

# VUCA

## CHRONICLES

### UP ABOVE THE WORLD SO HIGH

Article by : Avni Sethi, Grade 7, SNS Faridabad



## RICHARD BRANSON

1st billionaire founder of a space company to travel to the edge of space.

**V**olatile **U**ncertain **C**omplex **A**mbiguous

## Up Above the World so High

By Avni Sethi, Grade 7, SNS Faridabad



"I really hope that there will be millions of kids all over the world who will be captivated and inspired about the possibility of them going to space one day."  
– Richard Branson, Founder, Virgin Galactic

Billionaire Sir Richard Branson has successfully reached the edge of space on board his Virgin Galactic rocket plane on 11th July 2021. The UK entrepreneur flew high above New Mexico in the US in the vehicle that his company has been developing for 17 years.

The trip was, he said, the "experience of a lifetime". He returned safely to Earth just over an hour after leaving the ground. "I have dreamt of this moment since I was a kid, but honestly nothing can prepare you for the view of Earth from space," he said in a press conference following the



flight. "The whole thing was just magical."

The trip also makes him the first of the new space tourism pioneers to try out their own vehicles, beating Amazon's Jeff Bezos and SpaceX's Elon Musk.

The height reached by Sir Richard in the rocket plane, known as Unity, was 85km (282,000ft; 53 miles).

The businessman was accompanied on the mission by the vehicle's two pilots, Dave Mackay and Michael Masucci, and three Galactic employees - Beth Moses, Colin Bennett and Sirisha Bandla.

Sir Richard billed the flight as a test of the space tourism experience he expects to begin selling to customers from next year.

"I've had my notebook with me and I've written down 30 or 40 little things that will make the experience for the next person who goes to space with us that much better," he said.

"The only way sometimes you can find these little things is to get in a spaceship and go to space and experience it for yourself."



It's been a long road for Sir Richard to get to this point. He first announced his intention to make a space plane in 2004, with the belief he could start a commercial service by 2007.

But technical difficulties, including a fatal crash during a development flight in 2014, have made the



the space project one of the most challenging ventures of his career.

Unity is a sub-orbital vehicle. This means it can't achieve the velocity and altitude necessary to keep it up in space to circle the globe.

The vehicle is designed to give its passengers stunning views at the top of its climb and allow them a few minutes to experience weightlessness.

Unity is first carried by a much bigger aeroplane to an altitude of about 15km (50,000ft), where it is released.

A rocket motor in the back of Unity then ignites to blast the ship skyward. The maximum height achievable by Unity is roughly 90km (55 miles, or 295,000ft). Passengers are allowed to unbuckle to float to a window.



The spaceplane continued zooming upward along a ballistic trajectory, giving Branson and company a chance to briefly unstrap, float about the cabin and marvel at the spectacular view as Unity reached its maximum altitude of 53.5 miles — three-and-a-half miles above what NASA and the FAA consider the "boundary" of space.

Live video from inside the spacecraft showed Branson and his crewmates floating free of their seats and enjoying the sensation of weightlessness, not to mention the out-of-this-world view.

As Branson floated around in microgravity, he taped a message using cameras onboard the space plane: "To all you kids out there — I was once a child

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with a dream, looking up to the stars. Now I'm an adult in a spaceship...If we can do this, just imagine what you can do," he said.

Unity folds its tail booms on descent to stabilise its fall before then gliding home.



Branson became the first person to blast off in his own spaceship, beating Bezos by nine days. He also became only the second septuagenarian to go into space.

"It's a whole new horizon out there, new opportunities, new destinations," said former NASA astronaut Chris Ferguson, who

commanded the last shuttle flight 10 years ago. He now works for Boeing, which is test-flying its own space capsule.

"This is really sort of like the advent of commercial air travel, only 100 years later," Ferguson added. "There's a lot waiting in the wings."

It's a whole new adventure out there for kids like us, who have always dreamt of going into the space and touching the stars.



## Richard Branson

By Rianna Mahajan, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



Sir Richard Charles Nicholas Branson born on 18 July 1950 is an English business magnate, author, investor, adventurer and commercial astronaut. He started his company, virgin group which now controls more than 400 companies in different fields.

Branson struggled with dyslexia as a child and at the age of 16 dropped out of high school to start a magazine called student. It was not as successful as he hoped, so he started a mail records service to fund the magazine.

In 1972 he started the company which would be the

foundation of his career, virgin records. Virgin signed controversial bands, which other companies were reluctant to sign. It also won praise for exposing the public to such obscure avant-garde music.

In 1984 he bought his first ever flight and renamed it virgin-airways. He helped it to grow into a large, successful business. Soon after, he sold virgin records to fund his airline service, "Virgin Atlantic".

From the year 1994-1995 he launched virgin cola, virgin vodka, virgin cinemas and virgin direct and by the 1990s the Virgin group comprised some 100 businesses.

He then formed a space touring company in 2004 called virgin galactic which was making commercial passenger flights to space. In 2006 he sold virgin mobile while still being the largest shareholder of the company.

Branson's love for adventure was no less than his skill in business. In 1986 he was part of a two-man team that set a record for a powerboat crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. In 1987 he and Per Linderstand became the first team to cross the Atlantic Ocean and 4 years later in 1991 cross the Pacific Ocean. In 1998 they were joined by Steve Fosset and together they became the first group to fly over Asia in a hot air balloon.

On 10 July, 2021 Richard Branson achieved the dream he had since 2004, he took off for space with 5 crewmates from his Virgin Galactic space-tourism company. They ended up experiencing 3-4 minutes of weightlessness and even saw Earth's curvature before safely reaching back here.

With all success comes failure, in fact Branson was great at dealing with failure, he once said, "I suppose the secret to bouncing back is not only to be unafraid of failures but to use them as motivational and learning tools... There's nothing wrong with making mistakes as long as you don't make the same ones over and over again."

## Space Race or Business Race

By Pratyasha Agrawal, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



*Jeff Bezos*

*Richard Branson*

Richard Branson, 70 had been planning this trip for 17 years, it's not an ordinary one, it's a trip to space! He took off from New Mexico in a double-fuselage aircraft nicknamed Eve after his late mother, with two pilots and three employees.

The VSS launched itself from the "mothership" aircraft on July 11, from the VMS Eve at an altitude of approximately 50,000 feet. This is the first private company to ferry



people to test space journeys for civilians. He plans to conduct two more test flights before opening space tours for the public.

Amazon's Jeff Bezos is not far behind; he plans to depart on July 20 from West Texas aboard Blue Origins' Shepherd Capsule. He is taking his youngest brother along.

So who wins this space race?

Billionaire Branson cruised to an altitude of 50 miles however, he did suppress the Karman line- the official boundary between the upper atmosphere and space.

But he surely won the space race for being the first to go and test space journeys for civilians. Both Branson and Bezos plan to open space tourism for civilians.

Virgin Galactic plans two more test flights this

summer and fall before inviting customers. The initial tickets cost around \$250,000

Astro-Entertainment

-Wasn't all that enough before the first movie on ISS (international space station) is being planned out. Actor Yulia Pershina, 36 already landed on a role last month.

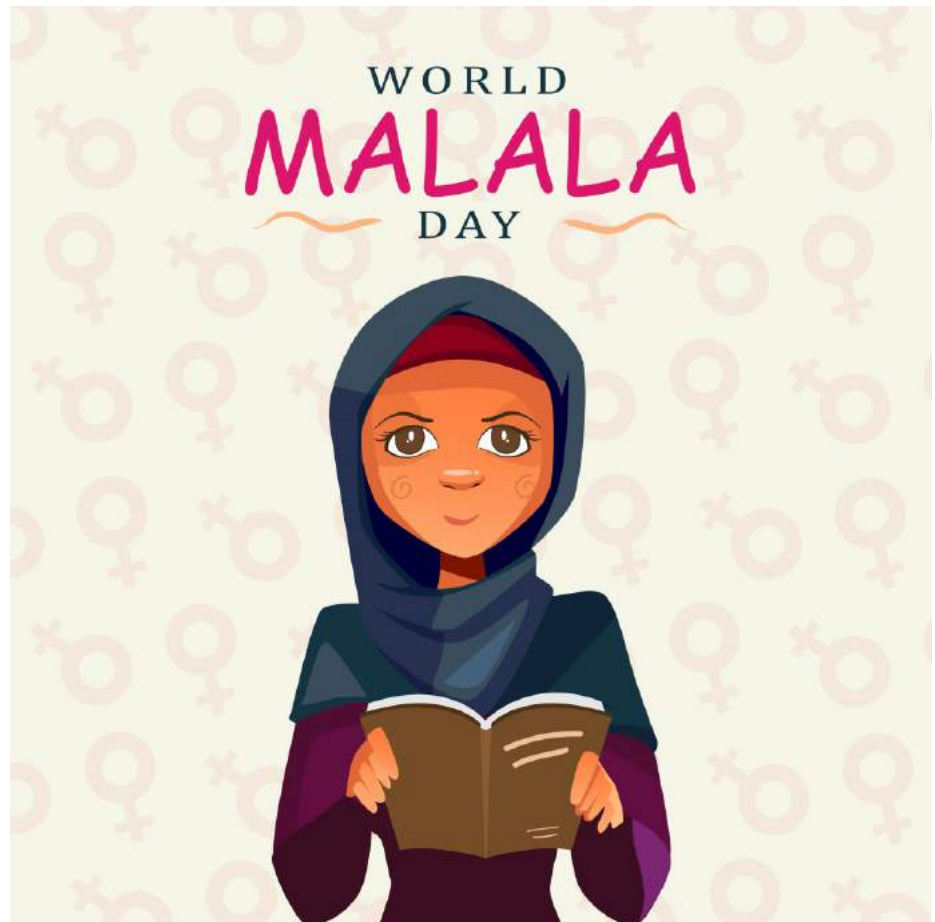
She will be joining director Klim Shipenko for the standard cosmonaut training before heading to space in October. Not left far behind, Actor Tom Cruise and NASA are planning on collaborating for an ISS film of their own.

-Japanese fashion and retail mogul Yasuko Maezawa plans to document the filmmaking for the first movie on ISS.

-Discovery is starting auditions for its 2022 show - Who Wants to Be an Astronaut? The contestants will have extreme challenges. The grand prize is a ticket to future Axiom space trip and 8 days on board in the ISS.

## World Malala Day

By Ajuni Kaur, Grade 6, SNS Noida



Let us make our future now, and  
let us make our dreams tomorrow's reality."  
- Malala Yousafzai

**Malala was born in Pakistan on July 12, 1997. Malala loved school until 2008; everything suddenly changed when the Taliban took control of their town in the "Swat Valley".**

**They banned many things like owning a television, radio,**



playing music, and much more. They gave harsh punishments to those who would not obey them. **The Taliban even announced that girls could no longer go to school, which means no education for them even though girls should have all the rights to go to school and be educated.**

Yousafzai was only 11 and she did not know if she would ever meet her friends again. In 2012, things became worse. **While coming back home after an examination, Malala was shot in the head by the Taliban.**

She was unconscious for a long time in Rawalpindi. **She was transferred to the "Queen Elizabeth Hospital" in Birmingham, UK, when her health improved.**

In 2013, (her 16th birthday), she highlighted her focus on the right to education and women's rights and gave a speech at the UN. After

months of surgeries, **Yousafzai settled in the UK with her family and became the activist for the "Right to Education", received the Nobel Peace Prize in December 2014, and became the youngest-ever Nobel laureate.** In 2018, Malala began studying Economics, Philosophy, and Politics at the Oxford University.

Later in 2020, Malala graduated from Oxford University, being grateful that she completed her education. **Now, the female education Activist aims to fight for the right to education and equality.**

**At Malala's 2013 speech at the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon pronounced July 12th – Yousafzai's birthday – 'Malala Day' in honour of the young leader's activism to ensure education for all children.**

## The Undaunted “Gul Makai”

By Daksh Malik, Grade 6, SNS Noida



“One child, one teacher, one pen and one book  
can change the world.”

~Malala Yousafzai

Now you might be wondering who is “Gul Makai”? Well it was actually **the secret identity for world renowned social activist Malala Yousafzai** who fearlessly fought for women's right to education & **whose life was forever changed at the age of 15 by a Taliban bullet on 9th October, 2012.**



A girl with great potential was born on 12th July, 1997 in a city named Mingora, the largest city in Swat Valley, Pakistan.

Her father Ziauddin Yousafzai named her after the Pakistani folk hero Malalai of Maiwand; because she was one of the few Pakistani women he could think of who had been granted her own identity. She is Malala Yousafzai.

Swat Valley once took pride in being called “The Switzerland of Pakistan” & when Malala was born it was still peaceful. Her father was a social activist and an educator, who established and administered the school she attended in the city of Mingora & encouraged her to follow in his path.

Young Malala was always precocious, confident, assertive, a person with the drive to achieve something in life. She always wanted to become educated and empower herself with

**knowledge.** It was this future that was threatened when the first signs of Taliban influence emerged across Pakistan in the years after 09/11/2002 attack and the US-led invasion of Afghanistan.

In 2007, when Malala was ten years old, the situation in the Swat Valley rapidly changed for her family and community. The Swat valley, once a vacation destination, was invaded by the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

The Taliban began to control the Swat Valley and quickly became the dominant force throughout much of northwestern Pakistan. **Girls were banned from attending school, there were edicts against education and cultural activities like dancing and watching television were prohibited.** Suicide attacks were widespread. By the end of 2008, the Taliban had destroyed some 400 schools.

On September 1, 2008, when Yousafzai was 11 years old, her father took her to a local press club in Peshawar to protest the school closings, and she gave her first speech— “How Dare the Taliban Take



**“Away My Basic Right to Education?”** Her speech was publicised throughout Pakistan. Towards the end of 2008, the TTP announced that **all girls' schools in Swat would be shut down on January 15, 2009.**

Determined to go to school and with a firm belief in her Right to Education, Malala stood up to the Taliban along with her father. **This was a dark time in Malala's life; her city was in chaos, and she felt unsafe in her own town.** She didn't feel comfortable wearing her school uniform, since the uniform was a sign that she was being educated, and in the Taliban's eyes it was an evil act.

She could not imagine a life limited to the four walls of her house and never be herself. **The Taliban's unfair orders were the bane to her dreams of education.**

In early 2009, her father received a call from his

old friend, a BBC reporter, who wanted to help him find a young schoolgirl who could write about her experiences under the Taliban.

**Malala volunteered herself for this work and began writing a regular diary in Urdu. She used the fake name “Gul Makai,”** (the name of a heroine from a Pashtun folk tale) which means "cornflower," to conceal her identity since the reporter warned her that it might be unsafe to use her real name.

She wrote about a great number of topics and criticised the requirement that all women wear a burqa, arguing that women should be allowed to choose their own clothing. **The BBC published Malala's diary and translated it into English under the title “Diary of a Pakistani schoolgirl”.**

Malala's diaries were published for 10 weeks and it stopped when she with her family left the Swat valley before the launch of a military operation in May 2009. That was the end of her association with the BBC blog.



After the Pakistani army regained control of Swat, Malala was able to return to Mingora later in 2009. Her father decided to disclose her real name when he nominated her for an international peace prize.

**Malala began appearing on Pakistani TV news channels under her real identity, named as the girl behind the BBC Urdu blog against Taliban.**

In December 2011 she was awarded Pakistan's first National Youth Peace Prize (later renamed the National Malala Peace Prize). **She was also nominated for an international award and made several public appearances as a campaigner for girls' rights to education.** Her fame spread far beyond Pakistan.

Malala resolved to not “rest on her laurels,” and decided to continue looking for new ways to help those who were suffering and to start an educational foundation whose goal was to

provide free education for homeless children.

**Once her identity was known & she began to receive widespread recognition for her activism, this led to exposing of the teen Malala to the risk of life by the pernicious Taliban; not everyone supported and welcomed her campaign to bring about change in Swat.**

On the fateful morning of October 9, 2012, 15-year-old Malala Yousafzai was seated on a bus heading home from school, Malala was talking with her friends about schoolwork. Two members of the Taliban stopped the bus.

**A young bearded Talib asked for Malala by name, and fired three shots at her.** One of the bullets entered and exited her head and lodged in her shoulder. Malala was seriously wounded. **That same day, she was airlifted to a Pakistani military hospital in Peshawar and four days later to an intensive care unit in Birmingham, England for her brain surgery.**



The incident prompted protests, and her cause was taken up around the world, including by the UN special envoy for global education, Gordon Brown, who introduced a petition that called for all children around the world to be back in school by 2015. **That petition led to the ratification of Pakistan's first Right to Education bill. In December 2012, the Pakistani President announced the launch of a \$10 million education fund in Yousafzai's honour. About the same time, the Malala Fund was established to support education for all girls around the world.**

Malala recovered from the injuries caused by the horrifying attack of Taliban. Staying with her family in Birmingham she returned to her studies and to activism. **For the first time since being shot, she made a public appearance on July 12, 2013, her 16th birthday, and addressed an audience of 500 at the United Nations in New York City.**

She gave a very strong speech at the UN Meet, giving epiphany to the world that education is the only solution to fight illiteracy, poverty and terrorism. After her speech, the UN declared July 12 (which is the birth date of Malala) as "World Malala Day" to honour women and children's right across the globe.

Among her many awards, in 2013, Yousafzai won the United Nations Human Rights Prize. She was named one of Time magazine's most influential people in 2013. Yousafzai coauthored a memoir, *I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* (2013). She also wrote the picture book *Malala's Magic Pencil* (2017), which was based on her childhood.

**In October 2014, Malala was named a Nobel Peace Prize winner. At age 17, she became the youngest person to receive this prize. Accepting the award, Malala reaffirmed that "This award is not just for me. It is for those forgotten children who want education. It is for those frightened children who**



Thanks a lot Malala Yousafzai for enlightening us.  
We are truly grateful.

In October 2014, Malala was named a Nobel Peace Prize winner. At age 17, she became the youngest person to receive this prize. Accepting the award, Malala reaffirmed that "This award is not just for me. It is for those forgotten children who want education. It is for those frightened children who want peace. It is for those voiceless children who want change."

Recently, in June 2020, she graduated from Oxford University. Currently residing in Birmingham with her family, Malala continues her pursuit to fight for right of education for all.

Malala is truly an altruist who selflessly works for promoting and empowering girls all across the globe. Malala's life is a great representation of how anti-feminism can be stopped.

Even though she is far away from her home, that did not deter her from achieving her goals.



## Rain

By Anika Seble, Grade 7, SNS Gurugram



Look at the rain  
And how it falls.  
It has no limits,  
No walls

No constrains,  
No chain  
Just freedom  
With a sprinkle of pain.

It's not a person, no  
But water instead  
"It's real alright"  
I think in my head.

It won't matter if I scream,  
Because nature is louder,  
Well louder than me.  
But it's enough to make me happy.

I think it made sense  
When someone said,  
"Rain makes people go away."  
Because the rain doesn't care about your  
struggles,  
Or your needs or pain.  
It teaches you to be present in, today.

To love the rain is a true talent,  
It's like loving an evil monster.  
One with mood swings,  
Going from raging to joyous laughter

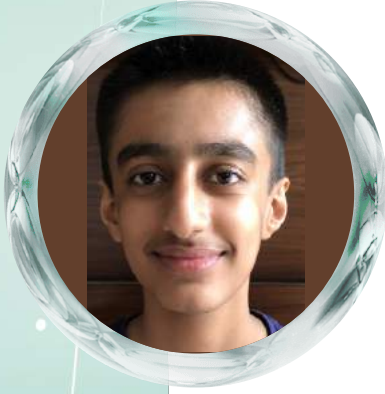
Another comforting thought is that even the rain  
is not alone,  
For it has the thunder and everything,  
Small and grown.  
For it has me, and many others.  
Fathers or mothers or even star crossed lovers.

See the thing about rain is that it's so true,  
So pure, so blue.  
Not the colour, but the feeling.  
Because the rain itself is so healing.

But again it's the peaceful shouting and screaming  
i love,  
That make me grateful for the sky above.  
In the end I was the pluviophile  
And you were the one reading,  
All this while.

## The Rainy Days

By Bhavya Chahal , Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



Yay ho Yarr ho the rainy days are here  
The lively days, the windy days  
The rainy days are here

Gone are the sights of thirsty plants and people  
And welcome are the lively trees  
The rainy days are here

Gone is the hard long summer  
And welcome are the dancing peacocks  
The rainy days are here



Gone is the silence of the burning streets  
And welcome is the choir of the of the  
melodious birds  
The rainy days are here

Alas, it won't last long  
But enjoy it as long as you can  
Cause the lively days, the windy days, the  
rainy days are here



## My Expectations From My Country

By Shreeja Mallick, Grade 8, SNS Noida



India's flourishing prosperity and development in every domain is an achievement appreciated worldwide. From rural design to urban development, analog to digital, manual systems to machinery and abolishment of various prominent discriminations. Today we have the third largest healthcare system, fourth strongest army and third highest manufacturing locations in the world.

However, even after attaining such desires, I can't say I am gratified with my country or it's methods. I am immensely



proud to be an Indian, but believe that my country has a scope of improvement and ability to touch the sky. **I want us to seamlessly progress towards betterment always. Hence, my expectations from my country are:**

**Firstly, we become an unprejudiced, equal and peaceful country.** Assuredly, we have liberated our perspectives and actions towards our community, however, often, we discriminate or judge certain groups on the basis of their appearance, gender, race and social or religious backgrounds.

People get neglected because of their height or features, women are sexually harassed, LGBT groups are overshadowed, gender bias in corporations, skin tone or religion decide personality, profession and social existence. **We have to accept each other the way they are. We together have to unite, be secular and make 'India'.**

**Secondly, drastic reduction in corruption and more trustworthy systems.** Nowadays, the underprivileged fear to confront the privileged just because the power of money is greater than humanity. **Unfortunately, in our society, predominantly, power and money can buy us anything; which people misuse miserably.**

The whole nation would want an authority which works for humanity and are determined to discover the truth rather than upstage it. **By strengthening supervision, building trust within institutions and giving facilities or income deserved by the person, we can restrain bribery.**

Corruption is mainly caused due to greed, hence, we have to fulfil the needs, to restrict the greed. If the foundations are ethical or sturdy, the outside would automatically appear thriving.

**Lastly, a country which is architecturally & environmentally friendly.** The global warming levels are dramatically increasing these days. As having the second largest population in the world,



## Suppression of women

By Rianna Mahajan, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



'We are living in a world of men', I remember reading this line in an article and thinking about how true it is. Living in a world that was not created for you is not an easy job. There was a time in history where we tried to adapt to that world. Luckily we soon decided that it was time to change that.

The word 'feminism' has often been confused with man hating, the dictionary definition of feminism is the belief in social, economic, and political equality of the sexes, in simple words it is the belief of being treated as equals and not as inferior.



For years now men have been given the upper hand, calling themselves superior, in fact Swiss-born **French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau**, portrayed women as silly and frivolous creatures, born to be subordinate to men, consul Marcus Porcius Cato resisted attempts to repeal laws limiting women's use of expensive goods. "If they are victorious now, what will they not attempt?" **Cato** cried. "As soon as they begin to be your equals, they will have become your superiors."

**From the French revolution to the present, women's voices and leadership have shaped the course of human history.** A few famous women's rights protests are; women's march on Versailles in 1789, after a bad harvest grain was limited making bread very expensive.

An estimated 7,000 women gathered in Paris, to demand that grain stores be opened to address the hunger crisis. After being ignored, the

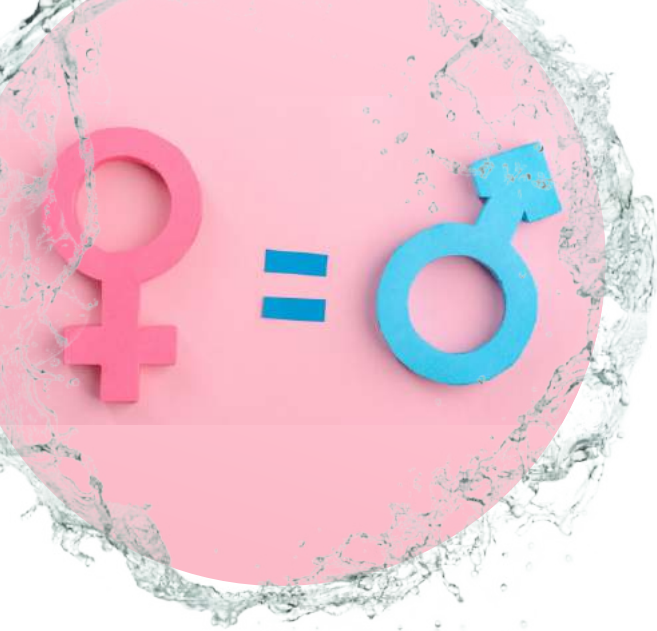
women appealed directly to King Louis XVI, walking 12 miles to the Palace of Versailles.

**On 3rd march 1913**, a day before Woodrow Wilson's presidential inauguration **thousands of women** gathered in Washington DC demanding the right to vote.

**In 1970, 50 years** after women gained the right to vote. They **marched down 5th avenue proving that feminism is not a force to be reckoned with.** Just **2 years later** a title passed **forbidding the discrimination of sex in an educational environment.**

In January of 2017 a day after the inauguration of president trump an estimated 3-5 million American women participated in what was likely to be the largest single day protest. It was promoted by the fact that many of trumps statements were considered anti-women or against women.

India has been a free country for 73 years, and has had 14 prime ministers out of which only one was



secondary education.

female. Even after all these protests women are still discriminated against, called bossy if they speak up, called boyish if they like sports, being denied the right to get paid equal as men and much more. **To make a society where everyone is welcome we need the help off all genders, our society is not only discriminative of women, men also suffer.**

Men are very often pressurized by stereotypes, for example if a man cries or expresses his feelings he is not manly anymore. **Young boys are taught not to cry and that they should only play with cars and guns.** A man's role in parenting is not usually prioritized as that of a woman's.

If we do nothing now, then **it will take nearly 75 years for women to be paid the same as men for the same job, 15.5 million girls will be married in the next 16 years as children and it wont be until 2086 that all rural African girls can have a**



*"Both men and women should feel free to be sensitive, both men and women should feel free to be strong."  
-- Emma Watson*

## LGBTQ+ community

By Ayanna Kapoor, Grade 7, SNS Gurugram



When I was a little girl, I thought people who were apart of the LGBTQ+ community were, "abnormal" "different" "inhuman" but my perspective on this now is completely different.

We all know what love is right? For those of you who don't love, it is the feeling of deep affection, when you're attracted to someone or something.

To the seven-year-old me, the definition of love was "when



**you like the opposite gender or your family” but now it has a whole new meaning.** Love doesn't only mean being attracted to the opposite gender, it can also be known as being attracted to the same gender as yours, or maybe not being attracted to anyone/anything at all!

**Us humans categorized the following sentences into different terms, a different community. The “LGBTQ+” community which consists of**

**1-lesbian=a woman who is attracted to the same gender as her.**

**2-gay=a man who is attracted to another man.**

**3-bisexual=someone who is attracted to both, men and women.**

**4-transgender=someone who wants to be another gender other than their own gender.**

**5-queer=(it's original definition is “strange” or peculiar”) whereas the lgbtq+ definition is a word that describes sexual and gender identities other than straight and cisgender.**

**Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people may all identify with the word queer.**

**And finally the “+” plus sign signifies that there are even more sexualities and the complete term for lgbtq+ is LGBTQQIP2SAA. An acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, pansexual, two-spirit (2S), androgynous, and asexual.**

**I completely support the lgbtq+ community however not everyone does, each country has their own laws for lgbtq+ people. Some countries like Mauritania aren't accepting at all, the Muslim men who mate with the same gender as theirs face stoning to death whereas the women who mate other women face prison, Both male and female same-gender sexual activity is illegal in Mauritania.**



However fortunately in a few countries such as Argentina, the first Latin-American country to legalize same-gender marriage. They actually accept lgbtq+ people and treat them as if they aren't abnormal and we all are one.

For those of us who don't know that **the multi colored flag (the rainbow flag) signifies the lgbtq+ community.**

The Rainbow Flag emoji portrays a rainbow flag, a flag with six stripes of the rainbow. This particular flag is used to represent the LGBTQ community and is used to express Pride in this community.

And in some cases the rainbow flag also signifies diversity! Fun fact-there's a month known as pride month for the lgbtq+ society. It was originally created to recognize the impact that the lgbtq+ people have had in this world, pride month **starts on 1st June and goes on till**

**30th June.** Now you might agree or disagree with me but in any case I respect your opinion, all of, the 7 billion people on this planet are diverse/different, unique etc., thus **we should learn to respect people's opinions even if they aren't the same as yours, we should respect the way people dress up, talk etc.**

Even if it's different, your insecurities and imperfections make you stand out like a white painting, with three layers of shiny, bright white paint, it's already so simple yet mesmerizing but something just makes this painting way more unique and beautiful, a small black dot, it just stands out, if anyone takes a look at this painting they will definitely spot the black dot first.

**Some people might dislike you but always remember that you're not the hero on everyone's side of the story and that doesn't matter at all if you love yourself and have self-confidence.**

Just like we, unique and diverse human beings stand out in this one huge planet, however in the



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end all of us are humans no matter how short, tall, big, small etc. we're still humans.

We should always respect our surroundings, after all every move, every step you take manifest's into the universe and eventually karma hits you!!.

So learn to respect not only LGBTQ+ people but everyone/everything around you.

Stay safe

Have a wonderful week/year/day ahead!



Volatile Uncertain Complex Ambiguous

## Poverty And Homelessness: Life Of A Refugee

By Agrima Singh, Grade 7, SNS Noida



When you are trapped in a country with an extremely strict regime, severe living conditions and riots going on left and right, the first thing that would pop up in **your average human mind would be 'I need to get out of here'** and it may seem like the the only idea worth taking a risk for, but you may want to second-guess yourself, as the life of a refugee is never easy.

Once a refugee has worked up an ingenious plan, taken all the stuff they need, and managed to scrape up a boat or a



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vehicle, which takes a substantial amount of time each, they will start their journey. On their way to freedom, they will have to be on the lookout for uncertain whether mishaps, and seas with unwaveringly strenuous waves.

If they are lucky enough, to have survived through a series of long, uncertain, and unfortunate days they'd have to go to a refugee camp on the brink of the country, from where they'll have to spend an extremely long time with atrocious circumstances to be granted access to another country.

The refugees have also stated that they had to endure endless punishments, severe climate and little to no food. However, if the country of their origin has amiable terms with the country that they hope to immigrate to, then luck might be on their side. The inquisitors will send them to that specific place where they'll have to start a new life all over again.

Once they get the papers they need, and have entered the country they wanted to go to, their life will once again be filled with challenges. For about a month or so, they'll have to work on getting all of their credentials for their new country.

If they've had a proper education with a degree, then they'll be able to get a job in the department of their expertise, otherwise, they'll have to think of ways to earn money.

It would become even more difficult if they have kids, and family back at home as the consequences are quite severe. The family members at home would be held hostage against their will.

Needless to say, being a refugee will never end in a perfectly happy tale. Life isn't a Disney movie. If one person doesn't suffer, another one does. There is always a price to pay...

## Population explosion

By Avni, Grade 7, SNS Gurugram



The number of people living on Earth is rising rapidly. In 1950 there were 2.5 billion people, and today this figure has almost trebled. Population explosion is connected to so many basic things.

Population explosion has led to destruction of economic growth, Demand for resources, business, finance, politics, economics, behaviour, culture, science, technology etc. People from rural areas like villages are shifting to urban areas, which is leading to escalation of urbanization.



People living in urban areas show a tendency to be high amount of consumers of electricity, materials, essential resources, etc. In order to produce all of the items/basic needs that we use lots of factories are built, which then leads to the extension of greenhouse gasses.

This causes climate change, hence leading to conditions like increasing economic costs and humanitarian (A person who seeks to promote human welfare, a person who helps people who can no longer take care of themselves) impacts. Pollution, itself, kills millions of people every year.

The wearing down of the ecosystem like deforestation etc, could lead to an extinction of animals.

Everything in our environment is connected in one way or another. Some people who preferred to live in urban areas shifted to one.

They started needing basic supplies but their usage of things like electricity increased than the amount that they used to use in the rural area.

To fulfill their basic needs workstations and factories were created. The amount of greenhouse gasses kept on exceeding, which gave a big impact on economic costs. A few days later more people decide to shift in your neighborhood.

Trees get cut to make space for their house and their plot which leads to deforestation. Deforestation then leads to the extinction of many species, eventually disturbing the natural order of the ecosystem. Rural to urban---->basic needs---->greenhouse gasses release---->Climate change-->new person comes into your area---->trees get cut to make area for house---->deforestation---->Extinction of animals---->ecosystem gets disrupted. Right now we are totally destroying our planet and then trying to forget about it. But we seem to forgetting a very important detail. This planet is our home and every single action we implement on it counts.



## Love

By Vaasavi, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



Love is a wonderful thing for it is more precious than emeralds

And much dearer than fine opals.

Money cannot buy it

It is not something which can be plotted by someone's wit  
nor is it set forth in the market-place.

It can only be embraced by hugs and kisses

nor can it be weighed out in the balance for gold.'

Nor can it be controlled



Love is not something which has a scientific definition

It is much deeper than the deepest ocean

It is a relationship where a huge heart is required

And forgiveness and respect is a must

Love is a melodious tune to the heart

It doesn't have a line of finish or start

Love requires affection

And if it's strong, then doesn't require any protection

Love cannot be understood

I'm telling you this advice for good

What love requires is only care

And it shouldn't be compared

Love requires 1 cup of romance along with 1 pinch of humour,  
2 spoonfuls of joy and 3 tablespoon of trust,  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of patience, and there is no spots of insults



## Should All People Become Vegetarians?

By Aditya Sharma, Grade 7, SNS Noida



In the world of nutrition there is no debate as fierce as the one between vegetarians and non-vegetarians but what are they and which one is better?

Non-vegetarians are people who consume animal derived products like meat, and vegetarians are people who consume plant-based food like fruits and vegetables along with dairy products.

According to modern medical science meats like fish, chicken, mutton and pork should be part of ones diet as they contain high amounts of protein, vitamin B12 and also have all the essential 9 amino acids.

But the view point of modern science is not unanimous, and that's the problem too. Every now and then reports come up telling us about the harmful effects of eating meat.

There are numerous reports saying that processed meat is not good for health and can cause cancer, then there are also reports pointing out that red meat like mutton and pork can increase the chances of bowel cancer and white meat like fish and chicken is healthy. Some studies are against this as well.

According to a study from WHO (World Health Organisation) meat in any form reduces longevity and increases the chances of heart

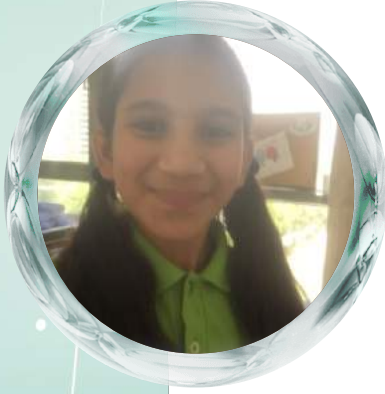
diseases. T. Collin Campbell an American biochemist examined the relation between diseases and animal products for 20 years and found out that plant based diet is the best and he even stated that any animal derived product including dairy products can cause cancer.

In conclusion the view point of modern medical science keeps changing. However, the general view point is that white meat is healthy as it is a lean source of protein and has vitamins like vitamin B12.

You can understand how an animal must feel when he/she has known that they are about to be killed. In my opinion all people should become vegetarians and take there vitamins and proteins from foods like fruits, vegetables, dal and sprouts instead of eating dead meat that has come from killing an animal.

## Sometimes I feel

By Gia Ganesh, Grade 7, SNS Gurugram



Sometimes I feel as big as a whale  
Sometimes I feel as small as a mouse  
Sometimes I feel messy as a splash  
Sometimes I like to leave my life with a dash.

Sometimes I feel as open as a book  
Sometimes I feel as closed as a box  
Sometimes I feel as plain as a dot  
But trust me, you can never me a bot.



# VUCA

## CHRONICLES



Sometimes I feel as colourful as a picture  
Sometimes I feel as blank a wall  
Sometimes I feel like I want to fill them in, I try  
But it all goes away with a blink of an eye.

But sometimes, you have to stand up with  
pride

And take life as if you're going for a ride  
Although there might have been a million  
times you have cried.  
But in life YOU decide.



**V**olatile **U**ncertain **C**omplex **A**mbiguous

## Sailing Through Covid

By Kapeesh Ahuja, Grade 7, SNS Gurugram



My family fell prey to covid and it was a horrifying experience! **My dad and my brother escaped its claws, but my mom and I walked right into its den.** This blog is all about my journey through covid.

The entire family trauma started a month ago when my 94-year-old grandfather got covid. **As he was 94, his organs were quite weak and sensitive, his condition kept getting worse and soon enough my dad and my uncle had to take him to the hospital as his oxygen levels were dropping drastically.**



The doctor conducted some tests and informed us that his condition wasn't that bad and that they would give us an oxygen cylinder so that we could manage things at home. My dad and my uncle then brought him back home.

**My dad had to be quarantined when he came back because he had been in contact with a covid patient, so he was confined to my bedroom having a single bed and a balcony.**

Thankfully, My dad did not have any symptoms but **suddenly my mom was tested COVID POSITIVE!**

As I had been sleeping in her room for the past 1 week, therefore I had to be quarantined in the only room left in the house, the TV room, which was the smallest room out of all the 4 room in my house.

All of us were very scared looking at how bad

the conditions were with bad news pouring in from every corner. **Our worst fears came true when my grandfather passed away! The next few days were very traumatic for all of us as we couldn't even meet as a family and mourn the death of my eldest best friend!**

There was some silver lining to the dark clouds of the covid experience. A few of the warmest moments was that whenever my dad used to come to check on me! And also great inputs from my brother who would always tell me ways to keep myself engaged and entertained.

**As we all could not really meet anybody physically, I made a google meet link where my family used to join at 9:30 pm after dinner every day and play [scribble.io](https://www.scribble.io)**

**The most interesting thing that happened during my quarantine period was, I had a VERY BIG Tv in the room in which I was quarantined. I was free to watch it anytime day or night, as my school was running at that time so I could watch it only after school hours.**



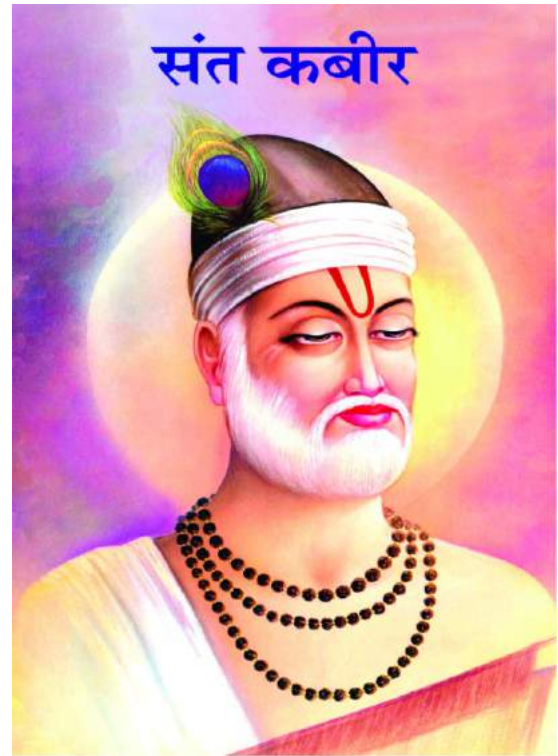
It was a blessing in disguise that the school was on so I could spend a part of my time with my teachers and friends. **My mom suggested that I should maintain a timetable of my medications, temperatures and watch for any new symptoms.**

God has been kind that we are in much better shape now, **I wish and pray for everybody's health and would like to extend a big thanks to one and all who helped us to come out of this difficult period.** I also wish that nobody has to go through such a frightening situation.



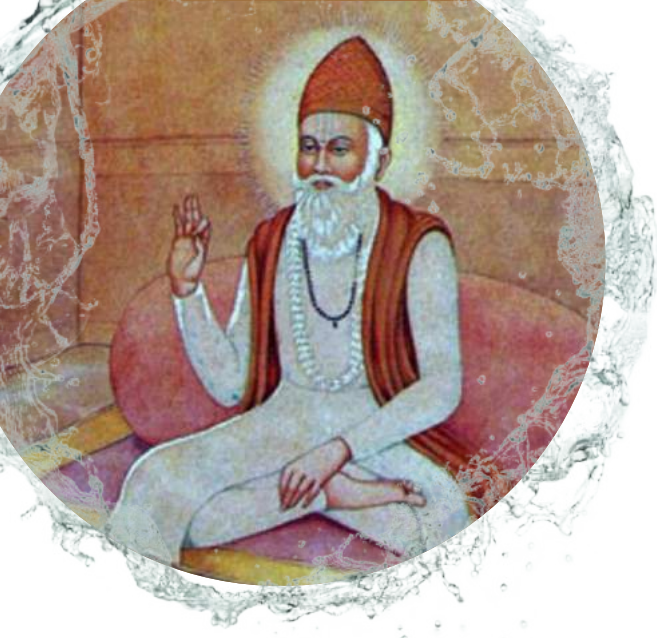
## The importance of Kabir

By Nyasa Khare, Grade 6, SNS Gurugram



Each country and civilization have a number of wise men and women who have a lot of influence on the mindset and psyche of people. We hear of Buddha, Socrates, Plato, Moses, Jesus, Confucius, Mohammed, Gandhi and so on. India is an old and rich civilization. Her soil has given roots to numerous religions and ways of life.

Medieval India saw blossoming of Bhakti movement lead by humanists like Kabir, Nanak, Chaitanya, Namdev, Tukaram and Ravidas. Kabir, a weaver has often been



considered as one of the beacon lights of modernism and wisdom.

The message of Kabir was meant for common man. Although illiterate, he wrote couplets or Doha in common language Hindi.

The themes of his writings were mostly about humanism, simplicity and secularism. It is impossible to condense his teachings in a small essay but some of his most famous couplets are reproduced here.

1.काल करे सो आज कर, आज करै सो अब |  
पल में परलय होयगी, बहुरी करेगा कब ||

This beautiful Doha warns us against laziness and procrastination.

2.ऐसी वाणी बोलिए, मन का आपा खोय |  
औरन को शीतल करे, आपहु शीतल होय ||

We should speak in such a egoless way that it provides happiness to both speaker and

listener.

3.बुरा जो देखन मैं चला, बुरा न मिलिया कोय |  
जो दिल खोजा आपना, मुझसे बुरा न कोय ||

Its always easy to criticise others, but if we introspect, we have millions of shortcomings which we can improve upon.

4.धीरे-धीरे रे मना, धीरे सब कुछ होय |  
माली सींचे सौ घड़ा, ऋतु आए फल होय ||

The Hindi version of "slow and steady wins the race" and "Patience is a virtue"

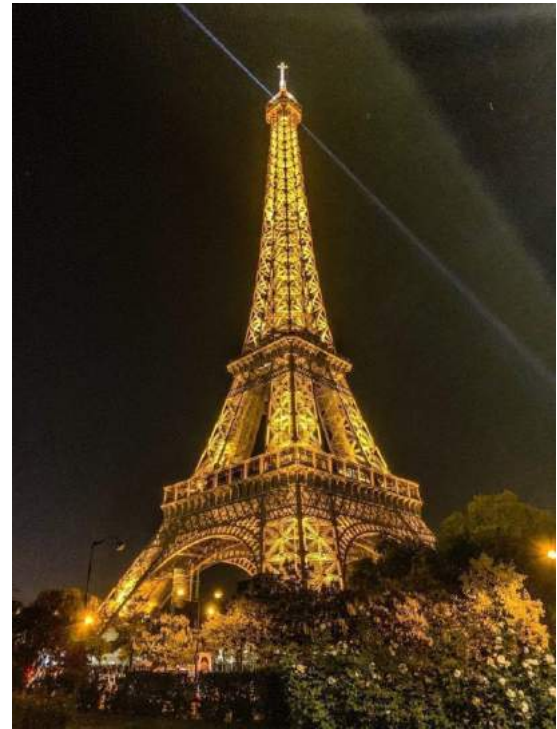
5.निंदक नियरे राखिए, आँगन कुटी छवाय |  
बिन पानी, साबुन बिना, निर्मल करे सुभाय ||

We hate those who criticise us. Kabir exhorts us to love them and keep them closest. That way we will get feedback which help us in improving ourselves.

I feel that many of the present social and personal problems can be alleviated if we follow the simple and beautiful path taught by Kabir.

## An evening in Paris

By Anveshika Singh, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



The sun casted the last rays of light on the sumptuous city of France. The zeal and zest made its way through the local market of Paris. **With a bowl of snails in one hand and a cheese in the other, the waiter proceeded to our table. "L'escargot et fromage" he muttered.**

I pried at the numerous kinds of cheese, all positioned exquisitely. The sun was a huge pellet of orange, radiating behind the Eiffel tour. **The sky was tinged in a bit of pink, whilst the blue still noticeably weakened its lustre.**



# VUCA

## CHRONICLES

The birds were heading for their snug home. It was serene and still. The lustrous shops had turned into insignificant lights. **It was night time, the time of tranquillity.**

The sun was about to set, it was dim though the market buzzed with excitement. **I took a huge bite of my cheese savouring the soft cream, evenly distributed over it.**



**V**olatile **U**ncertain **C**omplex **A**mbiguous

## Heaven on Earth

By Nethra Subramony, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



The mountains stand old and tall  
Proud as the jungle lion  
Rays of the sun shine persistently through the dense  
trees  
And the green hills will call

You to tread and hike their grounds  
Rays of the sun are as straight as the line of reason  
Fresh, cold air will always bring the winter season  
And the aimlessly drifting clouds are found



**Freshwater rivers gush with speed  
The mountain man will find his heart in the  
middle**

**Of the tallest, most treacherous peak  
Breathtaking and magnificent views that will  
forever stay with you**

**The sky is continuous and azure, it towers over  
all**

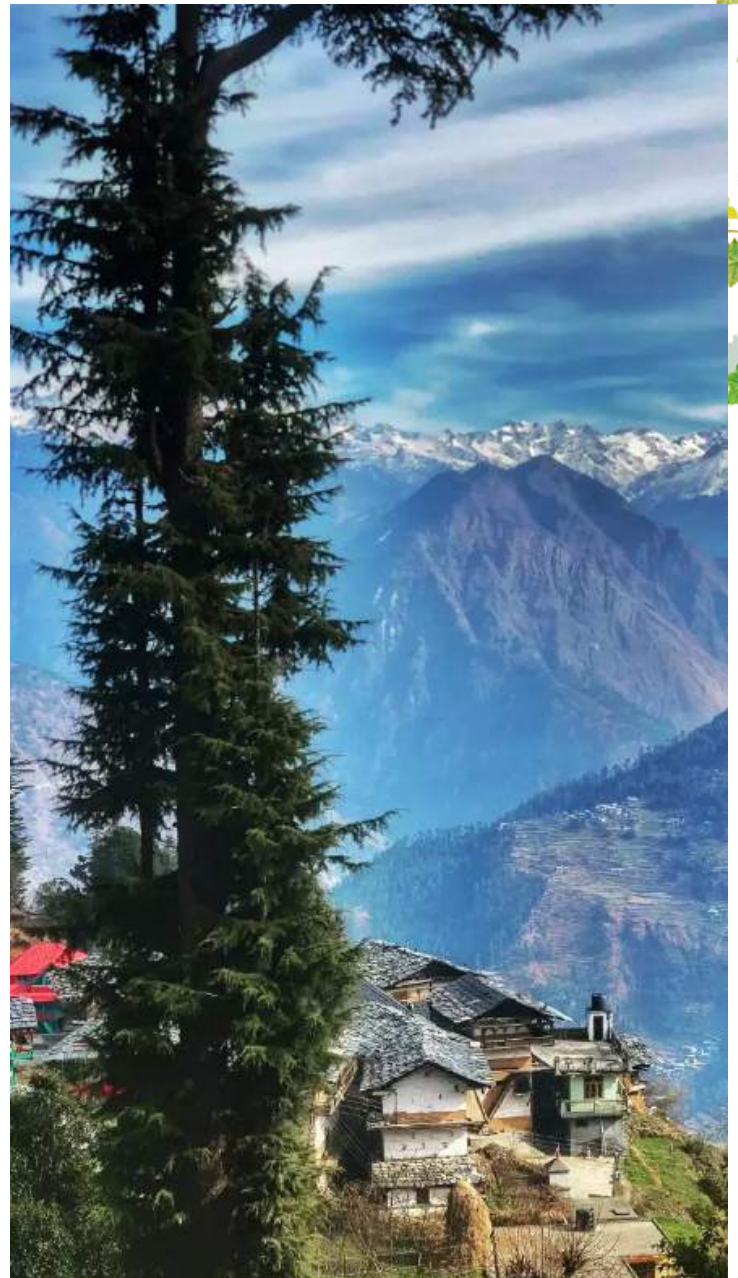
**The ground is rough but pure, it will support  
you if you fall**

**The trees are taller than most, they touch the  
hazes above**

**And they cover the hills beautifully, as they  
deck the halls in the sky**

**No painting or picture could ever do this  
justice**

**No mere camera could capture this scene  
Only the human eye can see and remember  
If there is heaven on earth, it's here**



## Cuban Crisis: Starvation

By Nyasa Khare, Grade 6, SNS Gurugram



Cuba, a small beautiful island in the Caribbeans is in deep crisis now a days. There is shortage of food in the country and people are demonstrating in streets against the government, demanding removal of the current president. The starvation deaths are in alarming numbers and the government does not have enough money to import food.

It is pertinent to talk about the history of Cuba to understand how matters have reached this stage. Cuba is the largest island in Caribbean Sea and is located not very far from Florida in USA. The relations between USA and



Cuba turned sour when Cuba adopted communist form of government under the famous revolutionary Fidel Castro. **The Nuclear missile crisis whereby USSR tried to put nuclear missile in Cuba almost caused the Third World War to begin.**

The communist form of Governments like China have made themselves more market oriented but Cuba stuck with the core philosophy of Communism. **Although the people are educated but they lack the means to grow economically. Havana has a rich culture but no money.**

Most of the food is imported as there is very less land compared to the population. Earlier, the Government would import the food and ration it among the population. With Covid lockdowns in place, the import suffered.

Pandemic has taken a toll on tourism. Also the

export of Cuban cigars and sugar decreased partly because of international sanctions. **The Cuban government has no foreign currency to import food. This led to shortage of food in the country resulting in high cost of food items. Similarly, there is shortage of essential medicines.**

Cuban government blames it all on USA and on Capitalists. The demonstrators have been arrested and tear gas has been used to disperse them. **Internet has been banned since protesters were using Twitter and Facebook to make their presence felt globally.**

However, the demonstrators have put on a resilient show. **This is the biggest ever threat faced by the Communist government in Cuba.** The anger is outpoured not just against the current food scarcity and high prices but also against the government's failure to improve the life conditions of citizen.

**They demand liberty and political freedom. The Government should bring about reforms to provide respite to its citizens.**

## Israel-Palestine – an Intractable Conflict

By Vanij Gupta, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



Palestine is a region rich in history, culture, tradition, and holds treasures of great importance for three major world religions: Islam, Judaism, and Christianity.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has its roots in the late 19th century.



In 1917, during the World War I, when Palestine was under the rule of the Ottoman Empire, the British issued the Balfour Declaration promising the establishment of a Jewish national home in Ottoman-controlled Palestine.

This was in order to win Jewish support for Britain's First World War effort. Following this, a number of Jews emigrated and settled in Palestine which wasn't accepted by Arabs.

A lot of tension arose between Jews and Arabs, so in November 1947, the British finally decided with the United Nations to divide Palestine into Jewish and Arab States under United Nations Resolution 181, but Jerusalem was put under International Control.

On May 14, 1948, the head of the Jewish Agency, proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel which was recognized on the

same day by the US President. Arabs did not accept the plan and instead declared a war 'The Arab-Israeli War' which came to an end with the signing of the '1949 Armistice Agreements' between Israel and each of its Arab neighbours.

The Jews now pushed the borders of the Palestine well back and declared green seized fire line surrounding Palestine.

The control of Palestine including East Jerusalem was given to Jordan which became West Bank as it was towards the west of the Jordan river whereas the Gaza Strip to Egypt.

In June 1967, Israel fought another war with its Arab neighbours, the 'Six-Day War' in which Israel defeated Egypt, Jordan and Syria and occupied East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Israelis now had to decide whether to make Palestine a part of Israel, give it back to Jordan, or create a new state. While the government was thinking what to do, the Israelis decided to settle in



the West Bank without any permission from the government. The rest of the world did not even approve this.

Two different narratives emerged. First, Jews were capturing empty spaces which had deep historical and spiritual significance to them and second, these settlers were colonizing land for their future.

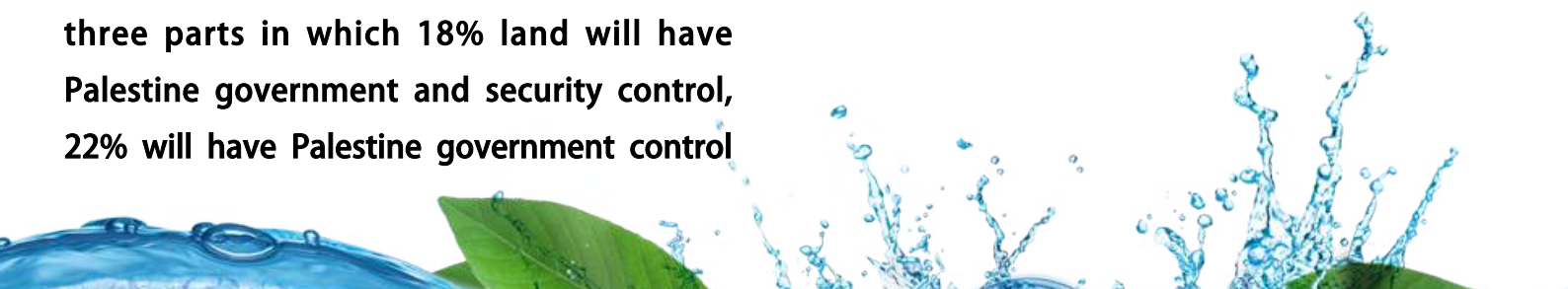
The Palestinians did not like more and more settlers in their state, so they started protesting with extreme violence. The situation became even worse in mid 1990's.

In 1993, Israel and the PLO, the Palestine Liberation Organisation which was created in 1964, signed a declaration on principles for Palestinian autonomy dividing Palestine into three parts in which 18% land will have Palestine government and security control, 22% will have Palestine government control

but Israeli security control and 60% land will be under full Israeli control.

In 2002, Israel invaded the West Bank in its largest operation there since the 1967 war. The last Israeli forces left Gaza after a 38-year occupation in September 2005.

The Conflict between Arabs and Jews remains intractable. The Belfour Declaration helped to create Israel but the State of Palestine is not yet born.



## How KIM JONG UN Spends his Billions

By Krishay Raj Chandok, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



While the rest of the world is trying to get developed and world leaders are trying to raise their economy and budgets for their country's development, **Kim Jong Un the cruel dictator of North Korea** thinks only about himself and hardly puts in any effort for welfare of his country and to make North Korea a better place to live.

Kim Jong Un never accepts hatred of himself from anyone. His cruel rules together can make such a long list which cannot end. **He always concentrates on competing with other world leaders and spends ample of money in buying sports & luxury cars, expensive private jets and yachts for**



his and his family's personal use.

Whatever he wants people to do or wants anything for himself, he can force anyone to make his wish come true. **Almost everything in his personal use is imported and is of very high and fine quality.** He imports most of his luxury goods from America illegally.

On one hand the citizens of North Korea don't even have money to buy food items and fill their stomach, and on the other hand Kim Jong Un does parades on the deserted streets of his country in his imported luxury cars. All that money which was to be used for the development for the country has now been taken by Kim and is being used to fulfil all his wishes.

He has wasted about 10.2 million dollars just on his high-quality Rolex watches, sea planes, private jets, highly expensive musical

instruments, high quality T/V sedans and many other luxuries for his personal use. **The total money of all of his stuff at his home is literally 3000 crore Indian Rupees. This is not even the GDP of his country.**

The citizens of North Korea have a long list of restrictions which Kim Jong Un never follows himself. **There has to be a radio in each house of the country which has to be switched on the whole day except from a few hours where people praise Kim Jong Un, his father and his grandfather all day.**

Also, people cannot watch movies of outside countries but can only watch movies about Kim and his whole family.

There, the citizens are not allowed to follow any religion and if the government finds any religious thing like a bible in any house, then they are allowed to execute the whole family. Such cruel rules can never end and make a very long list.

## Amazing Facts!

By Jaanvi Vaishnav, Grade 6, SNS Gurugram



1. When you are calmly taking a stroll on a beach, you wouldn't expect to unearth an Ancient Roman Bath Complex, would you? **On a beach in Southern Spain, an ancient, but well preserved Bath Complex emerged on a beach.** In addition to the Bath Complex, they also discovered an ancient tomb close by! The Burial site is said to be over 4000 years old!

2. Have you ever wanted to discover the brightest light in the universe? Well, **astronomers on the Tibetan Plateau used a LHAASO- Large High Altitude Air Shower Observatory and detected the brightest light particle!** It is



700 Million times stronger than the light we can see with the human eye!



3. NASA has announced that they may have discovered organic salts on Mars! A new report published by the Journal of Geophysical Research said that compounds like magnesium oxalates and acetates, decomposed by radiation and oxidation, have turned into organic salts.

These salts could just be formed by geological processes, or (Even better!), they may be the remnants of microbial life on Mars! The more we learn about possible life on Mars, the more this

becomes exciting!

4. A new species of mammal was recently discovered in India! This animal is a shrew from the Andaman Islands. This shrew, the *Crocidura narcondamica*, is dark grey, with dense fur, and a dark tail. This species is only found on the Narcondam Island. The animal discovered was a female, and was very deeply examined. Imagine being the center of attention for so long!



5. In more news relating to animals, *Coelacanth*, a species of fish that everyone thought was extinct, actually isn't! A study by the South African Journal of Science reported 334 recent sightings of the fish as of May 2020! It's really great that more and more



Neanderthals

animals have been able to return from the brink of extinction, and we are hopeful for the lives of other animals too!



Coelacanth

6.If you have had the misfortune of contracting Covid-19 and managed to escape more severe symptoms, then instead of thanking your lucky stars, you should be thanking your Neanderthal ancestors!

Studies have shown that a **certain genetic mutation relating to Neanderthals has decreased the risk of a Covid-19 infection being severe, therefore helping people survive the deadly virus!** The luck of the ancestry pool?

7.Indians and Australians are linked in the subject of evolution. **The multicellular prehistoric Dickinsonia's fossils were found in South Australia. Fossils that are nearly identical to those found in the Bhimbetka caves in India!** This is because they were both a part of the supercontinent Gondwanaland, but it also does show how closely linked the evolution of the two countries really was.



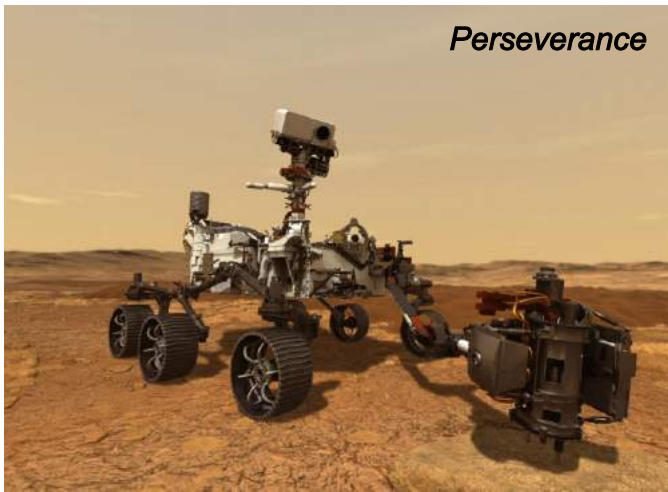
Dickinsonia's fossils

8.Spirit, Opportunity, Curiosity. What do these words have in common? These, along with Sojourner, are the names of all the rovers Nasa has sent to Mars. Recently, another joined their ranks... **The Perseverance rover had landed in the Jezero crater near the equator of Mars. This magical**



machine will spend the next 2 years collecting rock samples to finally find whether or not there was ever life on Mars. We wish Perseverance good luck on its journey, and will eagerly wait for it's findings to uncover the truth!

10. Hawaii became the first State in the USA to ban the sale of sunscreens containing chemicals that harm coral reefs. Scientists say that the chemicals oxybenzone and octinoxate cause bleaching of corals. A much-needed step towards the protection of corals. Last year Palau became the first country to initiate such a ban. We hope the rest of the world also steps up to save endangered corals.



Perseverance



9. Dogs have been our best friends forever. Now they give us one more reason to be thankful. The Indian Army has trained dogs from the native breed Chippaparai and cocker spaniels to sniff out the presence of coronavirus in humans. They do so by identifying metabolic markers in sweat and urine samples provided.

## Pets for life

By Myraa Sharma, Grade 6, SNS Gurugram



I'll tell you how I met my pet  
I was walking down the street  
That night it was raining  
Suddenly I saw an animal's feet

I stepped a little closer to see  
And there was a dog was trying to look for something to eat  
I took him and gave him a treat  
I dried him as he was wet  
I named him brett



Then I took him to the vet  
So that they can check  
If there is an Injury, he had a scratched leg  
But the vet fixed it

After days he became friendly  
But before he acted deadly  
But I still love brett  
My amazing pet!



## The Drama Class

By Maira, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



At school on WEDNESDAY the last period of the day I had drama class. I had no plans on attending it. I was elected as the PRESIDENT OF THE DRAMA CLUB and me and my team had to make a monthly magazine.

As we had classes online my teacher told us that he will guide us through the process but the sleepy little me dozed off and missed the instructions.

I woke up and the meeting ended but I thought that my team would have heard the instructions so I didn't have to worry.



Turned out that they had dozed off too, So we started working on the magazine. **My mates were the weirdos of the class.** One was a tech-savvy guy with an American accent and rectangular shaped lens glasses and the other was a total nerd, you could say the budding Bhanu Prakash.

**When he spoke his virtual camera would get blurred as foul smelling saliva covered the camera.** He also wore the same rectangular glasses. He was a sore enemy of Arundhati.

So I guess the only thing which could tie us together as a team was that we all wore glasses and hated Arundhati. **She was a typical teacher's pet, Ms. Perfectionist and the SHASHI THAROOR of 7th grade.**

So coming back to the magazine we were ready with the design. I had asked some of my classmates to send some information like a new

word, etc and one of those people was Arundhati.

Our magazine was a triumph. Everyone loved it and sent a congrat e-card to us . People were extolling her. **During this time the nerd dude had his usual anger attacks and commented that why should she get all the applause all the time?,** this was the inner voice of many of us . She is my drama teacher's favourite student too, so on hearing this my teacher's emotional and anger strings were pricked.

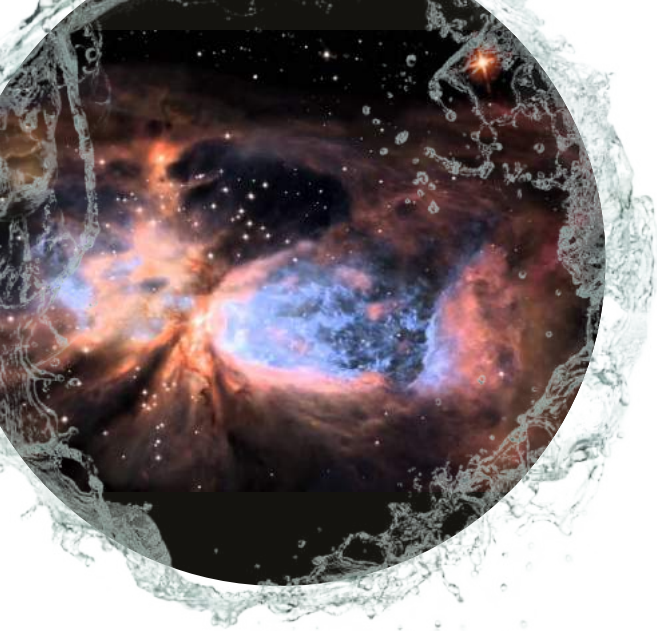
The next class we had, he gave me a big lecture saying **"I told you not to start this still you did……."** and the lecture was never ending . So taking advantage of online classes I put on music and wherever there was no background noise **I would unmute myself and say sorry, just to show how "FAKE SORRY" I was.**

At last he finished his lecture and I left the meeting before he could catch me to start over again. **I thought to myself this should be called "THE GREATEST ESCAPE".**

## Life of a Star- Birth to Death

By Sree Laasya Bhatt, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram





When you think of a star, you usually think of a bright ball of fire burning in the sky at night. **An obvious secret people don't know is that the stars are there no matter what time of day!** That's right, they're there in the day and at night. It's just that when the sun is down we can see them better.

To make you understand, light up a torch right at your face in a dark room and try to look at what's behind the torch. You won't be able to see beyond it because the torch's light is dominating the rest. It's the same in space; just that the room is endless. Now let's start by learning about the life cycle of a star.

### Birth

**Stars are born from nebulae, which are humongous clouds of rock, and dust.** A Nebula can have a diameter as large as 681 light years! The reaction starts when the rocks start sticking together and eventually develop gravity. All the

dust around it also starts coming together until it finally becomes a protostar- the baby stage. **A nod to the obvious - a baby star's life is much longer than our entire one!**

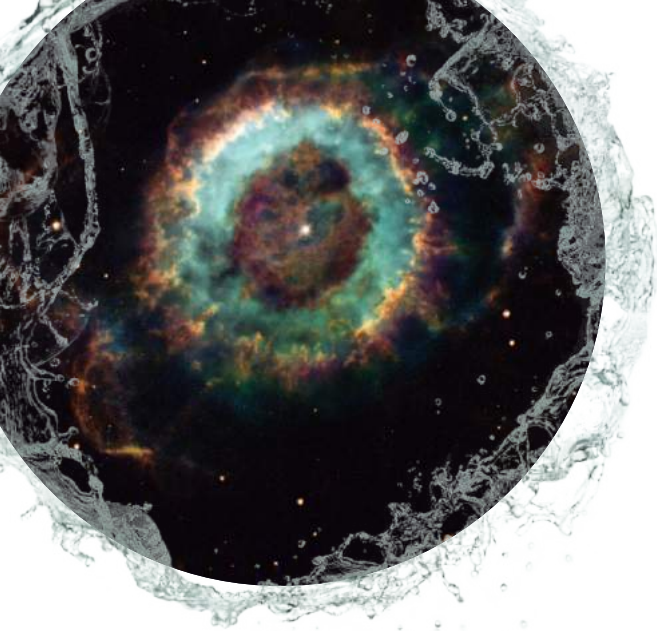
### Infancy

**A star survives only when it is burning an element, like helium or hydrogen, and a reaction called nuclear fusion happens inside the core.** The first element the Star burns is hydrogen.

Have you ever wondered why the fire on the star never falls off?

When you are in the kitchen, near a gas stove, notice that the fire does not fall off, because of gravity. If we use the same principle in stars, you could say that **a star has gravity which helps to keep everything on and around it, in the same place.**

The gravity is present in the core, similar to our earth. So we can conclude and I quote, "Come on, gravity! Get it together!".



### Paths in Life

A star has two paths in its life - it can become a small or medium star, or it can become a large star. A small star lives longer as it does not have much to attract towards it, and so the gravity can handle it.

A large star expands, and slowly but surely it becomes too big, hence the gravity cannot hold it anymore. But this doesn't mean the large star doesn't have a good and long life. Did you know that large stars can survive up to 1 billion years?!

### Death

A star dies when it runs out of elements to burn. A star shines for as long as it burns hydrogen and helium. Helium atoms then fuse to create beryllium, and so on, until a fusion in the star's core has created every element to iron.

After this, the core lets go of all it is holding, and all that remains is a dense white dwarf. And

then the dwarf turns into a black dwarf, which emits no energy. The universe is too young for us to know what's beyond a black dwarf and so it is the end as per our current knowledge.

Thank you so much for reading this article. Hope this interested you and remember to stay home and stay safe!



## Writing

By Shivank, Grade 7, SNS Gurugram



**Writing is a crucial part of our life**, it is very important for writing emails, writing books, writing invitations and the better you are at writing the better is your impression. Writing helps in expressing your thoughts, it makes you calm, it makes many people proud of you, and they even will look after you for some problems, and make them more proud if you solve them.

**Hi my name is Shivank and in this blog you are going to read many tips about writing.**



Do you always struggle to write, or u maybe don't get words that make u look like a professional writer, or maybe there are spelling, grammar or any other mistake? Well, you should read this blog carefully. This Blog will improve your writing skills and a lot more.

The major reason for not being able to write is that you don't focus, while writing remove all the distractions which are around you, and if you think you still can't write then probably you are not in the mood, to be motivated listen to motivational music that would perhaps help you.

Be happy with what you write and fallow all the steps and you will be shocked with your progress.

Here are some Tips:

1. Write Daily
2. Write in the Morning

3. Always have a copy and Pen
4. Research before you write
5. Read A booke every day
6. Choose a new topic to write on
7. Choose new thing to write
8. Use figures of speech
9. Write with a goal
10. Write while listening music
11. Good handwriting
12. Write with a gel pen
13. Write on a notebook
14. Don't eat anything while writing
15. Remove all the distractions around you
16. Take tiny breaks while writing big pieces

### 1) Write Daily

Writing Daily improves your writing, as it increases your experience of writing. There a saying, "Practice makes a man perfect." U get to know what are your mistakes and u stop making those mistakes again and again.



### 2) Write in the morning

When you wake up your mind is fresh, without any stress, and when your mind is fresh you get better thoughts. When you wake up you completely think about your dreams, sometimes you think about the thought which is really in you, write about whatever comes to your mind when you wake up that would make you have interest and you will even be able to write lots of things on that topic.

### 3) Always Have a copy and pen

Your mind of thoughts can wake up anytime, and inspiration can touch you anytime time too, so to quickly write the ideas have a copy and pen to quickly write them down. Example you are walking by a street and you see a child reading from the moonlight just because he doesn't has electricity. So maybe you think of a motivational story about not to waste electricity or for donation etc.

### 4) Research Before you write

Researching gives you more information and even enhances your old thoughts. It would not be called cheating unless you are copy pasting all the information and not even understanding. If you copy paste you are cheating on yourself because you are the one who will gain knowledge from writing not your dad or mom, and by copy pasting you will always have that guilty feeling inside you if that writing goes viral, if it goes viral, the person from whom's writing you copy pasted could even put a case on you.

### 5) Read a book every day

As you read your vocabulary gets better and so does your grammar, and most of the time when you read you should have a dictionary handy because if there is any word that you don't know the meaning of, then you can quickly check it in your dictionary. But before checking you must try to figure the meaning on your own from the flow of the text, but if you try and still don't understand or you think you are not



correct, then you can check the dictionary.

### 6) Choose a new topic to write

If there is a diversity of topics then your flexibility of being able to write on anything would increase because we usually have specific ideas about something and then when you write the only idea/s is the one you thought of but when you choose a random and new topic then u come up with more and better ideas.

### 7) Choose new things to write every day

Write new things every day like:

Descriptive writing

Poem writing

Narrative writing

Blog writing

Etc.

### 8) Use figures of speech

Using figures of speech makes the reader build up interest in the writing.

**a. Similie:** Similies is a figure of speech, in which we compare a quality and an object using “like” or “as” example: as cold as ice, as slow as a sloth, as clever as a fox.

**b. Metaphor:** Metaphor is a figure of speech which states a thing is another thing, example my friend is hungry dog, my dad is a brave lion.

**c. Personifications:** A figure of speech which gives life to non living things are called personifications, example: the grass dancing in the fresh breeze, the grinder shouting, the clouds crying etc.

**d. Onomatopoeias:** Words that resemble a sound, example: BOOM, Tik-Tok, Clank, Plop plop, etc

**e. Hyperbole:** A word or phrase which exaturates. Example:- This work would take thousands of years,





I drowning in my sweat, I am sooo hungry that I can eat the whole menu, U play all day long, etc.

**f. Alliteration:** A phrase in which all the word's **first letter is the same**, like: Mad monkeys meet my mom, they thought that trees talk, etc

**g. Oxymoron:** A phrase who's **words mean opposite** to each other. Like: Suspiciously true, big baby, alone together, almost complete, act naturally, etc.

### 9) Write With a Goal

By setting a goal before you write u can finish your writing faster, you can be more attentive etc. when you have a goal, you get motivated as you come closer to your goal. Your Goal can be a specific number of words or a specific time till which you want to write.

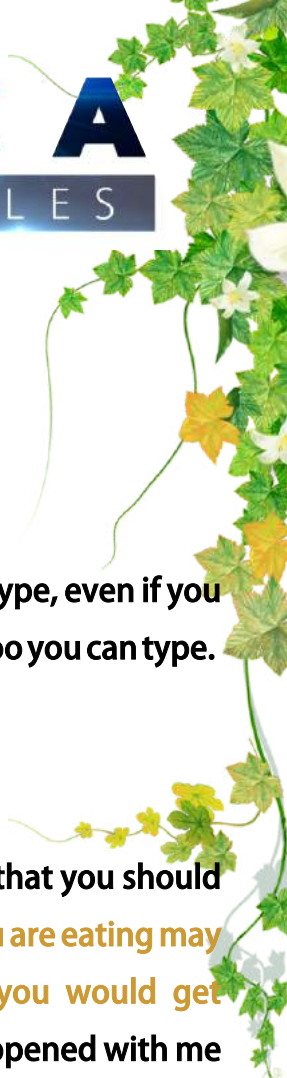
### 10) Write with music

This is an option, because some people are comfortable while writing and some people are not. While you listen music and write you are most likely, not to break the flow of your writing. I suggest to play groovy music without lyrics, because when there are lyrics, perhaps you will start singing with it and focus on the music mor than the writing. I prefer using Spotify.

### 11) Good handwriting

I am sure that most of us like good handwriting and those who don't you better start liking it, cause you can even get extra marks in your exams for good handwriting! You can go too google and write handwriting and then go to images and then choose any one which is neat according to you if you are not sure if you should use that handwriting or not then you can ask your parents or maybe teachers.





tired off writing, you can probably type, even if you have to present your writing, then too you can type.

### 12) Write with a gel pen

This one is too an optional one as some people are not comfortable with gel pens. Gel pens are very smooth and neat. If we use gel pens then we keep the flow of the writing and you feel royal if you use a fat one. Some times, if you like to write, you can even ask your parents to buy you a costly pen, that really pushes us to write as you always like expensive items and you want to use them as soon as possible and see you will automatically go on your study table and start writing. And I am sure u wont stop writing until you want to sleep.

### 13) Write on a notebook

Don't write if you don't have a proper RULED notebook, Because writing on a blank paper makes you feel unsatisfied as your line makes an arch and then you don't like it and you dont really want to write. Sometimes when you are

### 14) Don't eat anything while writing

By my own experience I would say that you should not eat while writing as the food you are eating may fall on your notebook and then you would get frustrated and leave it. That has happened with me too, when I was in 6th grade and I made my first English notebook I thought that I will make it the most neat notebook in the school! and it was going pretty well as my handwriting was very good the 1st time and then suddenly my water spilled on the notebook I was very angry so I left my homework and went to bed very ANGRY.

### 15) Remove all the distractions around you

Removing all the distractions will be pretty good as when you have distractions around you then you get distracted and you brake the flow of your writing and then you never comeback to your table Which is not at all good, this can be solved if you sit





away of all distractions or you remove the distractions from where you sit.

### 16) Take tiny breaks while writing big pieces

When you are starting to write something big, you think you will do it quickly, but when you do you go to bed after writing very less, so **to organize that you should think of a time period, like half an hour, and then every half an hour you can take a break of 5-10 minutes** in which you could do anything, like in school we have recess, coming closer to the point when you will have a break, your speed will increase too, and you would know that you are going to get a break so you won't think about finishing it much and concentrate more on the writing.





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