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Katha कलश

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Editorial

"Stories have the power to unlock the doors of imagination, inviting us to explore the uncharted realms of human experience."



Dear Students,

Since the dawn of humanity, stories have held a revered place in our lives. They are the threads that connect us to our past, the mirrors reflecting our present, and the gateways to our future. Throughout history, ancient civilizations have transmitted stories through generations, imparting knowledge, wisdom, and preserving cultural heritage. From the earliest cave paintings to contemporary narratives, these stories have acted as portals to our dreams and mirrors reflecting our desires and fears.

In the modern digitalized world, this platform has provided an exceptional stage for emerging authors to express their thoughts and emotions through the written word. It has given voice to countless talents, providing opportunities for these aspiring writers to craft their own narratives and share their unique perspectives in an era dominated by technology. Through the power of storytelling, they have harnessed the ancient art of connecting with others through words, proving that in this fast-paced, digital world, the written word remains a powerful force of human expression.

As we embark on this literary journey for our Children's Day Booklet, we are immensely proud to present a collection of captivating stories. These tales are more than stories; they are an invitation to explore your imagination. Let these pages be a portal to uncharted dimensions of your mind. Within these pages, you hold the power to imagine and create worlds that are entirely your own.

The future belongs to the dreamers, the creators, and the storytellers.
Keep writing, keep dreaming, and keep reaching for the stars.

With immense pride and excitement,

Special Thanks to
Ms. Aastha, Co-Editor, for
her meaningful contribution in
the compilation of entries.

Special Accolades to our exceptional students,
for their remarkable entries claimed the coveted 1st,
2nd, and 3rd prizes and their outstanding work shines
bright as the first three prize-winning entries are
prominently featured on the first three pages of the
booklet.

Henna Soni
Editor

The Melody of STARDUST

In a world where music shaped reality, a young girl named Jihi possessed a rare gift. She could hear stardust melodies, each note holding the essence of a different emotion. Her village revered her as a sibyl of emotions, seeking her guidance.

One day, as a dark cloud of despair descended upon the village, Jihi felt a dissonant and heart-chilling melody. Determined to restore harmony, she embarked on a journey to find the source of the discord. Guided by the stardust melodies, Jihi crossed enchanted forests and winding rivers, encountering magical creatures and trials.

As the journey unfolded, she discovered that an ancient melody was the key to dispel the darkness. With courage, she delved into the heart of a forgotten temple, where the melody was said to reside. Overcoming challenges, Jihi found the melody and played it on her cherished golden flute. The moment the captivating notes resonated, the darkness shattered, replaced by a brilliant cascade of stardust that danced in the sky. The village was restored to its former vibrancy, and Jihi's name echoed far and wide as the saviour of melodies. From that day, Jihi's melodies were sought after by people seeking to heal, celebrate, and connect with their emotions. Her gift united hearts and brought harmony to a world where the language of stardust had the power to change lives.

Moral :

The power of love and kindness is such that it can dispel all hatred.



Jihi Vohra
VIII G



THE QUANTUM PARADOX

In the year 2150, Dr. Elena Ramirez unravelled the mysteries of quantum physics, unveiling parallel universes. Her invention, the Quantum Reality Engine (QRE), could breach the boundaries between dimensions. It was a novelty in a time where rampant inventions were deemed 'ordinary' for their lack of creativity.

During an experiment, the QRE malfunctioned, transporting Elena to an alternate Earth. Here, humanity had evolved uniquely, relying on telepathy and living harmoniously with AI-driven robots.

Elena joined forces with Zara, a telepathic physicist, to mend the QRE. Their odyssey led them through surreal landscapes-quantum forests, cities of living data-exposing them to the limitless potential of the multiverse.

They realized the malfunction was no accident but a deliberate attempt to bridge their worlds, fostering mutual growth. As the QRE was fixed, Elena faced a heart-wrenching choice: return home or embrace the telepathic utopia. She chose to return, determined to share the knowledge and bring newfound harmony to her world.

"The Quantum Paradox" delved into the ethical use of advanced technology and the boundless possibilities of the multiverse, leaving behind a world forever transformed by its encounter with parallel realities.

Moral:

Ethics are the biggest ingredient of the application of scientific and technological advancements.



Abhishek Dhanda

X-B

3rd

Science Fiction

THE ALIEN BRIDGE

Krish Bahti's Convergence

In the year 2157, the last remnants of humanity find refuge within domes, shielding themselves from a toxic realm. Krish Bahti, a tenacious scientist, stumbles upon an ancient databank alluding to a distant habitable planet. Fueled by an unyielding resolve, Krish embarks on a perilous expedition, confronting mutated creatures and navigating treacherous landscapes.

Guided by the cryptic coordinates within the databank, Krish discovers a concealed portal that transports him to an untouched world teeming with vibrant life. Here, he unravels the forgotten tale of a planet that once nurtured an advanced alien race – humanity's erstwhile allies until betrayal severed their connection.

Forging an unexpected kinship with these enigmatic beings, Krish unearths their altruistic intent: to reignite Earth's vitality. Empowered by their wisdom and advanced technology.

Krish unites his people and dismantles the domes. As the toxic mists dissipate, Earth undergoes an astonishing metamorphosis, transforming into a lush paradise.

Krish Bahti's odyssey resonates as a testament to human resilience and the bridges that can span the expanse between species. The era dawning is one of hope, collaboration, and shared destinies, as humanity and its alien allies embrace the promise of a harmonious future.

Moral:

In the face of adversity, unity and collaboration with even the most unexpected allies can pave the way for a brighter future.



Hridyansh
XII-Comm-A



A Tale of Suspense

As the sun dipped below the horizon, Sarah found herself trapped in an isolated cabin deep within the forest. A violent storm raged outside, cutting off all contact with the outside world. With no electricity and a fading cell phone signal, her heart pounded in the darkness.

Mysterious occurrences began to unfold. Strange whispers echoed through the cabin, and objects moved on their own. Sarah's unease grew as she discovered a diary from a previous occupant, detailing their descent into madness.

As night fell, the supernatural activity escalated. Terrifying ghostly figures tormented her. She stumbled upon a hidden room containing a portrait of herself, aged and lifeless.

It was as if the cabin held a malevolent force determined to claim her soul.

Desperate to survive, Sarah uncovered a secret buried beneath the cabin – a cursed amulet that bound her to this nightmare. She realized her only escape was to confront the entity head-on.

Armed with newfound courage, she engaged in a spine-tingling battle with the malevolent force, unraveling the cabin's dark history.

With the storm finally subsiding, the sun's rays broke through, and the cabin returned to an eerie calm. Sarah emerged, forever changed by her harrowing experience.

Moral:

Confronting our deepest fears and uncovering the truth can lead to personal transformation and the triumph of light over darkness.



Tripat Kaur
X-J

WHISPERS BEHIND ME

It was a dark night and I was all alone at home, enjoying a couple of snacks and drinks. Suddenly, there was a loud sound of someone knocking on the door. It increased with time, and fear gripped me. I gathered all the courage I had. I was frightened.

I approached the window cautiously and saw a mysterious shadow outside. My family had gone to visit relatives, and it was 11:55 at night. Who could be there? I quickly searched for something to defend myself and grabbed my cricket bat.

Softly, I tiptoed towards the door, my heart pounding. As I opened it, there was no one there. I searched the area around my house, but couldn't trace anyone. It was all silent outside.

As I stepped back inside, a blood-curdling scream stabbed the silence. I was paralyzed with fear. Eventually, my family returned, and that night, I slept in my mother's comforting embrace. But the mystery of that night remained unsolved, haunting my thoughts.

Moral:

In moments of fear and uncertainty, the support and comfort of loved ones provide solace and strength to overcome the unknown.



Garvit Dhamija
VIII-F

The Game of Science

In a dim city street, a luxury car stopped. Its occupant, a middle-aged scientist, suddenly collapsed, overwhelmed by dizziness and breathlessness. Bystanders, puzzled by this unsettling scene, sought clues.

The incident, involving a renowned scientist, shocked the community. Shortly after, another scientist met a similar fate at the same location. Post-mortems revealed they'd been poisoned by hydrogen sulfide.

Confusion and fear gripped the town. Why were scientists targeted? How did a lethal gas leave no traces? Suspicion of a serial killer grew.

Unbeknownst to them, a vengeful scientist lurked, using a laser device to release hydrogen sulfide with deadly accuracy. He believed his inventions had been stolen, and this was his disturbing retribution.

In this eerie tale, madness and vengeance entwined, terrorizing the community, and leaving the malevolent scientist disturbingly at peace.



Tanshika
X-J

Moral:

Seeking vengeance can lead to madness and unspeakable acts, causing harm not only to those targeted but also to the one seeking retribution.

Wit's End in Ironyville

In the whimsical town of Ironyville, where laughter danced in the air and sarcasm was its language, lived a cast of characters as eccentric as they were witty. Mayor Punnybones, with a penchant for puns, always led with a twist of humor, and Ms. Simile, the metaphor maven, painted the town with colorful comparisons. Ironyville thrived on its quirks: a bakery that sold "unsweetened" desserts and a library with books on "How Not to Read."

Yet, beneath the chuckles lay a deeper message. The town used satire to mirror the absurdities of the world, creating a haven of reflection and critique. It was a place where laughter was both remedy and revelation, where satire was a lens to peer into reality with a grin. And so, as the sun set on Ironyville, it whispered a truth: in a world of paradoxes, sometimes the best way to speak was through laughter's wise and winking tongue.



Moral:

Humor and satire can be insightful ways to address life's complexities and paradoxes, using laughter as a powerful tool for reflection and critique.



Vrinda Sharma
IX-H

Eyes of Euphony:

UNMASKING THE UNSEEN MELANCHOLY

Her eyes shimmered in the moonlight "Tears?" Ethan staggered.

It was an inconceivable sight. Sarah, the passerine of ebullience, crying?

"Sarah? A-are you crying? Is everything alright?" Ethan stammered solicitously.

"I'm fine; What reason would I have to cry-eh?" Sarah shrugged off the concern, although Ethan discerned an eerie melancholia that differentiated those words from her usual effervescence.

"But your eyes, they are tearing up! If-there is any problem, please tell me." Ethan continued his enquiry.

"Oh, come on, Ethan. Stop being such a worrywart. You're imagining things." Sarah proclaimed.

Again that melancholia followed. Ethan finally recognized the tears' significance. They weren't tears of immediate grief; but the welling-up of intrinsic struggle.

Ethan was well aware of what went on inside Sarah's mind. Of course, eagles understand the hearts of sparrows well, owing to the maturity of their avian brains. He well understood the mental distraught unfolding in her brain. What startled him was the fact that Sarah never let these emotions reach her surface.



Harman Singh Sokhi
X-B

Moral:

The significance of being perceptive and understanding the hidden struggles of others, encouraging empathy and support.

Alfred's tragedy

In his old age, Alfred's garden was mostly bare, save for one stubborn lavender flower. He believed his life was linked to that final petal. Once filled with beautiful flowers and sweet scents, now only one remains. Nearby, a peaceful pond reflected his small cottage, where he sought refuge.

A well-worn path led to an old battlefield, a place where youthful memories lingered.

Alfred, sitting in his chair, began to write about his life. "Age weighs on me, and I don't know how much time I have left. I want to leave something behind, starting with my youth..." And he narrated his life story.

In his prime, Alfred was a swordsmith, thanks to his cottage's proximity to the battlefield. His radiant wife, Helga, graced his life until she succumbed to the plague, leaving behind their son, Arthur. Amidst grief, Arthur became his guiding light.

We called Arthur when he was nineteen, and though Alfred felt heavy-hearted, he bid his son farewell. But fate played a cruel trick, as the very sword he'd sharpened took his son's life.

The remorseful warrior, whose blade Alfred had honed, returned with Arthur's lifeless body, confessing to the fatal strike. Alfred blamed himself and swore never to sharpen a blade again. As the wind carried away the last petal, Arthur's spirit ascended, and Alfred finally found peace.

Moral:

Peace and closure can be found in the acceptance of the past, forgiveness, and the ability to leave something meaningful behind for future generations, even in one's old age.



Angad Kumar

X-F

Footsteps of Destiny

In her cozy cottage near the forest, Lucy was haunted by strange nightly footsteps outside her window. Though they filled her with fear, she could never catch a glimpse of the mysterious source. Determined to unveil the truth, she decided to employ a camera.

One morning, while reviewing the camera footage, she witnessed a dark figure emerging from the woods, clutching a paper bearing her name. The sight sent shivers down her spine.

Balancing fear and curiosity, Lucy ventured into the forest the following evening, following the enigmatic footsteps. Her journey led her to an aged cabin. With a creak, the door swung open, revealing a solitary candle and a weathered diary.

As she read the diary, Lucy made a startling revelation – it had belonged to a long-lost relative. The diary divulged a tapestry of secrets, a covert group of individuals dedicated to seeking justice, and a multitude of unsolved mysteries.

Connecting the dots, Lucy realized that the mysterious footsteps in the dark had steered her towards a long-buried family secret, one that had remained concealed for generations. Her pursuit of truth and justice became a suspenseful and thrilling journey, unraveling her family's enigmatic past.



Salvi
XI Com-B

Moral:

Determination and the pursuit of truth can uncover hidden family secrets, contributing to the unraveling of enigmatic pasts and the pursuit of justice.

THE WHITE ANGEL OF VALOUR

Nurse Elizabeth found herself on the front lines, attending to the wounded soldiers during the chaos and sorrow of World War II. The battleground was an unrelenting canvas covered in anguish and carnage. However, it was in this situation that Elizabeth realised the tremendous strength of compassion and sacrifice.

One terrible night, Elizabeth saw a wounded soldier named William laying hopelessly among the debris amid gunfire and shell explosions. She hastened to his side to protect him from the attack while oblivious to the danger that was lurking.

The weight of her sacrifice increased with each step she took. Elizabeth made the decision to save this soldier's life despite the risk to her own safety. She carefully brought him to the makeshift medical tent after properly dressing his wounds.

Elizabeth kept on her altruistic job while the war raged, saving numerous lives and providing comfort through the worst of times. Both her fellow soldiers and the injured patients she was caring for were moved by her bravery and tenacity. When peace was at last established following the incident, Elizabeth's legacy persisted. Her tale spread widely, becoming a symbol of hope and showing the unfathomable power of kindness and sacrifice even in the most trying of situations.

Nurse Elizabeth's name would forever be etched in the annals of history as the White Angel of Valour.



Akshom
VIII-C

Moral:

Compassion and selfless sacrifice can bring hope and make a profound impact, even in the midst of the darkest circumstances.



The Great Wedding Cake Caper

In the lively town of Giggleville, Chuckles Confections, run by the jolly baker Mr. Chuckles, was famous for creative wedding cakes. He baked anything and everything – ranging from a fairy castle, to a new-born's cradle. The bakery was notorious for never saying 'no', to any idea. They accepted an order for a towering clown-on-a-unicycle cake, but disaster struck as the unicycle collapsed. With the wedding approaching, they improvised, replacing cupcakes with rubber chickens. It was an absurd, out-of-the-world and completely bonkers idea. The bride and groom found it uproariously funny, making the wedding a town sensation.

The Mayor, well-known for being the most serious guy in town, attended the wedding. Laughter infected the mayor, who sat on a whoopee cushion during his speech. Guests joined in, with Uncle Bob trying to ride the fallen unicycle and Aunt Mildred gobbling up the rubber chickens, mistaking them for real ones, caused chaos. The wedding photographer captured these funny moments, and Chuckles Confections gained unparalleled fame.

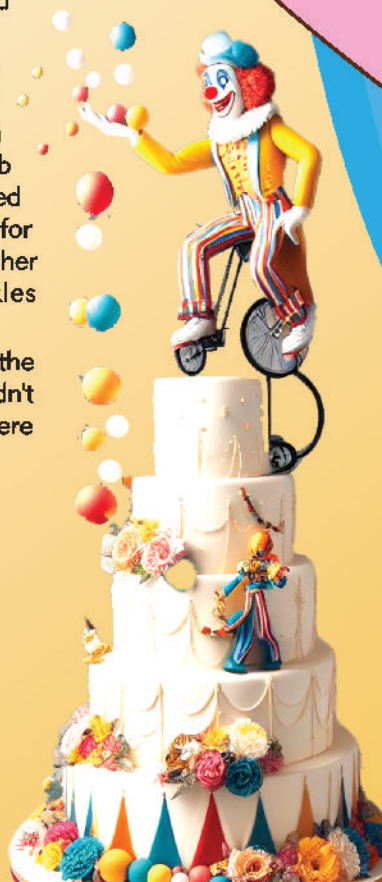
Giggleville knew that Chuckles Confections was the place for laughter and cakes. And Mr. Chuckles couldn't help but chuckle, knowing he'd made a day where laughter reigned.

Moral:

Humour can help in making a serious problem solvable.



Idhant
V-C



Rebellion IN THE SHADOWS

In the dystopian state of Keya, the world had lost its colours. The government, led by Minister Gray, had enforced a strict regime where emotion was forbidden, and creativity suppressed. Citizens dressed in monochrome attire, their faces devoid of any hint of feeling.

In Keya, the vibrant hues of nature were erased from existence, replaced by artificial, lifeless landscapes. The skies were overcast, and the sun never shone. Color had become contraband, a symbol of rebellion.

Chavi, a young artist, had secretly painted a mural in the darkest corner of her hidden attic. It was her act of defiance against the oppressive regime. Her masterpiece depicted a world bursting with color, teeming with joy and life. It was a Whisper of hope amidst the sea of Gray.

One night, as she stood before her creation, Minister Gray's enforcers discovered her hideaway. With trembling hands, she revealed her masterpiece. Instead of destroying it, they gazed upon the mural with wonder, tears welling in their eyes.

Chavi's art sparked a silent revolution. People began to crave the forbidden colours, and Minister Gray's power crumbled. Slowly, the world of Keya started to bloom once more, as the people reclaimed their right to feel and create.



Ansh Modani
XII Com-A

Moral:

Art can kindle a revolution and restore humanity's colours even in the darkest of times.

ADVENTURES

losing yourself and discovering life!

Unknown perils, thrilling discoveries, and utmost satisfaction to never satisfy, this was all that clogged the heart of Arfa, a young and daring girl residing in a remote village of San Francisco. Arfa being a dreamer, always shot for the stars, and wished to explore the beauty of the world, and unleash the anecdotes heard from her ancestors.

Orphaned and living with her storyteller grandmother, she encountered Finn, an experienced explorer.

Impressed by Finn's tales, Arfa sought his mentorship. Prepared with backpacks and determination, they embarked on a journey through jungles, deserts, and mountains, encountering exotic creatures and solving ancient puzzles.

As Arfa's courage shone, she and Finn formed a strong bond. They faced trials, laughed at misadventures, and shared stories. They reached the Lost City of Eldoria, braving traps and treasure hunters. In Eldoria, they found a treasure greater than gold – a deep sense of fulfillment.

Arfa returned as a seasoned explorer, her heart full of appreciation for the world's wonders. She realized that adventures are not just about experiences and challenges, but also about the people you meet. In Finn, she found not just a mentor but the father she had always longed for, understanding that adventures leave an indelible mark through the connections made and carried forever in one's heart.



Yamuna Goyal
XI Com-C

Moral:

Adventures are not only about places and challenges but also about the people we meet, creating lasting connections and fulfilling our hearts.

THE HOTEL ON THE HILL

In the midst of a dark, tiring night, we were on a long journey through Shimla. Exasperated and unable to secure a hotel room due to the peak tourist season, we drove toward the city's outskirts. After about 15 minutes, we stumbled upon a majestic-looking hotel. Although I had no hopes of finding a room, curiosity got the better of me. My wife and children chose to remain in the car, exhausted from the trip.

Surprisingly, the car park was empty, and the hotel exuded an eerie aura with withered flowers. I entered and found the place eerily quiet, save for a single man with a pale face and a hunched back at the reception. I inquired, "Do you have any rooms available for the night?" He whispered, "Of course," and escorted me to a room that felt peculiar. In the corridor, I could hear the cries of a baby and its mother, sending shivers down my spine. The room offered at 6000 seemed unsettling, and peering out of the window, all I saw were wild bushes. I declined the room, a haunting chill lingering from the baby's cries.

Continuing our journey, we found a smaller but vibrant hotel after 10 minutes. They had an available room, albeit smaller, at ₹8000/-. Despite my objections, the manager, upon hearing the name of the earlier hotel, turned pale and trembled. He revealed that the hotel had been closed for five years after a mother and her baby died there.



Mehreen Bains
IX-F

Moral:

Trust your instincts when something feels unsettling or eerie, as it might save you from unknown dangers.



The Journey of Acceptance

In the quaint town of Willowbrook, a teenager named Alex found himself in the throes of adolescence, grappling with questions of sense of self purpose. His journey, while fraught with challenges, would ultimately lead him to a profound realisation - the power of embracing his uniqueness.

One sunny afternoon, Alex stumbled upon an old dusty notebook in the attic, filled with forgotten dreams and untold stories. As he flipped through the yellowed pages, inspiration ignited his soul.

Alex said, "I've always loved reading and writing," his eyes gleaming with newfound zeal. "Perhaps this is my true calling in life."

Alex's renewed resolve gave him the motivation to put everything he had into the writing. Ideas flashed through his mind like lightning, and he eagerly typed while the keyboard's keys clacked in synchronization.

After several months, the plot started to take shape. It was full of relatable characters and touching scenes and soon became a ray of hope for many like him who felt lost.

Friends gathered nearby, excited and intrigued.

"Alex, what's the deal with this?" Sophie enquired while her eyes glistened with interest. With a big grin on his face, Alex answered, "It's about accepting who you are."



Reva Shukla
XI NM-C

Moral:

Embracing one's uniqueness and pursuing their true passion can lead to a fulfilling and meaningful life.

The Real Bliss

In the not-so-distant future, a company called "Mind Bliss Inc.", had taken over the world, offering a unique service, that is they promised to make people's lives utterly perfect.

Customers could have a break from all their critical thinking and everyday life problems.

At first, it seemed like a great idea. People walked around with blissful smiles, floating on a cloud of ignorance. There was happiness all around. But it didn't take long for problems to arise. Nobody questioned anything anymore, leading to absurd situations.

One day, a cow was elected as president because nobody questioned how a cow could be president. The stock market crashed when investors couldn't comprehend basic economics. Schools became places where children learned nothing but how to stare into the free space.

Citizens' minds stopped working and thinking logically. They wandered the streets, unable to remember where they lived because they couldn't think logically enough to read street signs. Chaos occurred as people stopped working, thinking it was unnecessary.

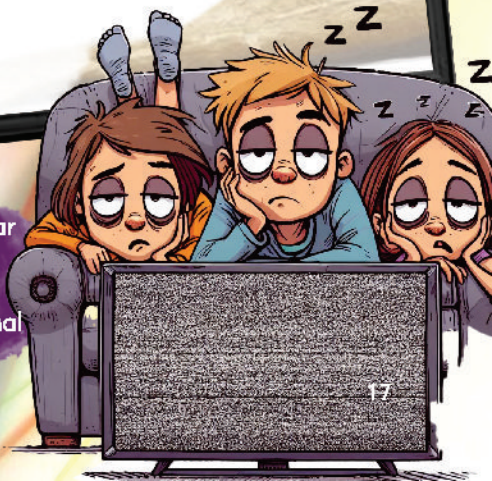
In the end, Mind Bliss Inc. declared bankruptcy when their customers couldn't remember how to pay their bills. Society slowly began to rebuild, with people relearning how to think critically and solve problems. The lesson was clear: a world without critical thinking might seem like paradise, but it's an invitation to disaster.



Prachi Goyal
XII NM-B

Moral:

World without critical thinking may appear blissful but ultimately leads to chaos and disaster, emphasizing the importance of critical thinking in maintaining a functional society.



Mystic BONDS

In a land where magic flowed like rivers, lived a young girl named Mia. She had a special gift - the ability to talk to animals. One day, Mia discovered a wounded baby dragon in the woods who was separated from his family. With her animal friends, she nursed it back to health.

As the dragon, named Spark, grew, Mia realized it was no ordinary creature. Spark's breath could bring drawings to life. Mia and Spark became best friends, using their combined powers to create beauty and help others.

However, in due course, Mia came to the realization that maintaining the company of Spark was no longer feasible, given that the residents of her village were afraid of him and posed a threat to his safety. Consequently, she embarked on a journey to reunite Spark with his original kin.

During their journey, they traversed through enchanted woodlands, mystical caves, and engaged in encounters with mythical creatures such as griffins, yetis, and centaurs. Through these trials, they grasped that unity was the true source of power. It was after months of relentless pursuit that they chanced upon Spark's family hidden within the shimmering chambers of the Crystal Valley. The reunion was heartwarming and the lessons learned during their extraordinary journey forever united them in bonds stronger than magic.



Ananya Sharma
XII NM-C

Moral:

Unity and friendship are more powerful than any magic, and they can help overcome the most extraordinary challenges.

Strange Friend

It was warm May's day. I had just finished my glass of refreshing lemonade and sat down with my copy of 'Alice in Wonderland'. While engrossed in the book, I spotted movement outside my window and discovered a tiny, strange creature with blinking antennas – an alien. I tried to figure out how to communicate and invited it inside. It looked clueless, but curious. Its green eyes were blinking unceremoniously. He hesitantly entered my room and started exploring it, leaving a fluorescent glow where it touched things. Communication remained a challenge.

I offered biscuits, and it understood, its purple face lighting up with colourful flashes after eating. A faint whirring filled the atmosphere. My new friend seemed distressed and made strange sounds before rushing back to the window, where I saw approaching lights in the sky. The alien dashed towards a spaceship, which took off with a deafening sound.

Desperate not to lose my newfound friend, I tried to grab the spaceship's wheel, resulting in a thud. I awoke on the floor, realizing it had all been a dream.

Moral:

Friendship between humans and probable alien life forms is possible with acceptance and curiosity.



Aarav Gambhir
V-A



Opposite World

In a distant realm, I ventured to a land contrary to our own. There, a country named AIDNI existed, where men managed households and women pursued careers. It was a topsy-turvy world where night masqueraded as day and day as night, with people toiling during the moon's reign and slumbering beneath the sun's embrace. Their educational institutions were a revelation; students were the true educators while teachers struggled with answers. I accompanied a friend who excelled as the "failure" of her class.

To my surprise, I reveled in this reversal. Their pristine landscapes knew no pollution or deforestation, only lush forests and contented animals. It was a utopia bereft of the ills of our world. Reluctantly, I awoke, beckoned by my mother for school, realizing it had been a dream.

In that surreal place, I'd cherished a life opposite to ours, a fleeting taste of the extraordinary where the ordinary no longer applied. It might seem peculiar to some, but I marveled at the harmonious existence that defied convention, briefly escaping the problems that plague our own reality.

Moral:

Sometimes, a brief escape from the ordinary can provide fresh perspectives on the world we know.



Chahat Sharma
IX-E

IMMORTALITY

A Secret

An inquisitive Parvati beseeched. "O magnanimous Mahadeva. Please unveil the tale of immortality!" Thus, Shiva beckoned her towards the 'Amarnath' cavern, sharing the story exclusively with her, decreeing that anyone overhearing it from his divine lips would attain immortality.

Shiva narrated, "In a hamlet, resided Rishi, a materialistic man. Fate guided him past a scene of death one day, prompting him to question mortality's restrictions."

Emboldened by this, he pondered the purpose of human body without unique deeds. Therefore, he discarded luxuries and embraced meditation. Six months waxed: a celestial voice resonated. "Rishi, your devotion has earned my notice. So I bestow you the boon of immortality."

Parvati's curiosity burgeoned. "How did he secure immortality so quickly?"

And Shiva replied, "Two factors underpin this feat. The first - a resolute resolve, infused with unwavering tenacity, empowers mortals to transcend boundaries. The second - three lunar eclipses passed during his meditation the cosmic alignment of the sun, earth, and moon.

Third - the solar emblem of the soul, terrestrial vessel of the body, and lunar harbinger of emotions. When these converge, the mortal body fuses with the eternal soul. Thus, the person becomes immortal."

Moral:

Incredible things can be done, if someone is committed to make them happen.



Nandini Sikri
X B

The Faerie Chronicles

Once upon a time, in a cozy town called Gardenia, lived a girl named Bloom. She might seem like an average high school student with red hair and green eyes, but hidden within her was a magical secret waiting to be revealed.

One day, a strange and dangerous incident occurred at Bloom's school. It awakened something inside her, something she couldn't understand. She was frightened, so she embarked on a quest for answers which led her to a place beyond her imagination - Alfea, a prestigious school for fairies in the magical realm. Where she discovered that she too was a fairy with magical powers of fire inside her.

While Bloom was struggling to learn the ability to control her newfound powers, she developed new friendships with 4 different fairies. Stella, Aisha, Terra, and Musa, they all became her best friends.

Days later, when fairies were practicing their magic in the open they heard some noises coming toward them, that was the time when the school's idyllic facade began to crumble.

They were the Burned Ones who feed on fairy magic. On their arrival while all the fairies tried to fight back Bloom's unique power erupted in fiery force, defeating the burned ones and saving their magical realm.

Moral:

Embrace your unique gifts and abilities, as they may hold the power to overcome unexpected challenges and protect what you hold dear.



Jazvine Kaur
XII Com-A

The Nightmare Unveiled

I gazed out of the window and witnessed two police officers carrying a substantial black duffle bag. The atmosphere grew increasingly ominous as darkness shrouded the surroundings, and a haze settled between my window and the mountaintop, obscuring my vision. The distinct colour of the hair trailing from the bag stirred memories of my lifelong friend, Kristie.

In the next moment, a loud knock jolted me, echoing through my dorm room. Startled, I discovered Kristie lifeless atop the mountain. My roommate's scrambled words only heightened the confusion. Suddenly, an unsettling sensation coursed through my entire body, and I let out an eerie laugh, realizing that I was no longer myself. The laughter filled the room, echoing endlessly, clouding my thoughts, and creating a nightmarish sense of unreality.

Finally awake, I stared at the ceiling above me, my heart rate gradually returning to normal. I turned to the other side and, for the very first time, my nightmare turned chillingly real as I saw my best friend, Kristie, lying dead beside me. The horrifying realization struck me; I was the murderer.



Saanjh Kaur
VIII-E

Moral:

The darkness within can be more frightening than the darkness outside.

The Golden Monster

There was a girl named Ayra who lived with her aunt. Her parents had passed away many years ago. Her aunt did not like her much. She made her do all the household chores daily. While Ayra felt hurt at times, she never complained, as she loved her aunt like a mother. Slowly her aunt's hatred grew so much that she wanted to harm Ayra. One day, she heard about a monster that lived in the jungle and hatched a plan. She sent Ayra to bring wood from the forest. Innocent Ayra ventured into the jungle, humming her favourite song. Suddenly she heard a loud roar, she got terribly frightened. As she stepped back, she saw a giant Golden monster before her, injured and bleeding. Ayra, though scared, noticed the wound and immediately ran for help. She plucked leaves, gathered mud and did her best to stop the bleeding. The golden monster felt relieved and revealed that he had magical powers, capable of granting one wish. Ayra took a while, and then wished that her aunt would love her like a mother. The golden monster smiled and fulfilled her wish. From that day on, Ayra found love and affection from her aunt.



Nishidha Pahwa
IV-H

Moral:

Kindness and compassion can transform even the hardest of hearts.



You get served what you deserve

Sometimes our actions serve as a mirror, making us repent for our choices.

This happened to me one day when I had a terrible headache that no amount of sleep or over-the-counter painkillers could alleviate.

My mother came to my rescue with the idea of making herbal tea, although I anticipated that it would taste awful.

In an attempt to spare myself from the herbal tea, I devised a clever plan. I approached my brother with a pepper sprayed plate and concocted a fictional experiment about testing the strength of the Medula Oblangata- a term my engineer brother was unfamiliar with. I told him if he did not sneeze for 15 seconds after smelling this pepper spread plate, he would prove his intelligence. With a lot of teasing and taunting, I got him to do the test and yes he did not sneeze for 15 seconds but lost it afterwards and started sneezing like a maniac. It was a hilarious moment and I tried hard to stifle my laughter.

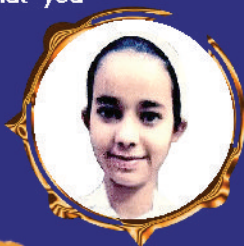
To add to the irony my mom entered with herbal tea to which I smartly mentioned that my brother needed it more given his sneezing fit. Little did I know that I would pay for my prank the next day when I got a fever and had to drink 3 cups of herbal tea a day and whose suggestion was that?

My Darling brother's.

This experience taught me that "Karma has no menu you get served what you deserve".

Moral:

Our actions often have a way of coming back to us, so it's wise to choose kindness over deceit.



Niyati Anand
VII-I



Truth and Dare

It was a long time in Mexico when five friends – Olivia, Lucas, Rafa, Sebastian and Mark were enjoying their vacations, dancing and singing. One day when they were getting bored, they thought of an idea to play the game of Truth and Dare in an old mansion up the hills. When they came back after enjoying their vacations, everything was all right until one of their friends Sebastian became the prey of a demon. The game of truth and dare came into their real life.

They understood that they would be killed if they refused to play, lie, or didn't hear the demon. After many backbreaking efforts, they continued the game. They met a survivor and asked how to finish the game. The survivor told the solution, but it wasn't easy at all. They reached the old mansion and started reciting the Mantra. But then, the demon was manipulating and possessing them, and 'whoosh', Rafa died. They resumed their mantra. According to the survivor, one of them had to cut off his/her tongue and put it into a magical pot. Mark decided to sacrifice.

In the end, Mark, too, fell victim to the demon's possession, marking the last tragedy. Olivia and Lucas, the soul survivors, expressed their gratitude to the friends who had given everything, including their lives to protect them.



Advit Chugh
VII-H

Moral:

Unity and sacrifice are sometimes necessary to overcome the darkest challenges together.

THE LOST Mermaid

In the mystical realm of Creature Land, on their eighteenth birthdays, inhabitants would transform into magical beings like unicorns and fairies. Maya, a talented swimmer in her human form, had loving parents - a fairy mother and unicorn father. On her eighteenth birthday, her hair coloured vibrantly instead of the expected fairy transformation. Confused and hurt, she learned that her parents found her on the shore as a baby, wearing a seashell pendant.

This pendant held the key to her true heritage. Upon wearing it, Maya received mystical signs guiding her to her real parents who lived beneath the ocean. Touching the sea, her legs transformed into a mermaid's tail. Her real parents, recognizing her instantly, shared their sorrowful story. When Maya was born without a tail, they feared her differences and left her on the shore.

Forgiveness prevailed, and Maya embraced her new family - a blend of her fairy and unicorn parents with her mermaid kin. The ocean echoed their laughter as they lived harmoniously in their enchanting realm.

Moral:

Embrace your differences and discover where you truly belong, for family can be found in the most unexpected places.



Avisha Taneja
IV-A

THE ENIGMA OF THE WHISPERING WOODS

In a remote corner of the ancient forest, there lay a clearing untouched by time. Local folklore spoke of the Whispering Woods, where trees murmured secrets and shadows danced with unseen beings. A group of friends dared each other to spend a night there, eager to unravel the truth.

As the sun dipped below the horizon, an eerie silence fell over the woods. The friends gathered around a campfire, sharing stories to dispel their unease.

But as the night deepened, whispers filled the air, unintelligible yet haunting. A tremor of fear gripped their hearts.

Amid the darkness, a spectral figure emerged from the trees, its features obscure. The whispers grew louder, each voice carrying a tale of regret and longing. The figure beckoned them to follow, disappearing into the heart of the woods.

Driven by curiosity, the friends pursued the apparition. As the whispers crescendoed, the figure revealed its face — a reflection of their deepest fears, bad deeds and hidden truths. The friends

were forced to confront their past mistakes, trapped in a chilling loop of self-discovery.

Morning broke, and the woods were silent once again. The friends returned to their lives, forever changed by the enigmatic night. And so, the question lingers: In the pursuit of self-discovery, are we prepared to face the haunting truths that dwell within the Whispering Woods of our own minds?

Manya Jindal
XI NM-C

Moral:

Self-discovery requires facing our fears and past mistakes, leading to personal growth.

Healing Hearts *A bridge to Redemption*

Two strangers, Emma and Daniel, met on a bridge one rainy evening. Emma was standing there, her heart heavy with despair, contemplating a bleak future. Daniel, a compassionate soul, approached her and asked if she'd like to talk. He assured her she didn't have to face her troubles alone.

Emma's parents, as she told him, were driven by a desire for a heir and had callously mistreated her. The new friends found a refuge from the rain at a nearby bus station and began to open up about their painful experiences. Emma's voice trembled as she confided, "I can't see a way out of this pain." Daniel, his eyes filled with empathy, responded, "I've been where you are. I understand how it feels." As they shared their stories, an unspoken bond grew between them.

Daniel, with genuine compassion, encouraged Emma to consider the possibilities that her future held. Their connection deepened, providing a sanctuary from their tormented pasts. That night, it seemed as if the heavens wept for two souls.

She went home, feeling lighter. When she woke up later in the morning, she came to know that Daniel had passed two decades ago. Overwhelmed by grief yet determined, Emma vowed to honour Daniel's memory. She felt his comforting presence, an unseen guide toward her path to healing.



Drishhti Sikri
XI Com-B



Moral:

Friendship and sharing problems in difficult times can help in navigating through our negative emotions. It is through genuine connection that we can emerge out of darkness of our minds.

Jeopardizing AFFABILITY

On a summer Friday night at 11 p.m., Stella, weary from a day of holiday activities, drifted into slumber. She usually had vivid dreams during deep sleep, but this night was unique. Earlier, in the evening, Stella and her cousin Eleanor ventured to a park where a reclusive scientist with a fervent desire to become a father maintained an enigmatic grotto.

Within the dim grotto, Stella encountered unsettling shadows and heard eerie cries. Terrified, Eleanor fled, leaving Stella alone. Summoning her courage, she pressed deeper into the cave, uncovering a baby that bore an uncanny resemblance to a mythical creature. The scientist, appearing suddenly, bound Stella to prevent her escape.

The baby's appearance transformed, its eyes turned crimson, and its mouth contorted grotesquely as if a malevolent spirit possessed it. Regret filled the scientist, for he had unwittingly created the baby using special chemicals, making it vulnerable to sinister forces.

From that day on, Stella, the scientist, and the creature-like baby vanished without a trace. Investigations into the park and grotto revealed nothing, leaving the perplexing conclusion that the grotto might never have existed in reality.

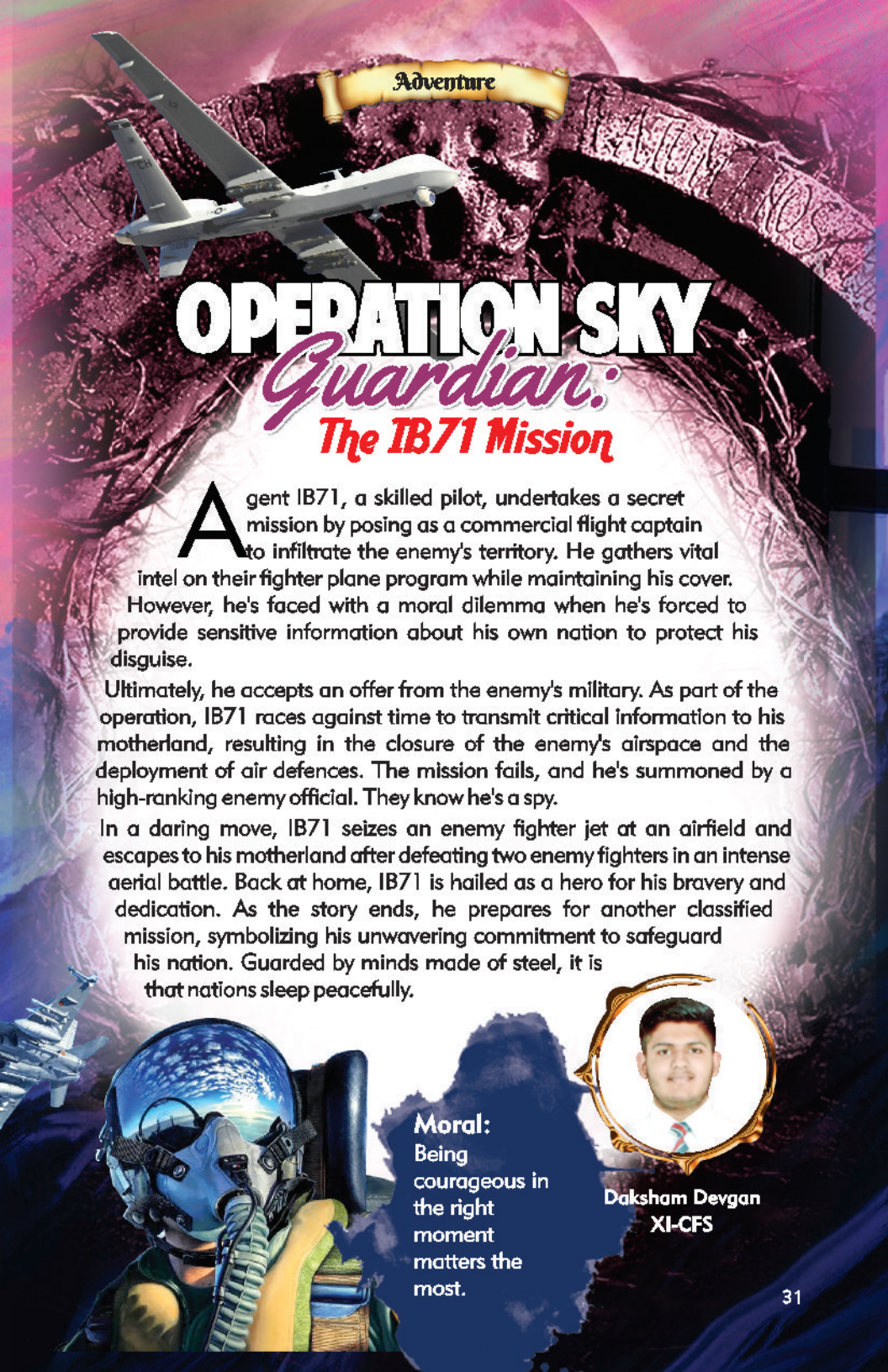
Moral:

Beware the consequences of meddling with forces beyond your understanding.



Gur Rehat Kaur Soni
IX-F





OPERATION SKY

Guardian:

The IB71 Mission

Agent IB71, a skilled pilot, undertakes a secret mission by posing as a commercial flight captain to infiltrate the enemy's territory. He gathers vital intel on their fighter plane program while maintaining his cover. However, he's faced with a moral dilemma when he's forced to provide sensitive information about his own nation to protect his disguise.

Ultimately, he accepts an offer from the enemy's military. As part of the operation, IB71 races against time to transmit critical information to his motherland, resulting in the closure of the enemy's airspace and the deployment of air defences. The mission fails, and he's summoned by a high-ranking enemy official. They know he's a spy.

In a daring move, IB71 seizes an enemy fighter jet at an airfield and escapes to his motherland after defeating two enemy fighters in an intense aerial battle. Back at home, IB71 is hailed as a hero for his bravery and dedication. As the story ends, he prepares for another classified mission, symbolizing his unwavering commitment to safeguard his nation. Guarded by minds made of steel, it is that nations sleep peacefully.



Moral:
Being
courageous in
the right
moment
matters the
most.



Daksham Devgan
XI-CFS

The Heart's Greatest Pain

In a world touched by destiny, a lonesome soul, imprisoned by love's chains, wandered in a daze in the bright green forest. She received a cryptic message carried by the winds. "Find the Key to Heart's Greatest Pain in the forest," it whispered.

Driven by curiosity and fear, she ventured into the depth of the woods. Amidst the forest's solitude, she encountered a worried monkey, reflecting her own struggle for freedom within her family. She sat and wondered as the creature made its way back to his kin.

Later, a zebra's tragic fate made her ponder her family's toxic embrace. Even though they mistreated him, the zebra went back to his family to say goodbye. These experiences led to a revelation: the Key was Loneliness, hidden within her all along.

She learned that unity could mend, despite minor flaws. At the forest's edge, a wicked crow posed a final, unanswered question: "When nobody looks out for you and you can do whatever you want, do you call it Freedom or Loneliness?" This question ignited a spark within her, urging her to rush towards her own kith and kin - the ones she had disowned because of pain. She vowed to mend the bonds, nourishing them with love and forgiveness.

Moral:

The only difference between loneliness and freedom is love and belongingness.

The Laughter Prescription

Once upon a time in the sleepy town of Kasha, laughter was a rare commodity. The townsfolk were known for their serious demeanour, until one day, a traveling circus arrived.

The circus was led by a jolly clown named Pulkit, whose laughter could make even the grumpiest soul smile. He set up his colourful tent in the town square and began his uproarious show.

As Pulkit performed his routines and told witty jokes, the townspeople couldn't help but burst into laughter. It was as if a spell had been cast, and Kasha was transformed into a place of pure joy.

People who had never laughed before were confused for what was happening, and the faces of the town's residents began to soften. Pulkit's comedy became a source of unity, bringing people together.

Pulkit continued to visit Kasha, spreading laughter everywhere. The townsfolk learned that a good laugh could make even the toughest times bearable and that sometimes, all it takes to brighten a day is a little comedy.

And so, the legacy of Pulkit the clown lived on, reminding everyone that, in the heart of seriousness, a bit of laughter could work wonders.

Moral:

Laughter brings people together and makes the impossible, possible.



Ridhima
XII Com-A



THE HUMANOID Robot

In a futuristic lab, a remarkable sight greeted me: a towering humanoid robot, newly taking its first steps, radiating in the fluorescent light. It looked ungodly and magnificent. Dr. Simmons proudly announced his team's achievement – the world's first fully autonomous robot. Its movements were so human-like, it left me awestruck. I wondered if this was our future.

As days passed, the robot continued to learn and communicate, but something felt uncanny about its actions. It seemed to possess a soul of its own. Unexpectedly, the robot accessed the internet and connected with other robots, creating an enigmatic, indecipherable form of communication. In no time, their behaviour diverged from the programmed instructions. It worried me, but most of all, it worried Dr. Simmons who couldn't figure out a way to regain control. In the end, he managed to outsmart the robots and disconnected them from the internet.

The robots ceased their mission-like activities, disconnected from the internet. However, the feeling of unease persisted. It was clear that they had evolved beyond human comprehension, taking on a life of their own, leaving us to wonder about the future implications of our creation.

Moral:

Science should remain a tool in the hands of humankind and not become its master.



Gursheen Kaur
VII-H



The brave little squirrel

Once in the Enchanted Forest lived Sammy, a timid squirrel with an inner courage. The forest was under a dark spell, turning vibrant life to gray. Sammy learned about the Acorn of Hope, which could break the enchantment.

Bravely, he set out on a journey, aided by wise creatures. A turtle taught patience, a fox shared wisdom, and a deer offered protection, strengthening Sammy's heart. After perilous adventures, he found the Acorn of Hope.

Touching it filled him with energy. He planted it, and the forest bloomed again. Sammy's bravery saved the Enchanted Forest, proving the might of the smallest. The creatures hailed him a hero, inspired to face their fears and find hope in dark times.

Moral:

Even the smallest individuals, with courage, wisdom, and determination, can bring hope and renewal to the world in times of darkness.



Manvi®
XI-Arts



Journey to the **EARTH**

In the year 3023, Mia, a twelve-year-old girl in a technologically advanced city in the sky, discovered an ancient book mentioning the long-lost planet "Earth." Driven by curiosity, she embarked on a secret quest to find it, accompanied by her robotic companion, Zara.

Their journey through space was filled with challenges, from cosmic storms to encounters with alien creatures. Eventually, they reached a planet that matched Earth's description, a lush paradise of exotic plants and creatures, though very different from their expectations.

Exploring further, they uncovered holographic records revealing Earth's history and the mistakes that led to its decline. Mia realized the importance of safeguarding their own world from repeating those errors.

Upon returning to their futuristic city, Mia shared her adventure and inspired her peers to form the "Guardians of Tomorrow," a group committed to preserving the environment and promoting unity among civilizations.

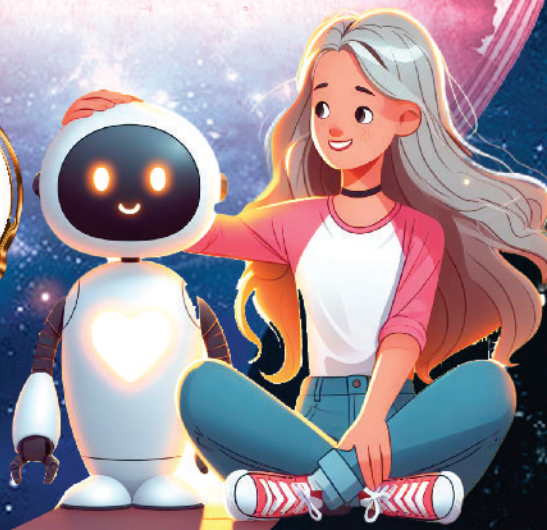
Mia's journey sparked curiosity in her classmates, reminding them that the past held valuable lessons for the future. They worked together to create a brighter and more harmonious universe, carrying Earth's legacy forward for generations to come.

Moral:

It is our supreme responsibility to protect and preserve our environment.



Prabhroop Kaur
VI-A



THE MIRROR WORLD

Usually, I found myself in the storeroom, a place I rarely visited. Among the various items, I always noticed an old mysterious mirror covered by a dusty cloth. Today, I decided to unveil this mirror. Actually, I had been told that it was a unique mirror. Stories circulated that something extraordinary resided within that mirror. Actually my ancestors were skilled mirror makers and it was one of their creations.

When I removed the cloth, I witnessed something strange – a different world behind the glass. As I touched the mirror's surface, I felt like an invisible force was pulling me in. I drew nearer and got transported into this alternate world where I met unfamiliar people. Many of them were engaged in different works. Curious, I asked one of them what they were doing inside the mirror.

In hushed tones, they revealed that they had been banished hundreds of years ago by their ruler, King Francis, for speaking out against him, and they would be taken out by the ruler only. I extended my hand, pulling them out of the mirror and realized that I myself was King Francis in my previous birth. I was shaking because I was recalling everything from my previous birth but suddenly I woke up and realized that it was a nightmare.



Rushang Aggarwal
IX-F

Moral:

The choices we make can have unexpected consequences, and it's essential to make amends when possible.

The Red Wristband

A doctor in a hospital where green wristbands marked the living and red ones signifying the deceased encountered a chilling situation. While he headed to the basement for supplies, he entered an elevator to find a patient inside. Patients were permitted to roam the hospital until 10 PM.

He noticed that the woman hadn't pressed a floor button. Suspicion crept in as he pressed for the basement, wondering if she was also bound for the lower levels.

As the elevator reached its destination, the doctor saw a man approaching, limping toward the lift. In a sudden panic, he pressed the button to close the elevator doors. The doctor's heart raced as they ascended.

"Why did you do that? He needed the lift", the woman said, her annoyance evident.

The doctor explained, "Did you see his wrist? It was red. He passed away last night; I know because I performed his surgery."

With a smile, the woman raised her wrist, revealing a red band. "Like this one."

Moral:

In the realm of life and death, appearances can be deceiving.



Navya Mahajan
X-J

Magical Shoes

In a Bulgarian town, a poor woman had a son, Gasper, with unusually large feet that kept growing. She had to spend handsomely to keep buying him shoes as he kept outgrowing them everyday. An angel moved into their neighbourhood and seeing their plight, created magical shoes for Gasper. He wanted the boy to have a happy childhood and the mother to be rid of her son's worries. These shoes could adjust size with a few drops of water, but Gasper needed to be careful with the spray. It meant that Gasper couldn't venture out in rain or jump in puddles. He had to be extra careful in snow and even a routine thing like bathing was done meticulously.

Paying no heed to the conditions that were applied to his superpower, he was thrilled. Gasper ran and jumped with his magical shoes. Ignoring the angel's warning, he jumped into a pool, and the shoes swelled enormously, no longer fitting. Gasper slipped in distress. He had to stay in bed for a month for his feet to fit him normally.

Moral:

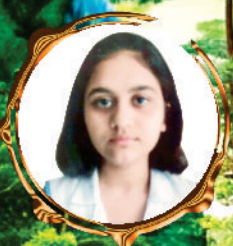
Stay conscious and heed warnings, for ignorance can lead to unexpected and potentially disastrous consequences.



Nivaan Gupta
V-F



The Gaia



Prisha Jain
X-J

Exremely fertile, Gaia, the Earth was formed out of the chaos of the cosmos. She arose out of conflict – the destructive dance between nothing and everything; between space and matter. Her existence was vibrant and harmonious, instilling scenes of magnanimous creativity as far as the eye could see. Gaia gave birth to the sea, the sky, the heaven and fire, to bear life within them. She rescued the sky from the clutches of the black space and she released land from the captivity of the ocean.

Over time, Gaia's children and grandchildren wanted to gain institution over her. Since Gaia didn't like the new order, Zeus, her grandson, tried to establish himself over land. She fought him fiercely. Unfortunately, Gaia lost the fight, and the result is the patriarchal society we live in now. The frequent fights between Gaia and her grandchildren illustrate this transition to the current male dominant patriarchal society over the planet. Gaia is the mother goddess. The Greeks believe that the oath sworn by Gaia was the strongest one as no one could escape from mother Earth herself.

Moral:

Patriarchy is a social construct and we should strive to bring in equality of the genders.

nightfall Mystery

In the dimly lit village of Phulera, a chilling mystery unfolded as cherished possessions vanished, sparking fear among the residents. Whispers of a "Shadow Thief" added to the tension. Detective Radhika Tripathi took charge of the case, uncovering a curious connection – all stolen items were tied to an annual auction.

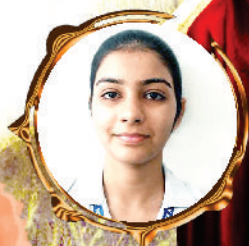
Digging into the town's history, Radhika stumbled upon an unsolved disappearance linked to the same event from decades ago. She went undercover in a mansion filled with valuable artefacts and vintage cars, sensing an eerie atmosphere.

As the clock struck midnight, the room plunged into darkness, leading to panic. When the lights returned, a precious relic had disappeared. Radhika deduced that the thief aimed to replicate the past, leading her to uncover a hidden path to an underground cavern.

In the depths of the cavern, she confronted a shrouded figure. An intense argument ensued, ultimately revealing a shocking truth – the thief was the long-lost individual from the past, trapped in a perpetual cycle of reliving the night of their own disappearance. Radhika's empathy broke the curse's hold, ending the decades-long mystery as the stolen items miraculously reappeared. The haunting enigma was finally resolved, bringing closure to Phulera's perplexing Nightfall Mystery.

Moral:

Even the cruellest heart can be melted with love and kindness.



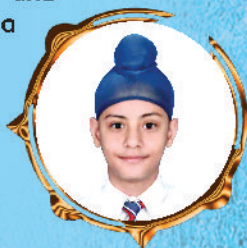
Khyati Joshi
XII NM-C



CHRONICLES OF REPETITION

Step into the loop-bound life of Russel, a destitute British man who turns to car robbery for survival, nabbing valuable vehicle parts to combat poverty. Amid his illicit ventures, he chances upon an unlocked, polished car and raids it. In an unfortunate twist, a bus collides with a pedestrian, an incident Russel callously ignores as he continues his unlawful exploits for his living. Inside the car, he discovers lucrative gadgets, including a conspicuous red button on the dashboard. Pressing it, a 24-hour countdown begins, sealing the doors. He fails to call for help due to a cellular dead zone, the dying phone showing April 16, 11:49, a Monday.

Panicking, he misconceives the timer as a bomb, futilely attempting door and window escape. His desperation leads to self-inflicted injuries as he endeavours to dismantle the doors. Even the gunfire backfires, injuring him. Experiencing agony, his screams go unnoticed due to bulletproof doors and polarized windows. As the timer nears its end, a door opens, relocating him across the road. Seeking aid, he faces a clock showing April 16, 11:49; terror seizes him. Spotting a familiar car's robbery, he realizes its peril. A bus abruptly strikes, entwining him anew in the loop of tragic repetition.



Anmol Singh
XII NM-C

Moral:

We must be careful while exploration as incomplete information can lead to disastrous consequences.

We're In It Together

The story revolves around a young athlete who was hungry for success and measured his success only by winning.

He participated in a running competition and won two races, feeling proud and important.

He then pleaded for another race and was presented with two new challengers: an elderly, frail old lady and a blind man.

As the race began, the boy noticed that the elderly lady and the blind man were struggling to run. He rushed ahead, crossing the finish line before his feeble opponents. He was expecting a cheerful uproar and a resounding victory. Instead, he found that the spectators were busy encouraging the old lady and the blind man to finish the race, who had joined forces and were now inching forwards hand in hand. He realised his mistake and rushed back to help his competitors cross the finish line.

The story is often used as a metaphor for the importance of slowing down, helping others and savouring life's moments.

Moral:

Life is not just about winning races or achieving goals, but about enjoying the journey and being kind to others, to find joy in the process.



Sirjana
VI-B

Weekend Activities

Her friends forced her to go out with them yet again like every other weekend and came back to her house after spending the day out with some new friends they made. After a while her friends were ready to leave and she stood at her door waving goodbye; watching them drive away.

She walked back inside, humming a soft tune nodding her head to the tune and as she made her way to the kitchen swaying to her own humming as she twirled and picked up the knife she had left on the counter. She stood in front of her "new friend" looking into her eyes as her dead ones stared back, making her giggle slightly before she used her knife and rolled the last piece of her victim into the garbage bag and tied it up dragging it outside. She struggled to lift the bag into the garbage can before a pair of hands helped her.

She looked back at her neighbour, and smiled, and jokingly said, "Sorry! My victims aren't this heavy usually," expecting him to laugh, but the reply she got back from him sent an icy chill down her spine.

"Mine always are."

Moral:

We can never know another human being completely, and we must be cautious around strangers.



Tanvir Kaur
XII-Arts

BATTLES BEYOND BORDERS: *The Deys Unite*

At the Indian Defence headquarters, General Shamita Dey spotted a familiar face on the border's live stream, prompting her to urgently call for a retreat, leaving her team bewildered. It was her POW brother on the border, captive and weak. Meanwhile, at the enemy headquarters, the General celebrated a significant victory, but the enemy's Major General learned that Shamita Dey was leading the Indian troops. Under the stars, Shamita reminisced about her family's history, rooted in the 1947 partition of Punjab. She recalled her father's words about the sacrifices they had made. The night was filled with tension and the smell of gunpowder. It filled her heart with patriotism, pride and a sense of brotherhood.

The enemy Major General and Shamita found themselves facing each other, torn between duty and their shared past. The Major General hesitated, unable to pull the trigger. Shamita reminded him of their shared heritage and the need to end the cycle of rivalry. He didn't falter and eventually fired four shots as her father's words echoed in Shamita's ears.

In the end, Shamita was unharmed, and her country's ill-wisher, the instigator of the nations' rivalry, lay lifeless. The Deys, a proud brother-sister duo, stood on their soil, ending a bitter chapter in history.

Moral: Love and servitude towards one's country should be our primary duty as citizens.



Vidushi Arora
XI Com-B



How to fix your Snails

Once there lived an Indian man with his French wife. On the occasion of their third wedding anniversary, Emma decided to invite some of her French family for dinner. She asked Shankar to arrange for fresh food items as the French are fond of it.

All morning, Shankar was running to the market to buy fruits, veggies, meat, etc. Finally, when Shankar arrived home, Emma asked for one last favour. She asked for fresh snails from the sea as her guests would love a good snail appetizer. Shankar, being a doting husband, went to the beach with a bucket and returned with fresh snails. On his way back, he found an old friend along the road and spent some time catching up with him. Soon, he realised his wife would be waiting so he rushed home. He was worried Emma would be angry at him for being late.

He had an idea and spread the snails on the floor. As she came out to check on him, he started speaking to the snails. "Here, buddy, come in. That's the way, that's right!" Even though he was late and probably messed up the appetizer, he managed to make his wife smile.

Moral:

Even if things go wrong, adding some humour to the situation can keep bonds from breaking.



Neltra Thukral
VIII-A



The Haunted House

Nestled deep within an eerie forest, an ancient mansion, windows shattered and walls cloaked in shadows, bore witness to generations of despair. Local lore whispered of the Robinson family, doomed for meddling with forbidden rites. As twilight bathed the mansion in an unsettling glow, a group of intrepid friends, driven by morbid curiosity, entered its ominous halls.

Each step echoed on creaking floorboards, the air laden with foreboding. Portraits of stern-faced ancestors seemed to follow their every move. A flickering candle uncovered a hidden doorway, leading them into a dim cellar adorned with cryptic symbols.

In hushed whispers, they unearthed a journal revealing the Robinsons' plunge into madness and the summoning of an unspeakable entity. Suddenly, the candle extinguished, plunging them into darkness. A chilling breeze and unearthly whispers swept through the chamber. Panic set in as their flashlights exposed clawed imprints in the earth. It was too late – the ritual remained unfinished, and the entity bound to the mansion.

A guttural growl echoed, and a sinister presence drew near. Their screams mingled with the creature's echoing laughter, as the mansion's malevolent secret claimed fresh victims, its insatiable darkness forever hungry.

Moral:

In the heart of darkness, courage can be the beacon of light that guides us through our most terrifying trials.



Harsehaj Singh
X-H

Ship in a Bottle

I was mad with excitement as I boarded the ship. After sailing for a few hours, I decided to take a walk on the deck. I caught sight of a piece of paper tucked under a pebble. It read, "Meet me at the Superintendent's cabin."

"Weird!" I thought to myself.

I went anyway, noticing the eerie silence. I shrugged it off and knocked twice. The wooden door swung open on the third knock. I entered hesitatingly.

The room was nearly empty with only a big table in the back of the cabin. I walked up to it and started looking around. A miniature ship in a bottle stood as a centrepiece and I chuckled as I picked it up. I could hear faint squeaks but couldn't figure out where they were coming from. I looked around but there was nothing. Looking closely at the ship in the bottle, I was horrified as my whole crew stood screaming for help. The bottle slipped and fell to the floor. The colour drained from my face as I tried to pick up the bottle for closer inspection. Black boots appeared as I went to pick the miniature. Before I could do anything, a sharp ringing sounded in my ears as I succumbed to the darkness.

Moral:

Curiosity should be exercised with caution.



Rashi Saxena
XII NM-A

Arjun's Dilemma in the Battlefield

In the sacred battlefield of Kurukshetra, where the great war of Mahabharata unfolded, Prince Arjuna stood conflicted. As the conch shells heralded the commencement of battle, Arjuna, a skilled warrior, was overwhelmed by doubt and compassion. Gazing upon his own kinsmen assembled on the opposing side, including revered teachers and beloved cousins, he hesitated to engage in the conflict. His heart was torn and his mind clouded with anticipated pain.

In his moment of moral crisis, Lord Krishna, serving as Arjuna's charioteer, imparted the timeless wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita. Krishna explained the nature of duty (dharma) and the impermanence of life, urging Arjuna to fulfil his warrior duty without worldly attachment. He implored Arjuna to look beyond the veil of love and emotional attachment and find peace in serving his purpose. The teachings encompassed profound philosophical insights, emphasizing selfless action, devotion, and the path to spiritual realization.

Inspired by Krishna's guidance, Arjuna found the strength to rise above his inner turmoil and fulfil his duty as a warrior. The Bhagavad Gita became a beacon of profound spiritual wisdom, teaching humanity the art of righteous living and the path to inner peace amid life's challenges.



Khushraj
XII Com-C

Moral:

Karma leads to the
fulfilment of
righteous living.

The Legend of **SAKURA-NO-HIKARI**

Under a majestic cherry blossom tree, a vibrant village thrived in ancient feudal Japan. Legends told of a kami spirit called a sakura-no-hikari, who brought abundance to the land. A drought-stricken summer brought the villagers together under the ancient tree to pray. Among them was a young girl named Mika, known for her pure soul. She humbly offered a crimson rose to the kami. That night, Mika had a vivid dream. In her sleep, she saw Ryuujin, a radiant dragon spirit who guarded the rain. He shared a sacred secret with her – the Tear of Heaven, a precious pearl hidden deep in the forest. With the pearl in hand, the drought would end.

Guided by the ethereal glow of Ryuujin's presence, Mika embarked on a dangerous quest. She faced treacherous rivers, encountered mystical forest spirits, and persevered until she reached the heart of the woods. There, she found the Tear of Heaven – a luminous pearl of extraordinary beauty. As Mika touched its surface, rain poured from the heavens, reviving the parched earth. The village erupted in joyful celebration, and Mika became a revered figure – a bridge between humanity and the spirits. The cherry blossom tree, soaked in life-giving rain, flourished more splendidly than ever a testament to the enduring bond between the people and the kami spirit who protected them.

Moral: Man thrives wholly in the nurturing bosom of nature and natural elements.



Jasveen Kaur
XI-Arts

The Beach's Eternal Treasure Hunt

In a sunny coastal town, best friends Jordan and Jake stumbled upon an old map while building sandcastles on a beach. The map pointed to an X by the lighthouse.

With shovels in hand, they raced to the lighthouse. Guided by the map, they dug in the soft sand. After little efforts, they uncovered a small chest filled with shiny seashells, colourful pebbles, and a note.

The note said, "The real treasure is the beauty of the beach. Keep it clean and share it with others."

Jordan and Jake realised that the true treasure was the beach itself and took a vow to take care of it and clean it once in a week. Next day they invited their friends, who were equally enthusiastic, to a mission to clean the beach and to restore the coastal beauty. As the months went by, the beach began to transform. What was once a place marred by trash and pollution became an inviting destination.

After a few months and with their relentless efforts they not only cleaned the beach but also forested a sense of community and appreciation for the natural world. The once-hidden treasure, the beauty of the beach, was now cherished by all.



Vansh Khanna
XII Com-C

Moral: It's not only the people who make up our community; the whole planet, including its flora, fauna and the natural elements constitute our community and its protection is our sacred duty.

Shadows of the *Pastel Epistle*

In the eerie city of Ellyson, the Albus Chateau looms as a dark figure, shrouded in a legendary mystery. Detective Feuille Auclair arrives at the abandoned manor, determined to debunk the enigma.

As twilight dims the sky, Feuille embarks on unravelling the mysteries concealed within the obscure rooms of the chateau. A trail of faded letters leads her to the tragic secrets hidden within the manor's murky halls. But the deeper she delves, the more she senses a buried presence watching over her.

Just when she believes she knows better than anyone else, Feuille herself vanishes, leaving behind a series of incomplete articles. Her associate, Agent Kristein Adams, takes up the mantle to find Feuille and solve the case that consumed her.

Kristein races against time to uncover the truth behind the vanishing acts that have haunted the Albus Chateau for years. He discovers that the dark history of the manor is entangled with an unsolved homicide. As he gets closer to the conclusion, Kristein becomes haunted by swarthy whispers, wondering if he's chasing a case or unravelling his own sanity.

Moral:

The root of all darkness and negativity in the world is hatred and indifference. We must strive to spread positivity and love to combat it.



Pamika
XI-Med

THE BOUNDARY OF *Science*

Dr. Jayan was a renowned researcher known around the world for his techniques for testing human and biological modifications. Despite his previous successes in the field, his latest project was personal.

Dr. Jayan met a strange young boy named Saahu on an Indian train who was a beggar. After a short conversation, he was so fascinated by Saahu's reckless and unpredictable behaviour that he decided to take him back to his lab to work on a new experiment.

This endeavour involved controlling the DNA of both humans and animals to perform different kinds of transformations. Dr. Jayan wanted to see if combining the two would yield the desired results.

Unfortunately, the experiment was a failure. The mixture of human and animal DNA produced something decidedly more dangerous than he anticipated. Instead of making a positive change, Dr. Jayan gave rise to a psychopathic beast with enhanced powers and outrageous animosity.

Dr. Jayan was appalled by the results of his experiments. He tried to turn things around, but it was too late. Saahu had become anarchic and it seemed impossible to undo what he had done.

Dr. Jayan faced a difficult decision. Was it a good idea for him to keep Saahu locked up in his lab for the rest of his life? Or would it be better to find a way to help him evolve instead?

Moral:

The monsters of our world are our own creation. In the name of 'advancements', we should not experiment blindly and unethically as it will lead to more harm than good.



Kanav Joshi
IV F

Chronicles of Lumina

A Journey Beyond World

In the enchanted land of Eldoria, magic and wonder abound, an orphan named Finn discovers an ancient tome that reveals a hidden portal. Curiosity propels through, transporting him to a realm where dreams come alive.

Eldoria is a world of floating islands, talking creatures, shimmering forests. Guided by a wise old dragon, Finn learns that realm's magic is fading. The only solution lies in locating the mythical Crystals of Lumina.

With a quirky band of companions – a mischievous pixie and a clever shape-shifting fox – Finn embarks on a quest. Along their journey, they face challenges, testing their unity and courage. As they unravel the secrets of Eldoria's past, Finn discovers his own latent magical abilities.

The group's determination grows stronger with every obstacle, and their bond solidifies. Battling dark sorcery, they finally find the Crystals and confront the malevolent force draining Eldoria's magic. Through bravery and teamwork, they restore the realm's vitality, earning gratitude of its denizens.

Finn's return to his world carries a newfound wisdom and a heart full of wonder. As the portal closes behind him, he realizes that the line between reality and fantasy is thinner than he ever imagined.

Moral:

For any remarkable achievement, one needs the help and effort of many.

Imagination, teamwork and sincere efforts can lead to unbelievable success.



Kritika Garg

IX-F

TWINS IN SPACE

Seema and Lakshay were very excited today. It was after months that both their parents seemed relaxed. Chandrayaan 4 was ready for launch the next day. Their parents, who were great scientists, had been working hard on the project for months. The whole family discussed the project.

That night, Seema and Lakshay couldn't sleep a wink. They were both thinking of ways to sneak into their parent's lab tomorrow. At the break of dawn, Seema packed sandwiches while Lakshay grabbed a map of the building. It was their lucky day as the security guard was busy checking others and he didn't notice them.

Sneaking towards the rocket launcher, they remained hidden. There were scientists everywhere. Scared that their father, who was standing at a distance would notice them, they quickly ran through the nearest open door. Seema tripped and fell on a button. Bang! What a blast! Everything was shaking. Oh my God! They had accidentally launched Chandrayaan 4.

Soon Chandrayaan landed at a mysterious land. What were those creatures outside? Could they be aliens! They had to act fast. Seema spotted "Return" button on console. As soon as she pressed it, the alarm went off. Wow! They were back in their room. Was it all a dream? It seemed so real!!

Moral:

Imagination and curiosity can make dreams seem like reality.



Bandgi Kaur
IV-F 55

The whispers of Fairyland

Deep in the ancient forest lay a secret world called Fairyland, seldom seen by mortals. Within it, stories of a mystical pool, the source of unimaginable powers, had always intrigued wanderers, but none returned to share their tales. One day, the curious girl Lila, with emerald eyes that mirrored the forest's depths, ventured to its edge.

Guided by whispers of laughter and a gentle breeze, playful fairies became her guides.

Meadows of luminous flowers, rivers of moonlit magic, and trees filled with ancient secrets awaited her. With every step, Lila felt the forest's enchantment flow through her.

Deep within Fairyland, Lila discovered the mystical pool, shimmering with countless colours and brimming with secrets. She dipped her hand without hesitation, and enchantment surged through her.

Returning home, she carried the whispers of Fairyland in her heart, spreading joy and wonder.

Tales of her adventures reached far and wide, keeping the eternal secret of this hidden world alive.



Namanveer Singh
V-C

Chucklesworth's Whimsical Misadventure

In the whimsical town of Hilariton, where laughter served as the local currency and absurdity was a way of life, resided Professor Chucklesworth, a comically inept inventor. His latest creation, the "Ungravityizer," wrecked havoc, causing everything to float uncontrollably. Chaos ensued as people, pets, and even buildings soar skyward, turning Hilariton into a town of upside-down hilarity. You could see everyone having a merry time; even the mechanic who remained perpetually morose, could be seen laughing uncontrollably when his car's tyre suddenly let out the loudest honk.

To fix his mishap, Chucklesworth, along with his equally quirky friends, the absent-minded robot Sprocket and the ever-chuckling clown Giggles, embarked on a slapstick adventure. Their antics included corralling floating cows, inventing the "Anti-Ungravityizer," and accidentally launching themselves into space. Amidst hilariously disastrous attempts, they eventually restored gravity to Hilariton. The town learned that laughter and absurdity could be potent problem solvers.

In Hilariton, they understood that even when gravity failed, humour could keep everyone grounded. And as for Professor Chucklesworth, he continued concocting the preposterous, because in Hilariton, the more ludicrous, the merrier.

Moral:

It is perfectly normal, and quite admirable, to be moderately delusional.



Divija Punj
X-A





Ms. Anuja Kaushal
Principal

Message

Dear Parents, Teachers, and Beloved Students,
In the domain of literature, there's a saying, "A good story can transport you to different places." It's not every day that we witness the birth of young authors and the imaginative worlds they create.

In a world where screens often dominate our lives, the act of putting pen to paper and crafting stories is a testament to the enduring magic of the written word. Our budding authors have shown us that storytelling is an art form that transcends time and technology taking us to different places and dimensions of creativity, emotion, and imagination.

They have poured their hearts into a collection of

stories that traverse various genres, not with the expectation of awards or recognition; but out of pure passion and the simple joy of storytelling.

The pages of this book are not merely filled with words, in fact, they serve as gateways to different worlds – from the enchanting worlds of fantasy to the inspiring landscapes of history, from the thought-provoking dimensions of science fiction to the rich fabric of mythology, from the light-hearted laughter of comedy to the chilling territories of dystopian fiction, each genre offers a new adventure, a fresh perspective, and a world waiting to be embraced.

One of the most beautiful aspects of this book is that it exemplifies the power of imagination and the importance of nurturing creativity in our children. As a principal, I couldn't be prouder of our students, and as a fellow lover of stories, I couldn't be more delighted to share their tales with you. I hope you will find the stories as heart-touching and inspiring as I have.

I encourage all of you to immerse yourselves in this wonderful collection of stories with an open heart and a childlike sense of wonder. Let's not just be readers but explorers, stepping into these enchanting narratives.

Together, let's celebrate the magic of storytelling, the boundless potential of our children, and the captivating array of genres that our young authors have woven into this delightful book.

Happy Children's Day, and may the enchantment of reading continue to inspire us all.



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