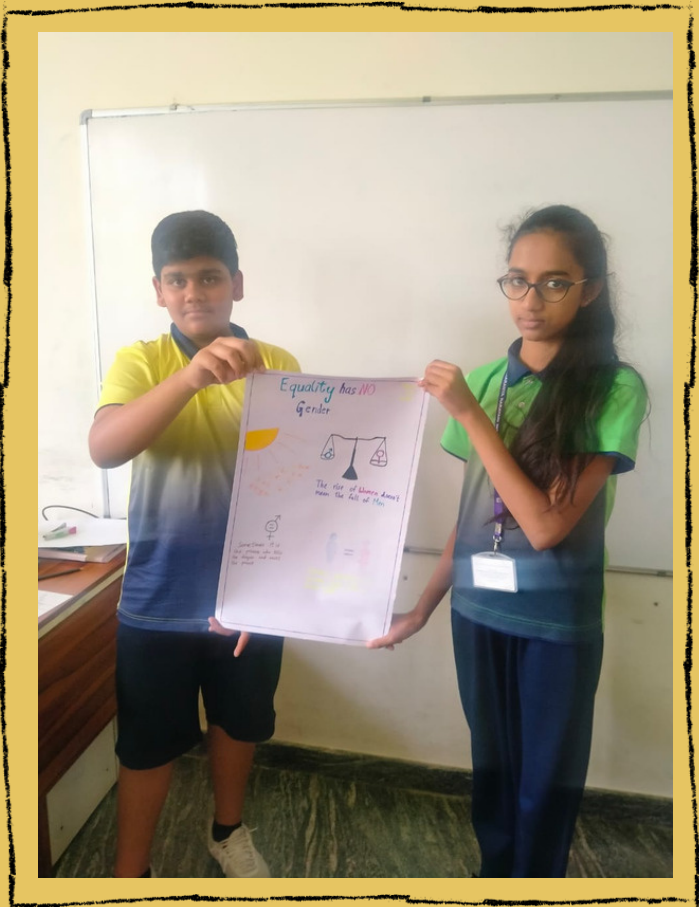
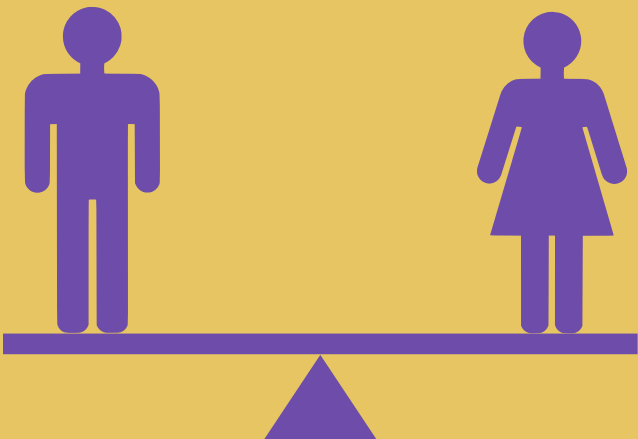


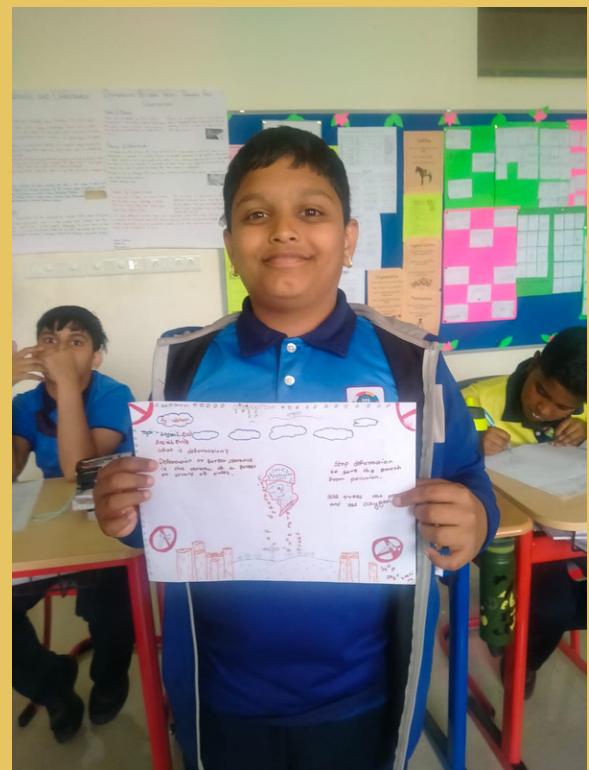
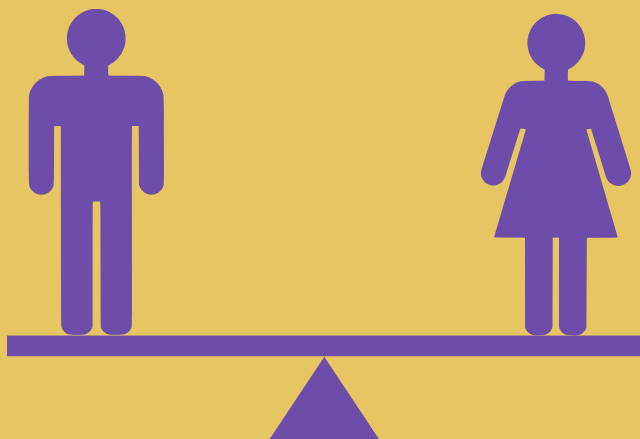
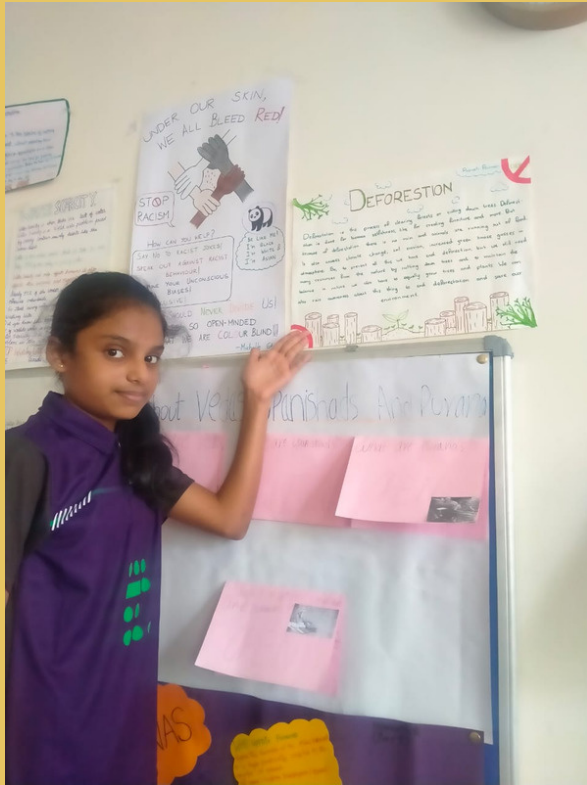
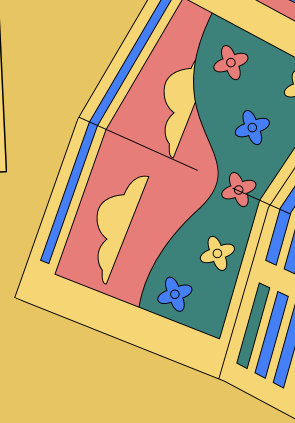
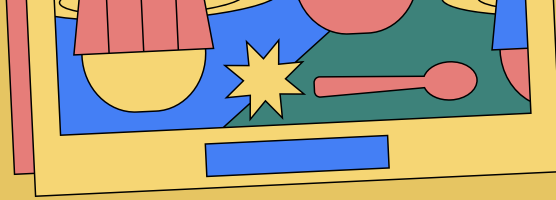
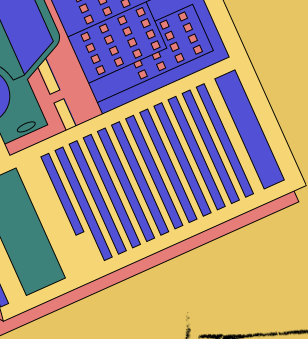


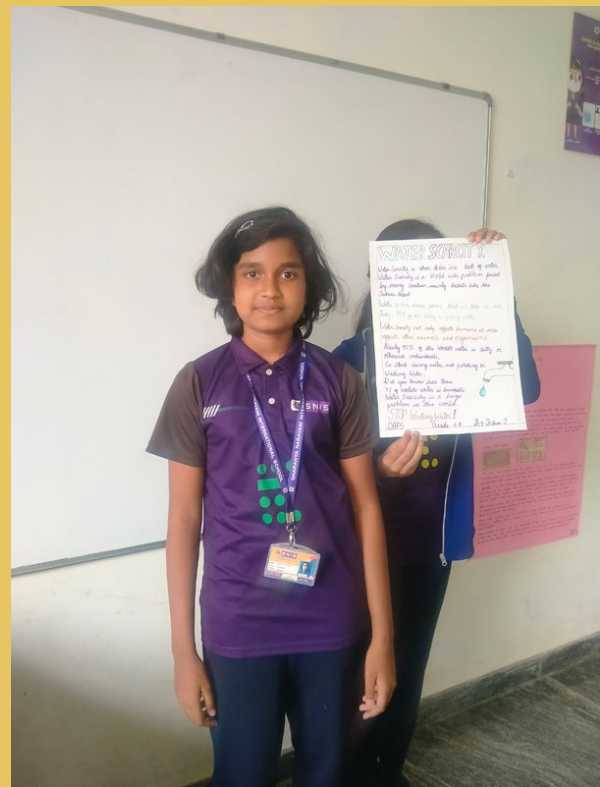
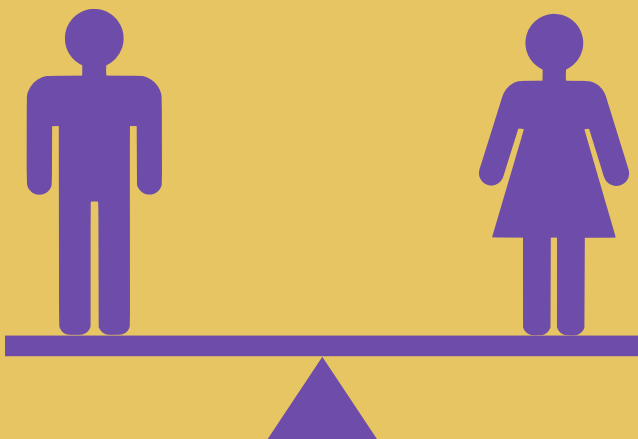
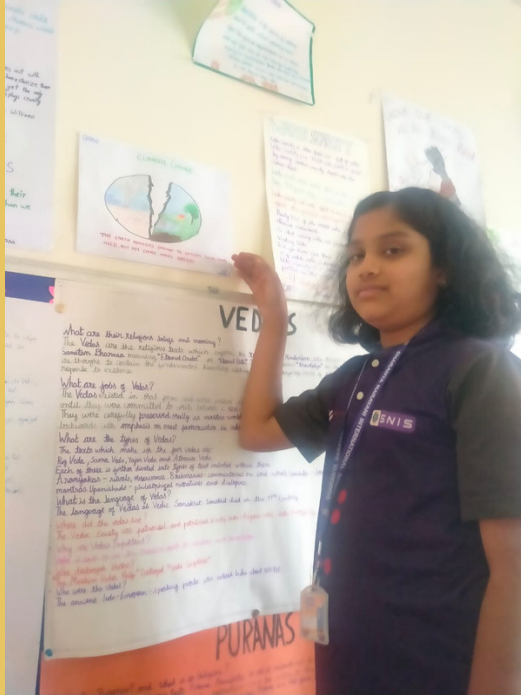
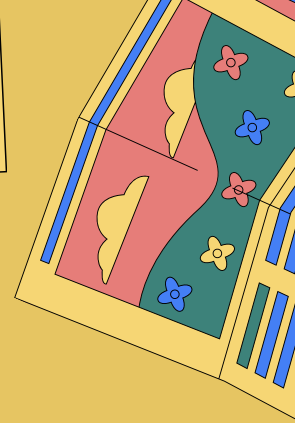
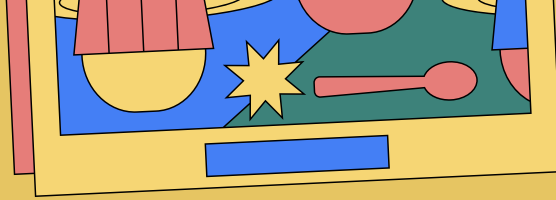
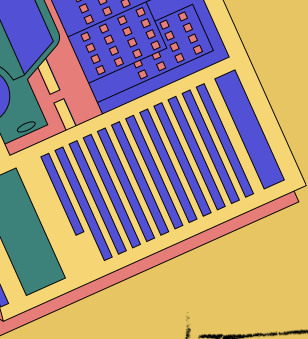
Nithil Sivakumar
Grade II



DAPS Grade 6 - Gender equality.







MS. MONIKA ARORA

"Human Resources – the unofficial lawyer, psychologist, event planner, teacher, peacemaker, career planner, miracle worker".

5
YEAR
SMILESTONE



Ms. Monika Arora, Head of HR & Admin at SNIS, certainly wears all of the above hats with ease and much aplomb! Ms Monika is a dedicated, resourceful and a goal-driven professional having a solid commitment towards the growth of school and its employees. She has completed 5 years at SNIS demonstrating superior interpersonal and communication skills to foster meaningful relationships with students, staff and parents.

She establishes a good rapport with all her colleagues and displays sincerity in managing her duties with outstanding efforts. She has a very warm and caring attitude towards all employees and strives to build an atmosphere which encourages professional ethics.

She is passionate about improving the work experience for all SNIS employees. She ensures that every person who joins SNIS, instantly feels as a part of the ever-growing SNIS family. She is constantly delivering great work which is vital for the success of our SNIS family members. She is determined to accomplish her goals which ensures that all employees and teachers receive proper information and training to grow their talent in their respective fields.

SHAILA RAJESH

"If Unopened snack packs and stocked perfume bothers you, You definitely miss being at the hostel. It is a family away from home..."

-Gridharan Thamizghan

5
YEAR
SMILESTONE



Shaila Rajesh, "the mother of SNIS" is a wonderful and caring person. She is family for our students who are away from home and always welcomes them with a smile and the boarding students love her.

She started her journey with SNIS 5 years ago on March 25, 2017, as a Dorm Parent. Within a span of these 5 years, she has grown with the organization. She takes very good care of the boarders and treats them as her own which is obvious when we see the bond between the boarding students and her.

Her support and the discipline that she teaches the students in the hostel turn them to be more responsible in life. Shaila is a strong, caring, and compassionate dorm parent who understands her children's emotional and psychological needs, gives them the kind of support they require and handles them with utmost care and patience.

Shaila is very enthusiastic and actively participates in most of the school events and activities and maintains a good rapport with her colleagues.

She loves to make beautiful Rangolis and likes to spend time taking care of the fish in her aquarium.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

MS. GAYATHRI

6
YEAR
SMILESTONE



Dear Gayathri,

Congratulations on completing 6 glorious years with SNIS. We take this special moment to celebrate this milestone in your career and congratulate you for being a dedicated and diligent employee of SNIS who has always worked for the development of the school.

Your loyalty and commitment towards the school and the parents are always appreciated and your positive attitude towards work inspires everyone here to give their best.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

**MS. SHANTHI
ARUL**

7
YEAR
SMILESTONE

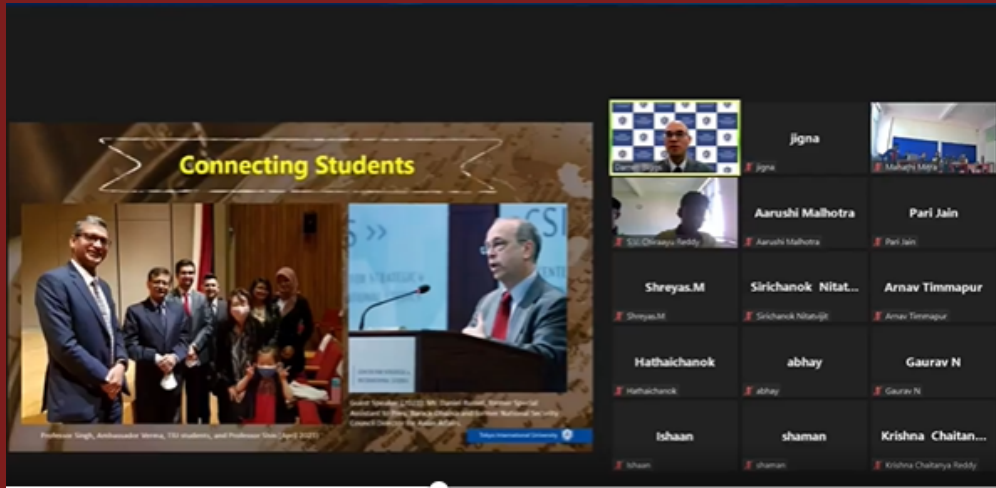


Dear Shanthi,

Hard work, Loyalty, and Diligence are the cornerstones of great employees and you have all these qualities. Your many years of service are a true testimony of your commitment to the organization, and you are truly valued for your contributions.

We are delighted and proud to have you as part of the SNIS team and congratulate you on completing 7 years of service. Dedicated employees like you are the foundation of any organization and we thank you for your contribution to the success of SNIS.

Tokyo University Session



DEBATE – AT RBK INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

**“SHOULD MUSIC LYRICS BE INCLUDED
AS A PART OF LITERATURE?”**



Congratulations!



ARNAV'S ARGUMENT



Literature is a constant in our ever-changing world. Over millennia we have seen different forms of literature entertain different sects of the population, from the poor to rich, young to old and all genders. We've seen "Homer's Odyssey" take us through torrential floods, Christopher Nolan's "Inception" boggle our minds and Shakespeare's "Romeo & Juliet" make even the cold-hearted shed a tear. Movies, poems, books, and dramas, all have been allowed into the vast, welcoming arms of literature and yet, we're here today discussing whether song lyrics, some of the most meaningful words, should be part of literature.

I am Arnav of grade 11 and I firmly believe that song lyrics should be a part of literature.

The famous Russian author Boris Pasternak said and I quote

"Literature is the art of discovering something extraordinary about ordinary people, and saying with ordinary words something extraordinary."

And song lyrics are some of the most beautiful combinations of words which put life into the mundane. Song lyrics usually have intention and motivation, they're filled with figurative language and layers of meaning.

“My soul is painted like the wings of butterflies. Fairy tales of yesterday will grow but never die.”

Lyrics from ‘The Show Must Go On’ by Queen. These lyrics can be dissected over several hours in a literature classroom. Even concept albums usually come full circle from the first song to the last one, and trace plotlines and themes, which many literary texts also do. Pink Floyd’s “The Wall” and “The Dark Side of the Moon” are amazing concept albums. But students can only enjoy analysing such picturesque lyrics when they are considered literature. However, this hasn’t stopped the classes of Dune University from taking the revolutionary step of including song lyrics in literary analysis.

Even Global literature awards are starting to accept song lyrics as literature. The organization PEN New England awarded their first-ever Song Lyrics of Literary Excellence to Chuck Berry and Leonard Cohen. A more obvious case is singer Bob Dylan, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature in 2016.

Keeping all these developments in mind, we must address one issue. Should ‘ALL’ song lyrics be a part of literature? By definition it would make sense to add them, but upon further inspection I would like to remind us of certain music lyrics which also exist.



Two plus two is four
Minus one that's three, quick maths
Everyday man's on the block

I am not taking these out of context, this is the beginning of the song, a grown man describing grade 1 mathematics. I believe such texts are better off kept away from the realm of literature.

I would like to end my speech, but not before leaving you with a thought:

Psalms, sacred poems of the Bible, were meant to be sung. William Shakespeare was known as the Bard of Avon and bards, let me remind you, were the foremost storytellers who SANG their stories. Without them would we be half as aware of our mythology, and would our literature have come as close to the creative masterpieces we see today?



Arnav Girish Timmapur
Grade II

NIMHANS VISIT



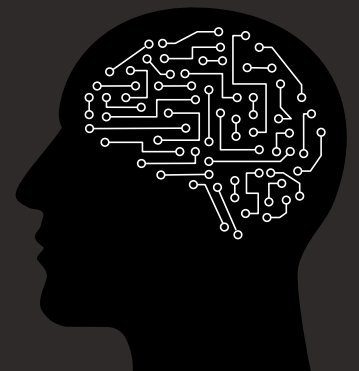
My trip to NIMHANS was a highly educational and enjoyable one. We acquired new knowledge about the brain and its functions while gaining hands-on experiences, quite literally. About an hour into the bus ride, a few of us fell asleep, undeniable proof of our otherwise hectic schedule. Fast forward to where we reached the centre.

Upon reaching the entrance of the museum, a few students got a view of the insides, and they weren't the happiest. The image of several formalin-preserved brains did not sit well with everyone. After 5 minutes of uninterrupted scrutiny of the brains, we were called to the right of the hall, to seat ourselves and enjoy an informative session taken by a member of NIMHANS.

We learnt about the analogy between humans and computers, comparing our brain to the computer hardware and the mind to the computer's software. We learnt that the mind is but a construct of our own that functions with the help of the brain and its transmitters. Our thinking processes were compared to the algorithmic functions of a high-speed computer.

A few discernable differences between the computer and our brains were the exclusivity of chemical reactions within our brain and our inability to multitask. Along the way, we learnt a few fun facts such as:

Neuroscientists believe babies don't dream for the first few years and newborn babies see in black and white for the first few months simply because their nervous system isn't completely developed.



You've probably heard this before, but the skull of a human isn't completely fused until the age of 20.

Starfish do not have brains and have minimal neurons which are necessary for their rudimentary functions.

A bigger brain or excessive neurons does not necessarily guarantee heightened intellect, and the term 'smooth brain' is an insult as brains are supposed to have several grooves.

Humans are born with 600 billion neurons, of which 21.5 billion are in the cerebral cortex. Interestingly, however, we end up with only 86 billion as we go through neuron-pruning. These remaining neurons form connections and characterize us, giving us our inherent personality.

Strokes cause a loss of neurons that cannot be replenished. Due to this, neighbouring neurons take up their roles. To adapt to these changes, physiotherapy and speech therapy are used on patients.

We learnt about several important chemicals in the brain, more specifically, neurotransmitters. We learnt about the:

Acetylcholine – It controls memory and attention

Serotonin – The 'feel-good' chemical and has a profound impact on mood and anxiety.

Dopamine – Controls arousal and motivation

Melatonin – Regulates the sleep cycle AKA the circadian rhythm.



After this presentation, we moved on to the more physical aspect. We observed a real human brain and a few other vital organs. We learnt about the different parts of the brain, its lobes, meninges, and smaller structures. We heard about the Frontal, Parietal, Occipital and Temporal lobes, each carrying out specific functions. We were shown the Pituitary gland, Hypothalamus, corpus callosum, Amygdala, Hippocampus, and the pineal gland. After the explanation, we were given the opportunity to handle these organs for ourselves.

After washing our hands thoroughly, we moved on to the display section which showed us the different kinds of brains and their slices. We witnessed haemorrhaged brains, brains with tumours, brains with cysts, and blocked arterial trees which portrayed atherosclerosis. We saw the coronal, horizontal, and sagittal slices of the brain. Before leaving, we came across a huge but non-functional electron microscope behind which were a few masterpieces it had produced during its functional period.

After that productive session, we took a group picture and headed back to school. It was an enjoyable session, and we amassed a plethora of knowledge. At the end of the day, we can safely say that our minds were blown. (👉° ͜ °👉)



Ananya Sunder & Arnav Girish Timmapur



CREATIVE CORNER



THE LOST FIRE

Her eyes, once red
Her nose, once pink
Her life, once burning
But now, broken apart

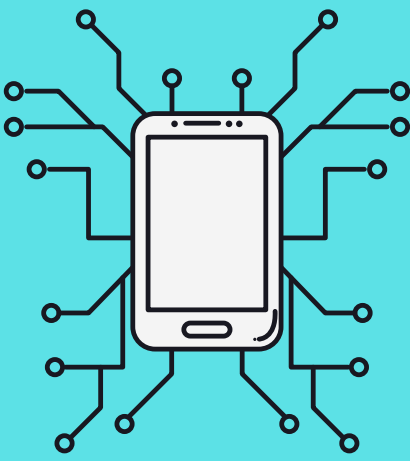
She sings lost pieces
of little, little sins
She makes small fires
To remember what she once did

If only all was not lost
And everything still remained
She remembered her old brutal ways
The remnant of the fire

She sang to the old flame
that was once a little fire.



Aarushi Vignesh
Grade 7



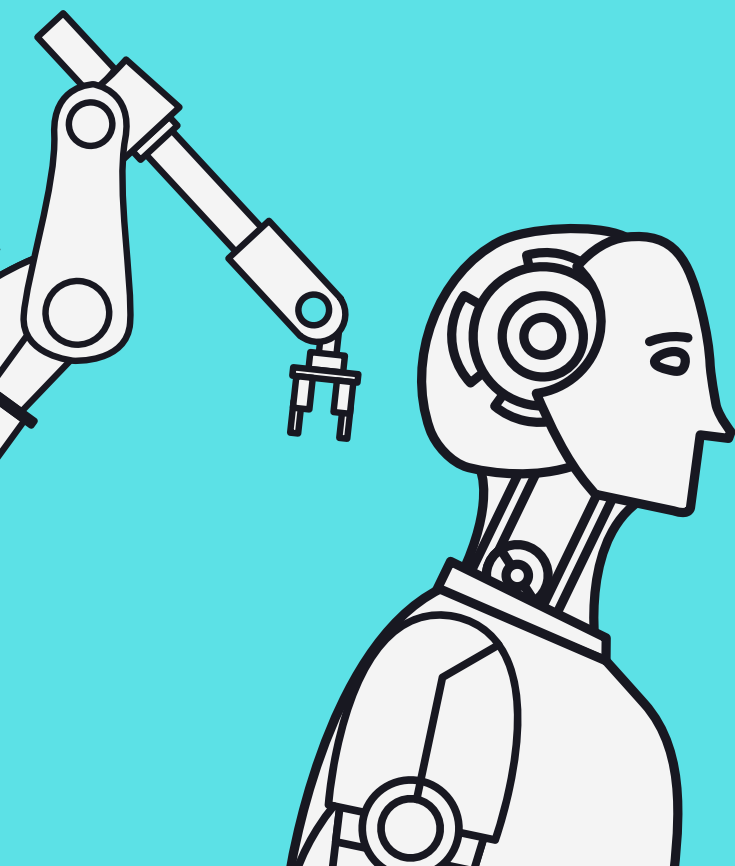
HOW HAS TECHNOLOGY CHANGED LIFE?

Technology, it's a familiar word for all now! If you ask me how technology has changed our lives I wouldn't be able to complete the explanation so fast. To me, technology has changed every single bit of living for every human. From the start of our day till the end we spend around most of the day using technology. If we talk about this particular topic we have many impacts and advantages toward it. Social media and mobile devices may lead to psychological and physical issues, such as eyestrain and difficulty focusing on important tasks. They may also contribute to more serious health conditions, such as depression. The overuse of technology may have a more significant impact on developing children and teenagers.

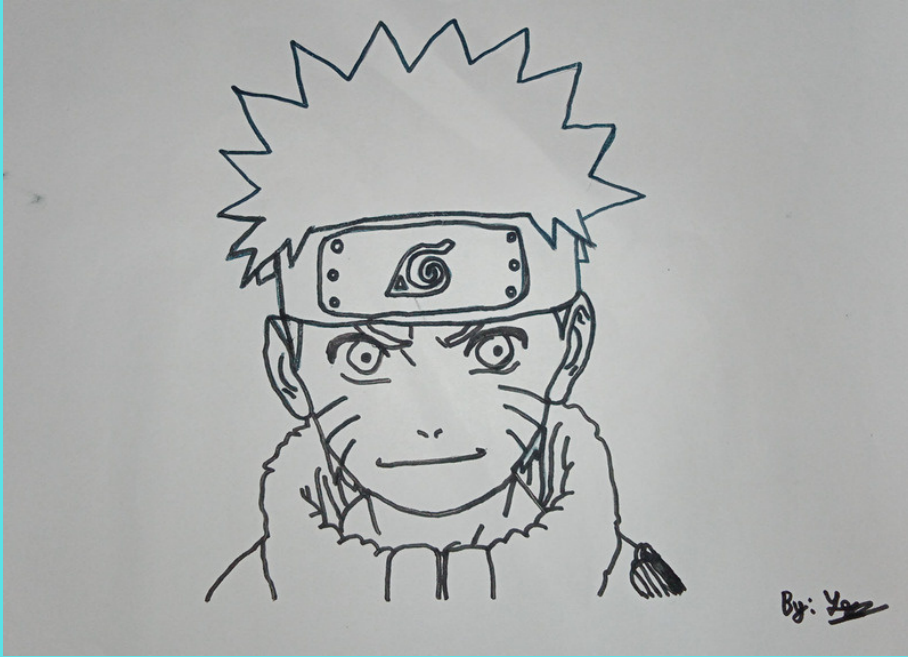
Technology affects the way individuals communicate, learn, and think. It helps society and determines how people interact with each other on a daily basis. Technology plays an important role in society today. Technology has made it easier to farm, more feasible to build cities, and more convenient to travel, among many other things, effectively linking together all countries on earth, helping to create globalization, and making it easier for economies to grow and for companies to do business. We can save time through technology with improved communication, improved manufacturing processes, and automated systems.

Computers, after all, can work with greater efficiency when compared to how a human typically works. The best advantage of any technology is that it increases the efficiency of a business process. We can perform more tasks in less time. From shared drives to emails, communication, coordination, execution, and implementation of a lot of business processes have become swift, all thanks to technology. Technology provides students with easy-to-access information, accelerated learning, and fun opportunities to practice what they learn. It enables students to explore new subjects and deepen their understanding of difficult concepts.

While some technologies are reaching maturity now, many important technologies have enormous future potential. As more of the world's information is digitized and more people and things are networked, the economics of the digital, networked economy will become ever more important.

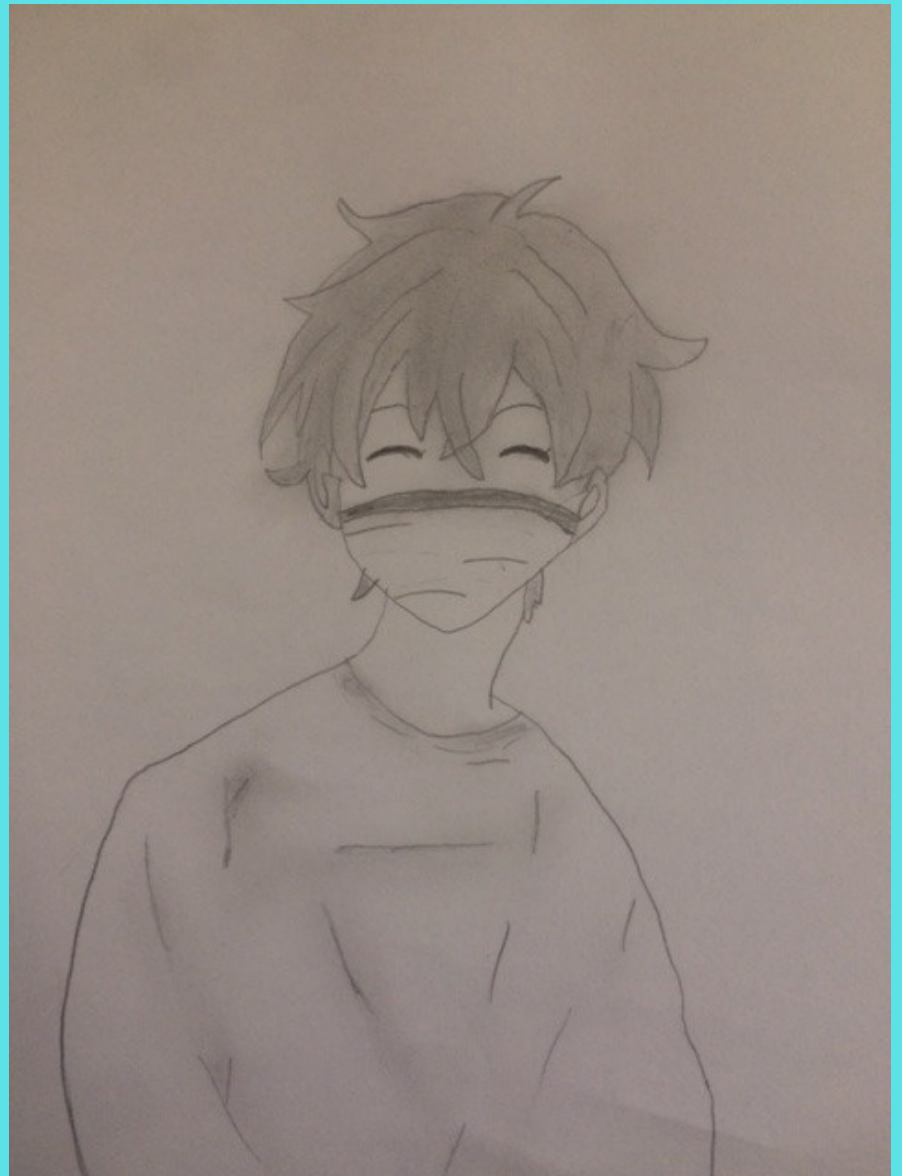


Aditii Vinod
Grade 7



Harsha Balaji
Grade 9

Nishanth Puttanna
Konanahalli
Grade 9





Matta Nihal
Grade 9



Famous Footballers - Word Search

E	P	O	G	B	A	R	W	P	H	A	A	L	A	N	D	Q	P
P	W	T	A	K	N	M	A	R	A	D	O	N	A	B	K	P	M
Q	E	B	U	A	N	F	U	S	A	L	A	H	K	Y	S	T	B
R	M	L	R	O	N	A	L	D	O	N	E	U	E	R	S	Q	A
O	L	H	E	M	O	L	E	W	A	N	D	O	W	S	K	I	P
M	U	L	L	E	R	Y	I	F	N	O	T	T	E	F	U	R	P
R	O	N	A	L	D	I	N	H	O	M	S	U	A	R	E	Z	E
R	T	I	B	R	A	H	I	M	O	V	I	C	E	G	Z	S	O
D	G	S	Y	C	B	E	C	K	H	A	M	A	O	X	H	D	D
Y	M	E	S	S	I	Z	I	L	M	E	N	E	Y	M	A	R	C
G	R	H	B	E	N	Z	E	M	A	B	R	O	O	N	E	Y	T
Z	R	I	D	J	L	U	K	A	K	U	C	R	U	Y	F	F	B

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

BECKHAM
BENZEMA
CRUYFF
HAALAND
IBRAHIMOVIC
LEWANDOWSKI
LUKAKU

MARADONA
MBAPPE
MESSI
MULLER
NEUER
NEYMAR
PELE

POGBA
RONALDINHO
RONALDO
ROONEY
SALAH
SUAREZ



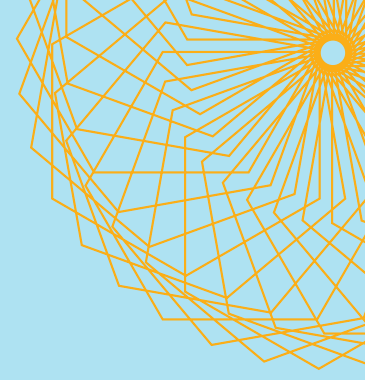
Ibrahim Yasir
Grade 9

A TURN OF EVENTS



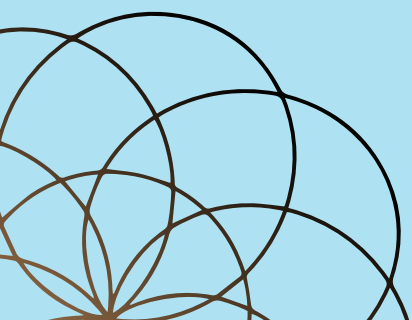
It was a Monday morning, but not just any regular Monday, it was my first day of high school. I woke up with the bright sun pouring through my window lighting up the room. Excited for a new day, I peeked out the window filled with excitement and enthusiasm as I admired the pleasant weather that felt seemingly perfect and fit for the day. I took a quick shower and rushed downstairs to grab breakfast. I waited patiently as the pan on the stove sizzled while my mother cooked me pancakes, the sweet aroma making me hungrier, getting more eager to grab a bite as time went by. I guzzled it down the instant it was served on the porcelain white plate placed next to the shiny set of silverware as the thick syrup dripped down the side of the plate. I headed out the door to walk my way over to school, the route to school was a simple walk through an isolated road. My brisk walk on a full stomach and a cheery attitude soon turned into pure anxiety.

The sudden crash, the noise of glass shattering, and cries for help all in the blink of an eye as I stood there scared and in shock, confused about what to do as I watched a man on a bike at one end of the sidewalk and a woman unconscious in a car. I stood there trembling as I tried to find my voice, I walked towards the man with the smell of blood getting stronger the closer I got. He struggled to get the words out of his mouth but he managed to grab a phone that was nearly broken and barely functioning and handed it over to me as I dialed the number of the ambulance, growing more nauseous with each ring buzzing through my ear while my heart raced quicker and my stomach churned when all of a sudden a deep and assuring voice told me an ambulance would arrive at the location soon



I then walked up to the unconscious woman that lay still in her perfectly elegant dress that was now ruined with a severely hurt wound on her arm. Soon a crowd gathered by the scene of the accident. It got louder as people moved in chaos when finally we could hear the faint noise of an ambulance arriving turn into blaring sirens with flashing lights and bold letters moving the crowd and making way.

A set of attentive and determined staff hopped out of the ambulance in hurry to help the injured. After loading them into the ambulance the crowd started to disperse as I found myself standing all alone again in the quiet, shaken up after witnessing a brutal accident when all of a sudden I felt a drop of water trickle down my hand getting more intense by the moment. I stood there watching the pouring rain wash down the bright red blood stains off of the cemented road leaving it as nothing had even happened to begin with, very much late for my first day of school.



Arya Giridhar
Grade 10

MY LIFE AND MY DISORDER



I was late again...Ugh! This is a segment of my life every day. Am I really slow at everything? Nobody should go through a phase like this. I was born with a disorder of being slow and things around me going slow. I have been getting tauntings from my parents and teachers since my childhood and sometimes got bullied by my own classmates. I had no friends since my childhood just because I was slow at everything. Doctors gave up on me and told me that it's a lifelong disorder. I am a burden to my parents and they always wanted to get rid of me. I had gone through a very harsh childhood, childhood is meant to be very sweet and filled with memories but mine was filled with dejection and no memories.

I have shifted to many schools and nobody was able to accept me the way I was. Instead, they ignored or kept teasing me. Today 13/08/15 was the last chance I have received to get into a new school. I entered the school and this was the only school that gave me good vibes. Finally, someone approached me, took her time, and was interested to talk to me. Her name was Lara and every day she accompanied me to school. I always kept getting scoldings from my teachers but she was the one who kept telling me that I can do better in everything.



It has been a few months now and Lara and I have become very close friends. As time passed things kept getting worse... Lara kept falling ill and she was missing classes. One day we were on our way to school, we were crossing the road and Lara was almost about to fall on the road but I saved her from falling. This was the fastest I have ever responded to. I was calling out for help, no one approached me. I found this shiny silver-plated case. It just struck my eyes and I realized that it was her phone.... I immediately called her parents and then rushed to the hospital. They admitted her to the hospital and took her to the ICU. I entered the room all I saw was my friend spitting out blood from her mouth and it was all over her bed. I went close to her and tried to speak with her, she tried communicating with me but I wasn't able to understand. Her pulse rate kept falling, at a point the heart rate monitor did not have any reading.

I ran out of the room, and the doctors declared that she is dead. I started screaming, kept throwing stuff and suddenly she appeared in front of my eyes. Her last words were stay strong, nothing will happen to you.

Things keep going away from me but I have decided to let myself go away. I climbed the stairs and now I am on the top floor of the building. I give up! I give up! I completely give up on my life, thank you Lara for being there for me all the time... Goodbye to this world that never accepted me...I am dying... I hope Lara and I lead a good life in heaven...



Gayathri Varanasi
Grade 10

LIVES TO TELL THE TALE



BANG! BANG! BANG!

I watched as the school shooter took a black, short gun out of his navy-blue bag and began firing at the students sitting in front of him. It seemed like time slowed down. I watched as the students started to panic and ran towards the door, ignoring what we learnt during school shooting drills.

Panic rose as the door would not open; it was locked.

I started running towards the window, hoping it would break and we would all be safe.

I crashed against the window before falling back down. Plan B failed.

BANG! BANG!

I heard two more gunshots to my right and watched as my classmates fell unconscious against the cold, hard, tiled floor.

Within seconds the bell started to ring, informing us that the police had been alerted. This seemed to annoy the shooter more as he began to shoot faster.

In a hurry, I did the most sensible thing I could think of and dipped my hands in my classmate's blood before smearing it all over my white blouse and immediately lying behind the dead bodies hoping he would not notice.

I heard as the screaming got louder, the weight of the bodies weighing me down, blood seeping through my clothes onto my freezing skin.

The odour of blood became more robust as time went by, the screams slowly started to quiet down, the weight on my body grew as more and more dead bodies were piled on.

But no matter what happened, I did not open my eyes or move.

I kept still under all those lifeless bodies until I heard nothing but silence.

I slowly opened my eyes and froze at what I saw in front of me.

A long, skinny finger dripping in blood belonging to shooter pointing at me, standing close. I blinked away my tears as my breathing got heavier.

“I knew you were alive”, he said with a grin on his face.

I watched in terror as he lifted his gun before taking out one bullet from the gun’s magazine and emptying the rest by tilting the gun.

I kept observing his actions as he inserted the bullet into the gun before pointing it to his head and...

BANG!



Naina Anumandla

Grade 10



I was late, again, for the school farewell party.

3 hours ago..... The school was over, finally! My friend Sarah and I graduated from grade 12. We were best friends since I came to this school in grade 7. I was new and did not know anybody and Sarah was the first to be my friend. That was a favorite party at school for all grade 12s and Sarah and I were going shopping for dresses to wear at the party. Exuberantly, we entered the mall. Ecstatic, that's how we felt.

The mall was huge and it was bustling with so many people. There were so many clothing stores and we went to all of them. It took 2 hours to find the perfect dress for us. Of course, we bought our dresses in our budget. Feeling jubilant, we went to the cashier and bought our dresses. My dress was burgundy with glitter and sparkles, while Sarah's dress was dark purple with flower designs and rhinestones.

After buying our dresses, we were crossing the road when a bus hit Sarah very hard. I couldn't even blink for a while, just continued giving an open-mouthed astonishment. It took me a while to digest what happened. I wanted to check if Sarah was all right and I immediately called the ambulance and Sarah's mom. Lines of foreboding were etched on my face. Burning with fury, I spewed a torrent of hot words at the bus driver. My eyes glinted dangerously and hollered at the top of my voice. I started to throw punches while giving him any offer of how dare he hit my friend and could not see properly.



Just then, the ambulance arrived. The bus driver was lucky he was not dead. While taking Sarah into the ambulance, Sarah's mom was bailing and she came but I could not go with her in the ambulance since it was too small. So I took the taxi to the hospital, but I got delayed

because of the traffic. I was late to the hospital and by the time I came to the hospital, Sarah was diagnosed with minor injuries and no internal bleeding. Sarah's mom was completely bewildered by the news. I

tried my best to comfort her. As I said with her terrifying images of Sarah not surviving started to float in my mind.

After sitting with her for half an hour, she told me to go to the party, and I did not want to go but she forced me to go so I went. I was late, again, to the party, it was awesome, everyone was having fun and there was music playing very hard, but the mood was somber and melancholic, everything appeared to be gray and bleak. That was a hole in my heart, and I was feeling down so I went home.

The next morning, I rushed to the hospital and found out that Sarah woke up and was fine. The knots in my stomach resolved a bit. I stopped twitching with no business and finally felt a little comfortable.



Pari Jain
Grade 10

A GIANT ARMADA ARRIVES




It's finally true! The first "real" sighting of aliens in the world. This happened on the 27th of February, 2021. The aliens landed on the Great Pyramid of Giza. The landing of the spaceship collapsed the entire pyramid. Luckily no one was injured.

The aliens call themselves the Nikordans. They also call themselves the Watchers of the Galaxies. The pyramid was a homing beacon set on earth by the Nikordans. The Egyptian authorities and NASA are helping with the negotiations with the aliens to understand their motives for building a beacon.

Stephen James activated the beacon along with Abdul Al Khameni. The button was disguised as a brick. They were working on King Khufu's life and instead found something that could change the course of humanity forever.

Additionally, many unheard secret agencies like the MIB, Men in Blue have been brought into the spotlight. They have been working for over half a century to contact the Aliens. The director of the MIB, Tommy Lee Smith, stated, "this is a defining moment in history. We should make the best out of it."



The UN will hold a general meeting with world leaders from all countries and the Nikordans. The leader of the Nikordans, LeCryo, told in an interview, "We..come for peace. We help prospering civilisations, and we would like to consider you all as an ally." Many also believe that the Nikordans may have these may be the God figures worshipped by people worldwide.

Their ability to adapt to any condition, heal spontaneously, and even possess immortality is genuinely remarkable. They presented us with a metal that can absorb impacts up to 2 million Newtons, still not bend an inch. This unknown element has been added to our periodic table. It will be called Vibranium.

There seems to be a talk of starting a base on earth by the aliens to station a few of their "scientists" to "study Earth." There have also been speculations of the US, China, India, Germany and Japan working on an interstellar vessel called the Enterprise. The technology may have been given by the Nikordans "interstellar warping".

President Willian Dahl stated, "The US and its allies accept the aliens as they have agreed to not bring in weapons of mass destruction into our Solar System.

"We hope to end up like Poland when Hitler invaded our homes", said the Polish President, Maria Lewandowski.

Shishir S Nambiar

Grade 10

TWITTERPATED

I was late, again. Would you not think that after doing the same thing, on the same day, at the same time, for nine years, I would not be late for once?

All this happened because of that rascal, Kumo; I had to clear up his litterbox. However, he would not even budge from his place. I could only lure him out after I opened a can of sardines.

Ah! There we go. Her face finally appears on the LED screen, as beautiful as ever. Only a fool would wait this long for a person who has completely forgotten about their existence... However, Ish was just exceptional.

I missed the last few classes at my university today. And then, I half-heartedly distributed all the deliveries. Mom would be furious. Still, I finished all my work and finally got there just in time. The suit was a little too tight and the guitar's strings had worn out. Although I knew that Ish couldn't even see me, I always dressed my best.

I started singing my song, just for her birthday.

BAM!

There's a sudden blackout and the broadcast pixelates. Right in the middle of my song, the channel switches to another advert.

Disappointed, I sit back down, lamenting my luck.

I would have to start at the very beginning. Nine years ago feels like such a long time...

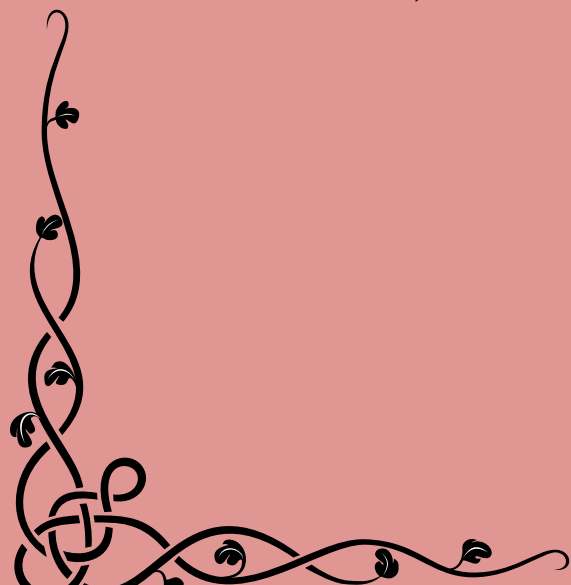
That summer was my worst year. We had just moved and I didn't know anybody. Besides, I was always a victim of bullying. However, that day was different. I was about to get another punch, when this girl who looked my age just appeared, out of nowhere.

Before I could ask any questions, I saw a flash of green. It was a cactus! The girl had punched my bully, in the face, with an actual cactus. With a sickly smile on her face, she said, "Shoo now, vile cockroach. Before I think of other ways to maim you, that is."

I could hardly believe my eyes. In the eyes of a 10-year-old-me, Ish had already become a superhero. From then on, we became the best of friends. We were an extremely unpredictable duo. She was the courageous one while I was her tail. Our world would have never actually met if it wasn't for that day.

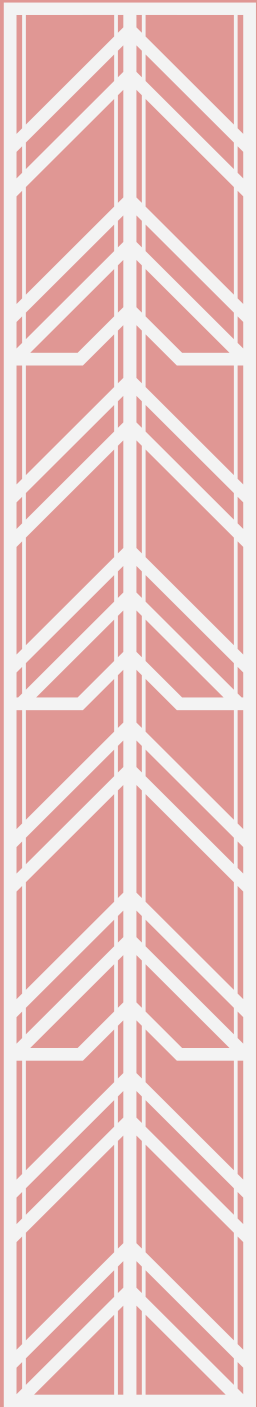
We were both very impish. Like two peas in a pod, sometimes. Our zest for life knew no bounds. We had adopted Kumo and named him together. Every year I spent with her felt like a week. Nevertheless, I was unlucky even back then. Ish's mother passed away. That was the first and only time I had ever seen Ish bawl like that. It was my turn to become her shoulder then; she always shared her worries with me. Just when we thought that everything was returning to normal, Ish and her dad had to move back to the city.

And after that, I never saw them again.



I momentarily stop reminiscing, because I realize that tears are streaming down my face. It's been nine years, but I never forgot. I always make it to our usual hangout spot, no matter what, on her birthday. I wait and wait. But she never comes. All I can do is hope.

Mahathi Mitra
Grade 10



MY MOST MEMORABLE VACATION

It was Friday when my family had a very long and amazing trip planned for my next vacation to visit Goa which was after 2 days. Why Goa? it's long known for its beautiful beaches, amazing parties and luxurious hotels. Anyways, I already had my planes listed and places to visit in Goa. the first thing was to go visit Baga Beach and see the beautiful sunset in the evening by looking at the palm trees dancing to the rhythm of blue crystal clear waves splashing, and golden brown toasted sand going in between my toes and walk down the beach with cold ice-cream by eating it to cool my heated body down. Although this was not the only thing listed there were many more.

After a long day after packing all my things needed for the trip we got ready, we decided to leave by early morning 4:00 am so that the journey will be faster. as we continued to travel we pass by old rusted buildings, tasty looking food stores, beautiful trees and noisy vehicles and many colorful birds. Finally, we reached our destination the place was filled with colors.





As we walked into my favorite hotels, unfortunately, all the rooms we booked. All the hotels near Baga Beach were too expensive so we had to search for a new hotel after wasting a lot of time we finally found a hotel with was very crowded and noisy I've been to many crowded places, such as shopping malls, bus stands, railway stations and restaurants but this place was crowdly but we did not have any choice but stay there. We got changed and rushed down to play on a beach. And although it was past 4 pm as it took a lot of time to find a hotel.

I walked towards the cold dark sky the sun glows vibrantly with delight, the intense colors fill the sky with warmth, pink grapefruits, and cherry reds detailed in the sky, very much like a brightly colored painting. As I walked on a land of gold, the sand was soft and smooth glistened as it reflects the sun's rays. As time passed The sun was setting. People are laughing and embracing under the sunset. I feel the sand squish slowly through my toes as I gaily walk down the shoreline of the Outer Banks. My all-time favorite place to be is the beach. After enjoying the sunset we returned to our rooms and we found out about the most famous restaurant Fire and Ice had a very tasty dinner as we went to taste the food unfortunately it was closed and there was a nearby street food stall with a long queue but we had no choice but wait and get our food to fill our growling stomach. After hours of waiting finally, we had a chance to feast on our food.

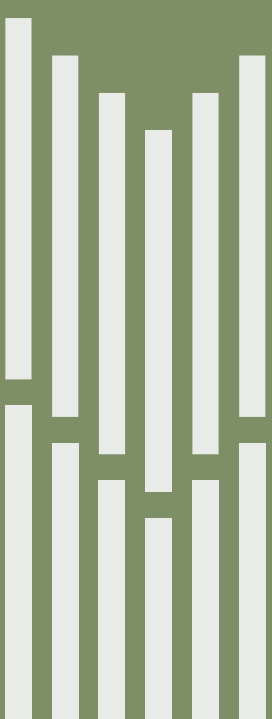


After a long tiring day, we finally arrived in our rooms to sleep it was the most peaceful sleep I have got in many days. I woke up early in the morning, the sky was bright, the birds were chirping and enjoying the cool breeze,

and the dewdrops were falling from the leaves of the plants. Later we went to a few sightseeing places in Goa. after enjoying the views we decided to go to Budget-friendly Shopping because they have the best options for shopaholics where you can buy jewelry, beachwear, handmade crafts, showpieces, boho dresses, and many things. After shopping, we decided to go to have fun in Cruises This is the best experience in Goa. Goa offers amazing river and sea cruises that will make your Goa holidays memorable. This also made my vacation the best vacation.

Yuktha S

Grade 10



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