



Principal's Note

Dear Friends,

With extended horizons and diluting boundaries, school-based education has seen massive shifts, only to become more progressive than conventional schooling. We, at Billabong, have always been seeking pathways to be expansive in our methodologies that would encapsulate progressive ideologies and a constant quest for value-based learning.

Ours is an all-inclusive environment, creating valued individuals who feel included in the journey toward excellence and a deep sense of fulfilment.

Our efforts to achieve this are through instilling virtues in children. We believe that concepts like gratitude, collaboration, inclusivity, and contribution, among many others, have merits in creating a conducive and adaptable global community.

We also believe that every child has a perspective that needs to be heard and appreciated; this uniqueness is worth admiration and further gains momentum to build in the child the much-needed orientation and clarity towards their long-term goals, both for themselves and the world.

Our endeavour to motivate our children to establish and cherish meaningful relationships that work like building blocks in the future is worth mentioning here. Every attempt in this direction is bound to bear fruits of acceptance and tolerance, making responsible global citizens.

Our firm belief in the power of knowledge makes us confident in creating world-ready, self-driven individuals who will develop ownership of learning and consider it with utmost significance.

To comply with the global metamorphoses, we have given ample leadership opportunities to children, who learn to lead, make decisions, plan, and execute. These efforts will instil in them the potential of a leader and the sense of responsibility that comes with it.

We at Billabong believe that such a system of education can bring about desired changes and prepare citizens to thrive in this interconnected global society. Please take this as a call for the mentor, mentee, parents, and children: Let's embrace and embark on this mission to realise the identity of a true Billabonger and the noble vision of nurturing 'a value-based community of globally competent, lifelong learners skilled to lead change.'

- Ashish Agarwal



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Editor's Note

As we grow one more newsletter closer to passing over the baton, I feel it is fitting to pronounce 'Ephemeral' as the theme for this edition. After an especially rewarding academic year, there is a certain heartache that follows this gratifying passage of time. There is impermanence in this air, too fast, too far, too out of reach. The time seems to have been frivolously spent, till it finally appeared to be quantified. And we are left disoriented by the unhesitatingly dynamic temperament of time. But beyond the fidgety torment lies the warm embrace of our vision and mission. Through simplistic virtues and progressive ideals, it opens the gateway to a brighter future and a chance for us to become an agent of change.

Amidst academic burnout and incessant prioritization of syllabus completion, we aim to foster a love for learning with boundless curiosity. We strive to curtail the distance between students, to form a community whose loyalty surpasses their years at this school. We aspire to inspire meritorious habits and welcome uniqueness. We seek the creation of an institution that prompts leaders built by plentiful opportunities. But most of all we intend to graduate students who will forever continue their pursuit of interminable knowledge.

Let us start this new academic year with a fresh set of goals and start this newsletter with ever-increasing enthusiasm.

- Devyani Sadho, Editor-in-Chief

OUR VISION

Nurture a value-based community of globally competent, lifelong learners skilled to lead change.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to cultivate an ethical culture where each school community member feels valued and can thrive in a diverse yet interconnected world.

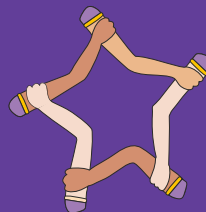
We do so by



Instilling habits of virtues



Celebrating uniqueness



Establishing meaningful relationships



Fostering a love of learning



Developing ownership of learning



Creating ample leadership opportunities



AN ODE TO FLEETING YOUTH

I pondered long and hard over what ephemeral, the idea of something being transient, meant to me, and one-dimensionally, my mind wandered to the temporary, the impermanent. What could possibly be good about something that won't last? Fleeting childhood memories make us nostalgic and reminiscent of the elapsed past, but there is a certain amount of melancholy laced in these emotions. The seasons come and go, as is their virtue, yet this passing has been going on since eternity; there will always be sunshine after the storm, and that's how the world was conditioned.

A dilemma struck me as I wrote this in the midst of my final exams. I couldn't help but be afflicted by the cloudy drear on the mountain slope and not the lush meadows nourished by fresh monsoon, that lay only a mile away. I, the wayfarer, crossed the brook to where the grass grew high and wild, and finally realized what I was meant to see. Ephemerality and permanence were sides of the same coin. When I recently felt defeated by the tests of life, I noticed that the tempest of grief lasted briefly before the skies of reason cleared to show me the right path. Herein lay the beauty of EPHEMERALITY.

As a senior in high school, one goes through several trials in every domain. Friendship, family, love and ambition seem to wreak havoc on the peace that we struggle to protect. Personally, I think it is at this age that we preview adulthood. The intricate emotions and the burden of an adult's weighted thoughts are felt, but we do not harbour the freedom or resources to allay them yet. "You're still children," they say, while we make laborious decisions that could very well make or break our future.

Much like the sharpening of a knife, where the blade must forego some of its shards to become more efficient, these tests of destiny coerce us to lose

certain parts of 'self' to refurbish the current to an elevated, superior version. This process of rebuilding faces occasional setbacks and we are nicked by the dagger of failures. Sometimes these superficial wounds deepen and enlarge, and when they heal, leave foreboding scars. But such is the impermanence of failure, if we are able to retrieve our strength even if momentarily, these setbacks become things of the distant past, trivial enough to be defenestrated out of the window of memory. It's been said, and personally, I find solace in this quote, "This too shall pass".



Image credit: <https://pin.it/3oMVpXUEY>

If happiness is fleeting so is dejection and sadness. If victory is impermanent so is failure. Why is it then that we find ourselves clinging on to the troughs when we could embrace the crests and learn from our mistakes? I don't mean to preach endlessly on the do's and don'ts of life, a life that, for me, has just begun. I simply mean to say that in a world where social media commands our perception, it is sometimes necessary to bring ourselves out of the intense competition. In a fast-paced society where we must always do the best, be the best and achieve perpetually to be worthy, I encourage you to pause and appreciate your journey. Even though it may become the bane of your existence, your ambition will guide you.

So, as I sign off on my school journey, this is a message I would like to leave behind for all the students who will find themselves in this very position someday because remember, life's entities are ephemeral and you are meant to live them out in the present.

- Sanjna Nair (Editor-in-Chief 2022-23)
Alumna, BHIS

Fiesta Galore



At IC3 2024, students and parents had an educational and informative time. The University Fair boasted of many universities attending the event.

The Boot Camp proved to be helpful for parents in motivating their children to pursue their dreams. The day ended with all the participants leaving the campus with new-found goals and a clear path towards their north star.



REPUBLIC DAY 2024

Republic Day 2024 was celebrated with much pomp and splendor as Billabongers expressed their love and devotion for their country in a solemn event held on 26th January at the school premises. The students performed plays and dances, interlaced with melodious musical performances. As the flag proudly waved above their heads, the children showcased their incredible talents. The outstanding enactments based on the the story of the Queen of Jhansi by the Middle School students, and a retelling of the story of "Lagaan" by the High School Students, enchanted the audience and filled everyone's hearts with patriotism.





Graduation Ceremony Grade 12

“When one is happy, time moves fast.”

On Graduation Day 2024, echoes of laughter and camaraderie filled the air. Reflecting on the fleeting nature of time, Grade 12 students shared bittersweet memories. With hearts full of gratitude and excitement, they embraced the journey ahead, eager to carve new paths and create lasting legacies.



FARM DAY 2024



Farm Day 2024 event beautifully wove together performances highlighting the diverse cultures of India's different zones – North, South, East, and West. Through vibrant displays of dance, cuisine, traditional attire, and music, everyone present was treated to a colorful journey across the nation's agricultural landscape. After days of practice and many hijinks, the efforts of our preschoolers culminated in a remarkable celebration.





“Is Global cooperation, as demonstrated at COP28, essential for effective climate action?”



The advent of industrialization, a direct result of industrial revolution has brought us face-to-face with a significant challenge: global warming. This issue, recognized globally, arises as countries continue to rely on hydrocarbons for energy and emit greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The global average temperature is on a steady rise, leading to the devastation of ecosystems. At a recent international summit in the UAE, COP28, 124 countries pledged to act against global warming and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

To combat global warming, worldwide cooperation is of paramount importance, without which attempts at resolving this issue are futile. This is because global warming is not limited to a localised area, and transcends national boundaries. Greenhouse gases affect the entirety of the atmosphere, due to their nature of trapping infrared radiation emitted from the sun. This effectively means that the actions of one nation affect the quality of life for other nations as well. A country to consider as an example is China, which is the world leader in greenhouse gas emissions due to its highly industrialized economy. The greenhouse gases emitted by China affect air quality in Asia proximally located, like Japan and the Korean Peninsula.

Another reason why cooperation is the driving factor behind the action is that cooperation means the effective utilization of global resources. Developing countries with strained economies most certainly do not have the capital to invest in renewable energy sources, and are still powered by fossil fuels. Global Cooperation would mean resources that different countries possess are being used efficiently. Developed nations helping developing nations through monetary aid would compel them to switch to more environment-friendly energy sources, and also alleviate the pressure to maintain feasible living conditions for the people living in these countries. This would not be possible if it weren't for cooperation between countries. In the COP28 Declaration, a total of approximately 400 million dollars was pledged towards a fund that aimed to provide aid to countries affected by climate change, by countries like the UK, USA, Japan, and members of the EU.



Image credit: <https://photorealistic-earth-planet>

Public conferences like the COP28 play crucial roles in promoting cooperation as they inculcate a sense of accountability for the member nations. These conferences act as a platform for members to declare their plans and visions, and seek assistance from fellow

members as well. The members hold each other accountable and exchange aid amongst themselves. Even though the declaration signed at COP28 wasn't legally binding, it is hoped to catalyse effective action against climate change. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), under which the Conference of the Parties (COP) was held, requires members to report on their current progress which improves transparency as other members can assess and scrutinise the effectiveness of the work being done.

In conclusion, global cooperation is a prime factor responsible for the development and deployment of policies to combat climate change. It is crucial for countries to unite for the preservation of the unique ecosystems our planet houses, and to reduce and eventually prohibit the emission of gases responsible for global warming for the sake of a more promising future for all.

YES

NO



Although global cooperation is often considered a crucial aspect of addressing climate change, it is essential to examine the potential drawbacks and alternative approaches to determine if it is truly indispensable for effective climate action. In the case of COP28, although international cooperation may have its merits, it is not necessarily the sole or most effective solution to addressing climate change.

One argument against global cooperation is that it can lead to inefficiencies and delays in decision-making. International organizations often involve lengthy negotiation processes, which may result in slow progress and missed opportunities. By contrast, individual countries can implement their policies and initiatives more swiftly, allowing for more immediate action against climate change.

Moreover, not all countries prioritize climate change as a high priority, and some may even act against the collective interest. In such cases, relying on global cooperation could be harmful to the overall progress.

For example, nations that rely heavily on fossil fuel industries may resist transitioning to clean energy or implementing strict environmental policies, hindering the global effort to combat climate change.

Furthermore, global cooperation may lead to an unequal allocation of responsibilities and resources. Developed countries, which have historically contributed more to greenhouse gas emissions, may be expected to bear a larger share of the burden in terms of financial aid and technological support for developing nations. However, this may lead to resentment and a lack of commitment from developing countries, as they feel unfairly targeted.

An alternative approach to global cooperation is regional or local collaboration. By focusing on smaller, more manageable groups, countries can work together more effectively and address regional-specific challenges. For instance, the European Union has successfully implemented policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy sources within the region.

Additionally, individual countries can take the initiative to implement their climate change policies without waiting for global consensus. This approach allows nations to tailor their strategies to their unique circumstances and resources. For instance, China, the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, has invested heavily in renewable energy and set ambitious targets for reducing emissions.

Relying solely on global cooperation may dilute the accountability of individual nations. When countries collaborate on a global scale, it becomes challenging to pinpoint responsibility for specific outcomes or failures. This lack of accountability may hinder the enforcement of commitments made during international agreements like COP28.

Furthermore, the diversity of geopolitical interests within global cooperation forums can lead to diluted or compromised climate policies. Countries may prioritize their national interests over collective global goals, resulting in watered-down agreements that lack the necessary stringency to address the urgency of climate change. In contrast, local or regional collaborations enable a more focused alignment of interests, facilitating the development of robust, context-specific climate strategies. This tailored approach may yield more effective and immediate results in mitigating climate change impacts.

In conclusion, while global cooperation has its merits, it is not necessarily essential for effective climate action. The potential drawbacks, such as inefficiencies, unequal distribution of responsibilities, and varying levels of commitment among nations, should be considered. Alternative approaches, like regional or local collaboration and individual country initiatives, can offer more targeted and efficient solutions to combat climate change. Ultimately, the success of any approach depends on the willingness and commitment of countries to prioritize the well-being of our planet.



Messi: An Unstoppable Soul

Lionel Messi was born on June 24, 1987, in Rosario, Argentina. From the early age of 3, Messi started to learn football and used to play on the streets of Rosario relentlessly with a ball made of cloth. As his father observed his enthusiasm for football, he admitted Messi to a local academy called Grandoli at the age of four. When he was a young child, Lionel Messi's coach provided him with football training similar to any other child with a passion for the sport. However, as time went on, Messi's talent became apparent and his coach arranged for him to join a team called Newell's Old Boys when he was just six years old.

He rocked in football and scored 500+ goals for his team in less than six years. His passion for football was displayed in local matches. Being unstoppable at football at an early age, Messi was becoming a trouble for players of other teams and many coaches wanted to keep him in their team.

When he turned ten, his height did not grow much and when he and his parents went to the doctor, he learned that he had a growth hormone deficiency. This made him appear smaller compared to his opponents. The doctor recommended daily Growth Hormone injections, which were expensive. However, his parents managed to arrange the funds to support his football practice. This was a challenging time for Messi. He felt depressed as many other teams were not selecting him because of his height. It was the hardest time of his career.

It was a long time of recovery, but Messi jumped back onto the football field, yet again. As expected, he was the heart of his team. He caught up again with his football but when things seemed to be back on track, his grandmother passed away before his 11th birthday. From that day onwards, he honours his grandmother at every goal he scores by raising both his hands and looking towards the sky.

His football career was skyrocketing when he transferred to Barcelona, Spain to join the Barcelona club academy, La Masia.

Despite being too young to play official team matches for Barcelona, Lionel Messi persevered and continued to score. Lionel Messi kept on scoring and practicing so much that he finally joined the Barcelona team

club, shocking the audience with his insane performance.

He was subsequently chosen to play for the Argentine national football team and played for many years. A very senior footballer, Ronaldinho shared his jersey number 10 with Messi. Messi won numerous tournaments, yet he was unsatisfied as his ultimate goal was to win the World Cup. Finally, on December 18th, 2022, he achieved this dream by leading his team to victory against France in the finals and receiving the FIFA World Cup trophy, marking the end of his World Cup journey. This happened at the beginning of 2024, and he was hailed as the greatest football player to ever exist. He won 6 Ballon d'Or trophies and set a Guinness World Record for most goals scored in a calendar year.

Messi had a tough life but his determination towards the sport did not stop. At some moment of our lives, everyone faces trouble but it's ephemeral and is only for some time. If Messi had given up on his football when he got to know his height had stopped growing, he would not have been the best footballer or the Legendary Messi we know now. Everyone should learn to overcome the struggles of life just like Messi. His life had many difficulties, but he finally earned success. He is an inspiration for the newer generations to continue pursuing their passion, even when faced with difficult challenges. These challenges are only temporary and can be overcome with perseverance. Giving up is not an option.

Struggles of life are ephemeral but if you face them head on in the right way, the results are everlasting.

- Aabhas Mahour (6F)



Image credit: <https://img.freepik.com>

Déjà vu:

The bridge between dreams and reality

Have you ever experienced a sensation of reliving a moment from the past, even though it is happening for the first time? Déjà Vu, a phenomenon that has fascinated and mystified people for generations, is a complex subject that even the greatest of scientists have not been able to decipher. "Déjà Vu" is a vivid feeling of familiarity with no clear answer. It is French for "already seen."



Image credit: <https://i.pinimg.com>

Déjà Vu is more common than you may think. 60% - 70% of people experience Déjà Vu, but what is it? Well, nobody knows exactly why and how this occurs.

While the actual reason why Déjà Vu occurs is up for debate, many theories explain why this happens. Some researchers think the part of the brain that helps us recognize familiar events, called the temporal lobe, is involved. Other researchers opine it is simply a delay in the brain, a glitch in which the brain accidentally brings back a memory while processing a new, similar one. But many more theories are trying to explain what exactly Déjà Vu is.

These hypothesis, though promising, are yet to be proven. There is no way of knowing if they are the real reason for Déjà Vu, at least not yet. Hundreds of theories, experiments, and an extensive amount of research, and still, Déjà Vu remains a captivating mystery left for the generations to come to decode - a fascination, yet to be solved. As we try to unravel the mysteries of this intriguing phenomenon, we find ourselves on a journey into the inner workings of the human mind, which helps us know more about not only us but also the people around us. Despite years of research, the truth behind Déjà Vu remains elusive to the many people involved. That is why Déjà Vu is one of the most interesting mysteries of the mystical world we call our home.

- Addya Saxena (8F)

THE ESSENCE OF EPHEMERAL

The natural world provides a striking illustration of the transient. The seasons vary, the sun rises and sets, and flowers bloom and then fade. The ephemeral beauty of things, like the delicate petals of cherry trees in spring or a sunset, emphasizes their death. Something is charming about these little moments that remind us to appreciate the beauty of the present.

Like a tapestry, our lives are formed of transient strands. Our emotions are momentary, ranging from the transitory joy of laughter to the abrupt sorrow of loss. Furthermore, relationships are dynamic. Realizing that everything is temporary allows us to cherish each moment, valuing the relationships we have with others and the fleeting nature of the present. Art often captures the spirit of the transient by freezing moments in time. Paintings, music, and literature all evoke fleeting yet intense feelings.

Artists encourage contemplation of the beauty inherent in the fleeting aspects of life by preserving and sharing these characteristics. The digital age has given the term "ephemeral" a new meaning.

Transient content, disappearing texts, and social media stories all serve to emphasize how ephemeral our interactions are on the internet. Though this might seem fleeting, it also highlights how communication is evolving and how crucial it is to live in the now.

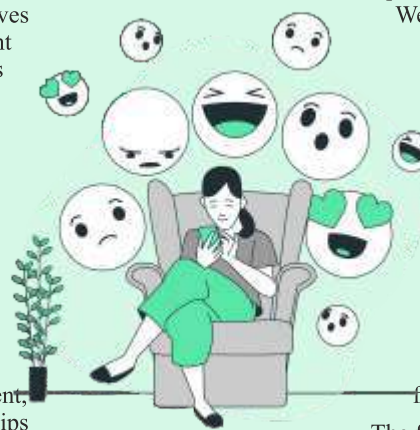
Brief interactions teach us the importance of mindfulness.

We may fully engage in life as it unfolds when we live in the present.

Mindfulness practices, such as meditation, help people become more aware of how ephemeral life is by assisting them in letting go of attachments to the past and anxieties about the future.

The fleeting aspect of life is one of the fundamental elements of who we are. We can find meaning in the ever-changing fabric of our existence when we accept the transient rather than resisting impermanence. The impermanent serves as a constant reminder to savour the present and the beauty found in the fleeting moments that make up our journey, whether it takes the shape of art, human interactions, nature, or the digital world.

- Drakshan Abeer (11B)





THE TRANSIENT LIFE

In fleeting moments, life's whispers play,
Ephemeral, like petals in the wind sway.
Time's gentle hand, it paints the sky,
In hues of dawn, in whispers that fly.

Each breath we take, a fleeting dance,
In twilight's embrace, we take our chance.
For moments pass like grains of sand,
Slipping through our grasp, as if unplanned.

The morning soft dew on the rose,
A fragile caress that no one knows.
It sparkles bright, then fades away,
A silent hymn to passing day.

The laughter shared, the tears we weep,
In shadows cast, our secrets keep.
With trembling hands, for all we hold,
Is but a murmur of stories untold.

So let us cherish, while we may,
The beauty found in each new day.
For life's canoodle is bittersweet,
An ephemeral dance, in love complete.

- Abhishree Choubey (7E)



Image credit: <https://i.pinimg.com>

The Smile Virus



Smile is a virus, we are unaware,
It can go from one face to another,
When we greet others with a smile, they twinkle,
This is how a virus spreads and sparkles!

We love others like love doves,
Full of happiness, love and cares,
A baby smiles when the mother hugs,
A player smiles when the crowd cheers!
Everyone smiles when they celebrate with fun,
Everyone smiles when they are treated with love.

We smile when we win,
But we ought to smile when we lose!

We should keep a smile all the time,
As it's a virus, that spreads time to time!

- M. Titiksha (4E)

WHISPERS OF PASSING TIME



Image credit: <https://miro.medium.com>

Look at the flowers blooming in the morning
grace,
Hear ephemeral whispers in time and space.
Hazy clouds drifting in the cerulean sky,
Memorable moments, slowly and gently
passing by.

Petals flare, blossoming just for a day,
Ephemeral, but in the form of nature's display.
Pale, tinted orange hues in the evening sky,
As brief as a sigh, joyous moments pass by.

Like whispering leaves in a gentle breeze,
Unnoticed as they dance with such ease.
Similar to a fleeting smile from a passerby,

Direly missed in a rush as time slips by.
In a novel's interesting pages, a love so
ethereal,
Every word is passionate, transient and
ephemeral.

Hands clasped, memorable moments fleet,
Friendship's warmth, a connection sweet.
Stars that twinkle in the night's embrace,
Woven tales, unfold stories, a fleeting grace.
In life's short dance, a slow rhythmic play,
Ephemeral whispers, gradually fade away!

- Laaibah Faisal (9B)

EMBRACING CHANGE

Life is like a Shooting Star,
To the ones who savour it every second.
But like a withering leaf,
To others who squander their lives.
Life, a heartbreaking ephemeral,
Like a cloud in the sky so high,
Here today, gone tomorrow,
The moments come, and then they go,
The memories and feelings fade so slow,
There is only one thing:
Permanent in life- Change.
If you want to survive,
You need to adjust to change.
Otherwise, you will live,
An unambitious life,
With nothing to make you feel alive.
Ephemeral, Oh! the fleeting life,
A journey short, a story awash,
Live it well, savour each day,
For, in the end, it will all fade away.



Image credit: <https://in.pinterest.com>

- Hridhaan Tiwari (4A)

Ephemeral Grace

Ephemeral, a word so fine and true,
A fleeting moment, a glimpse of blue,
A whisper of beauty, a flash of light,
A fragile thing, a delicate sight.

The stars in the sky, twinkle and fade,
The petals of flowers, bloom and decay,
The waves of the sea, crash and recede,
All ephemeral, a moment's grace.

The laughter of children, a joyful sound,
A sunset's vibrant hues, a view profound,
A snowflake's fall, an intricate trace,
All ephemeral, a moment's space.

The world is full of fleeting things,
Moments of wonder, moments of wings,
So let us cherish each passing day,
And hold the ephemeral close in play.

- Bhoumik Patel (8E)

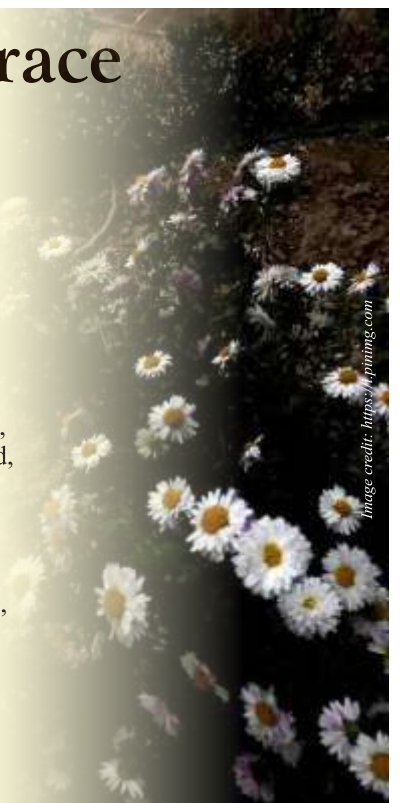


Image credit: <https://i.pinimg.com>



TWINKLE



I was walking in the garden one morning, helping my grandma pick flowers for her prayers. At the end of the rose bushes, I saw something sparkling and glimmering. I went to get a better look and saw a tiny winged insect on a leaf. When I moved closer, I realized that the sparkling thing was a fairy. She had yellow hair with blue highlights. She wore a shimmering pink and purple dress and had sparkling silver wings. She looked at me and smiled. I was surprised at first, but then I asked her for her name. She replied that her name was Twinkle. She had come from a fairyland. She also said that she was only allowed to stay on Earth for an hour. She was here because she had always wanted to come to the planet to see how the people here were. But how much would she be able to see in an hour? I promised her I would take her to all the best places. First, I took her to eat ice cream. She didn't have anything like it in her fairyland. Then we went to the pond and sat there for a while, where we drew rainbows and clouds. She liked that very much. We then went to eat cotton candy because she was missing the pink clouds from her home. She wanted to see how it tasted. She thought that the pink clouds from the fairyland tasted better. We were just talking when she suddenly disappeared into thin air. I felt very sad, but I remembered that she had said that she could stay only for an hour. Though it felt like a very short time, I will always remember my new friend. Goodbye, my fairy friend.



- Hitakshi Jhavar (3D)

IS THIS THE END OF EVERYTHING?

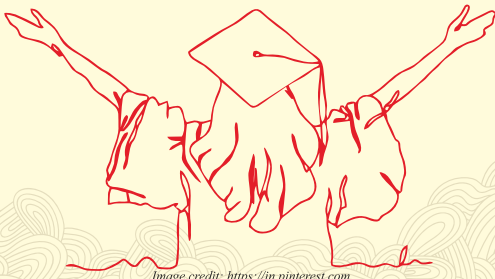


Image credit: <https://in.pinterest.com>

It was a free period. Maya, Rhea, and Soniya were sitting together. "I hate waking up early and coming to school," Maya said with clear annoyance in her voice. "I know, right? And, oh God, Sundays! They don't even feel like days! It's just a few hours, and we are back in school!" said Soniya. Who knew that this conversation they had last year would change so drastically in just 365 days?

The past year had seemed to have flown by in a matter of weeks, and they were back in school for one last time. "I don't want to go back home," said Maya. "This is not the end of everything, you know...we'll still be friends," said Rhea, holding back her emotions. Sadly, Soniya wasn't in the frame anymore. She had shifted with her parents to Aligarh, her hometown, to be closer to her grandmother after her second stroke. Maya fought tears, thinking how much she was going to miss this place and all the beautiful moments she spent here.

"It's funny how yesterday felt like our first day in 12th and today is our last. The transition from "I hate school" to "I don't wanna go home" was pretty quick. A few had to go, a few got to stay, some won, some failed and came back with more power. We've cried, we've laughed, even if it was strangers to friends or friends to strangers again, this year has come to an end, and we've learned that time waits for none. I have learned how to enjoy and work hard simultaneously, because one day when I look back, I not only want to smile at the memories but also want to be proud of myself. Thank you!" Maya completed her graduation speech and got down from the stage with tears rolling down her cheeks; this time she couldn't hold it in because this was the last time, but she was not sad; it's just that it ended so quickly.

"Great job!" Rhea said, hugging Maya tightly.

- Malertamil Karthikeyan (10C)

THINGS COME AND GO

"Will, I told you to handle that glass cup carefully!" screamed Will's mother at the top of her voice. "This is the third time you did not listen to me, and you will have no more video games for an entire week." Will was quite a clumsy boy for a twelve-year-old. This was the third time this week that he had dropped a cup and got a scolding over it. Will shoveled his steamed rice and milk into his mouth, muttered an apology to his mother, and swiftly moved up the stairs, but gave in to his clumsiness and tripped over a mackintosh. Getting up he thought about what a roller-coaster of an endeavor his life was. "Tomorrow's my birthday; I can't afford to get a scolding from Mother tomorrow," thought Will. He decided to go down again, and yes, he did not manage it before tripping over his mackintosh once again, ending up (not for the first time in his life) close to breaking his nose. "Ouch!" bawled Will. "Did you break your nose again? Will, we need to have a talk about your clumsiness, darling," said Will's mother. "No, I didn't," Will whimpered.

A few minutes later, Will, with a bandage on his nose, found himself upstairs without another mackintosh slip (for his mother had removed his mackintosh), doing his homework, and in a few minutes, his pencil had found a shortcut through Will's hand and to the ground.

After he had finished his homework, he decided to take on the toughest, hardest, craziest, and said-impossible task for him: wiffle ball (author's note: It's a game; I am not making it up). I mean toughest for him, not for anyone else. "Hi," he said exceptionally clumsily. "Hi," his friends chanted back. "Want to play wiffle ball?" chorused Ryan. "Come on, strike." Soon, Will found himself there. The pitcher, Bryan, threw over the ball, received it back from Ryan, and then gave in the first delivery. The ball swung over in the air before contacting the bat in Will's hand which obviously flew out of Will's grip. The ball went on to hit

Bryan's face, who, unlike Will, caught the ball right before impact and got a strike for the first delivery of the game. Will was one of three strikes down, with no runs. On the second delivery, the ball swung in, and before Will could swing his bat, the ball hit the strike zone.

Will was two down out of three strikes. Will had anger boiling in his mind. Then, on the third delivery, Will swung his bat just in time to contact the ball at the right angle to hit the ball over for a home run. 4 runs in one strike? Bam! Will had been successful in scoring a home run. Then on the next delivery, Will took care of getting the same action, getting him another home run. The rest of the game

went on just like this until Will's team won because of the super-clumsy Will. But when Will went home and was going up after dinner to go to sleep, he, well, uh, tripped over the Mackintosh again. He got up and went to sleep. The next day

was Will's birthday. "I would not let my birthday get spoiled," Will thought. He walked down the stairs, not without tripping over the mackintosh again. Then he picked up his raincoat and threw it down the stairs. He walked down the stairs and after refreshments were taken care of, he went out. It was a Saturday, so he could play wiffle ball all day long, and he did. Only taking breaks for lunch and dinner, Will's twelfth birthday was the best birthday of his life.

In the morning, he woke up crying for absolutely no reason. Then, Will thought of what was the dream he had last night. It was his teacher explaining to him some words called "Ephemeral", and how it's meaning was that things come and go. How a normal day passes slowly, for he had experienced everything in the past, and his birthday, like time, flew by for he had not experienced it ever before. That was it, the reason Will was crying! Well, that looks like clumsy Will was going to be twelve.

- Ravit Shroti (7C)



Image credit: <https://cloudfront-us-east-1.images.americanpublishing.com>

THE MURDER OF ROGER ACKROYD

Originally published in 1926, Agatha Christie's detective novel "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" is regarded as one of her most well-known and innovative pieces. The novel is part of the Hercule Poirot series, featuring the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot as the main character.

Dr. James Sheppard, the narrator of the story, is also the local doctor and a friend of Poirot. Set up in King Abbots', the story begins with the suicide of Mrs Ferrars, a wealthy widow who is rumoured to have poisoned her late husband. Roger Ackroyd, her fiancé, is also found murdered in his study not long after she passes away. In order to unravel the mystery, Flora Ackroyd, the victim's niece, calls the famed detective Poirot. When it becomes clear that Dr. Sheppard is not a trustworthy narrator, the story takes an unexpected turn. In a startling turn of

events, Poirot ultimately solves the case and reveals the murderer's true identity. It turns out that the murderer was not suspected and was cleared. Christie fools the reader into thinking that innocent people are to blame as soon as the readers attempt to identify the murderer.

Along with its clever narrative structure and skillful plotting, "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" has received high appreciation for its influence on the mystery genre. Throughout, it leaves the reader gasping. It is highly suggested for readers who enjoy classic detective fiction, mysteries, and psychological thrillers. It is recommended for those who appreciate intricate plotting, unexpected twists, and clever storytelling. Christie fooled me!

- Ananya Maheshwari (11C)

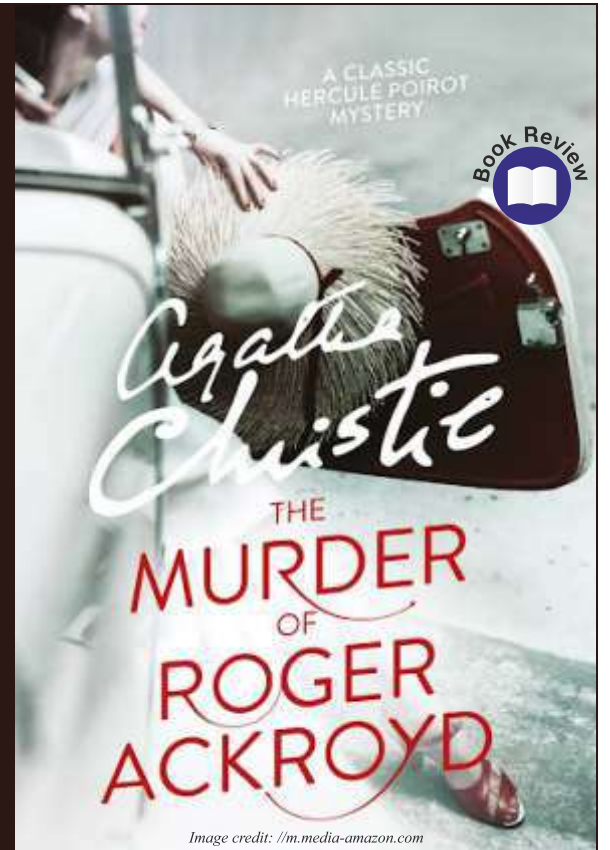


Image credit: [/m.media-amazon.com](https://m.media-amazon.com)

Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi

Directed by Krish Jagarlamundi, written by V.Vijayendra Prasad, and produced by Zee Studio, the film succeeds in stalking the patriotic passion within the audience without being too overbearing. Kangana Ranaut justifies the title by making the entire journey for the audience a surreal one with her excellent onscreen magical performance.

The film explores the real battlefield, intense action sequences, gory killings, escape, loss, and triumph. There aren't many dull moments in this rousing war drama. I love the way it highlights Indian culture and attire. I adore the beauty of the queen. The tragedy, bravery, cleverness, and achievement truly inspired me to the core. According to me, it is not only a movie but a message to each of us not to give up under any circumstances. This movie left me spellbound and compelled me not to give up on anything in life out of fear. I highly recommend this movie!

- Avyaa Vishwakarma (6D)



Image credit: <https://www.imdb.com>



Image credit: <https://www.theweek.in>

THE INDIA WAY: STRATEGIES FOR AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

The India Way is a book that follows India from the 2007–8 global financial crisis to the 2020 coronavirus pandemic. This book gained a worldwide audience. Christophe Jaffrelot, the French political scientist and Indologist quoted: "Jaishankar's book (The India Way) is very revealing of the discourse that Indian leaders have today on world affairs.". This book is a famed literary piece by the Padma Shri-honoured diplomat and politician, the Minister of External Affairs, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

This book was published in 2020 and follows the journey of India through all the political gridlocks and economic challenges faced during this decade. Jaishankar poses a significant question through his book: "Will the world continue to define India, or will India now define itself?". He leads the reader through the limitless knowledge of India's world affairs and foreign policies. To sum up, The India Way is a meticulous narrative piece that leads India's policies in the fast-changing 21st century.

- Mariya Husain (10B)

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT



Image credit: <https://m.media-amazon.com>

The cinematography of this film is extraordinarily striking a balance between beauty and brutality. Each frame is meticulously crafted, immersing viewers in the chaos and desolation of the battlefield. The visual language employed in the film serves as more than a backdrop; it becomes a part of storytelling effectively, conveying the emotional and physical tolls of war.

The performance showcased is truly exceptional with actors breathing life into characters burdened by the weight of war. Their unwavering commitment to authenticity elevates this film to heights transforming it into a gripping exploration of humanity's struggles during times of conflict.

"All Quiet on the Western Front" transcends its context as it explores war's impact. It challenges audiences to

confront the senselessness of warfare and encourages reflection on the sacrifices made by those who found themselves entangled in its grip.

Within all the action, the narrative of young Paul Bäumer, the protagonist, is shown making his way, learning what it is to kill, and trying to forge fellowship along the way as he has to face the challenges and strive to live another day. The enduring impact of this marvellous film lies in its exploration of the human spirit combined with its narrative

To conclude, 'All Quiet on the Western Front' is more than a film; it serves as an exploration of the long-lasting consequences of war making it one of my all-time favourite adaptations of a novel.

- Uddish Sharma (9C)



Thai Mango Salad

Ingredients for salad:

- ½ cup thinly sliced onions
- ½ cup thinly sliced bell peppers of assorted colors
- ½ cup chopped spring onions
- ¼ cup chopped coriander
- 1 thinly chopped mango
- ¼ cup chopped mint leaves
- 12-15 crushed, dry and roasted peanuts

Ingredients for dressing:

- 1 tablespoon white vinegar
- 1 tablespoon light soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons chilli paste

Optional Ingredients:

- vegetable oil
- garlic and ginger to taste
- salt to taste
- sugar to taste
- 1 tablespoon white vinegar

Method:

1. Mix all the ingredients of the salad, while making sure that the pieces of the mango don't fall apart.
2. Heat vegetable oil in a pan on medium heat.
3. Once the oil is hot, add in the ginger and garlic. Then saute for 30-40 seconds.
4. Add in the chilli paste, salt, sugar and white vinegar and cook for 2-3 minutes.
5. Cool and store.
6. Mix all the ingredients of the dressing, along with the seasoned chilli paste (optional).
7. Lightly drizzle the dressing over the salad.
8. Ta da! Your Thai Mango Salad is ready!

- Mayra A. Rozatkar (10C)



Image credit: <https://tastythriftytimely.com/thai-mango-salad/>

TRAVELOGUE

Bewitching Budapest



Image credit: <https://www.google.com>

Budapest, the capital of Hungary, is a treasure trove of history and culture. Divided by the Danube River into 'Buda' and 'Pest', the city offers scenic landscapes and great public transportation. My recent visit to this 'City of Spas' was a memorable adventure, filled with surprises and delights.

During a trip to meet my mother in Germany, I was pleasantly surprised with a birthday trip to Budapest planned by my uncle and mother. Travelling light from Berlin to Budapest via Ryan Air, we landed in the city and settled into the aesthetically pleasing 'Jungle Paradise' apartment. Each room was beautifully furnished, and I, being the youngest, had the privilege of choosing my favourite.

Exploring the city, we dined at the posh 'Salam Bombay' restaurant, enjoying flavourful Indian cuisine amidst unique architectural marvels and mesmerizing Roman sculptures. One evening, we embarked on a thrilling vampire tour, led by an animated guide who amused us with tales of the blood-thirsty Dracula. As the night grew late, goose bumps tingled my skin, and the tales left a lasting impression.

The highlight of the trip was my 10th birthday, spent at the cat museum and cat cafe. Furry felines lounged in the cafe, each with its unique personality. Among them was 'Rowdy Rathore', a Persian cat with a temperamental disposition, earning its name by hissing like a snake. Despite Rowdy Rathore's antics, the cafe was a cosy haven with great coffee, cats lounging in wooden baskets and playfully interacting with visitors.

At the cat museum, we were greeted by a diverse array of feline fellows, each named and celebrated for their distinct traits. We fed, cuddled, and played with the cats while learning fascinating facts about various breeds. A 'cat quiz' tested our knowledge, and I won some delightful merchandise as a reward.

The day ended with a night cruise along the Danube River, admiring Budapest's illuminated landmarks, and indulging in Hungarian delicacies like 'langos'. Budapest left a lasting impression, with its charm, history, and warmth, making it a birthday celebration to remember.

Like the theme of our newsletter, this travelogue is dedicated to one such 'Ephemeral' trip that made my 10th birthday, in the company of my grandparents, mother and uncle, truly special.

- Madeeha Noor (6F)

A Hero Amongst Villains



Illustrations by: Aanya Saxena 12B Comic by: Sohan Shrivastava 9C

COMIC STRIP



Tête-à-Tête with YUKI ELLIAS



Yuki Ellias

Performer, Teacher and Corporate Coach

Q As a multi-talented artist, you have excelled in directing, acting, and producing. Which of these roles do you find the most fulfilling and any particular reason for this choice?

Excerpts from the Interview

I started as an actor, loving the stage and the audience's response. As I grew older, I focused more on creating stories, and caring less about the audience's reaction. I wanted to tell the stories I believed in. The roles I used to get bored me, so I began writing my own work and creating characters I truly wanted to play. It became less about pleasing the audience and more about my presence on stage. Producing came naturally, as theatre arts lack support in India. I had to fund my projects myself, often resulting in losses. I balanced this with my corporate work, funding my art projects. I find joy in creating and directing stories now. It's a shift from pleasing the audience to finding personal fulfilment in action.

We believed we'd always own the creative story telling aspect. Imagination and emotion can't be replaced, it can only be replicated. Math and science are data driven, so it makes sense for AI to take over or at least help with analysis. Creativity is still something that we feel is unique to individuals. What I write or create can't be copied. If we don't write something ourselves, it doesn't feel original anymore. It doesn't feel like it's yours. This is going to be an important conversation in the years to come. What is original now? And what do we put as merit? We'll see in time what happens and what we value, right? What will we start to value?

Q These days people don't take an interest in watching cinemas in the theatre, and OTT has come as a swift replacement. How has it changed the film industry?

Thanks to OTT, many theatre actors now have more chances to perform. Earlier, films favoured big stars, but OTT has opened doors. You don't need to be a big star to be an actor. It has expanded opportunities for many actors to showcase talent. Many friends and theatre students have found more chances and built careers via OTT. What does it do for theatre? The theatre has never competed with bigger platforms. It offers its own unique experience. I believe both will always coexist.

Q As an experienced theatre artist, what advice would you like to give to aspiring actors?

Yes, I think there's more to actors than just acting. Sometimes I think we think of it as what we like doing. But behind the actor is also a story-teller. I urge more people to push to find their voice because there's a lot of creativity. When working with directors, we sometimes have to follow rules we don't agree with, and we often don't get to work with the best directors. But we put them on a pedestal, hoping for an opportunity to shine. I tell young people to carve out their own opportunities. If you're just an actor, you wait for the opportunity. But if you write your own content, you'll create opportunities for yourself and expand your abilities. Directing and producing requires skills like managing teams and deadlines, which are important to build. Sometimes actors neglect these skills because acting is easier. I always say try writing or directing. You'll learn discipline and might even discover you're a very good writer or director.

Q You've portrayed diverse characters. How do you prepare for such varied roles? Is there a particular role that has been especially challenging or rewarding for you?

The Jacques Lecoq school, where I spent my time studying theatre, emphasised embodying various characters, not just human but also abstract entities like trees swaying in the wind or olive oil. I enjoyed playing diverse roles, including animals, and indulged in transformation, relishing the freedom to abandon typical human behaviour and embrace eccentricity. Clowning elements particularly appeal to me. In "Elephant in the Room," a play I wrote, I portray nine characters, including Spider and Ganpati. Playing all these roles in one play was rewarding.

Q As a female actor, how do you think you can contribute towards the empowerment of women and portray it in your films?

That's great. I find myself increasingly influenced by the younger generation. Sometimes I don't identify strictly as female or male; now, terms like non-binary are becoming more accepted. I haven't fully settled into any specific identity yet. Yes, I resist conformity. I aim to challenge norms in every way possible. In the past, the term "actors" was used, but now "actor" is preferred as it's a profession open to all genders. What I love about theatre, especially when I started creating my work, is its liberating nature. I

Q What changes or trends do you foresee in the theatre industry, especially concerning storytelling or performance styles? How do you adapt to these changes and stay relevant in the dynamic world of theatre?

I think significant changes are coming. Initially, we always thought it's a film that's coming, right? Because theatre's older than films. So, of course when the cameras came and then the big screens were like, oh, that's going to take, and then now it's AI, the virtual space. Will we be needed anymore? Somebody else can play our parts. You don't need human beings to play characters anymore. Jack Jibbit is already writing plays on AI-based stories. So of course, that's something that's coming, and we have to accept it and it will still be great. And I always think the live theatre space will always continue to exist.



Because like I said, we were always on the fringe and we'll still be there. Because if you do want a company experience where we're sitting like this and chatting, very different from the online chat, right? Then, so long as people still want this, theatre will be there. And it means a lot to us. It might get more interesting as well because some things that AI is doing, in the virtual space are giving us, and in some ways, it's making it easier for us to create certain things. Our shows could be very fascinating with all of that. So, I think it's exciting. Maybe some old-school theatre people will feel like no, like some of us feel we shouldn't even have projections. Like no, no AI-based work in the theatre. And some of us will be making it and we will be using it. And it could lead to some very exciting work. Well, we were just discussing AI. Why is it taking over? Writers write from the heart.

can embody any character without conforming to gender norms. Previously, especially in India, male directors imposed gendered expectations on me. This experience made me rethink every role and script I encountered. I aspire to write not just for myself, but for all women, capturing their essence in rich, multidimensional characters. If I fall short, I hope to support and collaborate with other creatives who are pushing boundaries and challenging stereotypes. I don't claim to have all the answers; others are doing profound work, and I strive to be an ally and continue learning. I believe the theatre offers a platform for exploration and representation beyond traditional gender roles. It's a space where I can play a man, a woman, a god, or a rock without constraints. However, I've faced challenges from male directors who imposed gendered ideals on my performances. This experience has fuelled my determination to create inclusive and diverse narratives. In my writing, I aim to transcend gender stereotypes and create characters that resonate with the human experience. Even if I fall short, I'm committed to supporting marginalised voices and amplifying their stories. I recognize that there's always more to learn, and I'm eager to evolve as an artist and advocate for inclusivity in the arts.



“A photograph has picked up a fact of life, and that fact will live forever.”
- Raghu Rai



Zahra Mahsoor Ahmed (10B)



Aryan Sabhnani (10C)



Shreeya Hotwani (7E)



Advita Sarathe (4F)



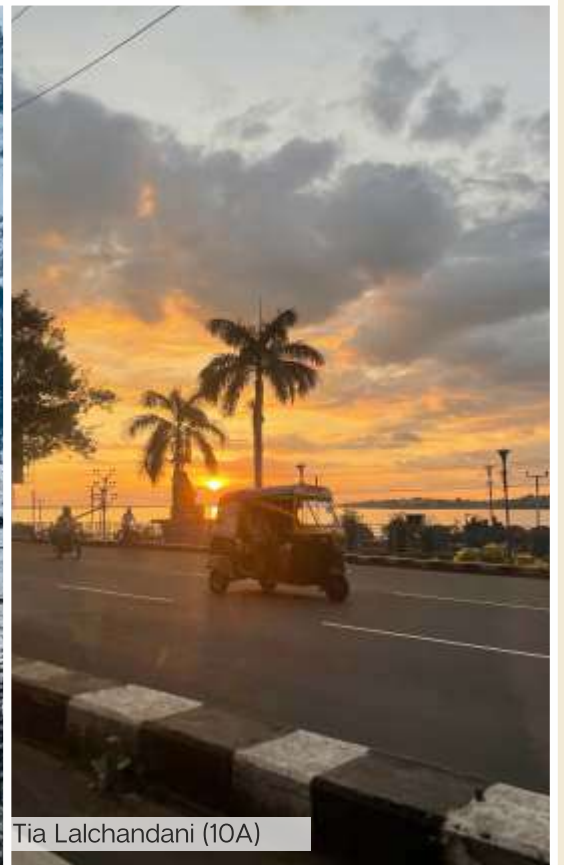
Aanya Malviya (10B)



Zaara Ahmed (8F)



Aarna Maheshwari (6B)



Tia Lalchandani (10A)



Jigyasa Moolchandani (5E)



Anayah Jabbar (5F)



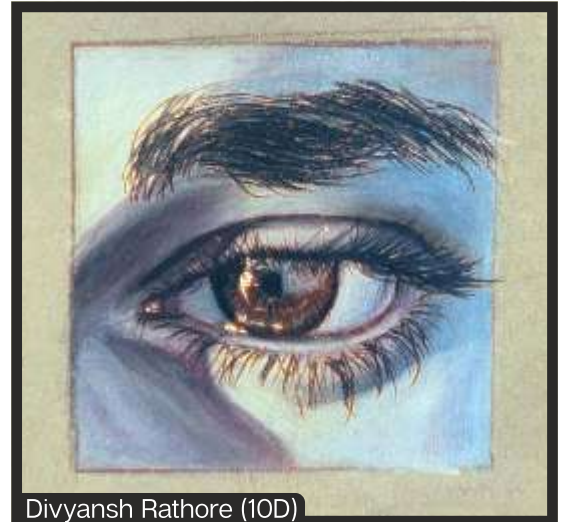
Amolika Jain (6A)



Dikshita Mamtani (8B)



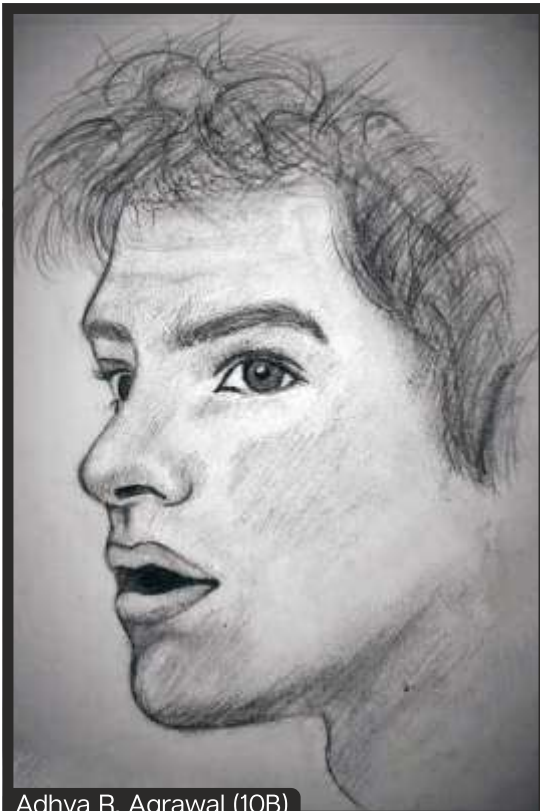
Bhaavani Dehalwar (12B)



Divyansh Rathore (10D)



Yashaswi Singh (6E)



Adhya R. Agrawal (10B)



Shreen Goyal (10D)