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Entertainment



The Tale of Undertale

Rakshan Pandian 11B

Undertale - the game you have likely heard about if you have spent any time on the internet. It's been approximately seven years since its release in October 2015. It is a quirky RPG (Role-playing game) with a unique battle system that lets you spare your enemies if you want. It is also known for its large and endearing cast of characters from Alphys, a reptilian monster, to Toriel, a goat monster. It was developed by Toby Fox, who took only 32 months to finish creating the game!

Undertale was inspired by EarthBound, another well - known role-playing video game. EarthBound also inspired other games such as Yume Nikki and Omori, but they were more niche, and had relatively smaller audiences compared to Undertale.

What is the reason for Undertale's success? First off, Toby Fox, its creator, had already established an audience within the Homestuck fandom, who would play the game no matter what. This ensured that the game was going to be at least somewhat of a success. Secondly, by virtue of being even slightly popular, Undertale attracted YouTubers. It was the perfect game for players on YouTube at the time, as it was relatively short and simple, making it easy for them to post weekly series on it. Gaming channels were already very popular, so by being featured on them, Undertale attracted a much larger audience, causing the game to balloon out of proportion.

From an early age, Toby Fox was interested in RPGs, with EarthBound being one of the first games he played. As time passed, he started making fan hacks for the EarthBound fandom including the now infamous Halloween Hack in 2009. He also worked on music for Homestuck (a webcomic), which brought him a decent following. The idea of Undertale came to him in 2012 and he soon put together a demo and then made a kickstarter. The news spread around the massive Homestuck fanbase where he was well known and it gained back 10 times the amount it needed to be funded!

So where is it now? Is the fandom alive? Is Toby Fox going to keep the flow of Undertale's success? Its popularity has given rise to a lot of fan content, from games, to fiction to music to animations. The number of fan creations is nigh on infinite and has fueled the fandom perpetually for years and it doesn't seem to be ending any time soon!

Toby Fox, on the other hand, is working on his next game, Deltarune, which is actually set in an alternate universe! It even shares several characters and features with Undertale, and retains the classic tagline of "An RPG where no one has to die!" In other words, things are looking great and the Undertale popularity train might be ready to speed up once more!

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The Evolution of Sitcoms

Nivedita Rajendra 9A

Sitcoms have played a significant role in popular culture. When it became very common for the majority of homes to own a television in the 1950s, the average American spent nearly 5 hours of their time watching television everyday. This is mainly because television sitcoms are used to entertain as well as influence their viewers. The cultural changes around us can be noticed as they have been mirrored in sitcoms through the decades.

TV sitcoms started as a simple and cheap way to produce money. It was about half an hour for each episode that was entertaining enough to make the audience laugh everyday for more than half a year. This idea worked for many years as the comedy of these sitcoms reflected the daily lives and situations of regular people. Because of this, they had a wide appeal across all age groups and social classes. The popular format of a sitcom has a regular cast of characters in sequential order of episodes which usually take place in the same locations.

TV sitcoms have changed in numerous ways through the years. For example, sitcoms used to be filmed in a single-location premises. However, in recent years, the settings have shifted to multiple locations, thereby highlighting different aspects of the characters' lives instead of showing a single place where all events occur. Currently, every sitcom has a main set, which is usually a

'home base' for the main characters, but it wasn't always like this. Initially, sitcoms' home bases were always at neutral locations such as a bar or café; for example, Central Perk in Friends. More recently, sitcoms locations have become more personalized where the characters can communicate on a deeper level. Additionally, modern sitcoms have become a full-blown television experience with memorable characters.

Another big change in sitcoms through the years is the role of women. About 50 years ago, women in most sitcoms were wives and mothers and the few that weren't these characters were evidently only in a working role as a source for comedy. Recently, most women in sitcoms work and are either equal or superior to men in their workplace. Children were also used as comic relief 50 years ago and they were almost always obedient and didn't contribute much to plot development. Today, children reach maturity faster than before and this can be clearly seen through the way they dress and converse.

All in all, sitcoms have been significant throughout history and have evolved with time, resulting in their importance in recent times. They started as a quick money making idea which soon evolved into a concept that has changed lives today.

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Disco Elysium

Tanish Hinduja 11C

The RPG (role-playing game), Disco Elysium, is commonly known as a clash ideologies. of It showcases kaleidoscope of ideologies that arose after the fall of the communist regime, from incongruous modernism neoliberalism. Quite atypical amongst other RPG games, its political context is at its forefront: it cannot be hidden, as it pierces through every conversation. Its philosophical and political setup is a pretext for critique and reviews, with many journalists believing that the game depicts the harsh brutalities of modern life.

only player-controlled game's character is the protagonist- Harry Du Bois. Harry comes under the influence of alcohol-induced amnesia, almost drinking himself to death after his former fiance. Dora, leaves in search of a better life. The development of Harry's character from an effectively hollow and void human entity is a pretext for the game acting as an exact function of this nothingness. The fact that our actions and desires mask this lack is seen in psychoanalysis another theory, the Freudian death drive. This theory suggests that humans are drawn to recollect a traumatic distasteful or experience or that people hold an

unconscious desire to die but that life instincts largely temper this wish.

In the game, the city of Pravachol suffers from the end of existing ideology. The abolishment of the commune (a prior establishment) and communist replacement by a coalition sends of extreme shockwaves poverty throughout the nation as citizens search for meaning in their disorderly political setup. However, amidst the chaos, there is hope. Kim Katsurigi, Harry's helper throughout the story, renders the importance of human connection and unity in the face of the despair and destitution that fogs Revacholl. It is important to note that a massive subtext of this game lies in the importance of relationships-

This scenario epitomizes our world today: despite the corruption, hatred, fear, and crime, love and relationships are seen as omnipotent forces to break these impurities and restore hope for the future.

Disco Elysium follows a deliberate political and philosophical framework that mirrors our honest reality and focuses on modern absurdity, which is normalized by a supreme constant: love.

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People & Places



Book Banning

Oppression or Freedom of Speech

Aashi Tiwari 9D

The day was August 12th, 2022. Renowned author Salman Rushdie was about to give a public lecture at a New York literary event. He would be speaking on the importance of freedom of speech and expression in writing. He planned to speak about the United States of America as a haven for writers - in line with its belief in being the land of the free. The irony? Moments later, there would be an attempt on his life in front of several witnesses, leaving him injured.

He was attacked because his views portrayed in his 1988 novel, 'The Satanic Verses', were seen as "unacceptable". The religious disputes at the time escalated to a point where the author had to live in hiding for nearly a decade, taking extreme security measures to protect himself. Decades have passed since his novel was published, yet the bounty on his head remains, leading up to his stabbing on August 12, 2022.

We believe we live in a free world, and in the free world, no rationale can justify such a drastic attack on an author that challenged popular belief. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident. Throughout history, books have been challenged, removed, and

authors have been killed. Numerous books have been challenged over the years. Some for challenging controversial ideas, or for presenting knowledge that was uncomfortable to others, or for offending social customs.

'To Kill a Mockingbird' by Harper Lee has been banned due to its language content and racial themes. 'The Lord of the Flies' by William Golding was said to be "demoralizing" as it implies that "man is little more than an animal" and George Orwell's 'Animal Farm' and '1984' have been banned for being 'pro-communist', among reasons. Ideas that are uncomfortable are easy to dismiss in the name of violating social norms or offending someone, but banning books which highlight such issues is a shallow response -- like an ostrich burying its head in the sand. Often, books portray complex themes that have existed in history and are still ever-present, such as inequality and oppression. A bitter reality is something to learn from, and banning books that highlight these realities is an act no better than turning a blind eye to them.

Book Banning

Oppression or Freedom of Speech

Books are a way of holding up a mirror to society and portraying it at its best and worst of times. Both fiction and nonfiction books reflect aspects of human society which would be lost to time if not for the documentation. They represent different cultures, social groups, and opinions through varied perspectives. Banning books due to their themes essentially means that humanity may never be able to understand these critical issues. Free flow of ideas is what makes human civilization resilient and progressive, where books are the most important medium for the spread of ideas. In addition, these books are a channel for creativity.

Books are often banned due to the belief that restricting certain information is beneficial for society as a whole. This is true for a small number of issues - for example, any writing inciting violence; however, in most cases, it's clear that it's been used by those with influence to prevent the flow of information.

In the modern world, free speech and freedom of opinion are said to be basic human rights, and restricting or banning books goes against this ideal. A book merely carries information of society and the world for us; don't ban

da book because the message is uncomfortable. A book is a work of art, stringing together words to express ideas in ways that can capture the reader's imagination. To allow art to flourish, we need to remove constraints, not create barriers around it.

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It dive into Hang Kang 's

Hong Kong, a small country in Asia, is one of the most expensive places to live in, with an average cost of living of 29,974 Hong kong dollars (3,832 US dollars) per month, excluding rent.

It is no surprise then, that the lower-income inhabitants of Hong Kong are forced to live in minuscule spaces, which also have ridiculously high rents.

These minuscule spaces come in a range of sizes and types varying from cage homes to subdivided flats, but all of them have one thing in common: they all offer farcical living spaces. So why does the government not do anything about these living quarters? Well, Hong Kong does have a lot of land, but only a quarter of the city is suitable for development. The result? Thousands of flats are divided into subunits which are then sold to the lowincome residents of Hong Kong.



These subdivided flats provide a home for ~220,000 people with most flats (around 40%) having a rent of HK\$3000 to HK\$4999. These rents take up about 50% of the salary of-

Akshat Jindal 11C

the people living in them and what do they get in return? 121 square feet which they are made to call home. It is therefore easy to say that the living standards in these flats are extremely low, with some elderly people describing their experiences in these spaces as "waiting for death", while others saying that they live like animals in cages. The reality

imposes concerns about electricity, supply, law and order. and the lack of a



fire escape. Moreover, some partitions are vulnerable to fire and without access to kitchen facilities.

To make matters worse, the hygiene issues raised in these spaces are mortifying. According to the SoCO (Society for Community Organisation), almost all 347 households surveyed complained of hygiene problems. Numerous types of pests have made their presence felt in these accommodations, ranging from rats and mosquitoes to bugs. Wrongly connected water pipes, ventilation, and an excess of people sharing minimal resources (e.g. 10 people sharing a toilet) are also features that one can find in these places.



To see how gruesome this can be, let's dive into the world of Xing Aizhen, a 46-year mother who lives with her two sons in a subdivided flat. Living in a mere space of 100 square feet, the bathroom and the kitchen practically share the same space. And as the place lacks ventilation, Xing is forced to boil or steam their meals as frying their food would result in a strong greasy odor.

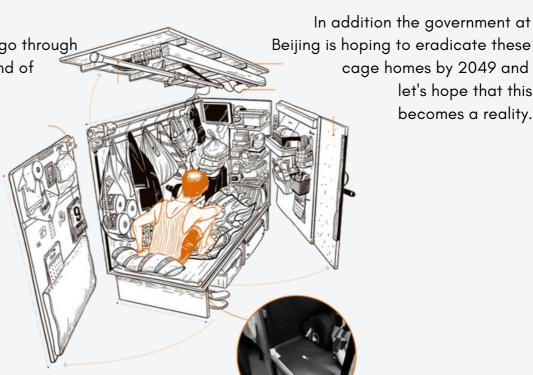
Moreover, the government has also provided funds to NGOs to rent suitable hotels and guest houses to provide transitional housing. In addition to public housing, SoCO has also provided 300 transitional housing including hotel rooms and private flats that residents can avail of until they get access to public housing. These flats charge Hk\$2000 to HK\$6000 a month and a person can remain in this flat for a maximum of three years.

So is this the unfortunate reality that these residents have to go through or is there light at the end of the tunnel? The better alternative that these people can hope for is public housing, which

lower rents. The downside however is that

offers much bigger spaces (around 4.5 times bigger) at much

the waiting time for these housing spaces is agonizingly slow with an average waiting time of 6.1 years. The good news is that the government has located about 350 hectares of land which will provide about 330,000 public housing units over the next decade.



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let's hope that this

becomes a reality.

The Mystery of the Wealthiest Temple

Anirvin Srirajavatchavai 10B

Known for its rich and diverse cultures, India is home to about 2 million temples – more than the entire population of Uruguay! Of these, Tirupati is one of the most well–known because it was the wealthiest temple in the world for over three centuries. But no more..

In June 2011, the Kerala High Court assembled a team to examine the Padmanabhaswamy Temple. A narrow passage led them to six underground vaults, which were later named A, B, C, D, E and F. They were able to unlock five of them. Vaults A and C were the most difficult ones to open. Many ancient and valuable items, such as gold statues of the deity, gems, diamonds, and many gold coins, were found in each vault. It was reported that Vault A had the most amount of wealth.

Within a few days, the Padmanabhaswamy temple became the richest in the world, surpassing Tirupati's wealth by more than 14.5 billion USD! The whole world was astonished. The temple's total donations weren't even an eighth of what Tirupati got in donations each day. So how could it possess this much gold? Why weren't all the vaults opened?

The Padmanabhaswamy temple is dedicated to Lord Padmanabha (Lord Vishnu in a resting position) and is located in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Even though it is the wealthiest temple in the world, it's been through a lot of ups and downs. It was constructed in the eighth century as a tribute to Lord Vishnu. It was nearly destroyed in the seventeenth century due to a severe fire mishap. Most of the temple was in ruins when Marthanda Varma, a Travancore monarch, decided to fund its renovation in the 18th century. It was believed that he was emotionally connected to the temple. After a point in time, he gave the god all the wealth he possessed, including the kingdoms he had captured. These riches could have been the wealth they found in the vaults. From then onwards, his successors continued looking after the temple. The last Travancore king, Sree Padmanabha Dasa Sree Chithira Thirunal Bala Rama Varma, established a trust to continue the benefactions.

Vault B is the only vault that hasn't been opened yet. It is supposedly the most mysterious vault. The iron door has two giant serpents inscribed on it, guarding the vault. The team used advanced technology and even brute force to open it, but their efforts were in vain. The temple authorities were against opening the vault for several reasons. Mostly because they believed some mystical powers guarded it, or that opening the vault would destroy Earth. Some were deterred by the reptilian noises that sounded from the vault as it opened, believing that behind it was the Arabian Sea or venomous snakes. It was said that the vault was sealed by a Naga Pasam, which is an ancient mantra to protect valuables by using serpents (Nagas). Supposedly, the sounds of the Garuda Mantra, an ancient Sanskrit mystic verse, can unlock the vault.

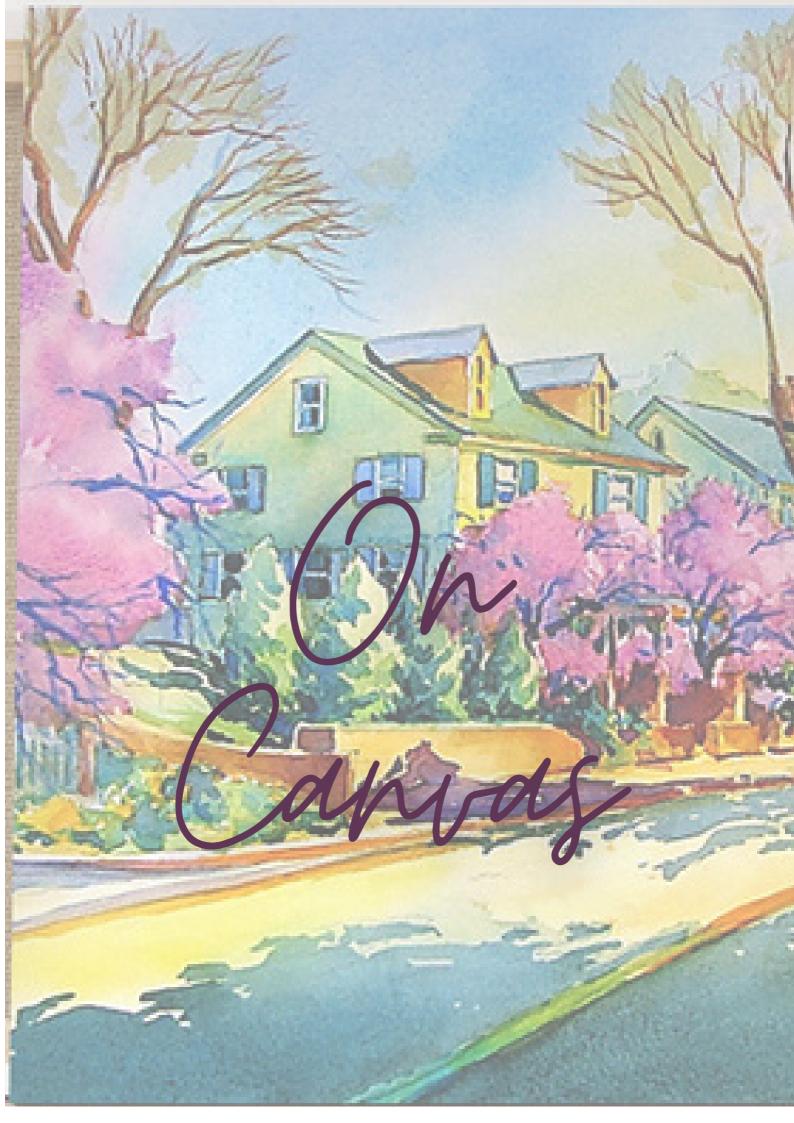
In 2020, the Supreme Court declared that the family of the Travancore rulers would retain their authority over the temple, so they could manage and administer it. However, it was determined that the temple's wealth wasn't a part of the family's wealth. It was a public temple with public assets – it could not come under the Travancore family's assets either. There were also dissenting voices, calling for the wealth to be utilized to develop our country.

The matter of Padmanabhaswamy temple is contested and confusing – on the one hand, one can argue for a birthright, an inheritance. On the other, in a growing economy, the welfare of our citizens must be prioritized. Ultimately, it's a million perspectives that can influence a decision – so how do you see it? What do you think?

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Kesar Bafna 3A

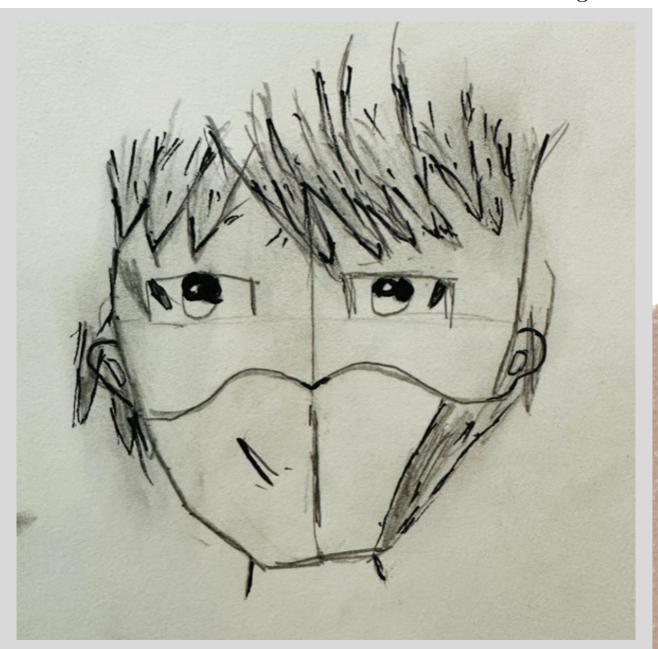






MY FRIEND MAX

Jay Mogra 3E.



This is my sketch.

It's my masterpiece in characters.

I have kept his name Max.

He gives me a feeling of a friend called Max

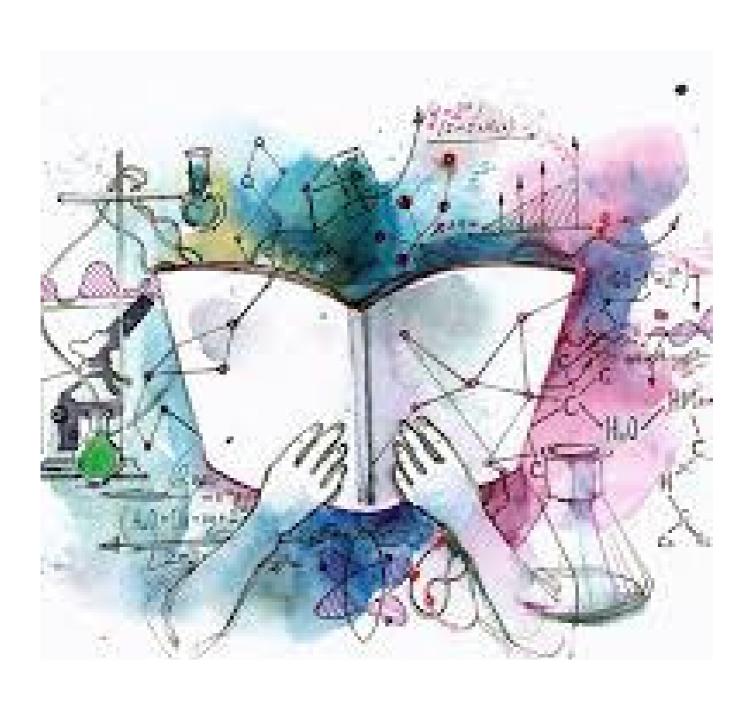
Max is a special character

I drew him so I feel he is my friend now

River Brahmaputra, Assam Ved Jain 3C



Science Vallers



PLANT INTELLIGENCE

By Aashni Mangal 9B

"Intelligence is the ability to solve problems and plants are amazingly good in solving their problems" Stefano Mancuso.

Plant? Do you copy?

Most of us are well aware of the fact that animals can communicate with each other. But can plants do so as well? Plants have the ability to communicate with one another and can share information and resources between organisms. Evidence shows that plants, especially trees, can communicate with each other. communication takes place in underground Mycorrhizal networks, which are like cobweb networks. These networks are from the growth of mushroom mycelium. These are found around the root structures of trees. The fungi exchange the minerals they collect from the soil to the sugar the trees produce. When plants are attacked by insects and the plant is being eaten, they set free a chemical called methyl jasmonate. This attracts the predator of the insects and eventually the plant is saved. Many plants will even warn others of their species when danger is near. If they are attacked by an insect, a plant will send a chemical signal through the underground network, by telling them that they are being attacked and the other plant must defend itself. According to research, plants are able to recognize and act differently to plants from the same parent as those from a different parent.

These networks have designed an internet-like structure for trees to communicate with one another, which can potentially expand to an entire forest too. When a particular species suffers from its seasonality, such as aspens in winter, conifers that are adapted to cold weather provide the necessary nutrition. It's clear that through communication, different plants uphold and support each other, a unique camaraderie. The communication of plants is an unexpected phenomenon, yet we see that they have developed their own system over the years.

Can Plants Generate Memories?

You can't help but ask the question, how can something without a brain have memories? The lack of a specific "brain" structure does not limit from generating memories remembering things. Instead, they display their memory recall through learned responses. In an experiment conducted in 2014 by Monica Gagliano, mimosa pudica, or "sensitive plant" was used. It was dropped 60 times at 5 second intervals using a custom-built elevator-like system. After the completion of this procedure, it was observed that the plant stopped folding its leaves. It was as if the plant knew that closing its leaves was unnecessary because the fall caused no harm. The experiment included 56 different mimosa plants, most of which showed the aforementioned learned response. Essentially, the plant was able to remember and memorize the fall and outcome. It learned that it no longer needed to curl or fold its leaves in response to the action.

Plants have developed various behavioral characteristics and strategies that help them solve problems. They have the most fascinating ways of communicating, solving problems and generating memories. Seeing everything that a plant can do leaves a perplexing question ringing in our heads: what would happen if plants did not have these capabilities? Would they be plants at all?

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Sterkenberg, Z. (n.d.). Plant Intelligence . "Are Plants Intelligent? Science is Beginning to Think So." Retrieved from https://www.ambius.com/blog/are-plants-intelligent/. SPACE IN 2022 - NOT QUITE

THE UNKNOWN ANYMORE

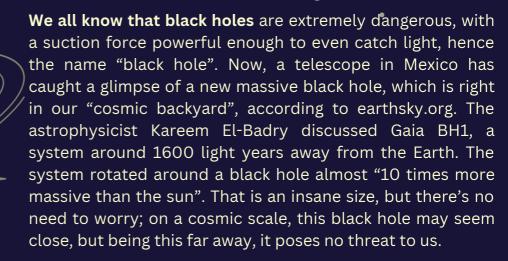
YASH D.PAREKH, 9A

It is the beginning of a new year, which bodes for a look back at 2022. An development last year was in space, due to the discovery of various galaxies, and in this article, the major events in the cosmos in 2022

The universe is a great unknown, filled with millions or even billions of galaxies. While it is impossible to record it all, consistent hard work from astronomers and NASA scientists allows for

discoveries far beyond the solar system.

First, a new, or old discovery - Galaxy HD1 has been discovered by the Subaru Telescope. According to a Harvard newsletter, this galaxy is actually the oldest in the entire observable universe. It has been recorded to have "matched the expected characteristics of a galaxy 13.5 billion light-years away surprisingly well", according to Yuichi Harikane of the University of Tokyo. This is an incredible discovery, as it is our first glimpse of the early universe.



Now, some news closer to home. Most great extinctions in prehistory have been caused by asteroid impacts, so naturally, we have good reason to worry about asteroids. Luckily, the scientists at, you guessed it, NASA, feel the same way. Earlier in 2022, NASA started the DART(Double Asteroid Redirection Test) project, which is used to stop asteroids from colliding with earth. In November 2022, the test launch of DART was sent out, and unluckily for us, it collided with the asteroid Dimorphous and exploded, rendering the machine useless. However, there was some good news. NASA recorded that the DART mission changed the trajectory of the comet, and with this revelation, humanity could potentially have an asteroid deflection system.



especially good

systems and even

will be recapped.

Last year was hugely productive for science in space, with the discovery of several new cosmic objects. And while it may be argued that this money spent on space discovery could be better spent on earth itself, NASA's DART project proved that maybe, space research could be key in humanity's quest to defy history repeating itself.

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Designed by Raashi Parekh Grade 12D



THE DANGERS OF artificial intelligence

Avantika Somani 9D

Artificial intelligence, or AI, has been a hot topic in the tech world for years. It's a technology that has the potential to revolutionize the way we live and work, mechanizing tasks and making our lives easier in countless ways. However, with great power comes great responsibility, and there are those who worry that AI could also be dangerous for the future.

One of the biggest concerns surrounding AI is the potential for it to take over jobs. As AI becomes more advanced, it could potentially replace human workers in a variety of industries, from manufacturing to customer service. This could lead to widespread unemployment and could have serious economic implications.

Another concern is the potential for AI to be used for malicious purposes. Hackers could use AI to create more sophisticated and targeted cyber attacks, or governments could use it to create weapons that can make decisions about who to attack without human oversight or interference.

There are also fears about the potential for AI to be biased. If the data that is used to train AI algorithms is biased, the AI itself will be biased as well. This could lead to unfair outcomes, such as hiring decisions or loan approvals being made based on biased data rather than objective criteria. Despite these concerns, it's important to recognize that AI has the potential to do a lot of good as well. It could be used to automate repetitive and mundane tasks, freeing up humans to do more meaningful work. It could also be used to analyze large amounts of data to identify trends and make predictions that could be used to improve various industries.

Ultimately, the key to ensuring that AI is used responsibly and ethically is to have proper regulation and oversight in place. Governments and organizations must work together to develop guidelines and standards for the development and use of AI, and to ensure that it is used for the benefit of humanity rather than for harm.

As AI continues to advance, it's important that we remain vigilant and proactive in addressing the potential dangers it could pose. With the right approach, we can harness the power of AI to improve our lives and create a better future for all of us.

FIJI'S CLIMATE CRISIS

Reva Thakar 9D

Fiji, a country situated in the South Pacific Ocean, is one of the main countries in deep crisis due to climate change. With a whopping 22.2 climate risk index, the sudden switch in extreme weather patterns makes Fiji a dangerous and unpredictable place to live. The rains and intense cyclones have led to an unbelievable increase in sea level, reaching about 6 millimeters per year, which is higher than the global average. Without proper execution of a plan, Fiji is looking at a some very stressful years ahead.

The idea of relocating had been the last resort for the villagers of Fiji, but it had been discussed. Vunidogaloa, one of the first Fijian villages to feel the harsh impact of climate change was also the first to be relocated. Over many decades, as the water levels started to rise higher, the villagers were forced to move back from the bay and build new houses. They shifted repeatedly, until it all became a futile exercise. The destruction was inevitable.

The situation kept getting worse and still is. These villagers embarked on many different climate adaptation programs and projects and even petitioned the Japanese government to help fund the sea walls to protect against the water. But it didn't help and ended up in the first relocation of a full village. Naidura, a 74-year-old villager of Vunidogoloa, said "We were fearing for our lives because



of cyclones, inundation of waves in the village. It was a good decision to relocate here," she said. A few months later, the village relocated to Kenani from Vunidogaloa and while it was a partial success story, it did end up being one of the best decisions of the Fijian government.

While a full village in Fiji was completely relocated, other larger villages are now in deep trouble. For relocation, two things have to be kept in mind: available land and money, both of which are, at present, not easily accessible to the Fijian government. Fiji's GDP decreased a full 20% since 2019 after COVID shut down all tourism, which was their main source of income. International funding was also not an option, given the circumstances. Sayed-Khaiyum, Fiji's minister of economy said "If you look at the amount of funding that's being made available for [climate] adaptation, the Pacific's allocation is a sliver of a sliver." More than 65% of Fiji's population lies along the shoreline. They are going to need a lot more funding from international partners to successfully relocate villages.

While money is the main issue, the matter facing available land has not been forgotten. Until just a few months before the relocation of Vunidogaloa village, the villagers had been staying in disaster tents with no electricity or proper water supply. The tents insulated a dangerous amount of heat and were cold at night. There was no agreement on what land could be used, leaving the villagers to fend for themselves while living in disaster tents for months.

Climate change is not a problem of the past. It has been a problem for years and it has not been forgotten. It has been impacting so many countries and small islands, yet we are not prepared with funds, lands, or any sort of agreement. Fiji, an island well known by the world, struggled to fully just relocate one village. Climate change has going to have much bigger impacts that are felt much more, but the real question is are we ready and will we ever be?

Designed by: Mrunmayi Kamerkar 12D



Electric vehicles

their effect on the environment and society

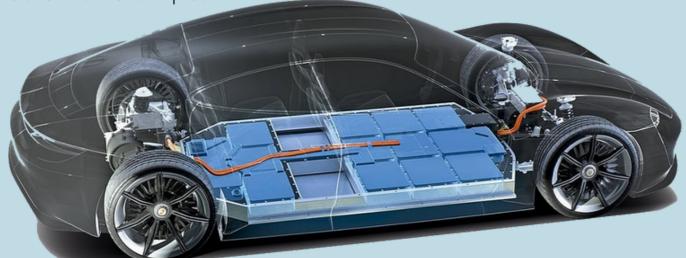
Sharanya Sridharan 9D

Growing up, I'm sure we all thought that one day in the future we would be driving flying cars. The idea may have seemed ridiculous to some, but now, it may not be so absurd with the introduction of electric cars in the world.

Electric vehicles (EVs) have been very popular in recent years for their potential to reduce society's dependence on fossil fuels, helping mitigate climate change. While EVs are not completely emission*-free, they do offer significant environmental benefits compared to normal gasoline-powered vehicles. In this article, the environmental and societal impacts of EVs will be explored along with how they're driving towards a more sustainable transportation future.

Firstly, the most obvious advantage is that they produce zero tailpipe (the back end of an automobile's exhaust pipe) emissions, which means they do not contribute to air pollution. This is particularly important for cities, where air quality is often compromised due to a high amount of traffic. In addition, EVs can help reduce the reliance on fossil fuels, as they are powered by electricity from a variety of energy sources, including renewable ones like wind and solar energy.

But what about the emissions associated with the production and disposal of EVs? While the production of EVs does generate some emissions, these are typically much lower than the emissions produced during the production of gasoline-powered vehicles. In addition, the manufacturing process for EVs is constantly improving, with more and more companies adopting sustainable practices and renewable energy sources. As for disposal, EVs have a much longer lifespan than the other vehicles and are also easier to recycle, which helps reduce the overall environmental impact.



Electric vehicles

their effect on the environment and society

EV's have a very impactful social effect as well. The shift towards EVs is helping to create jobs in the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors, as more and more charging stations are being installed across the country along with factories. Furthermore, the adoption of EVs can help reduce the dependence on foreign oil, which has numerous economic and national security benefits.

But perhaps the most exciting societal benefit of EVs is their potential to democratize transportation. EVs are becoming increasingly affordable, and as more and more people adopt them, the cost of ownership will continue to decrease. This is particularly important for lowincome communities, who may not have the financial means to purchase a new gasolinepowered car.

Overall, it's clear that EVs are a huge key factor for a more sustainable and equitable future. While there are still challenges to overcome, the environmental and societal benefits of EVs make them a promising solution for reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and mitigating climate change.

*Emissions: generating and releasing something, particularly gas or radiation



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AN INTERVIEW WITH ADITYA NARAYAN-ACADEMIC PREFECT

Devyani Rao and Sia Thilakar 10B

The position of Academic Prefect is a relatively new one at Inventure and we were curious to know what the position entailed. So, we sat down with Aditya Narayan, the 10th Grade Academic Prefect, and discussed his roles and responsibilities.

Q1: What is your role in the student council and what are the responsibilities that come with it?

Ans: As Academic Prefects, we are responsible for catalyzing student learning and working alongside teachers to better improve student education. Right now, we're looking at providing counseling for middle school students, not only academically but also in mental health and time management. We know that counseling is provided by the school. But we feel that as students, we may have a better grasp of the issues. The current plan is to take an initial survey to understand where the students stand right now and what their challenges are. We will be organizing a few workshops based on their responses.

Q2: Why did you apply for the role? What were your motivations, and how long have you worked towards this goal?

Ans: The Inventure core value of Nurturing Individuality and Teamwork resonates deeply with me. I believe that in today's day and age, it is crucial to instill in students the drive and ability to unlock their own potential. I chose to run so I could inculcate a belief in embracing change among various students. I know what it's like to juggle many extracurriculars and activities, alongside academics, and I want to put myself in the shoes of like-minded passionate students and assist in every way I can. I feel that I can use my experience to help guide students on the right path to becoming intrinsically motivated learners, capable of extremely high-level critical thinking and creativity.

Q3: Were there any extracurriculars or activities that you did in past grades, that prepared you better for a leadership role?

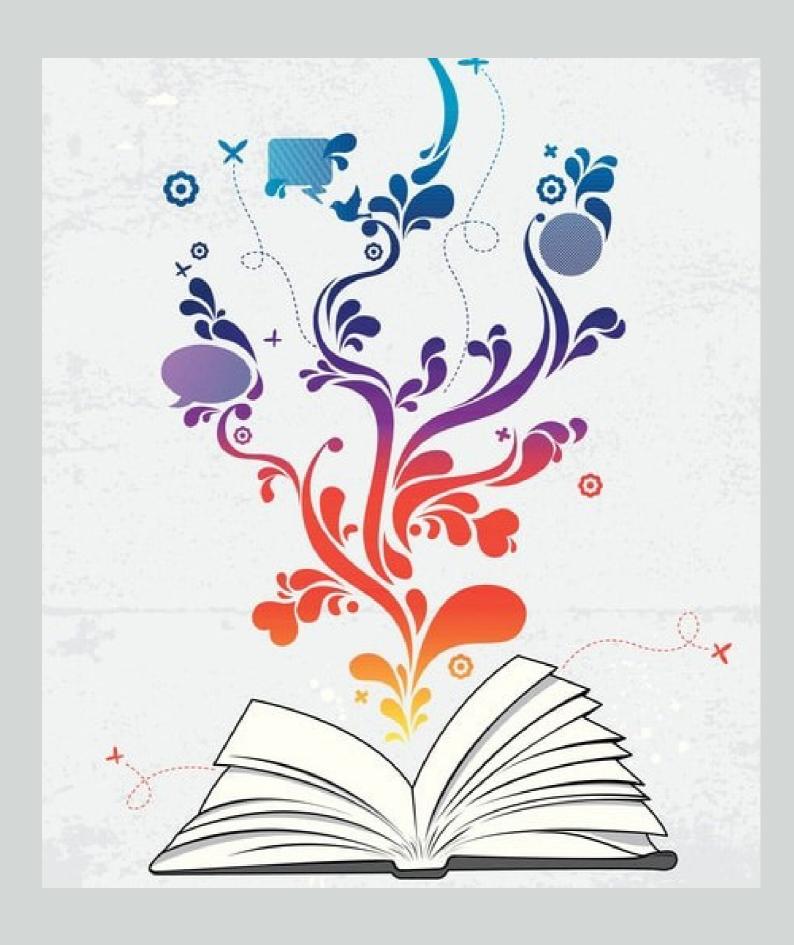
Ans: I participated in Arts & Crafts programs at RGH over the summer vacation, and just seeing the smiles on the students' faces showed me what it means to be a leader. I've also participated in hackathons, where teamwork helps you adjust and negotiate--all skills that are required as a member of the student council. I've participated in Inventure's Changemaker Challenge for the last few years, and I've also gained real-life experience on environmentalism through A StableBow Data Analytics research project that I've completed on water potability. I worked with real-life data and understood the threats towards the environment. While this may seem tangential, it really gave me the opportunity to understand local issues. I was an assistant director at the Inventure Youth Parliament, in AIPPM, and our focus was on preventive measures that can be taken to secure an education for all in the case of another disruptive event like the pandemic.

Q4: Is there a lot of pressure being a role model or a leader for the rest of the student body?

Ans: There is quite a lot of pressure. Because we are representatives of the student body, it is essential that we represent them to the best of our abilities. My extracurriculars allow me to get a real-time experience of the change that I'm going to be affecting around the school, and I understand that pressure is not the most crucial thing here. What's crucial is that we're actually walking the walk-not just talking the talk.

Q5: How does being on the student council connect with your plans for the future? What do you hope to gain from this experience?

Ans: I think that being on the student council is a stepping stone to more significant leadership roles in the future, like college student council or politics, or even roles like heading an NGO. It gives you the basic traits of leadership and collaboration and at the end, it's getting the best out of the time that you have.



Spinnin' a Tale

The Whacking of Mr. Wilson

Srivatsan Sudhir 10B

Mrs. Wilson inserted her key into the doorknob. She pulled it back out and attempted to push open the door, but something seemed to be weighing on it from the other side. She put both hands on the door and shoved it with all her might, and was able to thrust it open. She heard a thud as something hit the wall behind the open door. She peeked her head around the door, and her jaw dropped. It was her husband, in the corner of the room, unconscious. His jetblack suit and tie were ruffled, and there was a throbbing red bump on his forehead. His diamond ring was missing from his right hand. Mrs. Wilson let out an ear-piercing shriek.

Five minutes later, the entire floor had gathered outside the hotel room, discussing what had happened and consoling Mrs. Wilson. All were there except for Dan, Dave, and Robert - the hotel's security guards. Dan walked to the door of the Wilsons' room and with a thundering voice announced, "Listen up, everybody. According to Dave and Robert, who were on both of the stairwells at the time, no one was spotted using the stairs in the last ten

minutes. And the security logs show that nobody used the elevator or rang the room's doorbell immediately before or after the crime, which means the culprit is still on this floor. So what's gonna happen is that I'm going to interrogate each one of you, and gather as much information as possible. Do not exit this hallway or alter anything once you come inside. We'll start with you there, mister."

Dan pointed to an elderly man in the front. And so, the interrogations commenced. Most claimed to have been in their rooms, doing some activity or the other. One young man said he was walking to his friend's room. A small girl said she was heading to the game room with her brother.

Eventually he reached the hotel mechanic, Gonzalez. "What were you doing in the 5 minutes before the incident?" Dan inquired.

"I was putting together a new table in the game room," Gonzalez replied.

"Interesting," Dan muttered, scribbling down notes in his notepad. "And what did you do as soon as you heard Mrs. Wilson's scream?"

"I dropped everything and ran out to hallway to the see what had happened," Gonzalez said. Dan perked up. "What exactly were you using to build this table?" he pressed. He noticed a bead of sweat starting to run down Gonzalez's forehead. "Um, I had finished most of it, so I was just screwing in the last screws with my spare hammer, since I lost my regular one, and a screwdriver."

Dan immediately got up from his chair and rushed out of the hotel room into the hallway, where all the suspects who had been questioned or were yet to be questioned were standing in depressed silence. "Everyone come in, we've found our culprit." Dan called out.

Everyone immediately looked up in The crowd compressed surprise. themselves into the tight doorway and followed Dan into the spacious living room, where Gonzalez was slouched in his chair, dumbfounded. "Gonzalez here claims to have left his tools in the game room when he left and followed Mrs. Wilson's scream," Dan announced, turning his head towards the group. He pulled a folded-up, blue piece of paper and a notepad out of his pocket. He unfolded the blue paper to reveal a sketch of the floor. "But according to the notes I made of the 3rd level and

the map I drew out, there were no such tools lying in the game room at that time." The guests gasped. "You said you were missing a hammer, correct?" Dan said. "A hammer-the exact sort of tool easily that could knock unconscious, or kill him, and leave a throbbing red mark at the point of contact." He unlatched the handcuffs from his belt, walked towards Gonzalez, and grabbed his arm. "I think the verdict is pretty clear here," Dan declared confidently, clicking the handcuffs around Gonzalez's arm.

"Wait!" Gonzalez shouted angrily. "I don't know what happened to my tools in the game room or where my original hammer went, but I can assure you that I'm telling the truth. Also, how do we know we can trust him and that his sketch and notes are accurate?"

"Don't even try, everyone can see that all of the evidence conclusively points to you," Dan said.

"How could I have gotten in without a key?" Gonzalez challenged. "You said that no one rang the doorbell, and the doors here are soundproof. I don't have a master key, how could I have gotten in?"

"W-well, that's because I'm assuming Mrs. Wilson left the door open when she left. Isn't that right, ma'am?" Dan inquired towards Mrs. Wilson, who was at the front of the group.

"I'm sorry, but my memory is failing me nowadays," she stuttered. "But, um, no, I don't believe I locked it." "Well, there you have it," Dan said.

Dan called the authorities and informed them of the situation. He, along with Dave and Robert, brought down Gonzalez and Mr. Wilson's body to be taken away by the police and in a stretcher by an ambulance, respectively.

Once the area had cleared up, Dan gestured for Dave and Robert to follow him. They plodded down the sidewalk to the corner of the street and reached a sewage grill. Dave small pulled a hammer screwdriver out of his pocket and dropped it in. Dan pulled out an identical hammer with a red splatter on its face and the master key of the hotel and released them too. "You got the ring?" Robert asked. "Yep," Dan replied, pulling a lustrous diamond ring out of his front pocket. They strolled up the pavement, heading straight for the jeweler up the street.

Amaira Jhaveri 9D

Rafe had just finished his writing task for the day. It seemed peculiar that the amount of writing work was increasing. It started as one or two a week, now it was 4 or 5. Not thinking about it much, he walked up to the teacher's desk and gave her the piece of paper. Mrs Benson said, "Are you done, Rafe? Wow! That was quick! I hope your stories are as good as last time; I always have such a good time reading them!"

While he was walking to the exit of the school, he mulled over the many rumours about the recent murder. The town's infamous murderer had murdered their next victim. An old man named Stewart Philip. The only thing in Rafe's mind as he walked to the door was "Why would someone kill willingly?"

When he reached home, he sat down on the sofa with a can of soda in his hand. He flipped through the channels on TV and stopped on the news channel. They were reporting the murder of Stewart Philip. The next part made him almost choke on his soda. They gave out the specifics of the recent homicide. And it was the same way he had written in his story.

Rafe was always terrified when he went to school, because the only person who read his stories was Mrs. Benson. But he thought it was all just a big coincidence. That day, he had to stay in school late since he had to finish an art project. At 9 PM, he was done, so he walked down the intimidating walls of school, and went towards the exit.

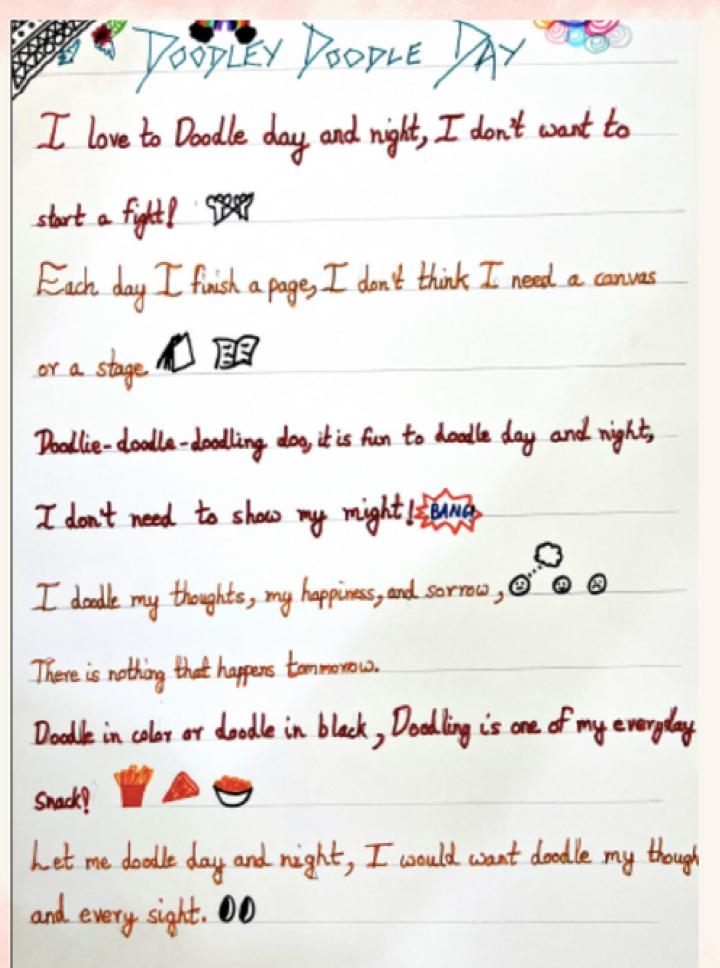
As he was walking, he noticed light pouring out of one of the classrooms. His shoes squeaked against the marble as he peeked through the small window on top of the door. He was not prepared for what he saw next. Mrs. Benson had red blotches of blood covering her body. A sadistic smile was plastered on her face as she looked to the ground, at the man she had just brutally murdered. Rafe tried to run but he was too late. Mrs. Benson tilted her head so she could see him out of the corner of her eye. She smiled Not the sweet ones she would give in class. But one that promised murder.

He wasn't fast enough. His teacher caught him by his shoulder. She looked him in the eyes and said in a hard voice, "No one should hear about this. If my daughter had to die suffering, then so will the rest of the world. If even one soul hears about this... I swear on my daughter that I will murder you."

Horrified, Rafe fled

rhythmic musings

Anshikha Wankhede 3A





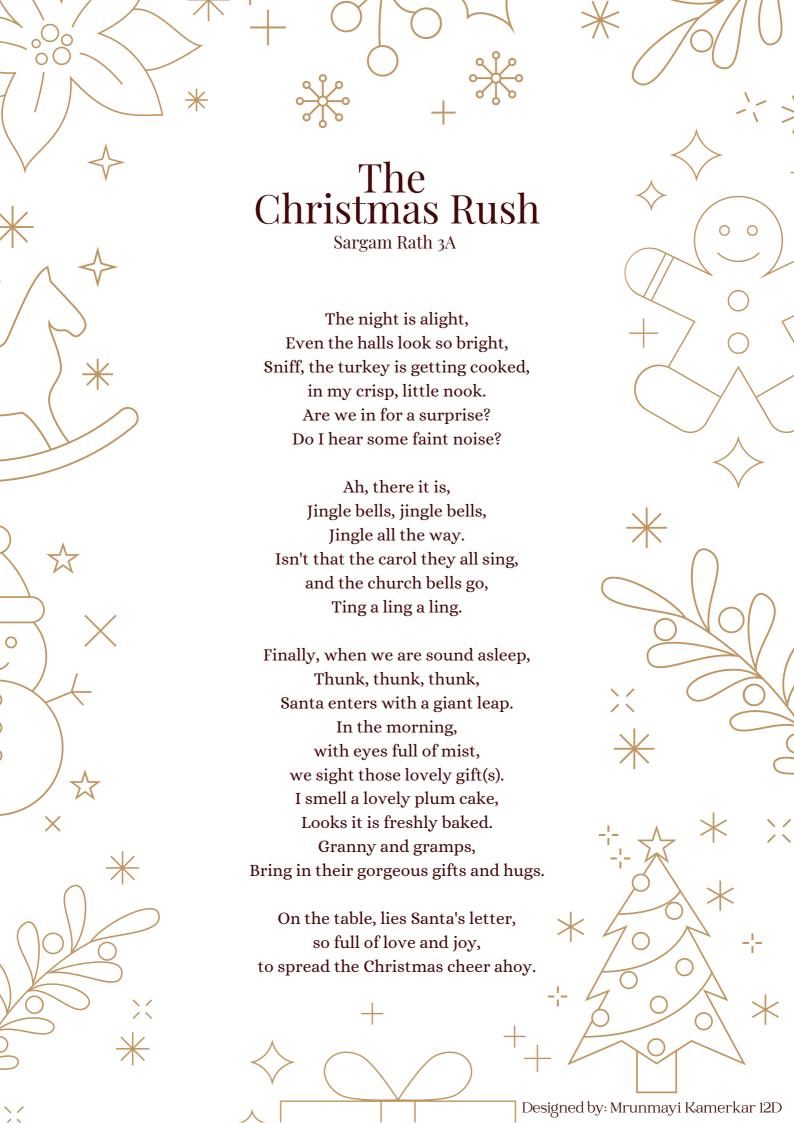
The trees are quivering, the leaves trembling
The moon radiating a ghostly light.
The stars in the heavens so close to resembling
A group of pearls slowly assembling
To form the shape of an enormous kite
In the face of the smiling twilight.

The branches whisper in your ears,
The twigs crack below one's feet.
Down a gap flows a current of tears
Upon it, the fog carefully peers
Removing all hints of heat
Yet remaining oh so discreet.

And in the gap between the branches
Rested a glow of pale white.
Reminding one of the daisies in ranches
Yet stunning me as it slowly blanches.
But when I see it, I trembled in fright,
While seeing the glow that's blindingly bright.

The logs shivered around the flame,
And the light responded with a smile.
And towards me, it slowly came,
And suddenly I noticed that it was time,
And although it took a while,
It played and revealed its inner child.





THE UNEXPECTED PHONE CALL.

SWARA BHAVARAJU 3C

One day, I sat in the sofa with my family,

The day had gone by happily!

It was the evening

It felt pleasant after the morning,

Because the whole day had passed by.

We were chatting,

We chatted about everything.

Suddenly from our landline phone, we heard a tone...

This tone was some sort of a call!

It was a random person.

We looked at the phone and we didn't respond.

We put it away as if it were a dirty ball.

That call was as surprising as an unexpected present from your enemy!

And we laughed together as a family!!



SCHOOL

SWARA BHAVARAJU 3C

School is the best!
School is never ever a big pest
We have a lot of fun,
We do PE in the warm rays of the sun.

We do lots of activities
That includes projects and all.
Assemblies help us learn new things too!
What a nice day to go to school!

It is a place to learn and have joy, School can help us learn a lot. How nicely things are taught!

Today I'm going to school,

How excited I can be!

Learning everything that is waiting for me,

How nice it feels to be at school again!

Learning new things, meeting new people,

Playing with old friends, making bonds stronger,

And then... all over again.



like that he was gone mehr sarkaria 8a

Like that he was gone,

With the wind and water,

He was on that bed at the break of dawn,

Leaving his amends in the hands of the depressed daughter.

Who knew his time was to come?

Just the other day he was walking about,

And then, with his heart hammering like a drum,

Lay on the bed with lifeless remains.

The whole atmosphere solemn,
And eyes brimming with tears,
All visions moved to the column
Isn't it sad, how someone suddenly disappears.

What can we really do?
For that is the cycle of life.
Though in our hearts we all knew
How he struggled to stay alive.

THE HEART'S BATTLES



MEHR SARKARIA GRADE 8

My emotions are like a flowing river,

Much too difficult to conceal.

Down my spine goes a tingle, more like a shiver,

My heart's broken pieces need time to heal.

This feeling is scary, somewhat familiar, The tears sliding down my cheeks, It's like I've felt this all my life, The internal fright and the shrieks.

But through the darkness I see,
A light shining inside my hollow heart,
A voice that tells me"This is not the end, but the start".

Poison always turns to medicine,
And winter always turns to spring.
I begin to smile and my heart,
Finally beats again with a powerful swing.

This is the way it's meant to be, And I'm learning to accept it, After all this time, I finally see, The fire of my heart being lit.



If I had a hat, I would put it on my head, If I had a pillow I would take it to bed,



If I had a dream, I would take it to the sky,
If I had a bird, I would just let it fly,



If I had some jokes, I would TRY, and make you laugh



If this was a story, it couldn't be mine Poems don't always make sense,

And now you know why!

CARPE DIEM CHRONICLES

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We hope you enjoyed reading these articles as much we enjoyed writing and designing them!

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