

# SPARSH NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY | 2015

Young minds who  
contributed to Sparsh Feb  
2014:

Grade 1

Samarth, Meera and Maarit

Grade 2

Pranav, Saanvi, Surabhi,  
Tisya, Anushka, Deepit,  
Panav, Haasini, Devanshi  
and Kush

Grade 4

Tanvi, Marcela, Sahithi,  
Abhay, Chetana and  
Marcela

Grade 5

Abhi, Isha, Samiksha and  
Kasvi

Grade 6

Purvi, Auric, Kavin, Trina,  
Shriya, Rishi, Anshika,  
Shriya, Suhas and Saanya

Grade 7

Rohan, Mahitha, Amaan,  
Mimansa, Aryaman and  
Akanksha

Grade 8

Sai Praneeth and Marcus

Grade 9

Shreyas and Yuthika

Some of the teachers who  
contributed are:

*Sujatha and Farjana*

## STUDENT EDITORIAL

Dear Parents,

'Sparsh' has been an amazing journey through the literary and creative expression of the young, blooming minds at Manthan. We have seen wonderful pieces of writing ranging from poems, stories to essays and illustrations and the last straw being the tantalizing humour in the 'Laugh Aloud' section and touching 'Inspirational Corner'.

The magazine has served a great learning experience to us as the task of compiling everything across the grades while coordinating with both the Campuses (Tellapur and Madhapur) wasn't easy. Thanks to the amazing cooperation and teamwork of the editorial team which kept the editing process smooth.

This edition of Sparsh wouldn't have been possible without the support of the students who contributed their articles, the editorial team, Ram Sir and Shalini Ma'am for supporting us throughout the process, Phani Sir for looking into the process of publication, Priya Ma'am for guiding us and all the dear teachers who inspired and motivated our young authors. We do hope you enjoy the montage of ideas in Sparsh.

Happy Reading!!

**Chief Editors**

**(Akshaj, Arvind and Marcus)**



**Book Review**

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**Fun With Facts**

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**Inspiration Corner**

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# IN THIS EDITION

## **YOUNG AUTHORS**

Showcases some of our young writers and their writing. At Manthan creative writing starts very early, while the first couple of years of Kindergarten is more to do with developing language skills of listening and speaking, from grade 1 the focus shifts to reading and writing. Children are encouraged to write at every point and they are given not just inspiration but various devices to structure and articulate their thoughts.

## **POETIC MINDS**

The poems published here are collected from regular class room assessments of the children done during the year. Its tough to do justice to all and pick the best from thousands of such works, the effort was more to present a sample of children's works rather than select the best. It still gives a glimpse into our young poets and how they use words to express their feelings, emotions and ideas.

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

Children are encouraged not just to read a good book but to discuss, analyse and understand it. Book review gives our children an opportunity to present their thoughts on what they see as the essence of the book.

## **LAUGH ALOUD**

While school is as much about studies it is also about having fun doing so.. here our children take a dig at themselves and their teachers for some fun times.

## **INSPIRATION CORNER**

Our Head of the Institution, Ramakrishna Reddy, shares the literary pieces that have inspired him over the years and that are of immense relevance to parents today.

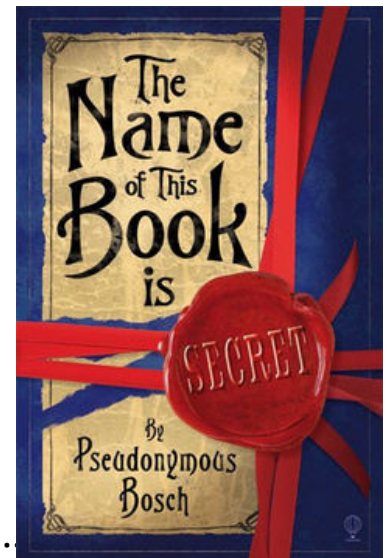
# This Review Is Not Good For You... A BOOK REVIEW

## Shreya Challa, 6B

Recently, I've read an awesome series-the Secret Series (Oh, and by the way, this review isn't actually not good for you...I think).

The story is about a girl called Cassandra, whose nickname is Cass. Cass lives in \_\_\_\_\_ town, in \_\_\_\_\_ Street and goes to \_\_\_\_\_ School. (Fill in the blanks yourself- nothing is revealed in the book, and Cass isn't even her real name. Ditto for everyone else in the series- that's why it's called the Secret Series.)

Anyway- Cass is a survivalist and has no friends at all- what she does have is her mom Mel, her trusty backpack, and her very pointy ears- that is, until she meets Max-Ernest, an extremely talkative boy. Together, they investigate a mysterious box that appears at her granddads' house. The box is called the Symphony of Smells and is filled with vials which contain smells in them. This one box leads them to a series of adventures with a boy called Benjamin Blake, and lands up with them finding out about a secret society, the Terces Society, which protects the Secret...



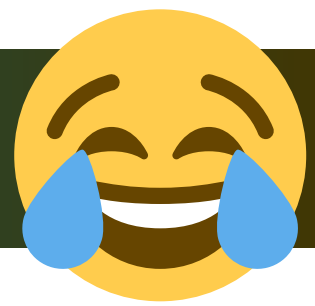
On the way, an odd Barbie look-alike and an old-yet-young man try to steal the Symphony of Smells, and Benjamin Blake. The first book ends with...a secret... From then on, Cass and Max-Ernest get involved in mysterious quests for the Terces Society and get to know all sorts of dark things normal children should not know. (Then again, since when have the two friends ever been normal?) Then, what happens is... another secret! Okay, maybe not, but I'm telling you to read the book if you want to know more.

As you probably guessed, 'Pseudonymous Bosch' is a pseudonym for the real author and nothing is revealed about him/her, except for that he/she is probably a member of the Terces Society and is a very bad secret-keeper.

The series consists of 'The Name of This Book is Secret,' 'If You're Reading This It's Too Late,' 'This Book is Not Good For You,' 'This Isn't What It Looks Like' and the latest book 'You Have to Stop This.'

You'll love the series!

# LAUGH ALOUD



## **Punny**

When asked, the man said he was climbing the billboard to have an ad-vantage...

To work in 'Subway', one needs quite a bit of training. :)

I keep my fingernails in a folder: I filed all ten of them.

Is toothpaste produced when one grinds teeth?

"A4 paper", I read somewhere. "Isn't, it P?" I thought

Obesity is increasing. In fat, it is becoming a huge problem.

## **Author Info:**

**Hi, I am Pradyumana and I am in grade 9. I love reading and writing PUNS.**

# HINDI

वह खून कहो किस मतलब का

वह खून कहो किस मतलब का,  
जिसमें उबाल का नाम नहीं ।  
वह खून कहो किस मतलब का,  
जो आ सके देश के कम नहीं ।

वह खून कहो किस मतलब का,  
जो परवान होकर बहता है ।  
जो खून नदी के जैसे बहता है ,  
वह खून महान वीरों का है ।

Author Intro: मेरा नाम भवनीत है । मैं कक्षा ६ का छात्र हूँ । मुझे अपने देश से बहुत प्यार है । मैं अपने विचार इस कविता के माध्यम से व्यक्त कर रहा हूँ ।

# HINDI

## परियोजना का लक्ष्य



एक महीने के समय में एक नए संयंत्र का निर्माण किया।

## वो लक्ष्य जीतने के लिए मैंने क्या-क्या किया

- मैं ज्वार, सूरजमुखी, धान, चना दाल और धनिया के साथ हरे चने लगाए गए हैं।
- मैं दसवें नवम्बर २०१४ पर इन सब के लगाए गए।
- तेजी से मैं जोड़ लया है प्राकृतिक उर्वरक सक्रिय खेती स्कूल में दे इस प्रक्रिया को बनाने के लिए।



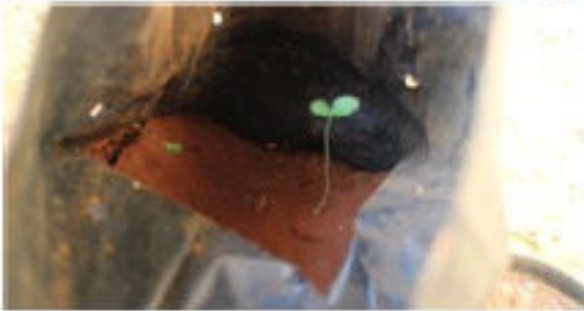


# HINDI

इन परिणामों हैं।



१६ नवंबर



२० नवंबर



२२ नवंबर



२७ नवंबर

# HINDI

धन्यवाद





# TELUGU

పువ్వు



సాధారణమైన మొగ్గ, నిశ్చబ్దంగా నిల్చి



దివ్యమైన పువ్వు, ఓ అద్భుత పుష్పము



ఉయ్యాల జంపాల అంటూ, వాయువుతో నృత్యం



సున్నితమైనకాండము, రేకులతో హరివిల్లు



విస్తారమైన నందనవనము,

బ్రహ్మాండమైన దృశ్యం

# TELUGU

ఈ కాలంలో మనుజులు

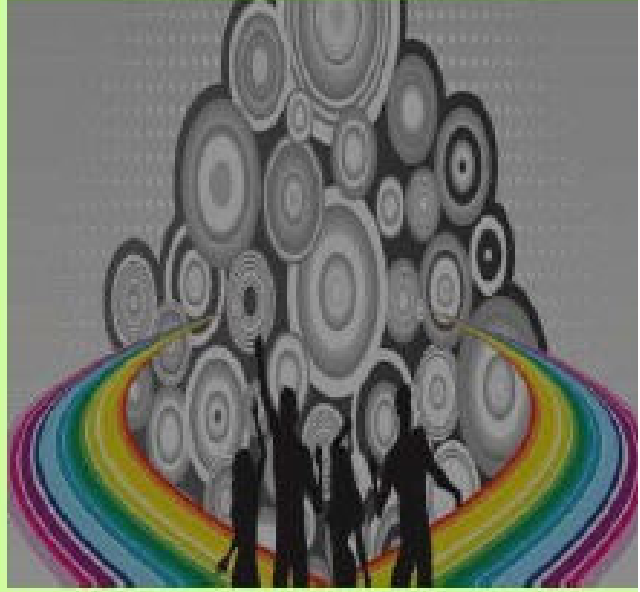
మానవత్వం లేని పనులు

సమానత్వం లేని మాటలు

సోదరభావం లేని స్నేహము

చైతన్యము అణగారెను

మనుజులు వైఖరి మారెను



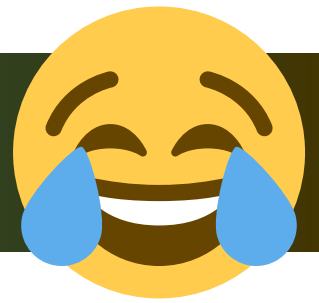
మారెను మారెను మనుషులు మారెను

మరచిరి మరచిరి మానవత్వం మరచిరి

సుహాస్

6. తరగతి 'ఎ'

# LAUGH ALOUD



## Comedy Nights with Manthan - Nikhil & Rishi, Grade7



Didn't do your English homework? Failed the science exam? Lost your project? Never fear, comedy nights with Manthan are here to entertain those suffering students with jokes, riddles, and a haiku.

1.What's another name for Santa's elves?

A.Subordinate Clauses.

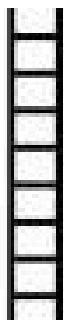
2.What happened to the plant in math class?

A.It grew square roots.

3.What is a chalkboard's favorite drink?

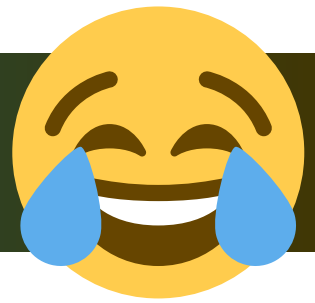
A.hot chalk-olate!

4.Why did Allen sir need a ladder?



A.To reach the high notes.

# LAUGH ALOUD



5.How does Shalini ma'am come to school?



A.Mostly on her scholar-ship, but sometimes she arrives on her sylla-bus too.

6.What do you call a camp full of ADHD kids who are forced to study?

A.A concentration camp!

7.How do you keep the school clean?

A:By staying at home!

8.Why do mathematicians like airlines?

A.They use Pi-lots.

## **Still more laaaaughter ;)**

Q: What is Sujatha Ma'am favorite dish?

A: Pie (pi)!

Q: Why did the boy eat his homework?

A: His teacher told him that it was a piece of cake!

Q: Why was the Boy's Report Card Wet?

A: Because it was below C level!

Q: What is Beethoven doing in his grave?

A: Decomposing!

# FUN WITH FACTS

## **FUN FACTS WHICH NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT!!!!**

**Sai Praneeth 8A**

### **Galileo Did Not Invent the Telescope**

Galileo Galilei, the famous Italian scientist who discovered Jupiter's four closest moons, did not invent the telescope that he used to see those moons. In fact, he just made the telescope better.

Hans Lippershey, a man from the Netherlands who made eyeglasses, invented the telescope in 1608. He wanted to see things far away--on land--so he put existing technology and his imagination together and came up with the telescope.

The Dutch government tried to keep the invention a secret, but it didn't work out that way.

**[<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/funfacts/jupitermoons.jpg>]**

Galileo heard about it and built his own. Galileo's telescope was three times more powerful than Lippershey's, and Galileo had the idea to turn it into the night sky. And in 1611, he saw Ganymede, Io, Europe, and Callisto--proof that Jupiter had moons and that Earth wasn't the center of the universe (or even the solar system).

# FUN WITH FACTS

## **FUN FACTS WHICH NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT!!!!**

**Sai Praneeth 8A**

### **The Mona Lisa Is Not Really the Mona Lisa**

The famous painting done by Leonardo Da Vinci that everyone calls the Mona Lisa is not really called that. Its real title is La Gioconda.

The woman in the painting was the wife of a man named Francesco del Gioconda, and so the painting was titled, by its creator La Gioconda. It was known for a time as the Madonna Lisa, which probably explains why it has its present name.

Leonardo created this painting over many years, beginning in 1503. When he finished it is debated by historians. During this time, he also was painting many other things, building sculptures, and making new inventions.

As for her famous smile, art historians still debate why she is smiling and what that smile represents. Everyone who sees the painting probably has his or her own ideas.

One last thing: Did you ever notice that the woman in this most of paintings has no eyebrows? It's true. Look closely. Women at that time were considered more beautiful if they had their eyebrows shaved.



# FUN WITH FACTS

## **FUN FACTS WHICH NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT!!!!**

**Sai Praneeth 8A**

### **Robert Fulton Didn't Invent the Steamboat**

The story of Robert Fulton inventing the steamboat and sailing the Clermont down the river for all to see is so familiar to any student of American history that it must be true. Right?

Wrong.

The steamboat was invented by John Fitch in the early 1790s. But like so many other sad stories of the history of invention, Fitch didn't have the money to turn a profit on his invention.

Fulton got into the act at the urging of his friend Robert Livingston, who was the American ambassador to France in the early 1800s. Fulton was living in Paris at the time and designed an experimental submarine. Livingston, who knew about Fitch's troubles, invited Fulton back to the U.S. to try to make the steamboat idea go.

Fulton, himself having a good bit of money and also having rich friends like Livingston, gets the credit but what he really did was make steamboat travel profitable.

**[<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/funfacts/clermont.jpg>]**

Even Fulton didn't get it right the first time. The first voyage of the Clermont, in 1807, failed. After a good bit of tinkering, Fulton got the boat up and running, and the little steam-powered floater made it from New York to Albany in 32 hours (at a speed of five miles an hour).



YOUNG AUTHOR

# HALLOWEEN.....

Abhinav K. Mukkala, 4B

I am looking so dumb and Halloween is only three days after. I don't even have a costume, what in the world can I do? Everybody in the class has one, even Gabe. Gabe had been my best friend since two years. I know my mother wouldn't buy me a costume. She thinks I am too old to go trick or treating. That's why I hate her so much.



"What are you doing without getting a costume?" asked Gabe. "I don't know what to do," I answered. But actually, I knew what to do. I saw my mother's purse lying on the floor.

I immediately pinched a hundred dollar note and raced to the Scary Stuff store. I asked for the vampire costume one. He said it costs ninety-nine dollars. I gave the note, took the costume and raced back home. Oh! How dead I am if my mother finds out!

As soon as I reached home, I put the vampire costume in the shelf. But I know how dead I am if my mom found out. Just then, my mom came and asked if I had seen a hundred dollar note. Oh! I am sooo dead :(

"No." I just replied. I am sooo dead! I didn't think about how angry my mom would be. I got scared and didn't know what to do. I just tore the vampire costume into pieces. Now my mom cannot find out. But wait a second! What about Halloween? It is just tomorrow. Oh noooooooooooooooooooooo!

*The End*



## POETIC MINDS

# YELLOW

**Abhishek Peri, 3A**

I think yellow is a ray of excitement,  
Sour lemonade is cooling to the touch,  
Banana split ice-cream that I love too much,  
The laughter of daffodils shaking  
in the breeze,  
The pleasant little goldfish perching  
in the trees,  
The joyful warmth while you splash.  
Yellow shouldn't be thrown in the trash  
I like yellow, I hope you agree;  
'cause yellow makes me happy! :)

# YELLOW

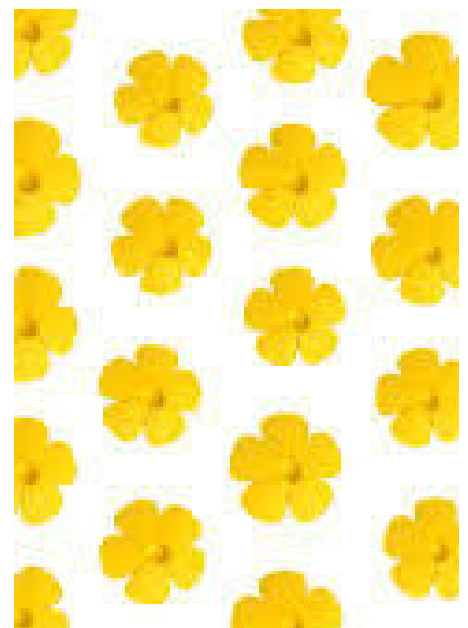
**Krrish Madavarapu, 3B**

Yellow makes me smile,  
Just like the bright sun.  
Yellow makes me run so fast,  
When I switch on the forecast.  
Yellow smells like a fresh mango.  
Yellow feels like something soft and warm.  
Yellow tastes like a sour lemon.  
But it doesn't taste like demon.  
Yellow sounds like a large truck.  
Yellow is my favorite colour.

## MY FAVOURITE YELLOW

**Sai Bhadange**

Yellow is a mango that is juicy and tasty,  
Yellow makes me peaceful and happy.  
A fragrant marigold flower that is shining,  
I hear a ball that is bouncing.  
And a pillow that is soft,  
  
A sun that is hot.  
I like yellow!!!





POETIC MINDS

# SPRING

Ayush 2C

The weather in spring  
is the best.  
It is so relaxing and  
We can take rest.  
There are mostly flowers.  
It isn't like summer.

There are so many butterflies,  
Girls can wear ties.  
Everybody can sing;  
this is spring.  
There is a bright sun.  
Lots and lots of fun.  
It's full of greenery,  
it will look nice  
with a scenery.  
It is not dry,  
Children cannot cry,  
And birds do fly.  
Everybody can sing;  
This is spring.



# BLACK IS MY COLOUR

Ashwin Botta, 3A

Black tastes like pepper  
Black looks like a monster  
Black smells like fish  
Black feels like scared people  
Black makes me bad  
Black is dark  
Black sounds like spooky places.





# MAKING A SNOWMAN ON A HOT SUMMER DAY

Maanvi 1A

I will get my freezer to the North Pole and put snow in it, then I will go back to my house and make a snowman with it.



When it will get cold outside, I will take my snowman and play with him and when it gets hot outside I will take him inside and when my



freezer is not working my snow man will melt then I will fix my snowman and put a carrot nose, scarf, hat, mouth, and two eyes on it. My snowman will stay forever and I could play with him forever.

*The End*



**YOUNG AUTHORS**

# THE BATTLE OF SPACE AND TIME

**Pranavesh, 6B**

## **CHAPTER - 1**

My name is Jay and I am going to tell you the story of my life. My story is about my partner and me helping another species of a beast, “The Dark Prince”. He is the being responsible for all universal balance. It all started in the year of 2213, when I first set foot in Techno city.

“Hey!” yelled Dawn, “Wait up!”

“What?” Jay asked as he slowed down.

“I’ve booked us a room in that hotel right next to the sea... what was it’s name again?”

“The Splash Park Grande?”

“Yep, that’s the one!”

“Sooooooo.... where exactly is it?”

“Follow me!” she said as she jogged across the pavement.

Dark clouds rolled into the clear night sky as Jay crept into bed. “BOOM!” thunder clapped as he shut his eyes. He wasn’t going to stay up the whole night just because of some thunder. He needed his sleep. He came to this place after 3 days of time in a very shabby boxcar of a very shabby train. He wouldn’t waste half a minute in a nice comfy bed asleep.





# THE BATTLE OF SPACE AND TIME

## CHAPTER - 2

Jay stood in a circle of darkness, all he could see was black, and then he realized, his eyes were closed. Suddenly, a flash of white light blinded him. Then, he saw it. A monstrous beast. He saw it attack another of the same kind but in a different appearance. Then a whirlpool of pure darkness, for it let out a beast of black and blue. It was the dark prince.

“Stop,” it cried,

“This is no time to fight!” ,but it was no use as the space and time master both fired one last beam at each other.

“No” yelled the dark prince, he zoomed up to stop them but positioned himself right in between both beams. “Ahh” he yelled as he fell straight to the ground. The other two beasts teleported away as the Dark prince breathed his last, “The Dark Prince... will...not...perish....”

## CHAPTER - 3

His body started to glow green. The Prince, what was happening to him? A green stone and two scrolls came out of his chest, but before Jay could read it he was awoken by Dawn,

“It’s ok, you were having a nightmare, tell me about it.” Jay told her. After he was done, he noticed something he didn’t notice before - he felt something under his bed sheet. The scrolls and the stone from the dream.

Jay gave them to dawn who examined it and came back an hour later and said, “We need to go to planet Sirius.”

**EARTH**

**GOOMBA**



# THE BATTLE OF SPACE AND TIME

## CHAPTER - 4

“Jay! “ Dawn whispered. “Jay!!”

“Whaaa.....?”

“Follow me!”

“Can’t you let me sleep....?”

“No”.

“Fine!” said Jay grumpily. “What now?”

He was astonished at the sight of the gigantic rocket that loomed ahead of him. “Ta-da!” said Dawn. “This is Galactic-11 – building, painting , everything by me. To planet Sirius!”

Galactic-11 was a sleek silver space ship ,with red and blue stripes, was extremely complicated and hard-to-manage controls which was floating in the middle of nowhere but was extremely close to planet Earth in universe-like distances. The over-head radio announced “Reaching Planet Goomba.”

## CHAPTER-5.1

“Why are we at planet Goomba?” asked Jay.

“Because “, said Dawn, “ We need fuel. We are dangerously low according to my calculations, by the time we reach Sirius, we’re gonna be out of fuel.”

“Umm. I don’t think they want to help...” Jay said as he pointed to the window.

“Fire!!” the Goomba King yelled.

“Come on Dawn, get the ship going, quick!”

“Initiating controls” the overhead radio droned.

“Prepare for take-off, 5...,4...,3.....,2...,1..., Blast off!!”

The arrows missed them by few inches and they took off into space.



# THE BATTLE OF SPACE AND TIME

“Phew, at least we didn’t get hit!”

The Galactic-11 was floating in space quietly when a silver planet came into view. “There it is, Sirius!” said Dawn. “Let’s go!”

## CHAPTER-5.2

“We reached Sirius”, said Dawn, “Get down”,

“What are those...?” asked Jay.

“Oh-oh, those are bomb-ombs...they explode.”

“What should we do?”

“Maybe , let’s take the Galactic buggy.”

They zoomed past the bomb-ombs which exploded behind them. “Get through that door!” yelled Jay as they crashed through the wooden door of the giant castle and landed in front of a coffin.

“I think the prince is inside.” Said Jay.

“Yeah!”

“Open it in 3...,2...,1..., Now! They grunted as they lifted the lid. Jay placed the stone on the Prince’s chest and it glowed.

Then suddenly, the prince sat up and said, “Go hero, think it all as a dream! Bye, now!”

With those words I found myself in bed, safe and sound.

*The End*



YOUNG AUTHORS

# GOING TO 2066

KASVI, 5B

‘Hey Casey’, Daniel said on the phone.

‘Hullo Dan, the crazy man.’ Casey rhymed.

“SHUT UP! You have very bad rhyming skills!”

‘Okay, okay! Why’d you call?’

‘Wanna come over?  
,

‘Why? Got a new gadget or something?’

‘No.’

‘Okay. ‘

‘You coming?’

‘Be there in a flash.’

Casey hung up and put the phone down. Then she hollered across the hall, ‘MOM! I’M GOING OVER TO DANIEL’S! I’LL BE BACK BY DINNER!’ And, in case her mom hadn’t heard, she went into the kitchen and grabbed a Post- It from the kitchen stand and scribbled on it:

I’m at Daniel’s. Be back by dinner. – Casey

She stuck the Post- It on the fridge and walked into the hall. She then snatched the cycle keys off the key holder and went out of the house.

Casey sat on her bike and rode to Daniel’s house. The wind blew Casey’s blonde hair onto her face. She swept it off with a single swipe of the hand. She parked her bike outside the house and rang the doorbell. She tried to smooth her pink shorts and yank down her plain white Jockey t-shirt. Daniel’s mother didn’t like untidiness.

Daniel opened the door, grinning from ear to ear. He was wearing a plain white shirt with a pair of cargo pants. His mother walked up behind him, eyeing Casey disgustedly. There was a long moment of silence.



# GOING TO 2066

'Can I come in, Mrs Harker?', Casey asked, finally breaking the silence.

'Sure.' Mrs Harker grunted, and without another word, she walked off.

'Casey, why don't you go upstairs while I get you some juice?' Daniel said brightly, lightening up Casey's mood.

Casey went upstairs and Daniel appeared a few moments later, clutching a tray with 2 glasses of fruit juice on it. They took out the board game Life out of the cupboard when... DING-DONG! The doorbell rang.

'I'll get it!' Casey called and rushed downstairs. Daniel raced after her. A mailman was standing at the door.

'Parcel for Master Daniel Harker' he said dully.

'That's me. Where do I sign?' Daniel asked.

The mailman muttered something that sounded like, 'Stupid kids...' as he indicated the spot. Daniel signed and took the parcel.

Casey shut the door as Daniel placed the parcel consciously on the coffee table.

'Who is it from?' Casey asked.

'Doesn't say.' Daniel replied, analysing the box, wrapped up in orange paper.

'What's in it?' Casey inquired.

Daniel shrugged and said 'Would you please stop bombarding me with questions? I'm opening the box.' With that the two of them grabbed a side of the cover paper and ripped it open, revealing a sleek, new computer tablet.

'What company is it?' Casey asked before she could control herself. Daniel looked at her, annoyed. Before Daniel could do or say something, she put her finger on her lips to show that she was shutting up.



# GOING TO 2066

‘I DON’T KNOW! Of course, I would know all about electronic stuff like this, but I never saw this type of model before. It doesn’t even have the name printed on it.’ Daniel retorted.

‘Switch it on!’ Casey ordered.

Daniel pushed a button on the side and the tablet flickered to life.

Casey took the tablet and started swiping through the displays.

‘What sort of game is this, Dan?’ Casey asked. Daniel peeped over her shoulder. A small icon said: **TOPSY-TURVY TIME**

Before he could control his instincts, he touched it.

A voice from the tablet said ‘Welcome to Topsy-Turvy Time. Decide your tense. Past or Future?’

‘This must be part of the game! Pick Future!’ Casey said excitedly.

‘Okay. You will reach there in T-minus 10 seconds. 10, 9, 8...’

Before they could react, the room started whirring. Everything blurred. Casey grabbed Daniel’s hand and held on to it so tight her knuckles were white.

‘What’s happening?’ she shouted.

‘You are being transported to the future.’ the tablet said blandly.

‘NO!’ Daniel and Casey moaned at once.

When the whirring stopped, Casey saw Daniel and gave him a hug. She was so glad he had survived. Daniel barely could talk. ‘How will we get back, Case?’ Clearly, he was frightened. Casey could feel tears welling up in her eyes. She choked them back, her eyes searching frantically for the tablet, but she had no luck. She saw a computer, already logged in. She looked at the date. They were in 2066.





# GOING TO 2066

Casey bolted out of the house. Daniel followed. As they walked on the road, they came across a park, where a girl and a boy were playing ball. The girl had blond hair like Casey and the boy had dark hair like Daniel. As their faces cleared in, they realized it WAS THEM. The girl looked exactly like Casey and the guy looked exactly like Daniel. Casey and Daniel, the real ones, gawked at each other in amazement.

‘Who- who are-are y-y-you?’ Casey stammered.

Casey and Daniel (Pair number 2) turned around and were horrified.

‘M-m-m-my n-n-name is K-k-katherine H-h-harker. Who... are... y-y-you?’ Casey number 2, evidently Katherine, stuttered.

‘MY name is Daniel Harker!’ Daniel was horrified.

‘Um...My name is David Harker. Hi!’ Daniel number 2 interjected.

‘WHAT?’ Casey (kind-of) shouted.

‘And you are, miss?’ Katherine questioned.

‘Casey McCoy.’

‘Oh, now I get it!’ Katherine said, slapping her forehead. ‘Davey, don’t you remember Great- Gran Casey and Great- Grappa Daniel. This is them! Remember the Harker family tree? They were amongst the oldest. Wait, then how are you here? I thought you weren’t living anymore...’

‘I don’t...Wait! I’ll tell you! Look, I know this may sound crazy, but I and Casey travelled in time. We’re from 2014, and WE NEED TO GET BACK. Help us if you can.’

Katherine and Daniel smiled at each other knowingly. David beckoned them to follow him.



# GOING TO 2066

Katherine lead them all back to the house they had come from. They walked into the study.

David opened the glass cupboard and pulled out a silver box with a red button on the side.

‘Casey, I mean great-Gran, please push that little button on the side.’ he said.

‘DO NOT call me that.’ Casey warned as she pressed the button.

A small keypad popped up from the box. Text flashed on the screen:

**ENTER THE PASSCODE, PLEASE.**

Katherine punched in a combination.

‘Select your year.’

‘2014!’ Casey and Daniel shouted.

The room quaked. Casey shut her eyes.

After the room stopped moving she opened her eyes and...yay! She was in the present again.

Mrs Harker walked into the room. After all the drama, she enters now!

But still, Casey was glad seeing her. She put her arms around a very surprised Mrs Harker as she shouted, ‘I love the present.’

*The End*



# MY FAVORITE WEATHER

Aarohi, 2C

My favorite weather is summer.

There is one sun,  
and I am having fun.  
It is sunny,



I save a bunny.  
My birthday is in May,  
and I am going to play.  
The tree is long and I saw a song.  
I have a toy gun,  
I like buns.

# WINTER

Arnav, 2A

There is a boy named Jinter.  
He loves winter,  
He loves snow,  
His garden needs no mow.  
He loves to make a snowman,



He fries hot sausages in his pan,  
In the winter he usually gets cold  
Out he plays in the snow and is very bold!



# NATURE

Shalokya. 2C

I like nature  
Because there is sun  
There is a lot of fun.  
Nature can be really seen  
I like the color green  
Nature makes me happy,

I heard a new word nappy  
Nature is good;  
Made out of wood.  
Nature can be fully burnt  
As they are going to return.  
Nature can be very nice  
Without any single ice.  
In nature there's ground  
to be easily found  
when everyone go walking around.



# MR. FARM

Devanshi 2B

I went to Mr. Farm's house,  
When I went there, I saw a mouse  
Well what do you know?  
It's nibbling on my toe  
There was harm

So I heard an alarm  
I saw a pond  
Five steps beyond  
My voice became bold,  
because it was cold





# DEADLY ALZOR

Manjunath, Grade 5

Long time ago there were 4 colleagues who lived near the coasts of Melbourne their names were Max, Ben, Laura and John .

Ben was short with black hair ,Max was tall and had blonde hair ,Laura was slim with green eyes and John was tall with brown eyes. All of them used to work in the squad base of MID (Melbourne Industrial Department).MID would sell guns to the people who work for the president and MID was 1 of them.

At the moment the squad base had just got a signal that ‘something is going to hit the Earth in 20 hours!’ The people in the squad base get really frightened and tell the city to evacuate to another place.

After 20 hours....

Bang!!

The UFO hits Earth and a huge creature emerges out of it in a fraction of a second. At that point of time the cops find a small device lying next to the crash after scientific research they found out it was a time turner and will work only 15 times.

They capture the creature with a net which has really strong fibres and is tight enough to prevent a rocket from a rocket launching. But no one saw the hidden blade under the creature’s arm.

On the same day the people catch the creature and scan the creature

**Name: Alzor**

**Ability: It has a hidden blade under its arm**

**Disability: If it gets scared it hides for 15 days to conserve its energy to attack**

The creature really got scared when it got caught in the net, so it’s going to hide for 15 days now. On the 7th day Max, Ben, Laura and John start to train in the squad base.

## **1:00 AM (ON THE FIFTEENTH DAY)**

Max, Ben, Laura and John get scared. After they prepare for battle, they go in search for finding the Alzor. After they found Alzor, they tried to attack but Alzor was too fast for them.



# DEADLY ALZOR

When John took out his AK-47, he got wiped out in a slash. But, luckily, they escaped with only major hurts in the battle with Alzor. So they used the time turner and go back in time to regain their previous forms.

But they keep visiting the present time to figure out the weaknesses and strengths of Alzor. And each time they keep getting injured and have to return back in time to regain themselves.

During these battles they realized, Alzor is able to heal all by himself. So far, they could only injure him only with minor injuries.

So, they figure out few things about him –

Firstly, he may die if he's involved in a huge blast with lot of impact.

Secondly, they found that Alzor gets stunned if you throw water on him.

Thirdly, water will make him hands sticky and has an advantage to grab them easily.

All these discoveries took them 14 visits to the past and present. Now they are in their last chance to find and kill Alzor.

So, they travel to the present to find Alzor raging the city. But, they are more prepared this time.

They use the correct tactics of safe guarding themselves by wearing a juggernaut suit and use the technique used by Germany in World War I – the Kamikaze attack. As they go near the Alzor, Laura pulls the trigger for the kamikaze.

At last!! The Alzor is dead and because of the juggernaut suit, they all survive the impact. The people who survived the attack rebuilt the city of Melbourne. It looks much better than it was before!

*The End*





# A COPPER IRON

**Aditya Narayan 2B**

Someone gave me a copper iron  
I liked it a bit,  
And I knew it was brand new  
Oh fiddle! It pierced my nose in the middle  
I didn't it was sharp  
And it pierced my toe, and neck, it scratched  
& he was funny

He jumps like bunny  
He thinks that a sink is a sea  
And then he tells me  
He does not know what a toe is  
He calls a knee a gee  
His hand is bold, and he gets cold  
His mother & father calls him a dear flower  
I don't know, why he almost looks like a  
FUNNY BUNNY!?!

# MR. DUCK AND MRS. KANGAROO

**Kush 2B**

Mr. Duck won the race because  
he had luck  
Mrs. Kangaroo hoped  
But Mr. Duck said stop  
Mr. Duck said can I sit on your back  
I would be quiet but I would quack.





# THE FLOWER

Isha 2B

Do you know that the  
flower is there?  
And also a gee in the sea  
A flower bumping on my  
knee  
Oh my!

The flower is going in  
the middle of the sea  
The flower fiddles and it  
hiddles that  
I never see.



# MISS HARM

Sai Pranav, Grade 2

Miss harm hid a vest and it is the best  
Miss Harm gave a flower to her very dear  
Miss Harm thinks  
That I have to go to the bathroom to  
Clean the sink

Miss Harm has luck that's why she  
Saw a duck



# **JAKE AND THE SILVER STAR**

**Abhay Reddy Botta, Grade 4**

Once, there was a boy named Jake. He lived with his mother. Jake was a 17 years old and had neat hair. Jake was a cricket player. He wore a red T-shirt with jeans pants. His father was a soldier and worked in Indian Army. Unfortunately he died in a war when Jake was just 4 years old. His mother is a house wife.

One day Jake went to play Cricket with his friends: Melvin, Harold, George, Jack and Bob. They were all the 17yr old lads. When they were all playing, their not-so-good friends: Sam and Robin came. Sam and Robin were 19years old. These kids are Jake and his friends' enemies. "What's up puny pests?" Robin teased. All the 17year olds were furious. "Hey Robin", said Sam. "Looks like the pests are getting angry."

"Leave em", said Robin. "Let's go and fetch a basketball." When Robin and Sam got the basketball, they started to play in the cricket court where all the boys were playing Cricket because there was no basketball court. Jake and everybody else were so mad that they went to Jake's home. Jake told everything to his mother while his friends were upstairs were discussing something.

When Jake came upstairs, all the lads were still discussing. When Jake asked what they were telling each other, they said they were planning what to do with Sam and Robin. "We are planning what to do to Sam and Robin", said Bob. "I can't bear them teasing us all the time", said Jack. "Don't do anything to them", said Jack. "Why?" asked Melvin. "Because some day they could be our friends", answered Jake. "Fine", agreed all the lads.

"Come on", said Melvin. "Let's go to the empty field near Mr. Franken's garden".

When they went to the empty field, they saw somebody waving an axe. "Who is that", asked Harold. "It's Mr. Franken!" shouted George. At that moment Sam and Robin crashed in to the boys.

"You went through Mr. Franken's crops!" shouted Jake. "Let's get out of here!" screamed Harold. "We only picked some cabbages, carrots and tomatoes", said Robin when they all stopped. "Then Mr. Franken came charging at us like a bull", added Sam. "But still you shouldn't have picked them", said Jake. "Now he won't let us play in the empty field anymore", said Melvin.



# JAKE AND THE SILVER STAR

Meanwhile, while Jake's mother Mrs. Clayton was in the house alone, sweeping, somebody knocked on their door. When Mrs. Clayton opened the door, she saw a man wearing black pants, a white shirt and aviator glasses.

"I'm your husband's friend", he lied. "I've come to visit your house", he said.

"Oh", said Mrs. Clayton. "Come in and help yourself with some tea".

When they were inside the living room, he said: "My name is Ajay". "I too, am a soldier in the Indian army". But Ajay was lying. He was really their neighbor. He was spying on Jake because he thought that because of him his son is dead.

The day before his son's death he was a happy man, but now he is grumpy. Just to make the story when his son died short: it was a peaceful day when Ajay's son, Rohan, was outside playing with Jake. They were playing soccer but then the ball went too far onto the road. When Rohan went to get the ball, a car was coming beside him. Jake shouted "watch out!" by waving his hands but it was too late.

The car crashed Rohan leaving his dead body behind. Ajay could not see everything but thought that Jake had pushed his son onto the road. Jake was so scared that he ran away.

Now, back to the present time

Just as Ajay asked for more tea and Mrs. Clayton gave him, he went to the bathroom with the tea and he poured some poisonous liquid in it mumbling, "I will take my revenge".

When he came back, he offered the tea to Mrs. Clayton, who drank his tea. So when Mrs. Clayton drank it, she fell sick and Ajay went outside cruelly.

When Jake came back home, he saw his mother lying on the floor. His mother was a doctor so she told Jake to get a flower called the Silver Star.

"Where is it?" asked Jake.



# JAKE AND THE SILVER STAR

It is in the Eastern Hills, not far from our house, groaned his mother. "Go in the car".

Jake was getting into his car when he saw his friends.

Even Robin and Sam.

"We heard everything", said George. "You would need some help", said Robin.

It was a long journey when they reached the hills, they stopped the car under a tree.

"Let's go!" shouted Jake. They climbed and searched but couldn't find it.

Finally, Jake spotted a flower on another hill. "It's the Silver Star!" he shouted.

They climbed the hill and took the flowers. When they were home, his mother was still lying on the floor. When she saw Jake, she told him to put the flower in the water.

Mrs. Clayton drank the water and became better. Ajay was looking from their window and was sorry for Jake.

When Jake came outside, Ajay told that he made his mother fall sick.

"Why?" asked Jake.

"Because you made my son die", he replied.

"No, I didn't, the soccer ball went on to the road and I was signaling him that a car was coming but it was too late", said Jake.

"Oh, Sorry", said Ajay. And from that time, they lived happily as good neighbors.

*The End*



# CATCH THAT CROOK!!

**Marcela, Grade 4**

Jake was two years older than his sister, Daisy. Jake was ten and Daisy was 8. They lived with their Dad in 'Blue Sky' APARTMENTS & RESORTS. It was the best, most rich apartment & resort in the world! Jake's Dad was somewhat rich and had the money to buy flat no. 10.

Jake was tall for his age, with blonde hair and blue eyes. His sister however was short, with jet-black hair and green eyes. Usually Daisy wore shorts and a black T-shirt. Jake wore baggy pants and a bright purple T-shirt all the time.

The manager of Blue Sky was very proud of his accomplishment and effort especially his resorts. He had hundreds and thousands of customers.

One day, the manager got a call in his office. When he picked it up, a raspy voice said, "You think you're the richest man? Well guess what, soon I'm gonna be the richest man in the universe!" BEEEEEP!

The manager was confused and slightly scared. He put the phone down. He plopped down on his chair and groomed his hair with his hand. He thought about the raspy voice and found it familiar.

At first, he thought it was another hotel manager and searched on the internet. After thinking about it for a while, he nearly fell off his chair. That voice belonged to an evil crook who wanted to be the richest man in the world!

The manager's closest friend in Blue Sky was Jake's father. The manager went to flat no. 10 and rang the bell. DING! DONG!

"I'll get it," cried Daisy, so she went to the door. When she opened it, the manager quickly greeted her and raced in. Jake nearly got knocked over by the manager.



# CATCH THAT CROOK!!

The manager suddenly skidded and fell, intending to stop. Jake's father, John helped him up.

When Jake, John, Daisy and the manager, Mike sat down with a cup of tea, Mike clearly narrated what had happened.

When Mike told them what had happened, everyone were just frozen.

Everything was silent until, RINGGG!

John picked it up and an unrecognizable voice said, "If this is the manager, I've made my own resort called COSTAL COCONUTS and we're soon going to be the richest resort in the universe!"

John told Mike and he immediately knew it was the crook. But Mike didn't understand how his resort could become richer then Blue Sky, unless...he was stealing from his customers!

Jake, Daisy, John and Mike sat down, all thinking of how they would get rid of the crook.

Then suddenly Jake and Daisy slapped their leg at the same time, whispered to each other and stood up. Mike and John looked at their smiling faces, probably because they had and idea.

After a minute of silence, Jake and Daisy shouted together in a chorus, " We've got an idea that'll blow your mind!"

Jake said," Our idea is that we all go to Coastal Coconuts, dressed up as customers—"

"And when the crook comes to steal from us, we hide and then bang him on the head," finished Daisy.

John and Mike were awestruck! 8 and 10 year olds had a better idea than two 30 year adults!

The next day, they dressed up as customers and went to Coastal Coconuts.

When they entered, the first person they saw was the crook and he was at a desk.





# CATCH THAT CROOK!!

He said, "Al Raspy at your service and welcome to Coastal Coconuts."

Ah! So that was his name. Raspy suits this crook thought Daisy. They changed their names and told them to Raspy. So he told them to go to room number 39.

At around 6 pm, a man came in wearing a demon mask.

Jake was under the bed.

Daisy was in the cupboard,

Mike was behind the door and John was hidden under a desk.

When the man entered, they realized it was Raspy.

Mike smashed him on the head, Jake crawled out and tripped Raspy,

Daisy jumped out of the cupboard and bit him on the shoulder, and finally John hit Raspy like a boxing bag.

John and Mike called the police and the police made Raspy return all the stolen money, and also got a 10-year sentence in jail.

Blue Sky was the richest and the best hotel in the world once again and will always be.

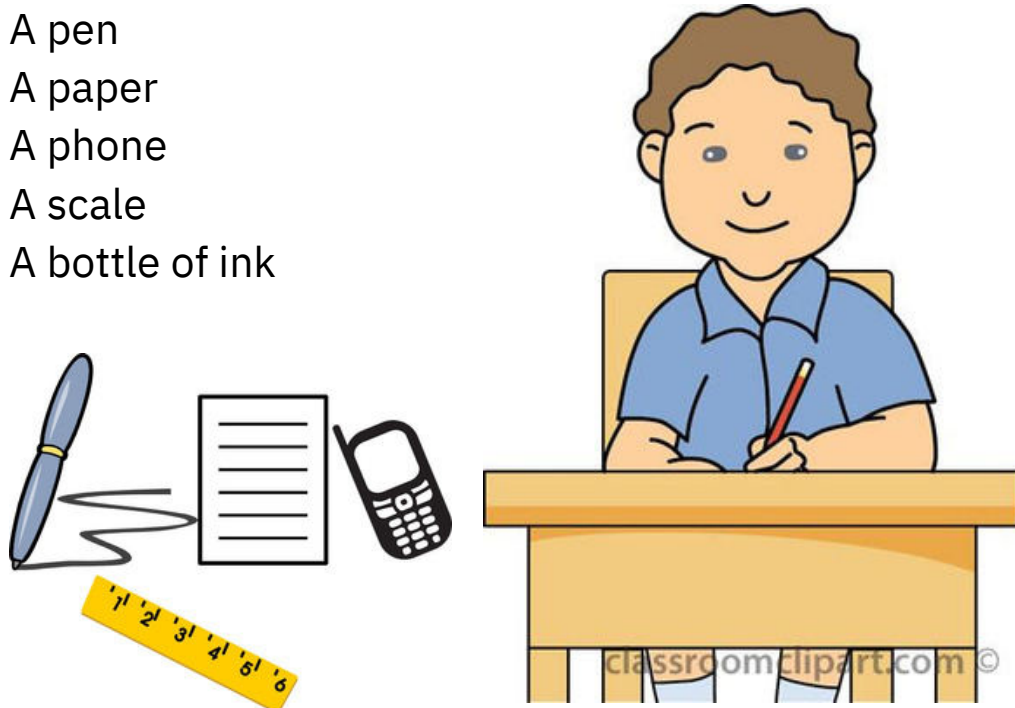
*The End*



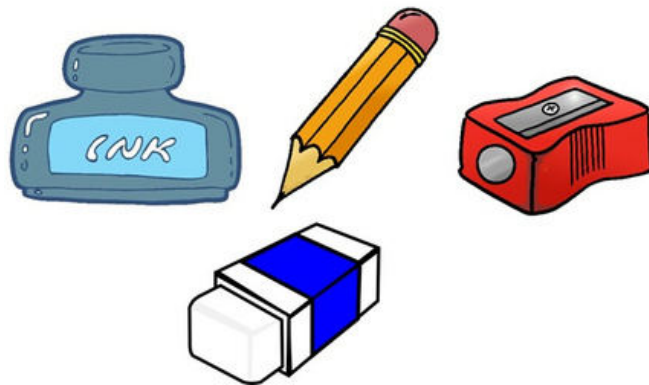
# TEN THINGS FOUND IN A STUDENT'S POCKET

Akanksha Verma 7A

A pen  
A paper  
A phone  
A scale  
A bottle of ink



A pencil  
A sharpener  
An eraser  
A watch  
A letter from his friend





# TWO FRIENDS

Akanksha Yelishala, 5 B

Walking down the street  
were two peas in a pod,  
My friend, Ms. Cod, and I.

Next, we went to play hog,  
Alas, it started raining cats  
and dogs.

So, we went out to fine dine,  
It felt like cloud nine.

Should we go in a car or a  
boat?  
She said, "The ball is in your  
court."

Finally, we headed outdoors  
to camp,  
However, I sat burning the  
midnight lamp.

All this made Dee green  
with envy,  
She even tried to poison me!

So, I sat on the fence,  
figuring out,  
If I stayed friends with Dee  
or Cod





# MESOPOTAMIA, 4000 B.C....

**Chandini Palem, Grade 6**

“Hey, Sam what is the next river valley civilization we need to explore?” questioned Kaya. “What else do we have left? China, Indus and Egypt are done. So that leaves us Mesopotamia” responded Sam.

So it was settled. Sam and Kaya were now in ancient Mesopotamia. Sam and Kaya were wondering that they should go and ask someone for help.

There sitting by a lake was a man with a bushy bearded, and, lots of jewelry. He was also wearing a skirt made of grass. His name was Moke.

Moke asked, “Ummmm....who are you?”

“We are from India. We came here to study about your religion and what you do in your daily life.” Kaya said.

As they went on Sam spotted a pretty lady wearing a beautiful dress with straight black hair. She looked a bit over dressed because of all the jewelry.

Sam went over there and said,” Hello, what is your name?”

The pretty lady said, “My name is Wikkow!”

As they left Kaya saw another lady who was cleaning a big white house with two other ladies Kaya went up to her and said “What is your name?”

The lady said “My name is Yenmmm” She was only wearing one ring with her hair in a bun. She had sweat all over her face. She was wearing a cottage girl dress.

Just then a call came saying, “Yenmmm, come collect your two blocks of gold” Yenmmm went running as fast as she could and grabbed the gold.

As they both kept walking, Sam saw a big temple built so high in the sky. Just then Kaya saw a priest walking by.

She went up to him and asked, “Can you tell me about this big temple?”



# MESOPOTAMIA, 4000 B.C....

“Yes, why not. This is a ziggurat. It is a very famous temple, here in Mesopotamia. Every city-state has at least one ziggurat. Ziggurates are very tall and big, because we Mesopotamians have a strong believe that all the gods live in the sky. And we think that the gods will worship us. Here, you can find lots of mud. So we the ziggurats out of mud brick!” Explained the priest.

As Sam and Kaya were walking, they saw a small kid running to school.

They asked him, “What is your name was?”

The little boy said, “My name is Drow. I’m going to school. In school I learn how to read, write, Arithmetic, and astrology. Only boys are allowed to school, while the girls do household chores. And only a few boys can go to school. I go to school, because my dad used to be the king. The teachers are very strict, but I still love going to school! After 10 years of school I can become a priest or a scholar. Bye I have to go!”

After, Sam saw a small temple when they both went inside it they saw a girl.

She said, “Hi my name is Anya daughter of Senator Antonius. We follow the religion of Polytheism. At this very moment we are in goddess Inama Temple.”

It was time for Sam and Kaya to go back home.

“Hey we learned so much about the Mesopotamian culture, religion, and education. Why don’t we talk about ours?” Asked Sam.

“Each god or goddess has done their level best to contribute and fight for their home nation. Just like that we should do the same for our home nation!” Kaya said.

*The End*



# CLIMATE CHANGE

Vathan-8A

Global warming is nothing but pollution,  
There is no place without contamination.  
Global warming kills many-many animals,  
not only animals , but also mammals.  
To save the trees on Earth,  
squeeze the carbon from breeze, to drizzle.  
Plant more trees for breeze,  
to squeeze the carbon from breeze.  
Imagine the dreams of humans, to save earth,  
don't continue pollution, which causes  
maximum distraction.  
Encourage green revolution,  
for ozone protection.



# GLOBAL WARMING

Valli Grade 8

How did this happen?  
Warmer every day, Like flowers on summer day,  
How did this happen?  
CO<sub>2</sub> is why, It is freezing hot up there,  
How did this happen?  
Pollution's the word, CO<sub>2</sub>'s the God over here,  
How did this happen?  
Water's drying up, UV rays are seeping in,  
How did this happen?





# CLIMATE CHANGE

Marcus Farnandez Grade 8

There once was a world so pure and clean,  
A green world without man and machine,  
Then we came along and turned our world to trash,  
Burning down trees to ash,  
We made factories and cars that spew,  
The harmful most dangerous CO<sub>2</sub>,  
This harmful gas it burns the Earth,  
Burns it till it's just mere dirt,  
And our world that we knew so well,  
Has become an agonizing, living Hell,  
We wonder, "What have we done?" This is Strange!  
What brought on this climatic change?  
The answer to why our world is dust,  
Is clear and simple it's all because of... us.



## WHITE COLOUR

Brinda-3A

White is like fluffy clouds,  
White tastes like sweet milk.  
White smells like spicy mint,  
White sounds like a loud piano.  
White feels like a cuddly pillow,  
White looks like a smooth piece of paper.  
White gives me courage to ask for white  
chocolate,  
And white is like soapy bubbles.







**YOUNG AUTHORS**

# AGAINST GOOD IN THE FUTURE

**Aniruddha Dasu Grade 5A**

“Tails,” shouted Amogh as he flipped the 1 rupee coin into the air.

“It’s heads, I win!” exclaimed Krishna. “I get to choose the top bunk.”

“Not fair...” said Amogh disappointed.

He was very upset about getting the lower bunk again. They flipped the coin everyday to choose who got which bunk and it was always his brother who won.

Their dad came in to tell them to put off the lights. They got into bed and turned off the lights but Amogh couldn’t sleep. He needed the top bunk somehow. Suddenly, Krishna’s blanket fell over and draped over his bed. It became dark all around. He suddenly noticed a dial and keypad which he never saw before.

As soon as he saw the dial he had an urge to touch it. Then he thought it could be dangerous. There was a debate going on in his brain. But he finally decided to touch it. He touched it, but nothing happened.

He touched the numbers 6, followed by 9, followed by 2 and 8. The dial now had two letters: M and D. below it, it said to type in two numbers. He typed in his lucky number: 4. Now he typed in his brother’s lucky number: 13. Suddenly he was zapped to a battlefield.

At least he thought it was a battlefield. People were fighting all around him. He saw the colossal Golconda Fort towering over him.

Archers shooting fire arrows here and there which lit up the evening sky. Men with gleaming swords were pulling bags full of something.

A few coins of gold spilled out of the bag and he realized that they were stealing gold and jewels from the castle. But the Golconda fort was big.

Big compared to the archers and the men at least because just then a bigger creature came stomping over. It was a very dark blue with shades of purple. It had spikes all around it and it’s every step rattled the ground below.



# AGAINST GOOD IN THE FUTURE

“Move quickly,” said a boy pulling him away. “What’s your name? I’m Sims.”

“My name is...” Amogh couldn’t finish his sentence. The creature had destroyed the Golconda Fort.

“What is that thingy?” asked Amogh.

“It’s a P.E.K.K.A. It stands for ‘Penspike Essential Kinetic Killer Ammunition’. Now, what is your name?” Sims questioned.

“My name is Amogh.”

Sims explained how the P.E.K.K.A was built for the humans to attack their enemies.

One day the computer was programmed wrong. And the P.E.K.K.A turned evil, attacking its own people. It killed the scientist who was the only one who knew the passcode to programme it back.

The P.E.K.K.A meanwhile attacked monuments one by one. The next stop was the Charminar. Amogh wanted to help but he didn’t know how.

He remembered going to one of his dad’s court cases against a hacker. The hacker had lost the case. As he left the courtroom, a tiny paper had slipped out of his pocket.

Amogh had taken it and read tiny print saying ‘How to create a bot in 5 minutes’. Now he could make use of it.

Amogh and Sims went to the Charminar. Amogh made all the soldiers get ready for the P.E.K.K.A because he needed to hold it back to create the bot.

He immediately got a laptop and started to create the bot. After four and a half minutes he heard stomping.

Sims was worried now. Amogh worked quicker than ever. The bot was ready after 5 minutes. The bot found out the code in no time: 2642.

Outside the soldiers were being routed. And as Amogh typed, the P.E.K.K.A killed more soldiers.



# AGAINST GOOD IN THE FUTURE

Amogh thought 'The P.E.K.K.A was built to kill people. It's doing that but the wrong people.'

Suddenly he stopped. 'I won't change it to good- I'll destroy it.' And instead of typing "MIBG", he typed "MIBD".

Outside, the P.E.K.K.A was making its way to Charminar. Suddenly, it started shaking. It moved here, then there before it fell down.

There was a loud cheer. Sims thanked Amogh.

Amogh wasn't able to reply. His mind and body were frozen. He saw something. It was the dial.

He automatically moved towards the dial. He typed in the numbers 16, then 12, then 2, followed by 0, followed by 1 and 4.

He was zapped back home, and it was morning.

At breakfast, he told Krishna, "I had a dream that I saved Charminar."

"That's cool," Krishna replied.

"I also made a new friend in my dream."

"Was his name Sims?"

Amogh stared. Had Krishna been there?

*The End*



**YOUNG AUTHORS**

# CLOSE CALL

**Suhas Kellampalli Grade 7**

The day was going fine, until the Nazis rolled into the neighborhood. Peter was packing his trunk, as his parents said that he was going to a “safe” place.

His dad was sitting on a chair, with his gun in one hand, and a goblet of wine in the other. He always carried that gun, no matter where he went. It was a black pistol, with a six bullet barrel. He took a swag of wine, and banged the goblet on the table, indicating Peter’s mom to fill the glass.

Whenever Peter asked him about the gun, he said, “we are Jews, son, we need to take our precautions.

Peter didn’t understand much of what his father said, except that he should stay away and aware of the Nazis, but his father said that the place that they were in now, was a safe place.

Peters father went through a lot in the past (especially concerning Nazis), which left him crippled.

His mother sat next to his sister, helping her pack her trunk. Mom tried to help the most around the house. The house was situated in the corner of the street. The front door opened up into a rectangular living room, with a pair of sofas strewn to one corner.

The living room opened into a long dining room, which had a mahogany table the color of maple leaves. Connected to the room, in the right, was a kitchen, with two stoves, and a bunch of cupboards.

Suddenly there was a knock on the door. Not a gentle knock, but a knock that could wake a hibernating bear.



# CLOSE CALL

Peter's dad almost dropped his goblet of wine in confusion. He eyed Peter to get inside the room.

Another knock, now even harsher. He rushed into his room, dragging his sister with him, leaving the door open just a crack.

Just when it seemed like the people were going to break open the door, my mom opened it for them.

Peter peaked out of the room. Surprisingly, his father was alert and ready for action, with his gun tucked into his pocket.

A couple of Nazi soldiers stepped into the house. The soldier in front of the group was a buff man. He had a curly brown moustache, with a brown goatee. His head was bald, with a thin rim of hair. He had a pointy nose, and cold eyes, with stormy blue pupils. He wore a light brown uniform, and held a formidable double-barreled gun.

"What took you so long to open the door?" He exclaimed.

"We were inside, sir," countered Peter's father.

"Mhm," the soldier mumbled suspiciously, as he walked around the house. "We were given orders to capture all Jews," he said disgustedly, "you're not one, are you?"

"Not at all, sir," Peter's mother replied.

The soldier walked towards Peter's room.



# CLOSE CALL

Peter got tense. If the soldier started talking to peter's sister, she would blow their cover.

Peter turned to his sister. "We are Germans," he explained to his sister, "who are we?"

"Germans," she whimpered back.

Just then, the soldier barged into the room.

"Ah, two younglings," the soldier said with a cruel smile. "There is a saying, that children always spoke the truth," a grin appeared on his face. "What's your name," he questioned Peter.

"My name is peter," he said, "and this is my sis—"

"Let her speak for herself," the soldier interrupted. "What's your name, girl?"

"My name is Maria," she said.

The soldier took her by the hair.

Dad and mom tried to help, but other soldiers held them down. Peter tried to help to, but it was no use.

"So, Maria," the soldier said harshly, as she flailed around, "are you a Jew or a German." His harsh eyes bore down on her.

Peter and his parents looked at her nervously in anticipation.



# CLOSE CALL

“A German!” she screamed.

The soldier put her down, looking disappointed. He took a look at her parents one last time, and grinned as if he caught onto something.

“Show me your bracelet,” he demanded Peter’s mom.

She hesitantly handed it over.

The soldier inspected the bracelet for what seemed like hours. Peter’s heart skipped a beat.

That was the bracelet which had the Star of David on it, the symbol of Jews.

After a long moment of silence, the soldier threw the bracelet back.

“Fine,” the soldier said, and slowly walked out the door.

Peter’s dad closed the door behind the soldier.

Maria ran into her mother’s arms, and got a kiss on her forehead.

“Good thing I changed the Star of David on the bracelet to a Nazi symbol,” Peter’s mother explained, “or else....”

*The End*





# INSPIRATION CORNER

Ramakrishna Reddy

Head of the Institution

In this edition, I want you to have a look at the following video.

## **SHEL SILVERSTEIN'S MISSING PIECE**

**<https://youtu.be/MCmZ2jrQooE>**

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