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A photograph of tennis player Margaret Court in mid-swing on a grass court. She is wearing a white sleeveless tennis dress and is holding a tennis racket in her right hand and a tennis ball in her left hand, which is raised high. The background is a blurred tennis court with spectators.

The Unfortunate Narrative of Women in Tennis

Article by: Niharika,
G8, SNS gurugram

Margaret Court
More Grand Slam titles
than any other player
in history.

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The Unfortunate Narrative of Women in Tennis

By Niharika, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



Serena Williams

Steffi Graf

The story of the Big Three in tennis, or Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic, has gone down in history as one of the golden ages of tennis. Their feats are incredible, and they've completely redefined the game. And yet, in the light of their glory, a certain set of players, who have arguably achieved more than they, are the unfortunate underdogs.

This set?
The women of tennis.

The women of tennis are easily as dominant and brilliant as the men. And yet, starting from having gaps in equal pay to gaps in equal press attention and media coverage, the women have, for

the longest time, drawn the short stick. When looking at world records, they have claimed many prestigious ones.

In light of some fantastic women's tennis both this year, and the years that have passed, I wanted to bring to light their contributions and wins in the sport.

I do want to add a little disclaimer - writing an article with praise for the women does not mean that the men's game is in any way inferior. Having watched a plethora of tennis this year, both games are absolutely stunning.

Novak Djokovic made headlines with his Wimbledon win this year as he hit the milestone of 20 Grand Slams. This equals both Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. The trio are now tied in 4th place for most Slams won.

The top 3? All women.

- Steffi Graf, with 22.
- Serena Williams, with 23.
- Margaret Court, with 64.

Mrs. Court has won titles in women's singles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles (24, 19, and 21 respectively), and has the most singles' titles in

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history. She's also 1 of 3 women who have won the Calendar Slam.

Most weeks spent at world number 1? The record is held by Steffi Graf with 377. What Djokovic has accomplished (338) is an incredible number, but he still has a long way to go before he can match her record.

And while we're with Djokovic, his name was associated with two milestones this year - The Calendar Slam, and the Golden Slam.

As of today, only 5 people have achieved the Calendar Slam, the milestone of winning all 4 Grand Slams (Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, U.S. Open) in the same year. Three of them are women.

Margaret Court



The players -

- Steffi Graf, 1988
- Margaret Court, 1970
- Rod Laver, 1962 & 1969
- Maureen Connolly Brinker - 1953
- Don Budge - 1937

The Golden Slam, however, remains a milestone accomplished by only one person. This is the feat of winning all 4 Slams, plus the Olympic Gold in the same year.

Steffi Graf claimed this in 1988, winning the WTA Tour Championships as well, in addition to her Olympic Gold and Grand Slams.

Looking at the patterns emerging, Steffi Graf really enjoyed breaking records. Adding to the long list, she takes second place as the person who has won the most Slams in the Open Era with 22, losing out to Serena Williams' 23.

And in light of Emma Raducanu's U.S. Open win at 18 years, she joins the list as the 8th youngest player to win a Slam.

The top spot is claimed by Martina Hingis, at 16 years and 117 days. Runners-up are Monica Seles (16 years and 189 days) and Tracy Austin (16 years



and 270 days). These are just some of the records the women of tennis have broken. Their game is just as powerful, and enjoyable.

And beyond the entertainment, the women's game is constantly changing and evolving, making for some of the most unpredictable tournaments I have watched.

Almost every Slam produces a new promising player; legends and amateurs get knocked out; sometimes they fight it out too; new talent and underdogs take the stage, and the youngsters also dominate the game (Coco Gauff, Emma Raducanu, Leylah Fernandez to name a few).

The gap between the two genders must be bridged. Yes, Alexander Zverev won gold at the Olympics this

Martina Hingis



year. But so did Bianca Bencic, yet the media coverage for her win was significantly lower.

Yes, Novak Djokovic won the French Open this year, but so did Barbora Krejčíková, who not only won women's singles, but went on to win the women's doubles as well.

This all proves how massively underrated the women's game is. We must give them the recognition they deserve.

Oh, and make their trophies the same as men. Please.

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Barbora Krejčíková



Bianca Bencic

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Eco Brick

By Daksh Malik, Grade 6, SNS Noida



Each year about 300 million tons of plastic is thrown away in landfills and oceans causing mass land and water pollution. Hundreds of millions of animals consume the plastic which we throw away and die. Plastic is used widely throughout the world but the way it is disposed of, ruins the environment of our mother earth. If we do not take care of this problem, the earth will be in shambles and will not sustain life.

Plastic is a very useful material, but we generate too much of it and dispose it in an unsustainable manner. We all are aware about the 3 Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) of Waste Management and other



environmentally friendly ways of solving pollution issue, yet we all, knowingly or unknowingly use and dispose lot of plastic waste in our daily life for example: chocolate wrappers, chips packets, milk packets, biscuit wrappers, namkeen packets, glittery paper, amazon parcel packings, pet food bags, small plastic bottles, broken plastic toys etc.

This plastic is already in our life and we are unable to switch for alternatives even if we are great environmentalist!!!

Ever wondered where your chips packets or toffee wrappers end up going? A look around might tell you that it might be part of the litter spread on the road, or still lying around in the nearby dumpster.

What if there was a simple way to begin your journey to a non-recyclable waste-free life and turn your waste into green construction material and keep it out of our ocean and landfills? Meet the Eco-Brick.

The very qualities that make plastic so difficult to dispose of, like toughness, longevity and water resistance, are exactly what makes it a brilliant building material. This is where we come to eco bricks, an environmentally friendly way to dispose

of plastic.

What are eco bricks? Eco bricks are single-use plastic bottles that have been cleaned out and packed tightly with other bits of single-use plastic to be reused as building blocks.

What was the origins of the "eco brick"? Eco bricks began in Guatemala, it started as a building technique to solve excess plastic problems in areas without an effective waste infrastructure. Soon enough, other countries like South Africa and the Philippines caught on.

What are eco bricks used for? Eco bricks can be used to build almost anything, from furniture to buildings. Building with eco bricks is a great way to reduce the plastic waste otherwise sent to landfill. Made of non-



biodegradable plastics, eco-bricks will never break down, making them suitable for permanent structures.

What is the purpose of eco bricks? The purpose of eco bricks is to safely reuse one-time plastic waste which would have ended up in a landfill or a waterbody. It also provides educational purposes to demonstrate how much plastic is used through our daily life. Eco bricks can help the world reduce its carbon footprint.



How to construct an eco-brick? These are the simple and rudimentary steps to create an eco-brick-

1. Take an empty plastic bottle or container- The point in eco-bricking is to reduce plastic waste, so avoid buying plastic bottles for the sake of making plastic bricks. Instead, choose a brand of bottle that we often use already.

2. Collect your clean and dry household waste- Take some dry-plastic waste like wrappers and packets etc.

3. Place the plastic inside and pack it tightly

4. Repeat step 3 till the bottle is filled to the top.

5. To fill all the gaps in your bottle, it's a good idea to cut big plastics into smaller pieces.

6. Use some form of stick that won't poke holes in your bottles, squash the plastic we put into your bottle down, so it is packed as tightly as possible. The aim is to fit in as much plastic as possible.

7. Weigh your eco brick to make sure it is ready to donate

8. Repeat process again for more bottles.

9. Most important point- Do not give eco bricks to waste workers or the kabadiwalla. They wouldn't know what to do with them!

10. There are organisations in India which accepts



Ecobricks for construction such as Rise Foundation, Karma Lakelands, Gurugram, Kabaadey Ji and Ecobricks Kalimpong. Donate your Eco Bricks to them.

Everyone urges us to decrease plastic waste. When you see the amount of rubbish you put into an eco-brick, you'll realize how much plastic you throw away (Trust me, it's scary, you will be overwhelmed!!!!).

This process also helps you be more careful about what you buy and create less waste in the end. Even if we can't get rid of pollution, we can still do our part to reduce pollution.

This process will help you to find ways to eliminate non-recyclable items from your life and find new ways in favour of reusable or recyclable alternatives.

The amount of plastic collected from your house or residential colony and filled by you in bottle during the process of Eco Bricking, will make you realise the potent threat to our mother nature from the humankind's poor management of waste and reinforce the need for radical change across the plastic industry.



Eco-bricks certainly offer an easy ready-made solution to the immediate problems posed by plastic. The plastic which we have thoughtlessly accumulated isn't going anywhere. But with Eco Bricks we can take initiative to keep it from flooding our streets, ocean and our ecosystems.

I have already started the process of making Eco Bricks and I will donate all my eco bricks to an NGO Named Karma Lakelands, Gurugram and do a little part of my duty to control plastic pollution and save my mother earth.

So, everyone spread the word to your near and dear ones, letting them know that their plastic does not need to end up in the landfill, they can upcycle their trash into Eco Bricks!!! Happy Eco Bricking!!!





When I look into the Future

By Shuanak Uppal, Grade 7, SNS Faridabad



When I look into the future:

I see no Compassion;

When I look into the future:

I see Trees aren't a fashion;

When I look into the future:

I see people are full of passion;

When I look into the future:

I see no Virus;

When I look into the future:

The cities are desirous;

When I look into the future:

The foods are not fibrous;

I see less of nature;

When I look into the future....





International Coffee Day “Coffee is a hug in a mug”

By Shriparna Sanvi, Grade 6, SNS Noida



It comes in different flavours, different varieties, different colours green, black, and brown. Different temperatures hot and cold. Guess Who am I?

Coffee is one of the most loved beverages of millions of people across the globe. A lot of people find it really difficult to kick start their day without a hot cup of this beverage. Considering the amount of love and addiction people have towards coffee, it is no surprise that a day has been dedicated to celebrate one of the most loved beverages.

Every year, International Coffee Day is observed on October 1, to celebrate and promote the use of coffee. There are many who believe that coffee might pose ill effects on their health, therefore, on this day people are educated about the various benefits of this beverage.

History of International Coffee Day

As per several texts, the exact origin of this day is unknown. However, several events happened in the past that may be linked to this day. In 1983, The All Japan Coffee Association promoted an event related to coffee. In the United States, the term 'National Coffee Day' was first mentioned publicly in the year 2005.

On October 3, 2009, the term 'International Coffee Day' was mentioned publicly by the Southern Food and Beverage Museum to celebrate the day and to announce the first New Orleans Coffee Festival.

In the year 2014, a meeting by the International Coffee Organisation concluded to launch its first official International Coffee Day in Milan. The first International Coffee Day was celebrated on October 1, 2015.



"My birthstone is a coffee bean".

Significance of International Coffee Day

The Day appreciates the efforts of millions of farmers. This day is celebrated to recognise the efforts of the people related to the industry Farmers, roasters, baristas and coffee shop owners. Many brands offer discounts on this day to celebrate Coffee as a beverage.

Types of Coffee beans

There are mainly 4 types of coffee beans. These are:

- 1-Arabica
- 2-Robusta
- 3-Liberica
- 4-Excelsa



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Unknown facts about Coffee

1- Lowers the risk of stroke: As per several studies, if coffee is consumed in healthy proportions, it reduces the chances of strokes and other heart problems.

2- Lowers the risk of Parkinson's Disease: It is learnt from different studies that caffeine reduces the risk of Parkinson's Disease by 30%.

3- Coffee makes you feel energetic: A cup of coffee increases your metabolism, making your mind and body energetic.

4- Coffee helps you to focus: Coffee helps the brain in making more dopamine, which in turn boosts concentration levels.

5- Coffee is a good source of antioxidants: Coffee is packed with a lot of antioxidants which help in the prevention of several diseases.

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Mental Health - Interpretation

By Snaa Juneja, Grade 8, SNS Faridabad



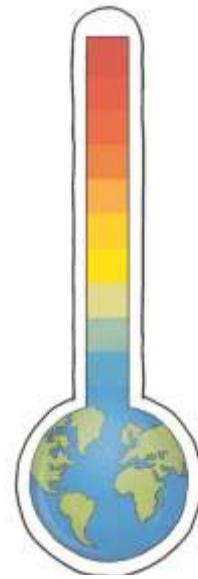
Mental health is not the most popular word in India. It is neglected continuously and "not believed in" by many. But first, what exactly is mental health? **Mental health involves our psychological, emotional, and social prosperity.** It influences how we think, feel and act. Furthermore, it determines how we handle pressure, make decisions and act around others. **Mental health is critical at every phase of our life; from youth to adulthood.**

In some cases, it is treated as a joke in families and made out to be an "excuse" which could worsen the situation. **A familiar and well-known example of mental illness is depression.** It affects the estimation of 264 million people, globally. **Its main symptoms are dejection, loss or excess of appetite and sleep, loss of interest, tiredness, and much more.** Mental illness should be treated by professionals and perceived with all seriousness. **It can be handled through psychotherapy, medication, support groups, etc.** Every illness is distinct and is to be treated differently. It is prime we don't ignore it.



Code Red for Humanity

By Stavya Khandelwal, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



So, when did it all start?

It all started almost 10 years ago but this term Code Red has just been given now after the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report that had come on 9 August 2021.

This report is 42 pages long and is drafted by 234 scientists from 66 countries and this report is approved by 195 countries. This report says that the global temperature will increase by 1.5 degrees Celsius in the next 20 years. Before this it was expected that 1.5 degrees Celsius will be increased by 2050 but after this report it says it will increase by 1.5 degrees Celsius till 2040, the sea levels have risen by 20cm already.

Heatwaves, heavy rains are affecting over 90% of the world. The Indian Ocean has warmed faster than the global average.

We have also lost 40% of Arctic Ice since 1975 and our world's carbon dioxide concentration is the highest in 2 million years. Another, shocking point is that there is not a single corner of the Earth which remains untouched by climate change. Climate change affects us all, rich, or poor, Asian, or European etc. Now all these things are really shocking and terrifying.

Now, how is this situation harming and how will it harm us in future. We have already started experiencing extreme weather events like floods, wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes in the last few years.

Recently, we witnessed a lot of wildfires in North America & Turkey while we also experienced a lot of floods in Western Europe, China etc. India itself experienced 3 cyclones in the last 6 months.

This as we see has become very common and as per the report, it will still be common but if we take immediate action, we might be able to stop this from happening.

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But what action are we taking against it and what efforts are we making to stop it?

We eventually just talk about it and when it is time to implement it we prefer passing the parcel. Even in the media climate change is a page 10 story also buried beneath stories of Hollywood, divorces, and fashion trends.

For News channels, climate change is a visual relief they play dramatic visuals of floods and fire with hope of getting more eyeballs.

But climate change is not this. It is more than passing mentions. It is a harsh reality which most people do not believe, as the truth is bitter and hence hard to believe.



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Let's see the timeline of the report and events that have happened after it, and which will take place in near future regarding the same and hope for the best.

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1. On the 9th of August 2021 the IPCC report is published on climate change.

2. On the 30th of September, an urgent preparatory summit was held in Milan.



3. On the 31st of October, COP26 (Conference of Parties) summit will be held in Glasgow, UK to discuss current situation, possible solutions and commitments from various government and private stakeholders.

4. On the 12th of November, meetings will end, hopefully with some global deals, hard commitments, and action plans.



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Birth Anniversary of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

By Samarth Kalra, Grade 6, SNS Noida



Shri Abdul Kalam was born in a poor family at Rameshwaram on 15th October 1931. His family was a Tamil Muslim Family and he took education from Madras Institute of Technology, Anna University & St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli.

He was inspired by his teachers - Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, Professor Satish Dhawan & Dr. Brahm Prakash. As my title shows, he was the first Missile Man of India. His full name was Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam & he was our former president of India as well as being a great scientist who played a leading role in the development of India's Missiles & Nuclear Weapons Program.

He was the president of India from 2002 - 2007. His father Jainulabdeen was a boat owner & Imam of a local mosque. His mother Ashiamma was a simple lady as a housewife. One of his missile projects was Prithvi & Agni Missiles.

India became a nuclear power under Shri Kalam who was the chief scientific advisor to the Prime Minister between 1992 and 1999. He was honoured by the Bharat Ratna Award.

He won the presidential election in 2002. Shri Kalam & Somar Raju created the 'The Kalam-Raju Tablet' in 2012 which was one of the most helpful computers for better health care administration in Rural Areas.

I am very fond of and inspired by Shri Abdul Kalam as he never had fear of failure. Despite encountering failures, he never stopped dreaming & working, instead he worked even harder.

His dream transformed into thoughts. Mr. Kalam inherited the values of honesty, goodness & kindness from his parents. He left us all on July 27, 2015 (Aged 83 Years) Shillong, India.

His death was ardently mourned by the entire

nation. The loss caused by his death is irreplaceable.





The fight of chance

By Avni, Grade 7, SNS Gurugram



Chance. What does it mean? A miracle? Or is it a possibility of something happening. Is it possible to achieve something without working for it? I ridicule the idea of that happening. Chance is something that people say fights on the side of luck. Which means that they agree that the more luck you have, the more of a chance you have to achieve something.

Most people end up scrutinizing this and then realize what matters. Most of the time, luck ends up being the literal meaning of Chance. Just a plain and simple coincidence. This Idea is like singing a song without knowing what it means. It's simply wrong. When I say working hard, I mean caring for something in the future and acting upon it.

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Or in plain simplicity "prudent". Chance is a truly a miracle that you create. When you put that inside your head, achieving the most complex things will be the most effortless thing you do.



And when you finish, you get to feel the satisfaction of working hard to create a higher possibility to achieve your chance. When you finally achieve your chance you will feel the joy of reaching to that place because of yourself. The moment I realized this was as I read the quote

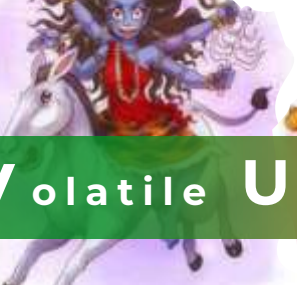
- "Chance fights ever on the side of prudent"

~Euripides.



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The room of childhood memories

By Khushi Gulati, Grade 7, SNS Faridabad



Abhi was staying in USA with his parents, who shifted from India in 2006 right after their marriage. Abhi was born 2 years later and his parents were very excited to have him. His mother left her job to take better care of Abhi. When he turned 5, they went out to celebrate his birthday.

While coming back they met with an accident in which his mother died but he and his father managed to survive. After sometime, his father locked one room wherein he stocked all the belongings of his mother. His father was taking good care of him and soon he stopped missing his mother.



He is now studying in 8th standard and goes to a reputed math and science academy nearby. He is fond of rugby and often participates in school matches. He doesn't remember anything from the past. But they had a locked room which belonged to his mother and whenever he asked his father about it he said that there were some old, useless office files.

One day his father told him that his aunt is coming from India, to visit them in USA. He was thrilled. He had often talked to his aunt and her daughter over the phone. As soon as his aunt arrived, he became friends with his cousin. After sometime, his cousin asked him about the locked room.

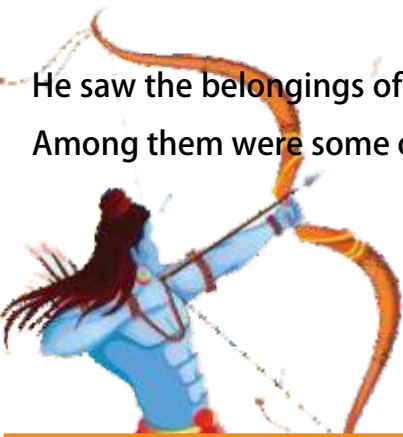
He just shrugged his shoulders and said, "I don't know much. I never even thought about it." His cousin got curious and asked Abhi if she may see what's inside the room. At first, Abhi refused to go in there but after a while he too got curious.

They both decided to find the keys and open the room. They did not want to tell anyone, so they waited for his father to go to office and then take the keys from his drawer and enter the room.

He saw the belongings of his mother lying there. Among them were some of his pictures, when he

was a toddler and also 5th birthday pictures. He also found a couple of diaries, his mother used to write about her Abhi. He got to know that his mother wanted him to become a pilot, when he grows up. Abhi got very excited to see the things and read the diaries, written by his mother. Now he started remembering his childhood more vividly.

In the night, he told his father about the room and the diaries. He asked his father, why he didn't allow him to enter the room all these years. He father said, "I always feared that you would miss your mother and feel sad, if you see those things." But Abhi instead of crying and getting angry at his father was very happy to see all the things and decided to become pilot when he grows up, what his mother wanted him to.





Halloween

By Myra Sharma, Grade 6, SNS Gurugram



Everybody loves the month of October because Halloween comes in October and we can dress up, watch horror movies and a lot more but some people hate it too as it might be scary for them but they might love to dress up as friendly and cute cartoons on Halloween!

This the Halloween month so I thought to share some facts with you which you would've not known.

What is Halloween? Halloween or Hallowe'en, also known as Allhalloween, All Hallows' Eve, or All Saints' Eve, is a celebration

observed in many countries on 31 October, the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day.

I've always thought who invented Halloween and when did it start? Halloween's origins date is 2000 years ago. The festival of Samhain (Halloween), which was celebrated on the night of October 31st. The area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France.

People back then who made Samhain (Halloween) believed that the dead returned November 1st, the day before Samhain (Halloween).to earth on Samhain (Halloween). People back then celebrated New Year on

Have you ever wondered which is the oldest holiday? Yes! It's Halloween, Halloween, celebrated annually on October 31, is one of the world's oldest holidays. Although it's from ancient times and older than most festivals and religious rituals, Halloween is still widely celebrated today in a number of countries around the globe.

How was Halloween celebrated? Celebrations involve lighting bonfires and wearing costumes to ward off ghosts. Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of activities like trick or treating, carving



pumpkins, festive gatherings, donning costumes and eating treats.

What is trick or treat? On Halloween it would be very boring to just wear costumes and do nothing so that is why people go trick or treating meaning taking a basket and going to other houses to get candy and give others candy.

The History of Halloween - Eve and means "hallowed evening." Hundreds of years ago, people dressed up as saints and went door-to-door, which is the origin of Halloween costumes and trick-or-treating.





The Puzzle House

By Avni Sethi, Grade 7, SNS Faridabad



For Stacie her aunt's house was always like a jig-saw puzzle. "Don't enter that room! Don't open this door! Don't turn that knob! Don't go down that path!" It had always been the same....no freedom at all. Then one day Stacie decided to open the door to a room that she wasn't supposed to enter. The door itself was so attracting that it was just not possible for Stacie to walk past it and not admire the door.

Therefore, one night as silence crept into the halls, Stacie tiptoed to the door and turned the wooden knob which had a spooky face on it. As she walked inside the room she was met with complete

darkness and the air inside was different.

Suddenly she heard a whisper near her ears, it was a child's voice saying " Finish the jig-saw puzzle Finish the jig-saw puzzle." Stacie felt hollow from inside and had goose bumps she stammered" What jig-saw puzzle?"

The one that your aunt has..... a big jig-saw puzzle.... Solve it! Solve it!" and the whisper died. Stacie quietly moved towards the door and out she came. She felt as if she saw a very scary and terrifying dream. " Solve the jig-saw puzzle... solve the jig-saw puzzle... These words kept on coming to her in her sleep for the next 2 days.

Her aunt was never really liked by any of her relatives for as long as Stacie could remember, but nobody could do anything without her. Stacie's mother had mentioned long time back that Aunt Black was very rich and powerful. It was always a custom to visit aunt every summer during holidays and spend 2 weeks at 'The Darkness' mansion.

The mansion was situated at the top of a small hill and had dense woods all around it. It had its own scenic beauty but there was always something eerie about it.

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"Stacie...! have been observing you for quite some time now" said the aunt " you've been wandering through the corridors aimlessly... are you looking for something?" She said narrowing her eyes towards her.

"Oh Aunty! I am just looking for some game to play, a jig-saw puzzle perhaps, I love solving them." "Jig-saw puzzle you say... hmm... never really thought you had the brains for one."

Aunt looked at Stacie with some keenness in her eyes and then said, " Ok my dear, let me give you a puzzle and let's see if you can solve it within this week." The aunt continued, "

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"Maze is in And
Maze is out

Standing over here we are all in a doubt A curse
that was cast in history
Made a land a house, no more than a mystery
Solve one and you solve all
Together it will be a blessing for all."

Aunt said, " Good luck" and then turned and left.
Stacie rushed to the library remembering that it
was very old and hoped that she could find
something there to help her.

This time she passed the door without admiring it
which was very rare and opened the door to the
library and ran from shelf to shelf.

It seemed like hours because the library was as big
as a mega yacht. Finally, in the farthest corner she
spotted a little stand holding a book saying 'The
Jig-saw Puzzle Curse'. "Well that sounds
promising." She said and tried to open it but it
didn't budge!

Soon after looking very carefully she realized that
there was a lock on it? No wonder it didn't open
but now the hard part, the password. She tried
many words as passwords but none of them
worked.

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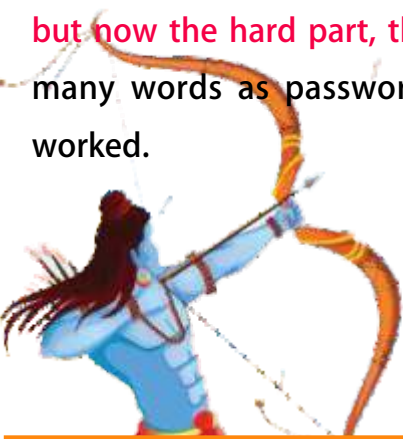


As the sun was starting to set she soon gave up and sat
down beside it said, "Oh! I've tried so many
combinations and none of them worked, I guess Aunt
Black was right I don't have the brains for a puzzle.

At that very moment the book's lock opened and said,
" Password= Black correct!" Instantly she jumped to
her feet and opened the book. In the book she found
the bird's eye view of her aunt's house and it looked all
scrambled up and like a puzzle! Instantly her hands
went to work and she started to place the house in
order.

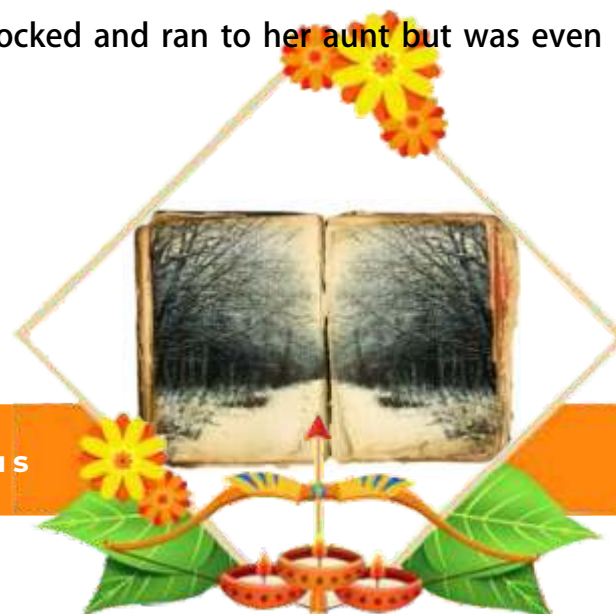
The forest seemed odd so she arranged that too and
when she finished the puzzle the whole house
changed from dark and eerie to beautiful and airy.

She got shocked and ran to her aunt but was even



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more shocked when she saw her aunt her aunt was no longer looking dark and scary but pretty and kind.

"Aunt BlackAre you ok?" She stammered and then in a friendly voice she said, " Of course dear you have broken my curse! I am no longer a witch and also my real name is Rosemary."

From that day on Stacie loved visiting her aunt and she no longer heard the mysterious voice again.

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Birth Anniversary of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

By Ajuni Kaur, Grade 6, SNS Noida



Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam aka Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, was born on 15 October 1931 in Rameswaram. He was a scientist and a politician.

Kalam became the 11th president of India from the year 2002-2007. He was also the missile man of India who had the leading role in missile and nuclear weapon development. There is also a movie named I am Kalam, which portrays the story of a poor boy who gets inspired by Abdul Kalam.

He was a great man and an inspiration to all. Kalam had given away all his wealth and savings to a trust called PURA and had no bank balance whilst being a rocket scientist and a president.

He didn't only successfully launch a satellite in Rohini but also expanded India's space agency to bring it to par with the world.

He died on 27 July 2015 in Shillong; while giving a speech at the Indian Institute of Management. Being born in a poor family and then being one of the most talented people and helping others proves to us that you can be or do anything if you are passionate about it and have a good heart.

Even if you fail, never give up because F.A.I.L means first attempt at learning.

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Festivities & The Light within

By Aarshi Vaidya, Grade 7, SNS Gurugram



Within us there is always light, we just have to kindle the spark! Festivities and celebrations do excite most of us and this is the time when the markets are buzzing with lights, sweets, crackers and fancy clothes.

However, does this ever bother you that we celebrate only in festivals and specially lighten up our surroundings in Diwali. According to me celebrations should be continuous and permanent! It should be marked with our inner light, our peace, our joy!

Anyone can hamper the lights in our external celebrations as it is

sometimes linked to the impermanent material world and outside influences but no one can snatch our inner joy, which is in our control as it is within us.

The choice is entirely ours should we let our light of happiness be dependent on money, big car, big house or should we base our light on our joy, internal peace and love.

In today's busy life, most of the people are surrounded with darkness and problems but that is the time to let our inner light shine bright and be positive all the time.

Many people have the joy and luxury of wealth but they do not have the luxury of peace and their family's love.

Running behind things is going to lead us nowhere. We are born with nothing and we take back nothing, except a beautiful palette of life which we have painted with the different colors of love, harmony and peace.

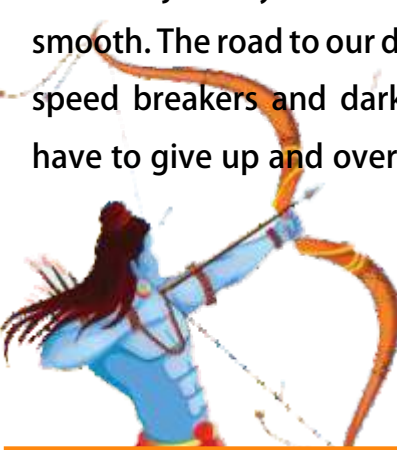
Life is a journey and the journey is not always smooth. The road to our destiny might have some speed breakers and dark patches but we don't have to give up and overcome all the challenges

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with determination and courage!

So let us spark the light within and celebrate the journey of life, not only during festivals but always!



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The Escapist

By Ranveer Virk, Grade 6, SNS Gurugram



John was a 19-year-old man. He was very handsome, had a small beard and untidy black hair with an extra pale face and blue eyes. He was invited to a party by his friend James, who said that the party would start at 9:00pm.

John reached the driveway at 9:15 sharp. There he saw a man coming out of a red Lamborghini wearing a very formal-looking suit.

"What's your name?" he asked the man.

"Peter Johnson" the man replied "What's yours?"

"John cooper." He answered.



The house was decorated beautifully; there were a lot of tables and all of them had a vase of roses in the middle. There were pretty flowers in the corners of the room. The party was almost over when John needed to go to the bathroom before he would leave for a tiring journey to his house which was 18 km away.

In the bathroom there was his friend's dead body with a bloody knife sticking out of its neck! John froze in shock; he couldn't believe it. He pulled it out in the effort to save his friend. Suddenly, someone jumped out of a cubicle.

The man who John realized was Peter yelled "KILLER IN THE BATHROOM!"

All the party members came in and saw John holding a bloody knife next to a dead body. There were shrieks and cries from the members who thought that John was the murderer. His case was taken to the court and he lost because there were too many witnesses who agreed to what Peter said; some of them were even his friends. He had to spend the rest of his life in jail.

In jail his cell was disgusting. There were ants and beetles everywhere and bed bugs crawled on his bed. The toilet was in the open, so guards could look at you when you used it. When he had a taste

of the food he was sure that it was made from poop! Worst of all was that it smelled like a sewer!

3 months after he came to jail, he started to form a plan to escape. The plan was that when it would be a very windy day and the guard would come to him with his lunch he would punch the guard to knock him out. Then he would wear the guard's clothes, and because it would be a windy day the guard would be wearing a mask so no one would see John's face. Then he would hide in a bathroom and when the guard's shift would be over, John would escape.

Winter had finally arrived after 2 months of torture and it was a very windy day. John waited for the guard, and was prepared to punch him in the face. When he came John punched him hard in the face and knocked him out. He quickly pulled on the uniform and the



mask and went towards the signs that led to the bathroom.

Another guard came behind him and asked, "Hey, at 8 when the shift ends for us will you come to my house for the movie?"

John nodded and left. He was very happy when he saw that no one was in the bathroom. He locked the door and waited for the guard's watch to show 8 pm. After 15 minutes he heard someone banging on the door,

"Open the door now!"

"Go to the other bathroom!" John yelled back.

When it finally showed 7:55pm he unlocked the door and ran out. Luckily everybody was too busy talking about some new movie, to see him run out of the prison. He had escaped! He was free from jail.

He changed his name and worked at a shop called Badimo's yum doughnuts. It was a sweet place; the doughnuts tasted incredible but there were very few customers, and he felt bad for Badimo the owner.

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John lived in a small rented apartment near the shop in a town named Vanon. He badly wanted revenge against Peter for ruining his life. It was very easy to track down Peter because of how rich he was. He just searched on Google about where his house was and found it.

It was enormous. It had two swimming pools, a huge mansion, tennis court and a water park as shown in the images on his phone. He went there.

After spying for a few days John saw that, Peter had kept a giant pile of money in a big safe at his house. He kept spying till he saw Peter put in the code. He saw it after six days, it was 148332.

Everything was happening perfectly. When Peter left his house, John broke in through the back window



when the guards were all at the other side of his house. He threw a rock at a security camera and broke it. He saw the safe was just down the hall and ran towards it. He put the code in, 148332. He was so close! When it opened he saw an astonishing \$25,000,000.

He thought about what to do with so much money, "Maybe steal it? No, what was I thinking? I am not a criminal like him, I will burn it in the fireplace."

John burnt it and ran outside when he saw that the guards were still at the other side of the house. He really wanted to see Peter's reaction on what just happened. 15 minutes later Peter came back in a fancy Bugatti.

When he opened his safe to put more money in, he saw it to be empty. He was furious and seconds later all the guards were fired and he looked as angry as a bull with a cloth in its face. John finally had his revenge!

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Art Work

By Zoya Arun, Grade 7, SNS Faridabad





The dew out dawn

By Shuanak Uppal, Grade 7, SNS Faridabad



At the dawn winds blew, Wearing away the leaves it flew, With
the birds in the sky,
Filled the day, with dew.

Between the eyes, In the skies,
Once again, The clouds rise.

Trees shed leaves on the ground, shedding them all around, The
wind causes the leaves' sound,
Making the day worth a million pound.

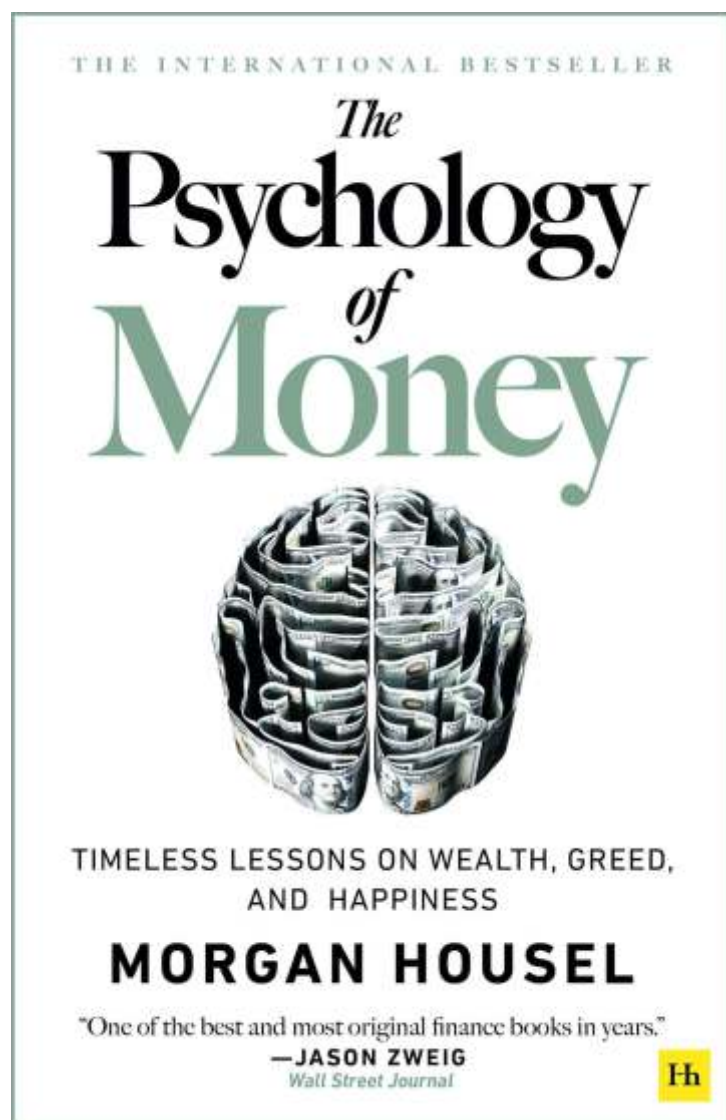
The leaves were
Less at top more at bottom, Yes!!! It's Autumn!





Book Review The Psychology of Money

By Sudarshan Singh, Grade 8, SNS Noida



Title – The Psychology of Money

Author – Morgan Housel

Genre – Wealth, Finance, Economics

What is the book about?

This book is basically about money and how to claim success in life. This book also tells us about what right and wrong decisions can lead us to. It makes references to famous celebrities that are well known today. **It explains what they think about money and how they claimed success.** This book contains very important chapters that one shouldn't miss such as Luck and Risk, Never Enough, Save Money, Nothings Free, etc."

Recommendation

I highly recommend this book on account of it's relevance as it contains substantial information about life, economics, psychology, money, etc. **Reading this book will enable you to understand the value of things and will help you differentiate situations in the correct manner. I would personally rate this book as 5/5.**

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LESS... ON... WITH, GP
AND HAPPINESS
GAN HOI



Best Friends

By Syna Chandna & Vritti Magoo, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



Drawing by : Syna Chandna

Best friends are never apart,
Maybe in distance but never at heart.
Friends are the family that you choose,
They are something that you should never want to lose.

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They know when you're having a crisis,
Which is what makes them so priceless,
When your problems seem like an endless spider
web,
They'll help you through it step-by-step.

Each one is special, each one is unique,
With them you will never feel weak,
Few hearts that are in the same place,
They're inseparable, one cannot be replaced.

Each moment u enjoy with your friends,
Is some memorable and valuable time you
spend.

The memories you make will last forever,
You'll laugh at them once again when you're
together.

Their bond is unbreakable,
Their love is unshakable.
Try as u might,
You cannot make them fight.

You won't have to call them when you are in
need,
They'll know when something's wrong, they'll
never let you bleed.



If they're true they'll be there when want them,
Which is why you should appreciate them like your
most precious gem.



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Future City

By Vardaan Sethi, Grade 7, SNS Faridabad





South Suns

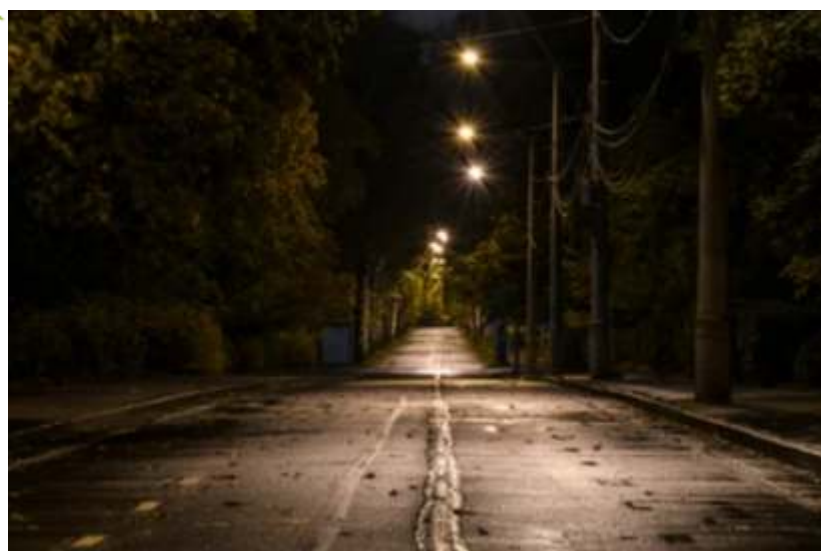
By Vardaan Sethi, Grade 7, SNS Faridabad





Street, full of pain.

By Anika Seble, Grade 7, SNS Gurugram



The street gave fright,
With a flickering light.
But what lay beyond was out of my sight.

For it was the darkness,
It was the doom,
But went unseen
Because it was the gloom.

Was it huge or was it small,
Was it short, or terribly tall?

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Was it alive
Or was it dead?
At last
It was far ahead.

Demon or ghost
Sadness or pain.
It's without a doubt,
Living in vain.

Some see it.
Some don't.
I know you see it too,

For this lurking demon is far to great
for someone like me and you.



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My cat, My happiness

By Gia Ganesh, Grade 7, SNS Gurugram



An angel from the outside
A devil within
He is the one who knows me the best
Including the true colours underneath my skin

Over there her sits
Right under the sun he lays
Jingle- Jangle goes the bell around his neck
Every single time I hear that sound, It makes my day

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Although he is the heart and soul of our family
He is the silliest creature I've seen
Like instead of his bowl, he drinks water from a
flower pot
Or when he tries to knock over the pens on my
desk, He acts innocent when he gets caught

With his mind full of pride with his head up high
He walks into the room and tries to tell me who
is the boss

But when my mom suddenly enters the room
His attitude completely swaps

His periwinkle Blue eyes still keep shining with
the sun

I just can't believe how close we have become
The moment He entered my life, he made me
tuck away my worst nightmares and my
angriness

At the end of the day, He is my best friend, my
companion, my cat, my happiness

Thank you so much for all that you have done
Kokomo (my cat)

22nd Dece Tuesday 2020 at around 12:35pm
Is the date, Day, month, year and time that I will
never forget,
the day you walked into my life to make
everything alright again



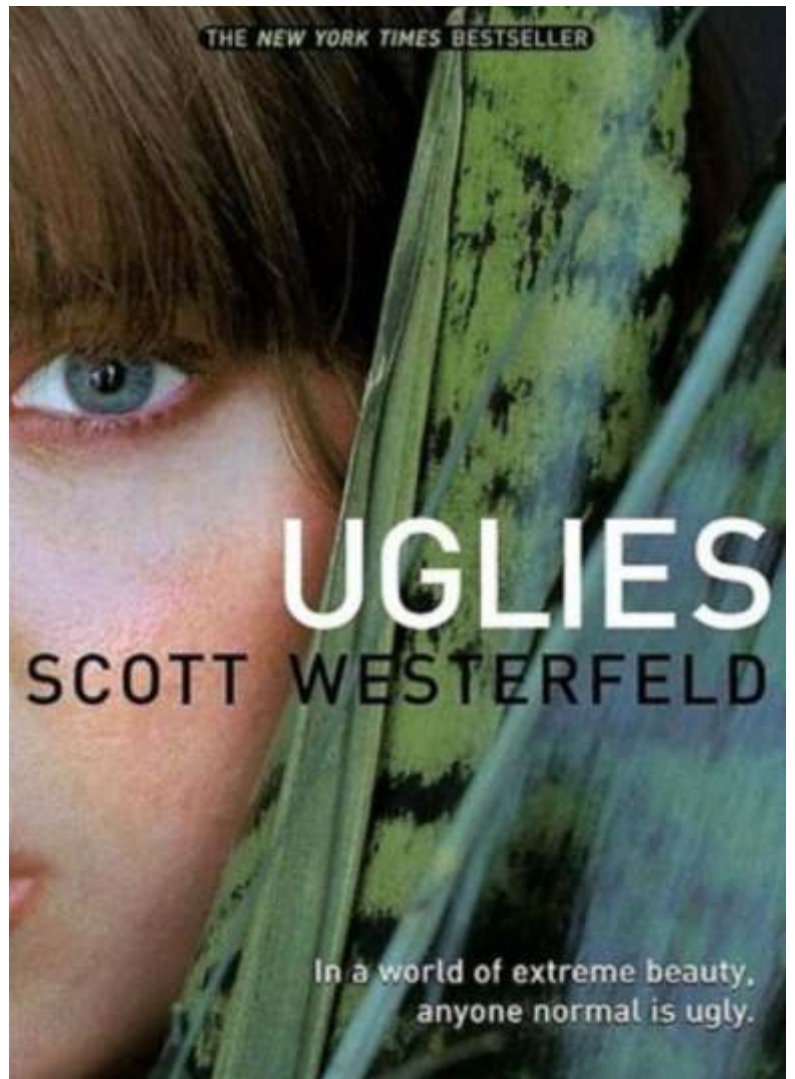
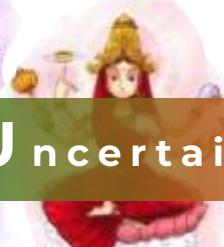
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Uglies: Uglies Quartet, Book 1

By Pratyaksha agrawal, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



*"Your personality - the real you inside -
was the price of beauty."
-Scott Westerfeld, Uglies*

Tally Youngblood, an average ugly girl can't wait to have her surgery to make her pretty, but before all this can happen she gets

caught up with a rebellion group against society and soon comes to realize the pretty side of the world is not so pretty. Later she comes up to appreciate a world where everyone is beautiful in their own ways.

Age Rating
11+

Educational values and Positivity

The whole series contradicts the modern beauty standard.

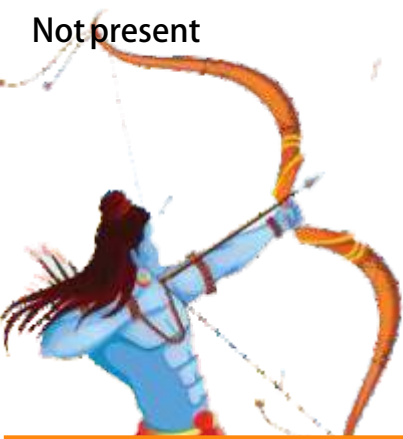
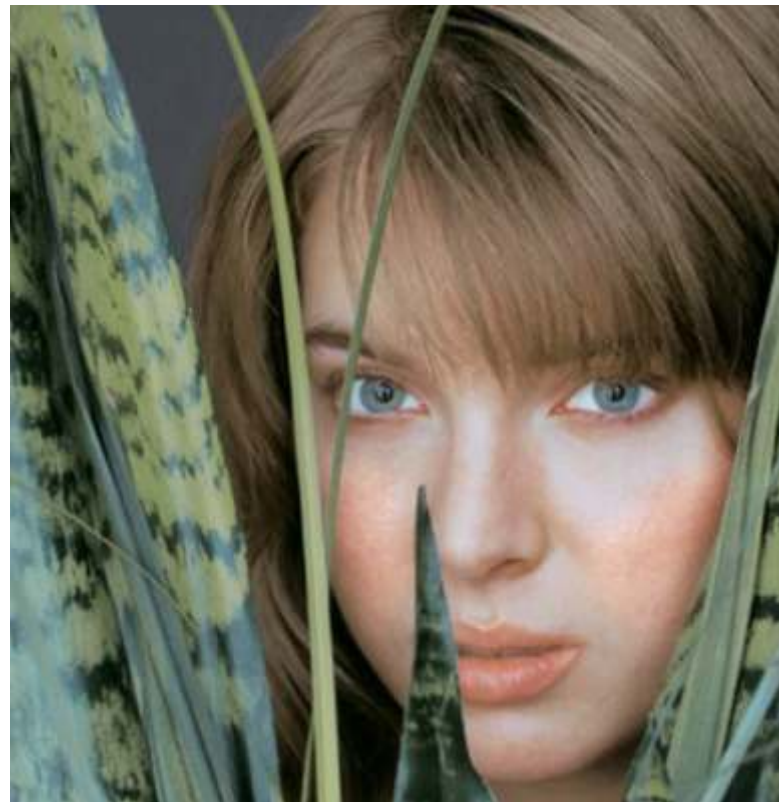
It's a must for tweens and teens doubting and comparing themselves with the perfect standard beauties like the Kardashians. The main character Tally is often represented as a fearless character.

Violence
Mediocre violence present

Explicit Content and drinking
Mild kissing and underage drinking scenes present

Inappropriate Language
Not present

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Sea Shells

By Jaanvi Vaishnav, Grade 6, SNS Gurugram



This is lovely piece of nature,
It is a beautiful creature!

People use it to decorate their homes,
Sometimes they are in the shape of ice-cream cones!

It is mostly found near the sea,
Because this is where it will be!

Humans are very happy when they they find it,
And then they are super careful and kind to it!

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People want to find a lot of these,
And when they do, they happily eat cheese!

Think about the creatures who make them,
I wish I could show you it's process with a
webcam!

When we hold them close to our ears,
We can hear the sound of waves for years!

I personally love them too,
And I think I can share some with you!

Now, you might be wondering what I am talking
all about,

Well! These are sea shells, which you can easily
find with the help of a scout!



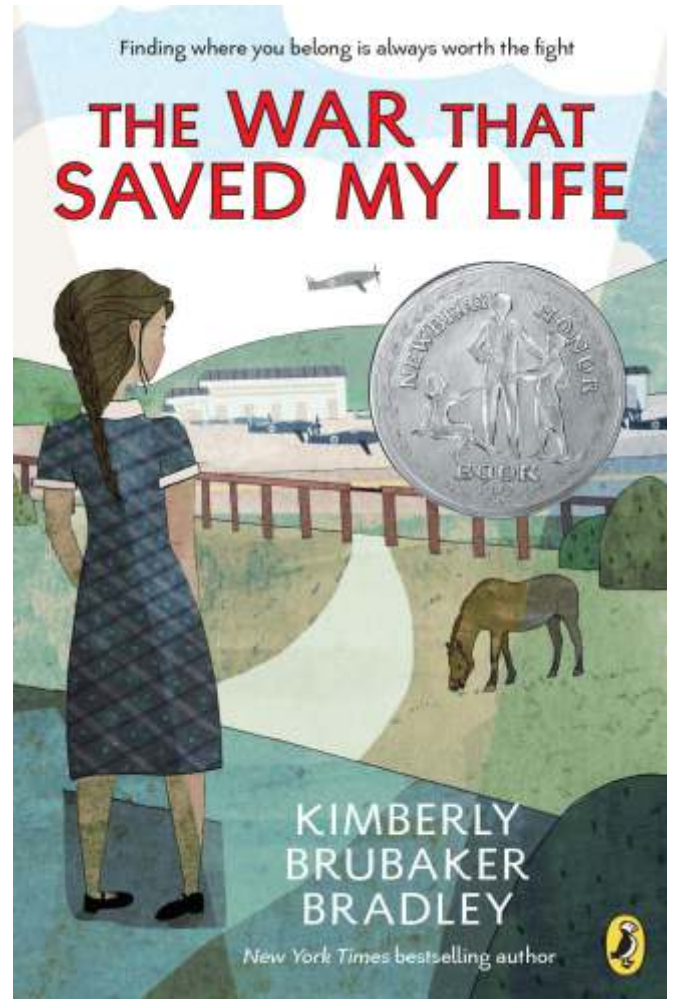
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The War That Saved My Life

By Pratyaksha agrawal, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



"Victory," she said, "means peace."
— Kimberly Brubaker Bradley,
The War That Saved My Life

"The War that Saved My Life" by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley was named as the 2016 Newberry Honor book is a masterpiece set in the English countryside during world war II. The main character Ada alongside facing frequent bombings has to face the very often

wraths of her abusive mother who mocks her untreatable clubfoot.

Ada takes it upon herself to board an evacuee train with her younger brother and, without their Mam's knowledge, they arrive in a country village with a crowd of students, where the siblings are exposed to care and affection.

They are placed with Miss Smith, a woman lacking any experience with children who claims to not be nice. Soon Ada discovers the world outside her dingy flat and soon grows affection for Miss Smith. But will their mother come to take them back?

Reading Age

9+

Interest Age

11+

Genre

Historical Fiction

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Educational values and Positivity

The story closely resembles the lives of the people during World War II, and the main character Ada is very inspiring and believable for many.



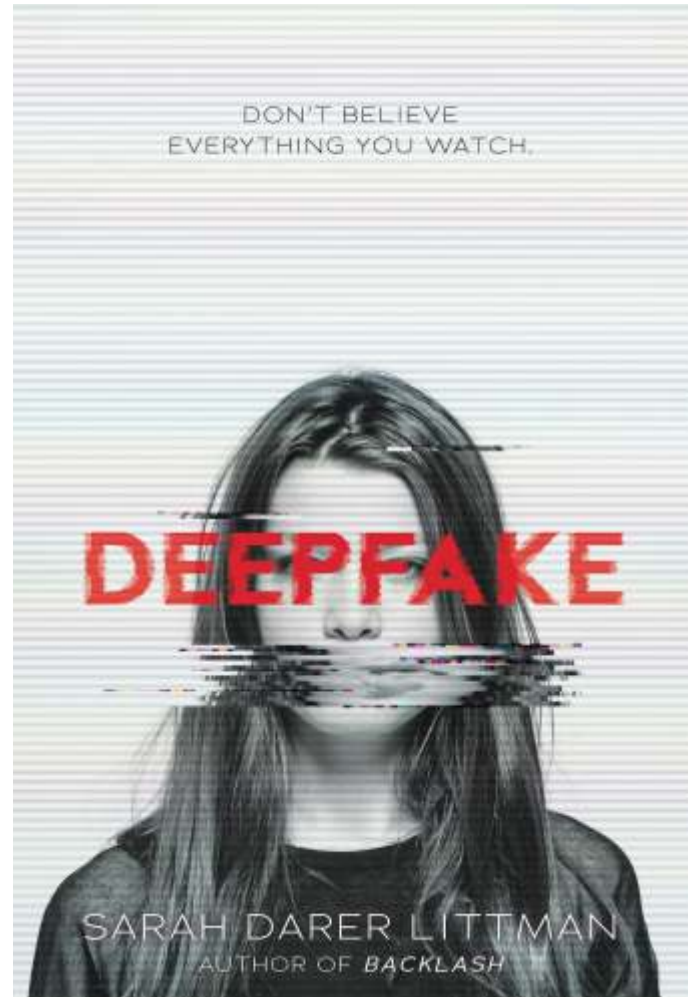
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Deepfake

By Pratyaksha agrawal, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



What happens when anyone can make a video of you saying anything?

Dara and Will, two Greenpoint High Schoolers are tied up for the valedictorian at graduation. Interestingly they are secretly dating, that's until someone makes a video of Dara accusing will of

cheating in the SATs. The video goes viral and Will is investigated by the education board but not everything is so sought out there comes a twist- Dara swears about never saying those things.

Did Will really cheat?

Is Dara lying?

Who's lying who's telling the truth?

Reading Age-11+

Interest Age-12+

Educational and Positive Messages

Perfect for today's social media active teens! A Quick reminder for them to not believe in everything you see!

More about the Author

Born in New York, Sarah Darer Littman is a coming-of-age YA author. She has been awarded the Sydney Taylor Award for Older Readers.

Other Books By The Author

BackLash

Want To Go Private?

In Case you Missed It

Purge

And more...

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