

THE CARPE DIEM

A Splash Of Wondrous Hues



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...

What an untutored creature I was,
Able yet afraid to recognize my own flaws,
Just aimlessly playing my part...
Up roaring from within my heart
A shriek filled the hollow of my soul,
Telling me to fight against them, my emotions they stole!
I find myself in a continuous tussle with that rebellious scream,
With an innocent fear held in my mind supreme!

Then there came a light,
Just like moonlight in the dark -selenely bright,
Like footprints on the sands dry,
Which helps us fly
With a defined goal yet with freedom,
Helping our souls to blossom,
By making our lives much more **SUBLIME**...
Waking me from an endless mime,
It taught me to blend in this society,
Whilst whispering to me the concords of humanity...



As I thought about the time I have spent in our 'cool club', memories rushed in, and I couldn't contain my emotions and so did words appear from the very depths of my heart just as they would from any of my Cool Club buddies...

Cool club has always been a really inspiring place for all of us, may it be the very 'juniors, who have merely just entered the teens or the 'seniors' who are soon not going to be teens anymore... Puberty has always been a state of confusion for all of us-the one where we discover ourselves anew whilst fighting the inner 'scream' for liberty as well as suppressing the sudden outburst of emotions... At times it feels that in the twinkling of an eye we should turn into adults, free to choose our own path while at times we get a sudden urge to stop growing and revisit the past to enjoy being a pampered little devil... Cool club has really been there for all of us during all these hard times and has truly taught us to actually enjoy even this otherwise **pathetic** confusing state of puberty... It never told us what's wrong or right, it taught us to judge by ourselves... It helped us open up and today we proudly stand as 'truly' social beings... Here, I won't forego the fact that it not just taught us to live but to help others live through social outreach programs... Well, living in a stereotypical society like ours is not usually easy, but to us it is, because we can always come up here and share how we feel...

So, this year we have come up with our brand new magazine – 'The Carpe Diem'... We came up with the idea of our own magazine not only to provide a platform for our own budding artists but also to preserve our memories so that we always have these warm moments with us to press to our hearts in turbulent times... 'Carpe Diem' is a Latin word urging us to seize the moment and enjoy the present. Here, at cool club they not only tell us to live in the moment but also equip us to enjoy it while also not forgetting the future and learning from the past... We call this magazine 'A splash of wondrous hues'- hues not only being the artistic colors that intermingle in this magazine but also the various emotions that fill our lives with colors.

As you flip through the pages of this magazine, you will live through the enjoyable moments we have been in and get the enrapturing experience of a really 'cool' year that we get to live...

Bon Voyage! Since this truly is an electrifying journey...

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WORDS OF WISDOM

It's April... And all of us eagerly await this month... As we gear up for our annual performances of 'COOL CLUB'... In its 6th year... We have come a long way and we feel we have evolved along with the children in these 6 years.

It's been a wonderful journey... We began our journey in 2012. Dr. Anand Nadkarni felt the need for this informal set up to encourage children for their social-emotional development and with a dream of creating a healthy youth. He strongly felt that emotional sensitivity towards others is dying. He conceived of this idea of a club with a larger goal of retaining this sensitivity towards others. Thus, our focus has mainly been social-emotional development... But that's not all... As a psychologist, something that we all have noticed is that all of us are bombarded with information every minute... So much so that we have thousands of talking encyclopaedias around us. But talk about application! Talk about feelings and expectations (beyond voicing material needs) and that's where we realized children are fumbling... Where do they get time to think beyond studies? Where can they use their creativity, or rather even recognize that they have a creative energy?

As someone who has studied development, unstructured play- (meaning without supervision, adult direction, and structured activities) are super important for a child's development and even intelligence. However, in this rat race, setting aside time for unstructured activity is looked upon as 'waste of precious time and ability'. What children learn from so many classes are 'Skills' and yes they do... But those are acquired. What about a child's own thought process? Understanding of his own thoughts? We realized there's a fall in that! An example is children can narrate the entire Geronimo or Harry Potter series, but talk about creating a story by themselves or have a puppet show and most children are stuck. That is not to say that structured activities are not required; it simply means we realized that because of less exposure towards spontaneity, children have less ideas about themselves, their emotions and resulting poor frustration, tolerance, less acceptance of changing environment and things beyond control. Every year, an increasing number of children, adolescents and adults come to us for reasons not related to their ability. That is to say, an A grader who refuses to go to school because his teacher is slightly strict, a girl who slashes her wrist because of being rejected by her boyfriend, a 15 year old threatening to not appear for her board exams if not given an i-phone. Well, they are all brilliant, yet cannot succeed practically because their social-emotional development was never paid attention to.

Children these days do not really need formal inputs for their intellectual development, there is so much available. Mere intellectual knowledge and grades will not suffice to survive the practical life. Intelligence, albeit extremely important, is not a substitute for emotional development. If emotional regulation, socialization are not equally balanced, chances of intellectual potential materializing are slim as we saw in the above examples. The purpose of COOL CLUB, is therefore to use our knowledge of development in helping children face the outside world, build resilience and provide them a semi-structured platform to explore themselves and realize their potential and get along with people from different backgrounds and interests. Further, if they can build what we call 'empathy', there's a greater likelihood of a better world, at least around them, with fewer interpersonal clashes. Good social adjustment is perhaps the most important factor in succeeding practically as we realize that we learn and earn in a team framework and not in isolation. These children charge us and motivate to explore and test our limits. There is so much to learn from them. Our annual function is 'THE EVENT' we look forward to... such talent, perseverance, team work, leadership is evident in the process, that we love it dearly.

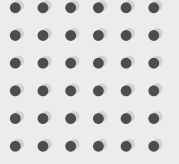
Here's a request to all parents, please do not ignore the social-emotional domain of intelligence of your child, it is of paramount importance in leading a successful life... And a heartfelt thanks to all the parents who have trusted us in our endeavour.

Regards

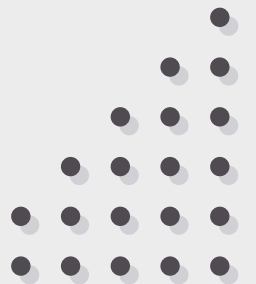
COOL CLUB Team



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AN EMOTIONAL ANTAKSHARI...

Excitement was ignited in each of us with the electrifying opening session hosted by our pillar of support, Dr Anand Nadkarni. It further pulsated with an interaction with the Artists of the film – 'Manjaa'. The Program was an Antakshari based on a blend of emotions. Through its various rounds, we aimed at unfurling the different facets of human emotions and it truly came out as a beautiful canvas with an immix of vivid emotions... The thing that we liked the most was that all the four teams had 2 professional artists but with them were two of us in each team. It covered almost the whole spectrum of human emotions... A truly enchanting experience...

GET RID OF THE STEREOTYPES...

On a daily basis, we come across so many stereotypes and their narrow-minded thoughts, that we eventually become one of them. The second session of cool club aimed at broadening this very stereotypical bias... We tend to generalize and comment on so many things... We, as Indians, tend to equate Pakistan with terrorists... We, as a part of a staunch patriarchal society, give in to so many stereotypical ideologies like the unsaid 'rule' for girls to have long hair and more height than the boys and for guys to always be proactive and stronger than the girls and thus, lose all rights to cry... But, do we ever even try to substantiate these abstract tendencies? This session taught us to not blindly follow a given idea by teaching us to distinguish between opinions, facts and conjectures through fun activities and games.

IMMUNITY TO BULLYING...

As teens, we often cannot analyze a particular situation quickly and end up in and unwanted one. This statement holds perfectly true even in case of choosing our peer group, our friends... The third session convinced us how important this decision is through a round of examples. It taught us how to make the right choice as many of us usually go where the popularity shines bright instead of the path our heart urges us to take. Many of us also have to experience bullying in our school or college life may it be verbal, physical or mental bullying. At this session, they taught us how to effectively "get rid" of it... We were taught how to remain "immune" to it and how to protect others from it... A truly helpful session for any high school teen... Well, as the editor of this magazine, I am not really supposed to give my opinions, but still this session proves to be my favorite as it was most helpful in practicality...

A HEALTHY ROUTINE...

The fourth session was the most "healthy" of all... (pun intended) It was conducted by our club's ex-member Charvak Naik. He himself is a "being fit" enthusiast and had come with an aim to convert us into fitness-obsessed healthy beings and he surely did achieve his aim. It was truly a 'cool' session with lots of health inputs. I am pretty sure this brings to you the image of a bored bunch of unfit 'students' who are dozing off in a lecture from an equally unfit man who gives tips on diets and exercise just after finishing his own hamburger... Well then, you are mistaken. This lively session included practical demonstrations of necessary exercises followed by a round of 'try it yourself'. We learnt exercises to keep specific body parts fit. The story of a 'certain' cool club member transforming from 'not so fit' to a very fit 'to be cricketer' was also inspiring.

A FEW DEEDS OF KINDNESS...

In this particular session, we all were asked to draw a figure on the given sheet of paper then we were told to crumple the paper and give it to a friend of yours.

Next, we were told to remake the paper as it was at the very start.

Nobody was able to complete this task; we learnt through this session that your behavior is just like the paper, if you behave with kindness, everyone will love to be with you.

But the other way round, if you are cruel to anyone or not kind enough, even though you are right, they think you are cruel.

It gets a bad impression on your identity. But if you do 10 good things but one mistake nobody will point it out. Their mistakes can be forgiven.

“Your behavior affects your life”

So behave well, with kindness, give respect. “Your behavior matters a lot”.

ATHRILLING GETAWAY...

Trip is something that we all enjoy to go, some fun, learn, exploration...

Like always, we had a trip on 24 December 2017 at adventure 1 zone leaving behind all the busy schedule, city apart to explore nature. We took a bus which dropped us to the beautiful place Adventure 1 zone.

We arrived there till the evening after getting our rooms we freshened up, then we all came out for playing team games conducted by the Adventure 1 staff, which everyone enjoyed it. I would never forget the hilariously amazing fashion show.

The next morning we went to do some adventurous activities such as zip lining, rock climbing and many more. All of us enjoyed.

Then after taking rest we went to play in the river water, we all enjoyed a lot. After coming back from the river we had our lunch and we were told to pack up our bags, for the departure.

On the way back home we all took the beautiful memories of adventure 1 zone; this was the most wonderful experience of my life...

DILIGENT 'NET'IZENS IN THE MAKING...

This session was a guest lecture where Mr. Unmesh Joshi a member of the Responsible Netism and owner of Bharatiya Vastra Shilpa volunteered to conduct a fun filled session on cybercrime.

In this session we learned how to use the internet responsibly. We learned about hacking, morphing and illegal sites and games along with identity theft, privacy breach, fake accounts etc.

Uploading photos, playing online games and downloading games is alright. But, the source from where we download it from is essential to know. Any excess use of any kinds of social networking should be limited. The age limit to certain games and sites should not be ignored. Befriending any unknown person on social networking sites should be avoided.

LESSONS OF RESILIENCE...

How often do we go into depression or become hopeless and confused after fights with our close ones, due to the low grades etc. In this session we learnt to be resilient to such consequences and to face the situation. We learnt various ways to calm ourselves. We were taught when to take action and when to stop.

Day in and day out we experience various emotions and it is very important to understand them. Mental resilience involves understanding why we feel these emotions and how to avoid or to be resilient to negative emotions e.g. anger, depression, sadness, etc. We learnt how to take a break effectively and gain high concentration levels in short time.

JUDGE OF MY OWN LIFE...

At every step of our life we have to take decisions.

What factors to consider while taking a decision? What would be the consequences? Would I be able to handle them? Would it affect anyone other than me?

In this session we learnt how to take decisions, responsibly and without holding any regrets. We also learnt to create innovative choices to discussion and interactive games.

We learnt to weigh our choices to learn to come up with creative innovative alternatives. And take a final decision.

AWAITING THE BRAND NEW AAVISHKAR...

Moving on to the last of our sessions, this is the most awaited event at cool club – the annual function... It is a beautiful blend of music, drama, dance as well as art... It lets our young talented performers bloom. It not only helps to get rid of the stage fear some of us have but also provides a platform to showcase our talents. Although it's practice schedules have to coincidentally clash with those of our other classes, it's an awesome experience to be a part of this program. I would make a rather strong comment by saying that the practice sessions are much more enjoyable and refreshing than the actual show and this very fact is pretty much a reason for us to accomplish the herculean feat of adjusting the timings of our classes. These very practice sessions give enough energy for us to remain enthusiastic towards all our endeavors year-round. The campus is usually buzzing with energy as some dance gracefully to the beats of the song while some are busy brainstorming names or taglines for the program, some are trying to set a piece of theatrics, some are messing with the musical notes while the most enthusiastic, smart and sincere group works tirelessly on the magazine. (Facts apart) This site itself fills us up with so much energy that the outcome is naturally good... Hoping to give a cherishable performance this year too!! Fingers crossed...



TESTIMONIALS AND EXPERIENCES

The two years of cool club was just amazing.... I have realized that I have changed a lot.... As a person. I am turned into a more confident thoda kam tension lene vali Siddhi and I have learned to prioritise things I have learned to take decisions easily.. I have evolved from a shy girl to now a more bold person... there has been a major change in my personality also it was a great fun having too... good friends. I have enjoyed a lot and learned a lot...

- Siddhi

The experience of college club for 2 years was really a splendid one. I learnt many things during the course of time it has helped me to improve my own self and to improve my personality. It has helped me to have confidence in myself and the most important of all is that I am a kind of person who is very reserved and an introvert but the sessions held at the cool club have helped me to change and now I can proudly say I am no more an introvert. This is a very recent experience of mine like in the last week I had been for a student exchange programme to Netherlands and this time I was really very confident about myself and my abilities I didn't face any problem to talk to people and share my views this I can tell is only possible because of cool club otherwise I would have been the same old myself who was always a bit hesitant to talk to people and was a bit under-confident about herself.

- Shruti

Firstly overloaded with a lot of lot of studies made my mind divert in 2 extra curricular activities. In Grade 10th I came to know about cool club and knowing about its programs I joined it I made new friends on Sunday we had exercise sessions from the coolest psychologists refresh sir thoughts by giving us activities and tasks to do. The most important thing was the cool club picnic where we learn about the constellations and of course the annual program which became self motivation for me.

- Eshan

I have been in this wonderful family of Cool Club since I was in 8th Std. I became an ex-member last year. This Cool Club family has given me so much that all of cannot be expressed in words. It has helped me grow as a person and as a responsible adult.

- Pallav

Cool club has helped me to develop a really cool self. The period of 6 years which I spent in cool club was just amazing. Its like a bag of unforgettable memories for me. Cool club has taught me to express myself freely. It has helped me to become a vocal person. The cognitive input which I gained over the years in cool club has further added to my wisdom. Over the years I have learnt many vital skills in cool club such as leadership, mentoring, co-ordination, complementing each other etc. Cool club had also given me an amazing opportunity to conduct a 3 hour session for its members, that was an awesome learning curve for a 16 year old like me. Cool club has given me many wonderful friends with whom I will share a lifelong bond of friendship. The experience of cool club has made me a richer, enhanced, more mature, more knowledgeable and truly a cool person. Finally I must say that "HAIL COOL CLUB".

- Charvak Naik

I have been a part of the cool club team for the past 6 years and have only turned out to be cooler every year. It taught me to think out of the box. I learnt to listen to what the other person has to say and learnt to mingle well in a large group. I gradually developed day by day. It was truly an enriching experience. Enjoyed a lot!!

-Yugandhar Salvi

खरं तर लिली आणि माझ्यात एक माय-लेकीचं special नातं आहे. संवाद आहे, पारदर्शकता आहे आणि मुख्य म्हणजे कुठलीही comparison ची parameters नाहीत. हे सगळं असून देखील एक पालक म्हणून वाटलं की, लिलीच्या अंगभूत उर्जेला, सकारात्मक दृष्टीकोनाला आणि तिच्यातल्या सर्जनशीलतेला योग्य दिशा आणि बैठक देणारं एक व्यासपीठ मिळावं. याचं मुख्य कारण म्हणजे Cool Club ची भन्नाट संकल्पना, त्यामागचं crystal clear thinking आणि या उपक्रमाचा non-judgmental and non-biased approach.

भौतिक सुखाच्या फुटपट्ट्यांवर समाधानाची मोजमापं करताना आपण मानसिक सुख आणि आरोग्य याकडे लक्ष देत नाही हे आपण आजूबाजूला पाहात आहोतच आणि खरं म्हणजे मानसिक स्वास्थ्य ही आजच्या काळाची सगल्यात मोठी गरज आहे.

Cool Club चा उपक्रम स्तुत्य तर आहेच पण त्याहीपेक्षा ज्या Team Work नी तो राबवला जातो त्याला दाद द्यावी तितकी कमी आहे.

लिलीला अनेक सभ विचारांची मुलं, मित्र, मुलं मित्र-मैत्रिणी म्हणून मिळाली. ताई, दादा, मावशी ही नवीन नाती तयार झाली. And she experienced a home away from home यातच Cool Club चं यश दडलेलं आहे

- दहलीयाडि 'सौझा

मला कूल वलबबद्दल डॉ. आनंद नाडकर्णी यांचेकडून कळाले.

माझी मुलगी आर्या ही आधी शांत होती. मैत्रिणींमध्ये भांडणे झाली की तिला फार वाईट वाटायचे. पण कूल वलबमध्ये घातल्यानंतर ती स्वतःचे निर्णय स्वतः घ्यायला शिकली. मित्र-मैत्रिणींना समजून घ्यायला, सांभाळायला तसेच दुसऱ्यांचे ऐकायलाही शिकली.

कूल वलबमध्ये सगळी मुले कलेकलेने शिकत असतात ही गोष्ट मला फारच आवडली. .

- समिक्षा पांडव

मला कूल वलबची माहिती डॉ. आनंद नाडकर्णी यांचेकडून मिळाली.

कूल वलबमुळे मुलांना स्वतःला express करायला एक platform मिळतो. मुले ज्या गोष्टी आईवडिलांना सांगत नाहीत त्या गोष्टी कूल वलबमध्ये त्यांच्या ताई-दादा-मावशीसोबत सहजपणे शेअर करतात.

मुलांमध्ये भरपूर positive बदल होतात. पालकांसाठीच्या सेशनमुळे आपल्यातही एकमेकांबद्दलच्या behavior approach मध्ये positive change येतो.

- महेश टेंबे

कूल वलबबद्दल मला भाग्यश्री डोंबे तसेच कूल वलब मेंबर्सची लाडकी ताई अर्थातच ऐश्वर्या नाटेकर यांचेकडून कळाले.

कूल वलबचे वैशिष्ट्य म्हणजे इथे मुलांना जे काही शिकविले जाते ते academic portion च्या बाहेरचे असते. कूल वलब टीमचे प्रत्येक सेशन नवनवीन विषयावर घेतले जाते आणि ते सेशन्स मुलांना त्यांच्या पुढील आयुष्यात उपयोगी पडतील असेच असतात.

आजपर्यंत आम्हाने कूल वलबचे एकही सेशन चुकविलेले नाही, अगदी १० वीची बोर्डची परिक्षा असतांना देखील. कूल वलबचा एक-एक सेशन म्हणजे मुलांकरिता महिन्याभरासाठी energy चा booster dose च आहे.

कूल वलबला पाठविल्यानंतर मला आभामध्ये खूपच बदल दिसले. तिच्यात खूपच positiveness आणि energy वाढली.

- अचला दीपक

आम्ही मोक्षदाला IPH मध्ये counseling साठी पाठवायचो. कूल वलबबद्दल IPH मधून कळाले. कूल वलबमध्ये टाकण्याचा आमचा छोटासा हेतू होता की तिचे इतरांबरोबरचे interactions वाढतील, कारण ती एकटी एकटी वाटायची.

कूल वलबमध्ये घातल्यानंतर तिचा confidence वाढला, stage fear गेला व प्रत्येक गोष्टीत ती स्वतःहून initiative घ्यायला लागली. आम्हाला असे वाटते की यापुढेही ती नवीन मित्र-मैत्रिणींसोबत comfortably राहू शकेल. तसेच प्रत्येक नवीन गोष्टी करतांना time management करू शकेल.

- विशाल डोंबे

मला कूल वलबबद्दलची माहिती आर्याच्या आईने सांगितली. त्यांनी सांगितले की, कूल वलबची टीम मुलांकरिता वेगवेगळे उपक्रम आयोजित करतात. येथे सगळी मुले-मुली दुसऱ्या मुला-मुलींबरोबर सहज mix होतात.

आधी केतकी शांत होती, कूल वलबमध्ये आल्यापासून ती आता दुसऱ्या मुलांबरोबर सहजपणे बोलते, मिसळते. ती आता घाबरत नाही.

कूल वलबच्या rehearsal करिता ती स्वतःहून स्वतःचे आवरण जाते.

- ऋतुजा पाटील



**HEADS UP! ON THE GO!
HERE COMES THE COOLEST CLUB EVER!!!**



PEGASUS

I went to sleep
Along with my family
And when they were fast asleep,
I crept out.

I went to a bar
Along with my friends
And when they were drunk,
I walked out.

I went to a window
Along with my thoughts
And when they turned violent,
I jumped out.

But I didn't, really.
Instead...

I went to a page
Along with my thoughts
And when they were captured,
I flew out.

So, here we present to you this
bouquet of our thoughts as they
were captured by the pages that
follow...

The Last Tears...



The day when we part...
I present to you, my friend, this emotions` bouquet,
Through this present I wish to convey,
The only emotions in my heart- fear and dismay!
I was thinking that day,
Soon you would choose your way,
That last day, I try my best to delay.
Of separating friends, time has it`s way,
And Cronos` rules we ought to obey,
Just for your evermore support I pray.
Without you wont my life go astray?
How could I tell you to my pain allay?
But now I push these thoughts away...
My tears my manliness betray!
Promise me to share the songs of our souls even
from faraway...
You may call this a melancholic display,
Or a nostalgia replay!
The love you have given I am clueless how I
can repay!
Right now in my mind replays our last hug that day...
And I cry now with much more dismay!

-Devashish Bhava

SAHIB

It was getting late enough to be worried. I once again stepped into the balcony and looked down. Except for a drenched street dog that was lying down miserably near the gate, there was not a soul to be seen anywhere. Rain water had puddled under the lamp post. A breeze ruffled the mango tree in the courtyard and a few twigs fell down and broke. Thunder rumbled in the distance. Did I hear a soft knock at the door? I turned back....with a heart-throbbing suspicion.

"Madam Ji...Chai and biscuits? Where should I keep them?" a feeble voice asked. I signaled the caretaker to place it carefully over the side table.

"Everything okay, right? Please let me know in case of any inconvenience." He could read the fear and tension on my face.

"Yeah ...Everything's fine. Thank you." I forced a smile.

Suppressing the loneliness that had engulfed my mind, I casually inquired about the vicinity of my momentary residence. All I could learn from the caretaker was that the place had once been part of a prestigious kingdom. In the late nineteenth century, it was captured by the British East India Company, which had in turn assigned a cruel and brutal merchant to exploit the farmers and plantation workers living on the fertile piece of earth. Even after independence, the land yielded a good amount of superior Arabic coffee, but was now run by the localites. I got a faint idea of the location of that mansion. Though it was encircled by thickened forest and lush, green slopes, there seemed to be a village nearby named Magundi and the caretaker Mani hailed from there.

A man nearing eighty, his spine permanently bent into a bow, he leaned his poor body on a worn out wooden staff. A major portion of his skull had gone bald, but the white strands of wavy hair that grew from the sides of his head were uniformly oiled and tied into a tiny pony-tail. A cream-ish, crisp and spotless lungi was draped around his slim waist. His sun-burnt skin was sticking onto his bones, making his ribcage more visible in his bare chest.

A sudden crackle on thunder startled me. Time passed in a few moments of silence. Then a toothless smile broke over the brown moon as he politely asked me, "Will you give me your order or should I wait for Sahib to arrive?"

The first question that aroused in my mind was "SAHIB?who is this person? How does Mani know about him?" My heart wanted to interrogate but my mind spoke aloud "No. Thank you. I'm not hungry." I wasn't aware if had offended him but he left with a simple "Okay".

I shut the door behind me as he left and steadily treaded towards the balcony which was as huge as a verandah. The trodden road was stranded.....not a single living creature in sight. Night fell and the sky blushed purple. Even though the tapping of the raindrops on the roof had reduced, there was a faint drizzle around. The sky was embedded with dark, clashing clouds which completely hid the shining moon making the flickering lamp-post, near the gate, the most luminous source of light for the night.

"This could be the most terrifying or the most surprising day of my life." I thought as I sat back in the easy chair at the entrance into the balcony, cuddling myself into a fluffy blanket.

Being a doctor by profession, I led a very hectic life in the hustle and bustle of Mumbai city. According to me, fighting the traffic at Crawford market to reach G.T. hospital is a tougher job than actually handling frantic patients at the government hospital. Obviously, I didn't expect a good job just after graduation but the traffic had never bothered me so much. I desperately needed a break from this routine.

The break was certainly going to come.

One Friday afternoon, my best friends from school, Sharon and Dhvani descended into my dingy cabin like Almighty's cherubs bringing in the sweet request to accompany them on a Goa trip. My eyes lit up with excitement just as any other medical graduate's eyes, on hearing the magical word 'GOA'.

A month later, we stepped onto the Dabolim airport like queens, fully charged to trek and travel by the day and party at clubs by the night. But on the second day itself I was tortured by a hangover. However, my two pals shamelessly went to a beachfront restaurant for a lavish lunch with some boys.

While I lied on the couch with an intense head ache and an abdominal agony, the door of my hotel room flung open. Sharon and Dhvani entered. Sharon buzzed something while Dhvani blushed. The next hour was spent in portraying the lovely charm of those men but I was the least interested person to hear that. The most peculiar vibe that I received from the two was that they were plotting something for me, secretly.

After enough of sugarcoated praises, a sudden jet of searing pain sprang in the middle of my forehead. I couldn't help the tears that ran down my cheeks. "Oh God! I have to get rid of this". I fell onto the couch and immersed my head into the cushion. Dhvani handed an aspirin to me and Sharon uncontrollably exclaimed "There is a surprise for you tomorrow, Darling".

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I only have a faint recollection of what happened then. I knew that I was travelling along a coiled route at twilight. The infant and subtle sunrays warmed my palms but I was too weak to come out of that absurd trance. The next moment I was unconsciously walking only with a supporting arm by my side. The fragrance of the wet mud cleverly blended with shrill notes of the cuckoo that wafted in the air. I felt being seated on a chair, a nurturing hand caressing my hair which soothed me.

The next moment I was solely shaken by a bolt of lightning followed by a shuddering clank of thunder. I got up from the chair in the living room and walked up to the balcony. No living creature in sight. I frantically searched for my cell but it wasn't there. The room smelt of old ebony which I found enchanting. I looked at myself in the majestic mirror that I was facing. I found myself adorable in the cute, floral dress I was wearing.

A POEM ABOUT ME...

I am about as certain as I can be,
That all of us, to some degree
Have things that even we don't see,
I wonder what I am yet to know about me.
I know I am not the person that I will be tomorrow,
Nor the me for the past,
Shaped by the days that followed,
I am here in the moment, that's all I can say about me...

-Abha Deepak

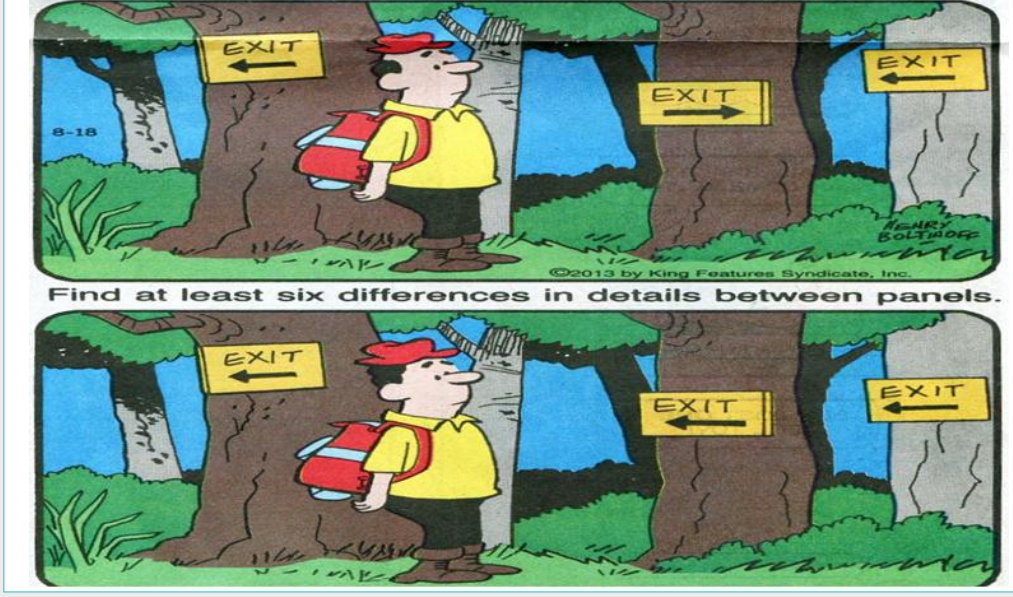
SPENDING MORE WON'T MAKE YOU HAPPY

The growing materialism in the society is leaving a profound impact on the younger generation. They are growing up in an environment which creates a desire to acquire all that is in their capacity. It has changed children's perspective towards life. For them, materialism is happiness. They pester their parents to fulfil their demands for electronic gadget, even though there is no genuine need for the same. Children want these in order to impress their friends. Materialism makes one greedy. One tends to show off what he or she has and is embarrassed if he or she does not have something that others possess. The world has become a place for competition where everyone aims to be ahead of others. Youngsters need to understand that money does not bring happiness. It is more important to be content. One needs to have values, friends and family's love and support to lead a happy life

-Mihika Kunte

Puzzle

Hocus focus



मराठी शब्दकोडे:

१	२		३		४	५		६	७
८			९	१०			११		
१२		१३				१४			
	१५			१६					
१७		१८	१९			२०		२१	
२२					२३			२४	२५
		२६				२७	२८		
२९	३०				३१		३२		
	३३			३४					३५
३६				३७			३८		

आडवे शब्द: (१) खुले आम, उघडपणे (४) दह्याचे पेय (६) उद्देश ठेवून काढलेली संस्था, जूट, समुदाय (८) गेह, गृह (९) बाग शिंपण्यासाठी पाटाचे पाणी बागेत साठविण्याचा खड्डा (१२) स्थावरजंगम संपत्ती (१४) फाळणी (१७) धातूचा द्रव (१६) नाटकात भूमिका साकारणारा (१८) मनाचा बदलत राहणारा कल (२०) बंधनातून मोकळा केलेला (२२) गवंडी (२३) मुलीची वा मुलाची मुलगी (२४) गुळाची ढेप (२६) काहीतरी बिघाड आहे असे काही (२७) दुस-याच्या दुःखाने हळहळणारा (२९) हाताचा तळवा (३२) कुंपण (३३) बाजारातील द्रव्याचा खळखळाट (३६) धान्य (हिं) (३७) कपोल (३८) सुती वा रेशमी सुताने वस्त्रावर केलेले वेलबुटीचे काम.

उभे शब्द: (१) प्रभू रामचंद्र (२) अटीची भाषा (३) शेत कापणीनंतर शतात उरणारा गाळसाळ (४) रागविस्तार (५) मांसाचा एक प्रकार (७) लोकवस्तीतील भयाचे वातावरण (१०) गुन्हेगारीची पार्श्वभूमी असलेल्यास विवक्षित क्षेत्रातून घालून लावणे (११) एकसारखी बडबड (१३) वंश, औलाद (१७) सतेवर कोणी नसल्याने राज्यात माजलेला गोंधळ (१९) हातात हात देऊन मैत्री टढ करणे (२०) मृताच्या आप्तेष्टांनी पाळावयाचे दुःख (२१) शिस्त मोडणा-यांच्या विरोधातील कायद्यानुसार इलाज (२७) रेली (२६) राकस सरोवरात उगम असणारी एक नदी (२८) शेराचा आठवा भाग (३०) मांडणी (३१) भारतावर आक्रमण करणारी एक जाम (३४) प्लास्टिकची हवा भरून खेळण्याचे साधन (३७) समर्थ.

Puzzle

GO FIGURE OUT

	-		×		18
+		×		÷	
	+		÷		4
×		+		×	
	+		+		17
27				18	

2 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figure given at the bottom & right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is from left to right & top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank square & use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY:

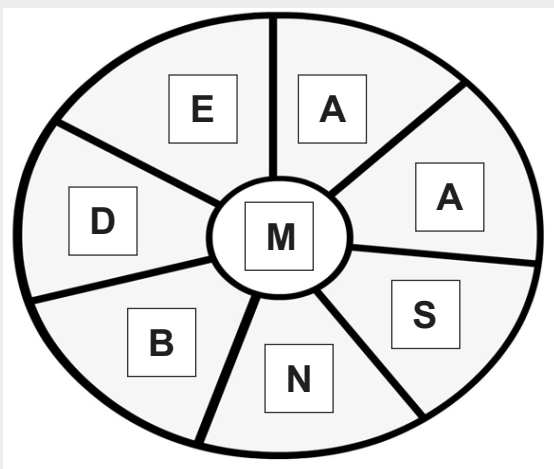
* Moderate ** Difficult *** GO FIGURE!

SUDOKU SLOVER

			2	6		7		1
6	8			7			9	
1	9				4	5		
8	2		1				4	
		4	6		2	9		
	5				3		2	8
		9	3				7	4
	4			5			3	6
7		3		1	8			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes....

BULL'S EYE



How many words of three or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

FAST FIVE

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given? One letter has already been entered to get you started. On your marks get set.....

ACROSS:

- 1 APHIS
- 6 ZIG MO
- 7 NU ZIP
- 8 ALIEN
- 9 STEAD

DOWN:

- 1 AS AUG
- 2 IN PAN
- 3 TIZZL
- 4 SLIME
- 5 HEP DO

The Root Of All

Man needs orientation in time,
Inspire by the origins sublime,
Being molded by nature and culture,
Drifting towards a hopeful future,
Yet glancing back into the past,
Into the dark and mysterious shadows time has cast,
Brooding over that which is lost,
Rejoicing the success crossed,
'History', the root of all,
On which we stand today, gigantic and tall!

I have always found history very interesting. From the big bang theory, to the migration of humans, to the evolution of various cultures, to the seven wives of king Henry the eighth, to the fat man and little boy (the nuclear bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki), to Trump's favorite fat boy today (Kim Jong Un). All this always seems to be very fascinating to me.

People say that history is nothing more than merely a starting point. But I differ in opinion. I feel that it is a clock that we use to tell our political and cultural time of the day. It is a compass that we use to find ourselves on the map of human geography. It tells us where we are, but more importantly what we must be. Henry Longfellow once said and I quote-

**Footprints that perhaps another,
Sailing over life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing shall take heart again.**

As he says, history is a source of inspiration for most. Well, people equate a history class with those mundane periods where they teach us nothing more than Indian independence. But that is because our syllabus is restricted to a small patch of bushes on the huge Amazon of history. I am really privileged to have gotten history teachers who have made the subject interesting for me. Here, I am trying to make it as interesting for you.

If we delve deeper into the subject, we come across many amusing instances which make the subject much more intriguing.

Napoleon was once attacked by rabbits. He ordered them to stop but in vain. Finally, he had to climb up a tree waiting to be rescued for 3 hours.

No one really knows who invented the fire hydrant. Any idea why? Because its patent was burned in a fire. Officially, the longest war throughout history was fought between the Netherlands and the isles of Sicily which lasted from 1651 to 1986. Any guesses how many lost their lives in this 335 years long battle...? There were no casualties at all! Similarly, many mysteries like the lost city of Atlantis, the 'bog' bodies, the crystal skulls, Shakespeare's authorship, the 'wow' signal and the lost colony make the subject truly enthralling.

The part of history I enjoy the most is mythology and linguistic anthropology. The critical, psychological as well as scientific analysis of the various phases of history, make the subject enjoyable. There is a Swedish power metal band called 'Sabaton', which teaches history through its music. Their album on World War 2 has actually inspired this article. I think even we should take up such creative efforts. Why? To constantly remind us of our, the ones on which we shine today; to remind us of the solid foundation laid by our ancestors because of which we have come to be what we are today.

- **Devashish Bhawe**

A Social Devil

Social media is a platform where you can express your opinions, suggestions and feedbacks in a greater, better way. Twitter, Facebook and Instagram are some of the social media network systems.

Social media was created for one primary purpose, that the whole world could come together to discuss anything, such as petty thefts, pickpockets, and the way we can stop such people, anytime, as social media (and usually all applications) is open for everyone any time. Social media could be called 'the door that can never be closed... One which has an everlasting journey ahead'!

But, alas! Every coin has two sides. While all this proved to be the benefits of social media, the growth of addiction to social media is just like a teaspoon extra of salt in a dish everybody has been waiting for. Once you stick to it, there's no turning back. Social media, especially Twitter and Instagram, have been misused greatly. Twitter is used to troll, while Instagram creates addiction. Besides the fact that looking in the screen for too much time is bad for your eyes, addiction is far worse than that. Once this habit of being constantly on social media sticks to the core, it is dangerously risky and will take a tremendous amount of hard work to overcome this addiction.

Social media is also being used for cyber bullying, cybercrime, identity morphing and hacking. Just because we get something new, for a purpose, doesn't mean that we take it for granted. These statistics are shocking: 34% children of the world are prone to cyber bullying. While only 4% of those actually report it, the remaining 30% do not mention it and continue to get bullied. Bullying can be stopped. But, that sense of responsibility to tell your parents, 'Yes, I am getting bullied by a stranger online' cannot be fitted inside your head by somebody else. Teachers and parents can only teach you moral values, but it is up to you to accept the knowledge that has been passed on and move ahead. Children sometimes hesitate to be truthful to their parents. Thoughts like, 'Will mom scold me?' and 'Oh no! Now I feel so afraid to tell anything to my parents' do linger around your mind when you have done a terrible mistake, especially in cyberspace.

Be safe, don't be dangerously curious. Curiosity is one of the main reasons to lead into horrible sites and disgusting pictures and videos. Do not befriend strangers on social media, especially Facebook. Keep the maximum amount of security to any account you have. Befriend parents on social media. Do not accept friend requests by unknown people. And please share all your experiences and problems, whether in cyberspace or in real life, with your parents. They're the people who know you the best in this world and, believe me, they will answer whatever question you have.

So, coming back to the question 'Would you prefer a world with or without social media', I believe it is not the invention itself that is bad, but the misuse of it is bad. With a few precautions as discussed above, we will be in a position to use social media for the right reasons.

-Shravas Melarkode

Ten Commandments Of Good Health

1. Wake up early in the morning and go to bed early in night.
2. Sleep for at least 7-8 hours.
3. Have at least 4-5 meals everyday. Do not skip your regular meals.
4. Have a balanced a diet which provides you sufficient amount of all vital nutrients.
Avoid eating junk food, fried food and binge eating.
5. Exercise properly for at least an hour everyday. Exercise all parts of your body properly. Do not over exercise.
6. Practice yoga and meditation regularly to relax your body and mind.
7. Maintain good physical activity throughout the day, activate, move and stretch your body regularly.
8. Improve your peace of mind and be mentally as well as emotionally stable.
9. Indulge in only those professional activities/careers which you love, job/career satisfaction is one of the keys to good health.
10. Always be happy, have a positive attitude, try to learn new things and most importantly have a reason to live long.

– **Charvak naik**

The Black Beauty



Gliding through the air, in her ponderous flight,
A warm shelter that she longed, was out of sight.
She could feel the ache in her womb, it needed motherly care
A nest? The protocol barred her and even she didn't dare.

Suddenly, the shrill clamor of a crow astounded her
She realized that her complexion matched with that feather

She shadowed the bird as it returned to her nest and seeing chirping babies
Yes, this home was the best.

At the crack of the dawn, the crow discovered a yellow egg.
Trembling and shaking as it was, she kicked it with her egg.

Engulfed in mysterious gloom, tearing of the egg membrane it popped out to see the world.
It was difficult for her to handle the overflowing joy, to invite another cute bird.

The dam seated on the branch affection emerged as a tear
Only if she was admitted she could have held it near
But fighting back all her emotions, she followed her terrain.
The satisfaction of giving it a secured home, drove out mental pain.

In the cozy haven did the little bird sing,
The crow was amazed to see such a different thing
While the brother and sisters found it too eccentric
And there was encouragement by the crow, it's better than basil,

Days passed but its tender wings remained strengthless
While the other fetched out food, it was compelled to stay helpless,
But a hand of aid was extended to it
The crow thought it to toil but not to quit.

It enforced itself, flapped ready to venture into the sky
Soon it lost might unable to fly high
But a sternest look from the tutor frightened the little soul
After months of training a practice, it flew up a tall pole

The pacing years running, appeared like a glance
A petty creature had matured into a nightingale to take her own stance.
The natural disposition on of fledging came in as a sudden guest
Parting away, she said to the crow, "I love you ma'am, you are indeed the best"
-Ananya Mavinkurve



Inspirational

It is easy to understand failure
But it is a whole different ball game
To actually take responsibility
Instead of passing the blame
Every new day is an opportunity
To be accountable for your past
Realize, that if you don't take charge,
Chances are that you will finish at the last....

-Abha Deepak

Bleeding Mountain

Now I live
Inside a cave
On the side of a mountain.

I had once jumped off the cliff
Sometime in the past.
But I didn't fly, SPLAT!
Red stains on green grass

I sat, since then
Inside the cave
On the side of the mountain.

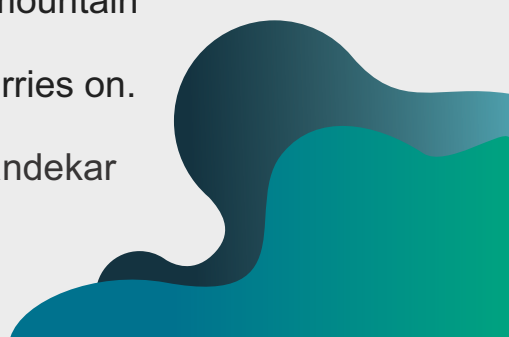
One day,
A beautiful creature
Entered the cave, to bring me

out.
She gave me her wings
So I can fly out.
And when I was in the sky,
I looked down and found
She was destroying my cave.

I threw her off the cliff
After I burnt her wings, SPLAT!
Red stains on green grass.

I see her in the mountain
Next to my own.
And the cycle carries on.

- Pallav Khandekar

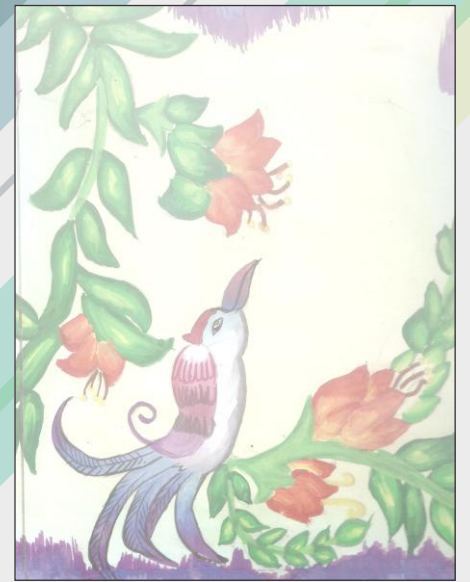




- Shriya Joshi



- Mokshada Dombe



- Atharva Vaidya



- Ninad Athavale



- Shreeya Mhatre



- Ninad Athavale

एक ओला दिवस

एका सुरम्य सकाळी, पेपर वाचून झाल्यावर प्रकाशने सवयीनुसार कोट व टोपी चढवली. चप्पल घालण्याआधी आज पाऊस पडणार, असे त्याला पेपरमध्ये वाचल्याचे आठवले. जवळ जवळ वीस मिनिटांनी त्याला शेवटी त्याची छत्री सापडली. ती घेऊन तो निघाला. पावसाची काहीच विन्हे नव्हती. लख्ख सूर्यप्रकाश, पक्षांची गाणी पण झाडे मात्र सुकली होती. गरम वातावरणात पृथ्वीसुद्धा, वाळवंटात पाण्याच्या शोधात वणवण फिरणाऱ्या माणसांसारखी झाली होती. प्रकाशचा लेखक मित्र, विनय उपमा देत म्हणाला, “ही पृथ्वी नामक प्रेयसी त्या पाऊस नामक प्रियकरास भेटण्यास खरीच आतूर झाली आहे.”

प्रकाश, विनय आणि त्यांचा मित्र, अजय रस्त्यावरून चालले होते. आज त्यांच्या आवडत्या गायिका, वर्षाजींचा कार्यक्रम होता. अजय सतत प्रकाशची छत्री आणल्याबद्दल थट्टा करत होता. “मे महिन्याच्या सुरुवातीस कुठे पाऊस पडतो?” अजय हसत विजयला टाळी देत म्हणाला पण प्रकाश चिडला नाही. अजयच्या ह्या चिडवण्याची त्याला सवय झाली होती. आता ते दोन शेतांच्या मधून चालले होते तेवढ्यात त्यांच्या कानी एक ओळखीचा मोहक व मंजूल आवाज पडला. “नभ मेघांने आक्रमिले तारांगण सर्वही व्यापूनी गेले ||” त्यांनी वर पाहिले तर खरंच ! अख्खं आकाश काळ्या कापसांनी भरले आहे असे वाटत होते. त्या स्त्रीचा मधूर आवाज पुढे गातच राहिला. वीजेच्या लख्ख प्रकाशाने ते काळे ढग चमकले.

“कड कड कड कड
शब्द करोनी,
लखलखता सौदामिनी |
अति विरहीत जन,
व्याकूल झाले ||
नभ मेघांने आक्रमिले ||”

त्यांनी तो आवाज लगेच ओळखला. ती गाणारी स्त्री, अजून कोणी नसून, त्यांची आवडती गायिका वर्षा होती. तीसुद्धा तिच्या नेहमीच्या हिरव्या साडीत, पर्स आणि छत्री घेऊन चालली होती. तिचे लक्ष आजूबाजूच्या सुकलेल्या झाडांकडे व केविलवाण्या झालेल्या पक्षांकडे गेले. तिने गाणे बदलले, जणू निसर्गाला साद घालत ...

“येरे घना, येरे घना |
नहाऊ घाल माझ्या मना ||”

आणि जणू काही निसर्गराजाने तिची हाक ऐकली आणि त्वरित वर्षा सुरु झाली. ते थेंब जेव्हा पिकांवर पडले तेव्हा ती पिकं ताजी झाल्यासारखी डोलू लागली. झाडे शक्य तेवढे पाणी पीत होती. पक्षी त्या पाण्यात स्नान करून ओले विंब झाले होते. वातावरणातील गरमी नाहिशी झाली. प्रकाश त्या गाण्यात व निसर्ग बघण्यात इतका रमला होता की, अजय त्याला गदागदा हलवेपर्यंत तो भिजला होता, ह्याकडे लक्षच गेले नव्हते.

अजय आणि विनय छत्रीखाली राहून न भिजण्याचा प्रयत्न करत होते. पण अर्धे भिजल्यामुळे त्यांनी तो नाद सोडून दिला. प्रकाशचे लक्ष वर्षाजीमागे चालणाऱ्या पुरुषाकडे गेले. तोही इसम आपल्यासारखाच वर्षाजींच्या गाण्याने खेचला गेला आहे असे त्याला वाटले. वर्षाजींनी त्यांची साधी छत्री उघडली होती. त्यांच्यातही निसर्गासारखाच साधेपणा होता. तेवढ्यात अजय प्रकाशची थट्टा करत म्हणाला, “बुवा, बुवा आमचे भविष्य सांगा ना! तुम्हाला काही विन्हे नसतानाही कळले ना की पाऊस पडणार आहे म्हणून! बाबा, आम्हाला शरण घ्या.” प्रकाशने त्या थट्टेकडेसुद्धा नेहमीसारखा काणाडोळा केला. आता त्याला वर्षाजींच्या हिंदी गाण्याचे बोल ऐकू येत होते. तेवढ्यात विनयने त्याची कल्पना सांगितली, “ह्या पाऊस राजाला हा वारा हवा घालत आहे. त्याच्या आगमनाची वार्ता वीज देऊन गेली. आता झाडे त्याच्यासाठी पक्षांच्या गाण्यांवर नृत्य करत आहेत.”

वर्षाजींचा कार्यक्रम नंतर त्यांनी ऐकला. ते त्यांना भेटू शकले. पुढे विनयने केलेल्या कवितेवर वर्षाजींनी चाल लावून गाणे केले आणि ते प्रसिध्द पण झाले ! पण ह्या सऱ्या पेक्षा त्या एका पावसाने प्रकाशच्या अंगातील आळस धुवून काढला होता आणि त्या पावसाने प्रकाशला वर्षभर जगण्याची प्रेरणा दिली.

-देवाशिष भावे

मलासुधदा काहीतरी करायला जमते....

विराज ८ वीत शिकत होता. स्वभावाने शांत, रिमंतहास्य करणारा आणि मनमिळावू होता. वर्गात सर्वांशी त्याचे चांगले जमायचे. पण स्वभावाकडे कोण बघतो. सगळे फक्त परिक्षेतील मार्कच बघतात.

विराज अभ्यासात साधारण होता. ७९ ते ८० टक्क्यांमध्ये असायचा. ८ वीत आल्यापासून सगळ्यांनी त्याला अभ्यासाची आठवण करून द्यायला सुरुवात केली. ८ वी हा १० वीचा पाया आहे, इतरांच्या मार्कांचा दाखला द्यायला लागले. एवढ्या मार्कांनी तुझे काही होणार नाही. अजून जोरात अभ्यास करायला पाहिजे.

शाळेच्या अभ्यासासाठी वलास, स्कॉलरशिपच्या परिक्षेसाठी वलास, विराज सगळीकडे जात होता पण त्याला स्वतःसाठी वेळच मिळत नव्हता. वलासच्या परिक्षेत कमी मार्ग पडले. त्याचा आत्मविश्वास कमी व्हायला लागला. शाळेच्या युनिट टेस्टमध्येही मार्क ५०% वर आले. घरून आणखीनच उपदेशाचे डोस मिळायला लागले.

विराजलाही कमी मार्क मिळाल्याचे वाईट वाटले. तो तर अभ्यास करत होता. असे का होते आहे हे त्याला कळेना. आधीच शांत असलेला विराज गप्पगप्प रहायला लागला. इतरांशीही कमी मिसळायला लागला. घरी असल्यावर मोबाईलवर गेम खेळण्यात वेळ घालवायला लागला.

शाळेत त्याच्या वर्गशिक्षिका कोळीबाईनी विराजमधला हा फरक टिपला. विराज आता मागे मागे राहतो हे त्यांच्या लक्षात आले. मग वर्गात आल्यावर काहीतरी निमित्ताने त्या त्याला हाक मारू लागल्या, त्याच्याशी बोलू लागल्या. त्याचा आत्मविश्वास कमी झाल्याचे त्यांच्या लक्षात आले.

विराजला पुढे आणण्यासाठी बाईनी त्याला वर्गाचा मॉनिटर केला. त्यांच्या शाळेची लायब्ररी छान होती. कोळीबाईनी वर्ग दोन गटात विभागला. एक गट विराजकडे सोपवला तर दुसरा गट वर्गात नेमही पहिला येणा-या मुलाकडे सोपला. या दोघांना आपापल्या गटातील मुलांना पुस्तके द्यायची होती, लायब्ररी कार्डावर त्याची नोंद करायची होती, वेळेत पुस्तके परत घ्यायची होती, त्याचीही नोंद करून नवीन पुस्तक वाचायला द्यायची होती. थोडक्यात लायब्ररी चालवायची होती.

विराज तसा मनमिळावू असल्यामुळे त्याने सांगितल्यावर मुले पुस्तक घेऊन जायची. तो सगळ्यांशी बोलत असल्याने पुस्तक कसे वाटले यावर बोलणे व्हायचे. एखादे पुस्तक खूपच आवडले तर ते सगळ्यांना वाचायला हवे असायचे. मग गटातील मुले पुस्तक पटकन वाचून, वेळेच्या आधी परत करायची. यामुळे जास्त मुलांना ते पुस्तक वाचायला मिळायचे. अनेकदा वाचलेल्या पुस्तकावर गटातील मुलांची जोरदार चर्चाही व्हायची.

एकदा पुस्तक बदलून घेण्याच्या दिवशी विराज लायब्ररी कार्ड व नोंद करायची वही पाहता होता. शेजारीच दुस-या गटाची जबाबदारी असलेला हुशार मुलगाही त्याचे काम करत होता. विराजचे त्या मुलाकडील लायब्ररी कार्ड आणि नोंदवहीकडे लक्ष गेले व त्याला एकदम आश्चर्य वाटले. कारण त्या गटातील मुलांनी फारशी पुस्तके नेलीच नव्हती व वाचलीच नव्हती. त्यामानाने विराजच्या गटातील मुलांनी कमीत कमी १० पुस्तके वाचली होती. हे पाहिल्यावर विराजच्या मनात एक वाक्य आले, “अरे! हे तर मला जास्त चांगले जमले.” तोपर्यंत त्याला असे वाटत होते की, हुशार मुलांना सगळेच चांगले जमते. आपण काही हुशार नाही म्हणजे आपल्याला तितके चांगले जमणार नाही.

पण आता विराजला जाणवले की आपल्यालाही काहीतरी चांगले करता येते. मार्कांचा आणि एखादी गोष्ट करण्याचा काहीही संबंध नाही. एखादी गोष्ट नीट केली की आपणही ती चांगली करू शकतो. आपल्यातही काही चांगले गुण आहेत.

हे जाणवल्यावर विराजला खूप छान वाटले. आत्मविश्वास वाढला. प्रोत्साहन द्यायला वर्गशिक्षिका कोळीबाई होत्याच. मग त्याने अभ्यासही नीट कसा करता येईल याचा विचार सुरु केला. स्वतःहून समजून घ्यायचा प्रयत्न करू लागला. स्वतः प्रयत्न करू लागला. स्कॉलरशिपची परिक्षा दिली. वार्षिक परिक्षा दिली. रिझल्ट लागला. विराजला ८५% मार्क मिळाले. त्याला तर आनंद झालाच पण आईवडिलही त्याची प्रगती पाहून खूप झाले. मग त्यांचे डोळे लगेच ९० टक्क्यांकडे लागले.

आई-वडिलांनी विराजला एका मोठ्या, नामांकित, टॅब वगैरे देणा-या वलासमध्ये ९वी - १० वीसाठी घालायचा निर्णय घेतला. त्यांची फीसुधदा भरपूर होती. वर्गशिक्षिका कोळीबाईनी विराजचे कौतुक केले. त्याच्या स्वभावाचे कौतुक केले. आई-वडिलांनी कोळीबाईचे आभार मानले आणि त्या या प्रसिध्द वलासला घालण्याचा निर्णय सांगितला.

कोळीबाईनी विराजच्या पालकांना बसायला सांगितले. त्या म्हणाल्या की तुमचा मुलगा संवेदनशील आहे. त्याच्याशी संवाद व्हायला हवा. मोठ्या वलासमध्ये तो हरवून जाईल. त्याला स्वतःहून अभ्यास करायला वेळ मिळणार नाही. मग तो पुन्हा आपला आत्मविश्वास मगवेल. त्यापेक्षा त्याच्याकडे वैयक्तिक लक्ष दिले जाईल अश्या वलासला त्याला घाला. तिथे तो आपल्या अडवणी व प्रश्न विचारू शकेल. त्याला स्वतःहून अभ्यास करायला वेळ मिळेल.

कोळीबाईपुढे म्हणाल्या की तुमच्या मुलाचा स्वभाव ही त्याची ताकद आहे. त्याच्यात खूप चांगले गुण आहेत. परिक्षेतील मार्कांवरून त्याची किंमत ठरवू नका. त्याचा आत्मविश्वास टिकला की त्याची कामगिरी निश्चितपणे होणार.

विराजचे आई-वडिल विचारात पडले, कारण वलासवाल्यांनी त्यांना मोठमोठ्या यशाची चित्रे दाखवली होती. विचारांती त्यांना कोळीबाईचे म्हणणे पटले. विराजला अनुरूप असा वलास शोधू या असे ठरवून ते तिथून निघाले.

विराजला या सगळ्यांचा पताच नव्हता. कारण तो मित्रांसोबत गप्पा मारत होता. तो तर याच आनंदात होता की, मला सुधदा काहीतरी चांगले करता येते.

Recipes

Here are a few recipes fresh from the kitchen of our young yet very talented chef
– Abha Deepak

Paneer Frankie

Ingredients:

- 150 gms Paneer, crumbled
- 1 cup whole wheat flour Salt for seasoning
- 1 tbsp oil
- 1 tsp ginger paste
- 1 large tomato, chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 tsp garlic paste
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp coriander powder
- ¼ tsp kashmiri red chili powder
- Serving: Green Chutney, Chaat Masala and 4 tsp finely chopped onions

Method::

- Mix whole-wheat flour and salt.
- Add sufficient water to make a firm dough and leave it aside for 15 minutes covering it with a damp cloth.
- Take a non-stick pan and add oil.
- Heat the pan and add tomatoes, onions, garlic and ginger paste, turmeric powder, chili powder, salt, coriander powder.
- Stir and cook until the excess moisture has dried completely. Add [lemon juice](#) and paneer. Mix well and turn off the heat.
- Divide this mixture into four equal parts and keep them aside.
- Divide the wheat flour dough into four parts and make four rotis.
- Place each of the rotis on a non-stick tawa and cook on low heat drizzling oil from the sides until both the sides are cooked evenly.
- Spread the green chutney on the roti and then one portion of the paneer and vegetable mixture on it.
- Sprinkle chat masala and finely cut onions over it and roll the roti into a Frankie.
- Serve wrapped in aluminum foil.



Triple Chocolate Mousse

Use of both dark and milk chocolate in this recipe makes it more interesting for the kids. Preparation is easy and quick and with practice, you can add your own twists to the taste according to the liking of your children.

Ingredients:

- 200 gms dark chocolate, grated
- 200 gms milk chocolate, grated
- 200 gms white chocolate, grated
- 1 tbsp powdered sugar
- 1 ½ tsp gelatin dissolved in water
- 2 cups whipped cream

Method:

- 1 Melt the three chocolates in three different bowls by keeping them in the microwave for a minute.
- Mix the three chocolates in one bowl and again heat them in microwave for a minute.
- Take out the bowl from the microwave, add sugar powder and whisk.
- Add gelatin and whisk finely.
- Finally, add whipped cream and mix.
- Transfer the content in small serving bowls and place in the freezer for an hour.
- Serve cold.



Cheesy Garlic Naan

• Ingredients

- Mozzarella cheese grated as required
- Processed cheese grated as required
- Garlic chopped as required
- Refined flour (maida) 3 cups + for dusting
- Salt 1 teaspoon
- Baking powder 1½ teaspoons
- Castor sugar (caster sugar) 2 teaspoons
- Butter 2 tablespoons
- Coriander leaves chopped, 2 tablespoons + for sprinkling
- Milk as required
- Melted butter for coating



Method

Step 1

Preheat oven to 180° C.

Step 2

Sieve together refined flour, salt and baking powder into a bowl. Add castor sugar, butter, garlic, 2 tablespoons coriander

leaves and some milk, mix and knead into a semi-stiff dough.

Step 3

Divide the dough into equal portions and roll out into a 6 inch diameter disc. Pull it from one end to give it an oval shape.

Place it on a baking tray and brush with some melted butter.

Step 4

Sprinkle mozzarella, processed cheese and coriander leaves on the naans, place the tray in the preheated oven and



Schitz

He looked in the mirror
And saw his shell.
The person inside,
He thought he knew well.

Then he heard a crack
And he heard a shatter.
No longer he saw the shell,
His eyes filled with water.

The room became blurry,
He grabbed at the wall,
His head spun around,
He was afraid he would fall.

When the confusion subsided,
In the corner he sat.
Broken glass on the floor
But he didn't mind that.

Because he had forgotten
How this came to be.
On his knuckles there was
Only glass and blood to see.

-Pallav Khandekar



A Feminist At Heart...

Girls are considered inferior to boys .

We are the people of the 21st century but still our mentality remains backward and conservative .even today, people discriminate between girls and boys are given more facilities, treats and opportunities than girls . Today girls are everywhere – in sports, entertainment world, politics, astronomy, etc. But still they are inferior to boys.

Even today every girl is not asked whether she wants to get married or wants to pursue her career. While growing up she is told that she belongs to somebody else.

It is proven that girls mature at a younger age than boys but still they do not get the right to take decisions for themselves. Don't they know what is good for them?

Every year women's day is celebrated on the 8th of March. People promise that they are going to protect and respect women and girls. Yet, here we are today with no change in this society. I need not remind you all of the recent incidents of harassment of women and girls and if I do have to, the number of them that occur here in India are countless.

Why does a girl have to every time go by the rigid norms of this society?? Why does she have to toil day and night and still not get the credit?? When a boy washes a utensil, he is hailed as a feminist... why? Isn't it his duty too? But at the same time if a girl fights for her rights, she is labelled as "arrogant". Why? Doesn't she have the same right to express herself just as the boys do? There are so many answerless questions... Yet, I have decided to put them all aside and rather do what I can to actually help the society "Develop"!

- Lily D'Souza

Life



Life...

A new day is here,

Look, the sun is up,

With a clear blue sky,

Smile because it's a new day,

As all the wishes in the mind you lay,

Don't think about yesterday, because its gone;

Think about today, because its today that matters,

Have a wonderful start this and every morning...

-Abha Deepak

From The Fact File...

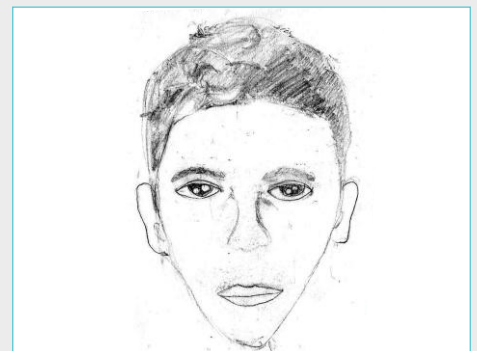
- Banging your head against a wall burns 150 calories an hour (Trying at home is subject to copyrights)!
- Cherophobia is a fear of having fun!
- If you consistently fart for 6 years and 9 months, you produce enough gas to create an energy of an atomic bomb!
- In 2015, more people were killed from injuries caused by taking selfies than by shark attacks!
- Nearly 3% of the Antarctic glaciers is made of penguin urine!

A treat to the brain...

There are three errors in this paragraph... Study it carefully and see if you can find all of them.

If you have a pair of non-homogenous ropes, one burning whole in 60 minutes in totality and you are to measure 45 mins with just a lighter as your equipment, how do we accomplish this task?

Caricatures



Team

Fact Master & Mind Bender – Devashish Bhav
Caricature Artists – Atharva Vaidya, Ninad Athavale

Puzzle Answers:

GO FIGURE OUT

4	-	2	×	9	18
+		×		÷	
5	+	7	÷	3	4
×		+		×	
3	+	8	+	6	17
27		22		18	

2 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

SUDOKU SLOVER

4	3	5	2	6	9	7	8	1
6	8	2	5	7	1	4	9	3
1	9	7	8	3	4	5	6	2
8	2	6	1	9	5	3	4	7
3	7	4	6	8	2	9	1	5
9	5	1	7	4	3	6	2	8
5	1	9	3	2	6	8	7	4
2	4	8	9	5	7	1	3	6
7	6	3	4	1	8	2	5	9

BULL'S EYE

Amen, Mad, Base, Man, Beam, Mane, Mean, Name, Samba, Same, Seam, Seaman, Beam mane.

BULL'S EYE

ज्या	चे	ना	व	ते		गा	ल	गुं	ड
चे		च	र		भा	व		जा	र
पो	ह	रा		भा		क	द	र	
ट	क		चा	म	चो	री		व	ग
दु		पा	व	टा		ते	ल		ण
खे	ळ	ग	डी		नि	रा	ग	स	
ल		ल		प	र	व	ड		न
तो	र		जू		स	न		घा	व
ओ	स	री		ज	न	क	वी		घ
वा	द		क	था		री	त	स	र

FAST FIVE

1	A	2	P	3	I	4	S	5	H
6	G		I		Z		M		O
7	U		N		Z		I		P
8	A		N		I		L		E
9	S		A		T		E		D

Hocus Focus:

1. Bushes are large. 2. Arrow is reversed.
3. Tree limb is missing. 4. Sign is lower.
5. Hat is larger. 6. Man has more hair.

Answers of riddles:

Riddle 1 - their, errors, three

-Light one of the ropes at both the ends and simultaneously light the second rope at one end.

The rope lit from both the ends will take 30 mins to burn. Once it burns completely, light the second rope at the free end. When the second rope burns completely you have measured 45 mins.

VERONIKA DECIDES TO DIE

by Paulo Coelho

Greetings to everyone! I am going to review the book that has inspired me. The book is “Veronika decides to die” by Paulo Coelho. Shocking, isn't it? Yes, but it has given me the courage to be MAD. I still remember the day when I accompanied my mother to buy groceries. The supermarket was packed with people and the sound of chatting and squeaky trolley wheels filled the shop. Taking a step forward I focused in the display in front of me. An abundance of fruits and vegetables lined the shelves which portrayed an array of vibrant colors that could put a rainbow to shame. The fruity fragrances of citrons, berries and grapes tempted me to delve deeper into the aisles beyond. Walking across the smooth marble floor, I noticed the barely audible song wafting through the air, talking of the importance of life. Then a question aroused in my mind. Was life a mere illusion and if it wasn't, then were we sent on this earth simply, as we leave for the heavenly abode with nothing in hand.

The next day I found a book in the school library. It wasn't an attractive cover page but the title evoked interest and mystery. As I flipped through the pages, I realized that all my answers lay in that book.

The book introduces us to a young woman, Veronika who has everything she wishes for.... Pretty looks, a loving family, a steady job and many lovers, but she notices the lacking portion of life and takes an overdose of sleeping pills expecting death to swallow her but finds herself in a mental asylum where she is told that she only has a few days to live. The story follows Veronika through these intense days as her experiences lead her to question the whole idea of life before she comes to realize that every second of existence is a choice that we make between living and dying. Every night she plays the majestic piano in the assembly hall when most of the patients sleep but the enchanting notes draw an audience of just one person, Eduard, a schizophrenic. She finds a capability in him to live again and a soulmate too. She realizes that life is about being the fountain that overflows, not the cistern that merely contains. Madness is the free state of mind. Be crazy, but learn to be crazy without being the centre of attention

Let me relate an example of a strange beggar. The pedestrians brushed past him as he sat on the edge of the skywalk. Some of them rushed off with their office bags, making way through the dense crowd, while some sighed a breath of relief after climbing a fleet of stairs. Below the bridge, lay the most populated platform of the station and the shrill, alarming hoots of the arriving train were capable of startling anyone. But, this man was lost in his own world.....setting his mind free like a bird....unaware of his surroundings. His matted, brown hair and long, tangled strands of beard made him look like a sage but his face failed to have the heavenly glow. His torn, white shirt was dusted and his black trousers were patched with some red rags. He squat with arms folded, soaking himself into a rhythm created by the hurried footsteps of the people chasing their dreams. He was interrupted by a group of street children demanding balloons from the vendor standing beside him. He just had twenty rupees but he bought each of them a balloon and was left with nothing. One would call this madness. Yes, he is crazy but craziness to him is spreading love and generating smiles.

We all have a hidden spirit, willing to fly like a bird but we follow others preach us. You are someone unique, but you chose to be like everyone else? That in my view is a serious illness. God chose you to be different. Then why do you disappoint Him? You have two choices, to control your mind or let your mind control you.

- Ananya Mavinkurve



BLOOMING YOUNG LOVE

When I see you
Out of the corner of my eye.
I turn to look at you,
Then I look away.

I cannot decide
If I should run away,
Or maybe run towards you.
On my place I stay.

I look at you again
And see you looking back.
My brain just goes numb
And goes haywire

- Pallav Khandekar

So much fear, I had
Never felt in my life.
I see you coming over.
It's too late for flight.

Then you come to me
And say, "Hi, what's up?"
I say, "Nothing".
And you probably walk away thoroughly disappointed.
As you are while reading this ending.

I love you? I fear you? A bit of both.

JUST LIKE THAT...

Plop! Down falls a huge blob of my chocolate ice cream. It's a shame because even before I manage to eat two bites of my ice-cream, the ice cream cone sees to it that my ice cream falls off...

You know I think I should get the "noblest person ever" award because by the time I am done with my ice cream, I have fed my clothes, the floor below me, my shoes and even my hair without me eating even half of it! See how generous I am!!

My parents though, seem to have done PHD or masters or doctorate in eating an ice cream... Yet, although they know how to eat the ice cream like pros, they always end up complaining about their increased calories.

But I don't think I will ever learn how to eat an ice-cream properly. But just IN CASE I learn to eat an ice cream properly, I am afraid, the floor, clothes, shoes and my hair won't get their share!

-Saloni Malkar

13 REASONS WHY??

ENLISTED BELOW ARE THE 13 COOLEST REASONS WHY WE CALL IT THE "COOL" CLUB:-

1. No one here judges the other; at least if one does judge someone, he is not allowed to voice his thoughts...
2. Only constructive criticism is permitted here; creates an automatic magnetic field around the club, which attracts all of us there, irrespective of their weaknesses...
3. A member always knows that everyone here is there for each other; so if we are going through a rough patch, we always have the cool club where we can unburden all our problems and get really practical solutions...
4. The coordinators here are really understanding and caring and help us sail through any situation...
5. The cool club sessions are based on the reality, and cover the areas which truly concern an adolescent and for that matter any individual of this society... They not only make us aware of the problems surrounding us, but also teach us to apply what we have learnt in practicality...
6. While conducting its sessions, cool club keeps in mind that we are adolescents and not merely "kids"; so their sessions are truly based on the problems of us teens...
7. The cool club sessions are semi-formal in nature; although we have the liberty to express our thoughts on any matter being discussed, the sessions are well structured and thought out...
8. While we, at cool club, keep up with the modern trends, we do not forget our old mannerism and thought...
9. A very Hot temper and fluctuating emotional and thought flow is characteristic of a person going through puberty; This club helps us cool it down and gives that chaotic thought flow a direction
10. The Cool Club has its own annual function, which provides us with a platform to showcase a wide variety of talents that we possess...
11. Well, the fact that cool club publishes such an amazing magazine, itself proves how cool this club is... Facts apart, it gives scope to budding writers through this magazine...
12. The fact that ex-cool club members are just as welcoming here is truly pleasing to members like me who are going to soon pass out from this club...
13. And most of all, all the cool club sessions take place in either air conditioned or well ventilated halls keeping us truly "cool"... The juices they serve us in the annual day practice sessions are truly a cool relief in the summer month of April...

