



Principal's Note

Practise without the ball today!

Team members began looking at each other when the new football coach made this statement. Realising the apprehensions of the players, the coach asked a question, "How many players are in possession of the ball at a time?". The answer, as expected, was, one.

So, he added, "We are going to study what the other 21 do."

Each game is a combination of observation and play by others, even when the ball is in one's hand. No one can hog the ball nor merely be an onlooker for long.

Precautionary interventions are still crucial. The analogy applies to every sphere of life.

Every incompleteness opens up a path to completeness. In a team, so within an individual.

The pre-eminent thing to learn is not to stand ahead but to stand with.

Games that can be won only by standing together, fail when played alone.

Accepting the struggles of the one who is on the path of endeavouring for completeness is the necessity of the present time. Pause to consider then, who is not on the path to completeness?

Let us walk together on the path to completeness...



- Ashish Agarwal

Student Editorial Board



Hia Sadho Editor-in-chief | Arayna Saxena | Kaashvi Mehta | Paloma Jain

Take a break: The Zeigarnik Effect



Image credit: UX planet

You have unfinished homework. This is not just an alarming reminder; it is an example of intrusive thoughts that plague us daily. The chase after the incomplete is eternal. Your unfinished project haunts your dreams, the novel you left halfway still makes you ponder, and you simply cannot wait for the next season of your favourite show! The reason you cannot stop thinking about your unfinished tasks is referred to by psychologists as the 'Zeigarnik Effect'.

This effect was discovered by Russian psychologist Bluma Zeigarnik, who noted that waiters had better memories of unpaid orders, but when the bill was paid the exact details were lost in their heads. When information is perceived, it is briefly stored in sensory memory, and paying attention to them shifts it into short term memory. Failing to complete a task creates the cognitive tension required for the information to be at the forefront of awareness, without causing too much mental load.

This effect is more than just an interesting observation about psychology, it can be used to improve daily functions. Common sense indicates that finishing a task is the best way to approach a goal, but the Zeigarnik effect instead suggests being interrupted during a task is an effective strategy for improving your ability to remember information.

Breaking up the study session is a better method than cramming it all at once. You are more likely to remember information studied in increments. Momentary interruptions help you memorize important information, rather than repeating it over and over again. While focusing on other things, you will find your mind returning to the information you study. This is a particularly effective method to retain information while revising for

examinations.

Procrastination and student life go hand in hand, but there is a way to break this bond. Putting the Zeigarnik effect to work, do the first step of the job, no matter how small. Just by beginning a task, you make sure it will enter your mind and pester you until it is finished. This approach may take time to work, but it is better than working in a frenzy while tiptoeing the deadline.

This effect is widely used in the entertainment industry. Filmmakers draw attention to the highlights of the movies in trailers and leave them wanting more. To obtain the rest of the story viewers are enticed into watching the film. TV shows strategically end episodes at a climax, especially at the end of seasons. By creating a cliffhanger at a high enough point of action they ensure the audience will come back for more.

The Zeigarnik effect is not always positive; it can come in the form of introducing thoughts that induce anxiety and lead to the multiple effects of stress such as loss of sleep, irregular eating schedule, et cetera. Nevertheless, the effect helps overcome these difficulties with the sense of accomplishment finishing the task offers.

By utilizing the knowledge of a brain function you can finish tasks on time and without any guilt. And now you have a great reason to take a break during your project.

- Hia Sadho (12B)

Editor's Note

"The most regretful people on earth are those who felt the call to creative work, who felt their own creative power restive and uprising, and gave to it neither power nor time." - Mary Oliver

Pick up a brush, a spatula, a typewriter (perhaps not, those are heavy), or a camera. Put it against your ear the way a hopeful child does to a seashell. Listen closely and you'll hear the quiet roar of waves crashing on a distant beach, or the clanging of a ladle in a pot of soup, or the pitter-patter of a drizzle on a forest floor, or the soft murmurs of an uprising, or perhaps you'll hear yourself.

Though we have only published limited stories, we were floored by the 60+

submissions for the short story section. This has undoubtedly been my favourite newsletter to edit, solely because I got to read all of them, and for that I thank you. It takes immense courage to put one's work out in the world, and we're glad that you chose The Billabong Bulletin as your platform. The Editorial Board and I put together this issue with great gusto, and we hope you enjoy it too!

- Hia Sadho (12B), Editor-in-chief





Kindness

Everyone has a unique theory of kindness that allows them to move through the world spreading kindness. Here are some think-pieces from our teachers that are food for thought-

“That’s the thing about kindness. The best way to spread it is chaotically, lawlessly and randomly until everything around you starts to be madly beautiful.” - **Juansen Dizon**



Recent picture of Sarah & Ella

I have come across innumerable moments of compassion where Mr. Najam and Ms. Samina have helped people out. In March, my family, along with many others, bore the brunt of the second wave of Covid-19. I, too, began showing symptoms. Even then, I managed my school work and chores at home to the best of my abilities. In the midst of all that, Samina still noticed something wasn't quite right and reached out to me, wondering if everything was fine; after silently facing all of my problems and handling all the stress that only seemed to pile up, I opened up to her. Her one statement, "Detach yourself completely until you and your family feel better and I will take care of everything.", filled me with an overwhelming sense of gratefulness. We all were able to sail through this phase effortlessly because of the constant support they provided us, ensuring that we were not alone during this crisis.

- **Rehana Aamir**
(Teacher, Primary School)

Ella, a chubby little pup, was left at our house by my brother-in-law's friend. Instantly, she won everyone's heart. Sarah had just turned three and I was quite skeptical about this new addition to our family. One day, while playing, the animal bit Sarah and I barred it from entering the house. Rains had just set in and the animal used to feel lonely in its kennel in the garden. On a sunny morning, I heard Ella bark loudly, push the door hard and bolt towards the stairs. “Bad Ella”, I screamed and rushed to bring the animal down but until then the Golden Retriever had reached the terrace and was pulling Sarah's dress with its mouth. The terrace door had been left ajar by the maid and Sarah was hanging on the railing wailing profusely. I grabbed Sarah and cried. Ella, quietly kept her head on my knees and breathed heavily. “Thank you, Ella”, was all that I could say.

- **Minha Durrani**
(Teacher, Middle School)

Earth!!! What can you say about this place we call home?

Love is one of our favourite superpowers because of how far it seems to reach. This love should not end at your doorstep. Take a few steps to show your love! Appreciate it, everyone loves appreciation and so does Earth. Meditate outside – even just closing your eyes and seeing what you notice helps develop thoughtfulness for the planet. Take inspiration from preservation by visiting a National Park. Love for our planet means love for its people. Strike up a conversation with a stranger on the street and learn something new about them. Go for a run without your headphones. Listen to the sound of your own heartbeat, your feet on the earth, and the sounds of nature around you.

“The earth has music for those who listen.”
- **Alfred Basha**

- **Shagun Lakhanpal**
(Teacher, High School)

Goodbyes are not Forever...



“
Saying goodbye after spending almost your entire childhood in school is not easy. As we bid adieu to the Batch of 2020-21, here we have some heartfelt messages given by the students.
”

I have been a student of Billabong for 16 years. It almost feels like my school is an actual piece of my heart. Since I was a part of the batch which didn't get their last school year, graduating feels like leaving something incomplete. It wasn't so long ago that Khalid sir taught me how to swim or Namrata Ma'am taught me Math and Samina Ma'am walked me in on my first day. Thinking of my favourite memory from school, I can't choose one. Whether it was me winning my first gold medal for maximum tongue twisters in the third grade, a bake sale that taught us profit and loss, listening to Ferrheen Ma'am reading us novels that transported us to a different world, Amit Sir's classes on Shakespeare or Swati Ma'am's English classes that opened my eyes to a different perspective of just one story. To me, my school was always a second home, my comfort zone with Samina Ma'am, Najam Sir, and Tanuja Ma'am as parental figures. I could not have asked for a better place to spend my formative years. My school has given me a nurturing environment to grow and find my path in life. It has given me strong foundations of confidence, courage, and the freedom to express myself. And I can't be more grateful to all my teachers and mentors throughout the years for their unrelenting hard work that has shaped me into the person I am today.

- **Mahek Sonpar** (12C)



Billabong has always meant an interwoven, connected, and safe community for me, with teachers I have clung onto for 4+ years, friends who have shaped my life in a million different ways and connections I'll never forget. It has harboured, nurtured, and impacted me in every sphere of my life. I owe a lot of my happy memories to it. From shamelessly spending hours in the dance room to bringing the much-needed caffeine in between the history classes, it has and always will reflect the feeling of a warm hug and an ever-inviting space I can call home.

- **Agrima Chopra** (12B)



Billabong, my alma mater has always been my second home. I joined the school in its pilot batch and it has been a beautiful journey of 16 years from a preschooler Joey to a graduating North Star. I have had innumerable memories from running around the corridors during the breaks to being the Head Boy of our school. Billabong and my teachers have moulded and mentored me into what I am today. A word for my juniors – Once the school ends, you will really miss it, so cherish the time you have!

- **Rajveer Singh** (12C)



Last week, I found my Sophrosyne t-shirt and evidently, its only merit now is as a souvenir of exceptional mischief. Please don't jump to conclusions. We did work hard for it. Spirited three days lined with Oreo shakes and unabated pranks. I can endorse that it was one of the best years of school for our batch. I graduated on a random Tuesday watching the 'Breaking Bad' series and I must say the quickness with which the school ended was sad indeed.

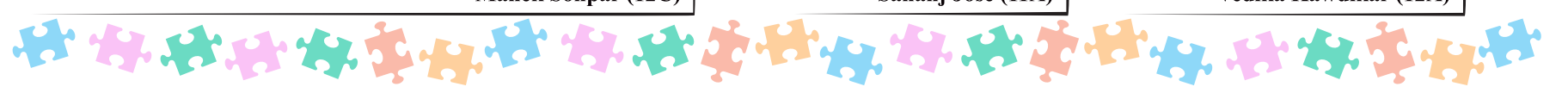
- **Sahanj Jose** (11A)



The way school ended for us will always be a memory, a sad one indeed. High school has been the best part of my school life. Everything about it was amazing- the teachers, my friends, and the experiences. This school gave us the right environment, which every child needs in the learning age. It gave us a lot of opportunities and chances to explore our interests. And made us feel special.

My advice for the juniors would just be this - If anyone tries to put you down, literally anyone, even if it's a teacher, just don't let it affect you. Keep going and have faith in what you do.

- **Vedika Kawdikar** (12A)





This year, the summer vacations were all about staying at home, relaxing, and sleeping in, due to staying up all night binge-watching a new series or catching up on a movie. Nobody could plan stepping out for a getaway or travelling abroad to explore beautiful locales. For a lot of us, the vacations were pretty boring but our school found a way to get rid of this boredom. A series of Summer SPA (Sports and Performing Arts) classes like dance, music, yoga, and physical fitness were organized to break the monotony of staying homebound in such a manner that students, teachers and their family members could all attend them.



PLENARY YOGA

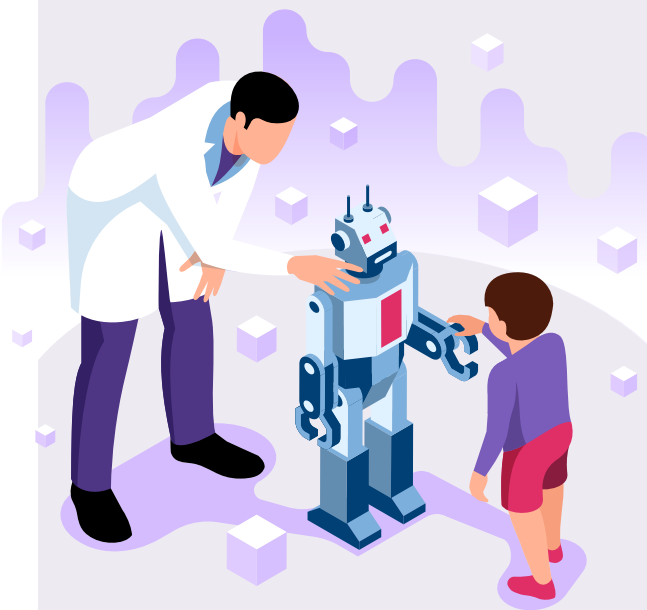
Yoga is a mind-body practice and it is helpful to give your mind something to focus on as you move on your mat. Our yoga instructor helped students go through this mind-body practice through various asanas, meditation, and relaxation with sound therapy. These techniques helped students to start their days on a fresh and positive note, in spite of the lockdown woes. These sessions were open to the teachers, students, and their families, ensuring a dedicated time is given to self-care and wellness.



PHYSICAL FITNESS

Physical Fitness helps students learn about their abilities, aptitudes, limitations, and potential. It provides opportunities for students to develop creativity, positive attitudes toward physical activity, assume more personal and social responsibilities and meet performance obligations as individuals and in groups. Our sports instructors covered different levels of physical exercises like general fitness, strength training, core workout, agility, and endurance all while helping students learn about their abilities through engaging sessions.

ROBOTICS



Rodney Brooks rightly said- "Hands-on experience is the best way to learn about all the interdisciplinary aspects of robotics" and this experience was provided to students over the summer break. In Artificial Intelligence (Advanced), children got to learn about the concepts of the machine learning process (MLP). Students comprehended concepts like text classification, gesture recognition, image classification, speech to text, and built real-life projects like Personal Voice Assistant, Object Recognition, etc. Children learned a lot about coding and Artificial Intelligence through software like Cognimates, MIT App Inventor, etc. Younger students learned some basics of AI while older students worked on making apps that would help us during this pandemic, among other things.



MUSIC

Music is a part of every known society, past and present, and is common to all human cultures across the globe. The emotions caused by music, the attitudes of its composers and players, and the venues it is played in can also vary from time to time and place to place. The music one person loves might be painful for another to listen to, and vice versa!

What is amazing about music is that it is embedded within all of us. Everyone can understand and relate it to. Playing music with other musicians is an incredible feeling! With high level of energy comes synergy and the right notes are hit when working on renditions in a group. This connection was deeply felt by the students who attended the music classes during the vacations. The music teachers ensured that the students deepened this connection all while learning more about different forms of music like vocal music, instrumental music, etc.



DANCE

Dancing helps you to stay physically fit and mentally agile. Even more so, dancing regularly can improve general well-being, boost self-esteem and has also been shown to improve one's social skills. No matter if you are a professional dancer or enjoy dancing as a recreational activity, sometimes it can be a little difficult to get up from the comfortable couch and attend a dance class. But our teachers made sure to keep the enthusiasm high so that the students could look forward to these classes. Students across all grades expressed themselves quite energetically throughout the dance classes that took place over the summer vacations. The dance faculty taught all forms of dance like Zumba, Classical, Bollywood, and Fusion.



The Cancellation of Board Exams

The deadly coronavirus has now lasted over a year causing about 150,000 deaths every day worldwide. This number continues to grow due to which important measures like lockdowns have been implemented. From schools to offices to banks, all places have been shut down. However, the question remains – Should board exams be conducted or cancelled? With the answer set to directly impact the lives of over one crore students, it is a decision where one can hardly envy the decision-maker/s.

Due to the rising number of covid-19 cases, a large number of students and parents have been requesting authorities to cancel board exams. #cancelboardexams2021 received over 412 thousand tweets and has spread over all social media platforms. Nevertheless, a silent majority still believes that board exams 2021 must not be postponed or cancelled but held offline as scheduled.

The question is between the fundamental right to life and the fundamental right to equality. Do we conduct the exams to ensure equity and provide every student with an equitable opportunity or should we cancel the exams and ensure the safety of students in this pandemic?

The safety of students, without a doubt, wins. Many people believe that the cancellation of board exams will give a wrong message to students. However, safeguarding the health of students is the topmost priority at this moment. It is also equally critical to design a safe and transparent methodology to assess them for selection to colleges for higher education.

In view of the pandemic, we should think of better alternative measures to analyse the academic abilities of students instead of conducting an exam. The exam can be conducted if students are safe. The time is not yet conducive to conduct the traditional pen and paper mode of exam. The current situation calls for the cancellation of exams to exempt the students from unnecessary anxiety.

Another important point to take into consideration is NEP (National Education Policy). In 2020 it had proposed making boards 'less important and even offering a central admissions test for all central universities. This implies that children will be assessed on more important criteria rather than board exams.

Even Prime Minister Modi agreed and said that "Students should not be forced to appear for exams in such a stressful situation."

Thus, I agree with the government's decision to cancel board exams and believe that it was the right path to take.

- Chahek Dawani (10B)

As appealing as it may seem, the cancellation of exams may impact tremendously the future of the very students we are seeking to protect.

The students have not only studied very hard the whole year but have also attended the preparatory exams like the pre-boards and other multiple revision tests. They have also spent several hours of their time in tuition.

An interesting article given in 'The Hindu' clearly explains the grading system by sharing the proper statistics and states, "The top 12.5% scorers were given A1 grade and the next 12.5% A2 grade. Similarly, lower grades such as B1, B2, C1, C2, D1 and D2 were equally divided. If more students score high marks in a subject, then naturally the grade of the students may be pushed lower". The problem with this grading system is that it gives grades unfairly and is cutting marks unreasonably making it unfair for the people who worked hard to earn them.

Board exams are a mainstream source of stress and anxiety. The pandemic has come to be known to negatively affect the mental health of people worldwide. After building up the stress of conducting board exams along with the anxiety caused by the pandemic, then suddenly dropping the ball by cancelling it, the entire drill has been quite detrimental. Students' mental health has been

further jeopardized due to the unreliable grading system.

Choosing streams for 11th grade is a difficult task and involves a lot of stress in deciding what to do with our lives. Conducting this decision at the beginning of 11th grade is mainly based on the 10th grade board exams and how taking it affects your perspective of the particular subject. Taking the board exam out of the equation makes it harder to decide the future of your career.

With a not-so-objective grading system, cancelling the board exams has not only taken a toll on the mental health of the children but also put their future at stake. Getting to choose streams without taking board exams makes the decision even harder.

Though the circumstances of being amidst a global pandemic act as a justification to cancel a very public gathering, there are always more layers to a problem than they appear to be. To conclude, it can be said that cancelling board exams at the eleventh hour has done more harm than good.

- Devyani Sadho (9B)

FOR

AGAINST





The Beauty of Mother Earth



Earth, what a beautiful place!
The prettiest planet in space.
Flowers, meadows, valleys, and leaves.
And of course, the splendid trees.
The power of the day and the calm of the night,
Let's remember the moon giving way to light (sun).
Mother Earth, its people, plants, trees, and animal life-
All have their stories that are full of delight.
I love Mother Earth and its mysteries,
The slow accomplishments of **incomplete** histories.

- Krishanali Merchant (6A)



Nature wields power
with different kinds of flowers,
Diverse hues of trees,
Lush with multiple variants of leaves.
And these make a beautiful place,
Incomplete, still giving each other space.
You and I are born with different colours,
Yet we are 'Mother Earths' most cherished flowers.

- Krishnakshi Merchant (6A)

THINKING OF YOU

the rustling leaves,
the twinkling stars,
the setting sun reminds me of you.

of how you were there;
on all occasions, at all times.
your involvement was healing.

i closed my eyes, in the blurred moment,
I witnessed you fade into obscurity
and creep into non-existence.
you were gone,
gone like the zephyr that never returns,
leaving behind spine-chilling thunder and horrendous hailstorms.

i wait,
wait for the torrent to subside,
the sun to rise
and bring with it the portent fruits of life
but it never ensues.

you abandoned us, left us **incomplete**, forever.

this perpetual halt depresses me,
the void you left in my heart infuses into my bloodstream
and sways over my body.

no day ever passes
where i am not thinking of you.

- Anushka Rai (12A)

Still Incomplete...

"And miles to go before I sleep
And miles to go before I sleep."

This poem by Frost resonates with me,
It's like the poet wrote it just for me.
Each word of it cruises from head to toe,
I know I'm left with many more seeds to sow,
mountains to scale, and rivers to roar,
Lands to cross and skies to soar.

"These woods are lovely dark and deep"
this is what frost said there,
I sure can relate it to my life here.

The urge to stop is nothing new,
The hurdles and sneers to name a few,
Are laid in my way as far I can see,
Breaking my back and paralyzing me.

But I can't stop and will not too,
Because "I have promises to keep" just as frost said it too.

So I am going to gather myself and I will dare,
"Bring it on" I'll tell the devil and I will fare.
Give my best and keep doing it so,
Dreams are still **incomplete**, you know,
That my loved ones and I saw for me,
Fulfilling them is my top motto, you see,
So I have "Miles to go before I sleep
And miles to go before I sleep."

- Neha Batra (Teacher, Primary School)



Each story in this section is incomplete. Complete the missing part using your own imagination and email it to us.

DISAPPEARED

On August 12, 2013, 25-year-old Janice Anderson, of Pensacola, Florida, was last seen in the parking lot at her workplace, where she worked as a receptionist at Pensacola state. She informed her supervisor that she would not be returning for a few days, but did not say why. Although she returned home briefly afterwards, her housemate was busy with a telephone conversation and did not see her. She has not been seen since.

Because she had told her supervisor she would be taking time off, Anderson was not reported missing until the end of the week, after she had failed to return to work. Her friends and family were unaware of any plans she might have made that would explain her absence. A security camera on the Beach Bridge recorded her car crossing the bridge almost three hours after she had left work. Eight days after her disappearance, a jogger, a

friend of the Anderson family, recognized Janice's car in a parking lot at the beach, they found her phone, bike, purse, and other belongings. It was also reported that a man got out of Anderson's car. However, there was no way to be sure.

At the police garage, investigators found sand on the bicycle tires but none on the car's floorboards. This suggested there a possibility that if Janice had gone for a bike ride on the beach that evening, she might have decided to go for a swim afterwards. If she had, it was possible that she had drowned. However, no bodies were found on the shore, and the officer says it is usually common for them to wash up after drowning. There was a possible sighting of Janice in January 2014, months after her disappearance.

A waitress in Metairie, Louisiana saw a woman matching Anderson's description with two other women, one who was of similar age and one who was older. The younger women behaved strangely, both wearing long-sleeved shirts despite the warm weather, with the cuffs pulled over their hands, and never looked the waitress in the eye. When the waitress told one of the younger women she looked like that woman who had been reported missing in Florida, the group got up and left. Unfortunately, the restaurant's security cameras had been taped over since the date of the encounter and thus it was impossible to find any documentary confirmation of the waitress' story. Anderson's parents strongly believe this was her, for two reasons.

First was that putting her sleeves over her hands were something she frequently did when she was cold. Second, the waitress recalled that the woman who resembled Janice had when looking over the soups, asked whether they could add extra pepper. After her disappearance, there were several reported sightings of her.

- Ananya Singh Baghel (9A)



Image credit: pixabay.com

Missing In Action

BANG!

That was the last thing I heard before I was shrouded by a cloud of black.

The year was 1950. I was a spy working for MI6 and was tasked with searching out one of our own who had presumably betrayed us to the Russians. It was a very tense period during the Cold War and being one of the top agents of MI6, I was given the assignment to locate our missing agent. Of course, I was not alone. I had a few of our other spies assisting me in the mission.

It was a long and arduous journey across Europe. We had to disguise ourselves as rich Soviets. But we made it through to a building in Leningrad (modern-day Saint Petersburg), where our agent was supposed to be hiding. I was the leader of this team of spies, and I was ready to give up my life to apprehend our man.

It was an eerily quiet and abandoned area. While walking through the large hallway, I heard a creak, and immediately dived behind the nearest thing, which happened to be a chair. I saw a person walking through the hallway with a mask on his face, pulling a lever I had not previously noticed.

Suddenly, I felt as if I was choking and tried to keep quiet, but to no avail. I was unable to keep my eyes open, and during that sense of helplessness, I heard a loud noise.

BANG!

- Aditya Baranwal (9C)

The Hidden Key

The sky loomed dark & low over her. The path was deceptively beautiful, the wildflowers shamelessly trying to cover what lay ahead. It was covered with soft moss and the sky with stormy grey clouds. "Just a few more steps," she told herself as her blistered and bleeding feet left a trail of bloody footsteps behind her. A few steps or a thousand, she could no longer comprehend. All she knew was that when she finally reached where she desired, she wanted to turn back and leave. Past the beautiful forest, stood a gloomy and tormented castle. The towers cut through the sky as crows circled around them. It seemed like the most devilish creatures had descended on this place to make it their home. She trudged forward, for

she had come too far to go back. Soon enough, she came face to face with the gigantic door. Once extremely beautiful and lavish, the door could now only speak of its haunting past. The rusted lock hadn't been opened for the past hundred years and it probably wouldn't have opened for a hundred more if not for her. As she drew out the cursed key and opened the lock, the creaking door was stained with her blood once again. She stood in the empty courtyard, anticipating the worst as a thousand past memories flooded her mind. She heard a voice as light as the wind that rushed past her, whisper, "Welcome back. So what do you choose?"

- Prashasti Praveen (10C)

"What Next?"

Tears welled her eyes. They were on the run to pour out as if they had been contained in those distressed yet luminous blue eyes for decades. Meryl locked herself in her room and wailed heavily, without leaving any expectation of silence for the next few more minutes. The news of her loved one's demise restrained her from thinking about anything else. No questions, nothing, just herself and her grief. Little did she know that someday, this would be the reason behind her remorse. Of all her relatives, Meryl was the closest to Aunt Caroline. Her untimely demise led to Meryl's isolation from everything that fell outside the boundaries of her house. Meryl's mother and grandmother were drowning in the anguish of internal strife to overcome their

irreparable loss. Their drenched eyes were adding to the misery of their deeply saddened faces, which made Meryl sense the severity of the incident. Meryl started feeling that nothing in the world could make it any better. She stopped talking to her friends, or anyone for that matter and started keeping herself detached from the world outside. She kept seeking for the ray of hope, which she assumed would aid her in dissolving the extremity of the situation that prevailed in her dwelling, but she never found it. Days turned into weeks, and weeks eventually grew into months, but the intensity of the tragedy was not ready to trivialise. It was already too difficult for Meryl to handle so much, when...

- Iha Prasad (10B)



Image credit: pixabay.com

Each story in this section is incomplete. Complete the missing part using your own imagination and email it to us.

After hours of hard work, I finally got selected for my dream project at work. But for its execution, I had to go to London. I booked the 6.30 pm flight for Friday, 5th November 2021. I only had a week to finish all my pending work and make hotel bookings.

The next day, I got a phone call from the airline services saying that my reservation had cancelled because of some unknown error. No more flights were available during such a busy time of Diwali. I tried to make some arrangements, but nothing seemed to work. Luckily, I got the seat of my colleague who could not travel.

Only three days remained to leave for London. I noticed that the wristwatch which I had been wearing for years had ceased functioning. It stopped working at 6:30. I handed my watch to the repairman and carried on with my work.

The Turbulence

Image credit: scienceabc.com

It was finally the day to take off for London, and all my belongings were packed. I was shifting my suitcase to the other room when its handle popped out in my hand. I was so frustrated with all things going wrong. Without wasting any more time, I shifted all my luggage into a different bag.

As soon as I reached the airport, the flight got delayed. I had to wait for an hour before boarding. We were in the mid sky when the entire plane started shaking violently, and belongings of passengers were falling from the cabinets. All the wrong things that had happened to me before the flight flashed before my eyes. Were they all signs that something horrifying was going to happen to me? Were they indications that I shouldn't have boarded the plane?

- Aamya Tuteja (9B) & Jiya Tuteja (12A)

Beasts out of Books

Samira, a young girl of about 12 years, lived in a small town named Yangon on the outskirts of a hill station. She had only one dream; to become a writer for which she wrote her own short stories and spend all her free time glued to her novels. writer, writing her own stories and spending all her free time glued to her novels.

Unfortunately, being the only child in a poor family, she had to devote all her time to helping her parents in the collection of logs and timber from the forest. The time she got at night and after meals, she would read novels, without lifting her eyes even for a second. She enjoyed reading fiction. She often dreamt of the fictional world. She had to borrow novels from her best friend since her family couldn't afford them.

Samira was engrossed in the mythical, fictional world and always wished it were real. She was adept with the knowledge of goblins, phoenix, cyclops, gnomes, leprechauns, centaurs, minotaurs, fairies, gorgons and every other possible creature.

One night after her meal, Samira sat down to read her novel but there was something different about it. As soon as she opened it to read, the air around her became acrid. She went out to check if the stove was left on but that was not the case. She started to feel uneasy after a while, therefore, decided to sleep instead of reading.

The next morning when she went with her mother to collect timber from the forest, the same acrid bubble of air surrounded her. Suddenly the ground began to stretch and broaden. It felt like she was going farther away from her mother although she stood there rooted to the spot.

Her mom was reduced to a mere dot now. Samira was befuddled. She started to feel giddy and the next moment she passed out.

Her eyes opened, she hoped to be back near her mother or at her home but she was still at the same spot. She slowly got up, still feeling dizzy, and tried to walk towards her mom but it seemed fatuous. Samira heard a muffled noise behind her which scared her to death. She tried to hold back her tears and maintain the silence. She steadily turned around and there it was. She couldn't believe her eyes. Hoping it was a dream, she started stumbling backwards.

With its cavernous body, wings and four legs, with a huge eagle-like head and neck covered in fluffy white feathers that faded into the tawny fur of a lion, and a tufted furry tail, stood in front of Samira, a Griffin...

- Charul Jhawar (12A)

CLAIRVOYANCE



It was a Friday evening, and Mei was waiting for her train at Platform A. While waiting, she noted that the station was relatively empty today. The weather was chilly and gloomy, yet it was also quite pleasant.

While waiting for her train, she began reading through her social media accounts. Her train arrived after a few minutes, and she was shocked to see that the usually highly cramped and loaded train was empty. She finally got a good glimpse of the train for the first time.

She sat uneasily realizing that she was the only passenger on the train. Soon she was bored and began reading a book that a buddy had given her at school. She opened her eyes and had no idea she'd been sleeping for an hour and had missed her stop. She was looking out of the window when she had a fleeting glimpse of someone standing behind her; she hurriedly glanced back but saw nothing and turned, scared by what was happening to her. She chose to come here despite the fact that it was already pretty late. She got up, stuffed all of her books and stationery into her bag, and exited the

empty train. When she saw that the entire platform was vacant, she became even more frightened and agitated. She continued on her way, her gaze fixed to her phone's GPS. Soon she found a hotel called the "Lemp Mansion" that did not seem far from her reach.

It was late night and she felt the cool breeze all over her body as she walked straight. She noticed that her mobile phone ran out of battery. But she still continued walking. She could hear her own footsteps as she paced. And her heart thumping. She soon saw something bright and noticed that it was a board showing the directions towards the mansion. "Lemp Mansion: 1 km", it read.

She shortly arrived at the mansion and was astounded by its size. She walked into the mansion and was taken aback by what she saw. She felt uneasy as she saw no one was in there, so she reached the switchboard to turned on the lights, but not all of them worked. The mansion was eerie and dark. She felt uncomfortable, so she pulled out a torch from her bag. As soon as she turned on the torch, it flickered. She beamed the torchlight in front of an open elevator and was perplexed by what she saw...

- Anshi Soni (9E)

STRANGER TO THE TIMELINE

THOMAS WAS DEAD. He knew that with absolute certainty. He just didn't understand why it hurt so much. He felt like every cell in his body had exploded. The nausea was worse than any sickness he'd ever had. He couldn't move. He couldn't see or hear. He could only feel pain. He started to panic, thinking maybe this was his eternal punishment. Then suddenly it seemed like someone put jumper cables on his brain and restarted his life. He gasped and sat up.

The first thing he felt was the blinding red light making his eyes sting. Then the searing pain in his stomach. His eyes started to work again and he saw fragments of glass pierced through his bloody, half-torn shirt. 'Great,' he muttered indignantly. Then he fainted.

The next time he woke up, he was lying down on a small but rather comfortable bed. He was in a hospital room, he knew that growing up in a family of doctors, though some of the equipment had him dumbfounded. He tried to sit up which made his vision blurry and he almost fainted from how drained he was when he remembered about the night. He was returning home from the Christmas party when a car came out of the blue and knocked the life out of him, but then how was he still in one piece? His thoughts were interrupted by the chattering and



Image credit: androidauthority.com

footsteps approaching him. He got up with a jerk, alarmed and the door opened.

Two figures entered the room and froze. Thomas couldn't make out their faces in the dark but judging from their reaction to seeing him up they were not expecting him to be up. 'Where am I? Who are you?' asked Thomas tensed. The silhouettes seemed to look at each other. He could feel the drop of sweat on the back of his neck. Then something struck him. It was the time of Christmas. It was supposed to snow then why was he...

'What day is it?' he asked softly. 'What day is it?!' he yelled. One of the figures stepped forward, pulled its hand out and a mobile screen popped out just like Thomas had seen in Sci-Fi movies.

It read 4:20 am. Tuesday, 6th March 2040.

- Aahish Vijayvargiya (9B)

Have you watched every Marvel movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe and at this point know all the lines by heart? Do you need a break from waiting for the Russo brothers to launch another movie related to the MCU? Have you been searching for a dramatic, action-packed science fiction storyline? If yes, then congratulations! You are my targeted audience!

The show's protagonist is Barry Allen (played by Grant Gustin), a CSI investigator, who got super speed in the wake of the explosion and became a superhero named 'The Flash'. The 'Central City' embraces the new normal after a particle accelerator explosion gives people metahuman abilities. It creates superheroes who save the city and help people, but it also creates supervillains who are hell-bent on destruction.

Barry works with his friends at S.T.A.R Labs, the mechanical engineering genius Cisco Ramon (played by Carlos Valdes) and talented bio-engineer Caitlin Snow (played by Danielle Panabaker). Iris West-Allen (played by Candice Patton) is a journalist and Barry's best friend along with being the love interest. Barry, unlike many stereotypical heroes he is not self-righteous, instead, he admits to his mistakes. He is also depicted as a very loving, selfless guy who is respectful of everyone around him.



Image credit: droidjournal

These characters, along with their heartbreaks and chaotic lifestyles and a fair share of failures, never run from a challenge and always support each other knowing that the other's decision might be bad but the intention wouldn't have been. The relationships in this show, be it platonic or romantic, are truly endearing.

The show Flash is all about speed and since you can't hurt people directly by running really fast, every fight scene is very unique and creative and mostly needs different techniques each time. Different fight scenes every time makes watching it more interesting. The TV series has an annoying amount of plot twists and every subplot leads to the next.

This series is part of a cinematic universe called the Arrowverse that includes other shows like the Arrow, Supergirl, Legends of Tomorrow, Black Lightning, Batwoman and Superman & Lois. These other shows very frequently merge to form crossover episodes to fight greater evils.

This show was directed by Andrés Muschietti and is available on Prime Video. This amazing TV series will make you binge it at the speed of lightning, just like I did.

- Devyani Sadho (9B)

DREAMLAND 2021-ZHU

"I don't believe that music, dancing, the freedom of expression

Will be suppressed for much longer.

It can't, that's against human nature

I believe that the future is near."

This voiceover is what ends the second track (Distant Lights) on Zhu's latest, Dreamland 2021.

An album that conveys the message quite well. Unrestricted by the boundaries of electronic music's subgenres, Zhu presents a body of work made for the dancefloors. Dark basslines and funky melodies are littered on every track, sometimes where you least expect it.

Known for a unique cinematic style, ZHU begins with an apprehensive melody and subtle beat, slowly elevating the rendition to a high point, paired with soft vocals on 'Lost It'. What follows is a masterclass in creating sonic variety in a project while driving through the fact that the songs are all part of one album. The disco-house vibe of 'Zhudio54' contrasts with the piano on 'Sweet Like Honey'.

The features bring their best to the project, with Chanel Tres' smooth voice on 'How Does It Feel' and Tinashe on 'Only' proving that this album was made with intent.

Overall, Zhu proves that his runaway success that started with 2014's 'Faded' was not a fluke and that he's a master at the top of the house music.



Image credit: dailycal.org

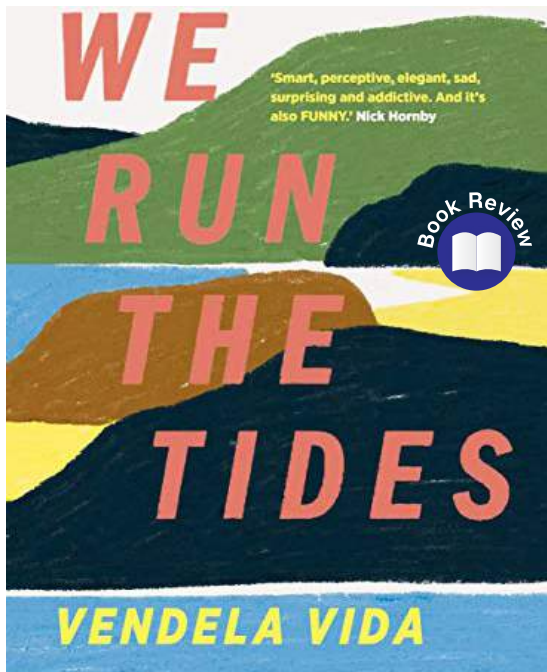


Image credit: amazon.com

This enthralling story of female friendship, girlhood, troubles in one's youth, betrayal and a suspicious disappearance that is set in the 1980s in San Francisco on the streets of sea cliff, is one of Vida's best works.

The main character, 13-year-old Eulabee narrates her teenage experiences, ranging from ones to do with boys to breaking friendships and life at Spragg, her all-girls school. They also include the 'not so teenage' ones like mysterious disappearances and murder. While the narration is funny and entertaining, seeing San Francisco in the '80s from this character's perspective is one of the most interesting things about the book.

This fast and addictive read is one I would recommend to anyone who enjoys psychological fiction or coming - of- age stories.

- Akshita Hunka (12B)

This book has been penned down from personal experiences encountered by Michelin Chef Vikas Khanna.

The heart touching story revolves around India and its discriminatory culture against widows. The story is crafted along the belief that widows cannot celebrate the festival of colours- 'Holi'.

A story that revolves around Noor, Chhoti, Anarkali and Chintu. They find support in each other in their most trying phase of life. How they uplift each other in their possible ways.

Chhoti, a young tight-rope walker and a widow named Noor, yearn to play with colours during festival of Holi, but the widows are held back by age-old tradition. They meet at the banks of the Ganges river while Chhoti is chasing her friend and partner Chintu because he ran off with her hard-earned money.

Anarkali was Chhoti's companion and best friend who begged with her at Sangam Chowk.

A nine-year-old Chhoti dreams of saving 300 rupees, so that she can attend school. Her daily struggle for survival makes her conviction grow stronger.

Chhoti befriends Noor, a white-clad widow who is prohibited from taking part in any festivities, especially Holi, the Indian festival of colours. Over

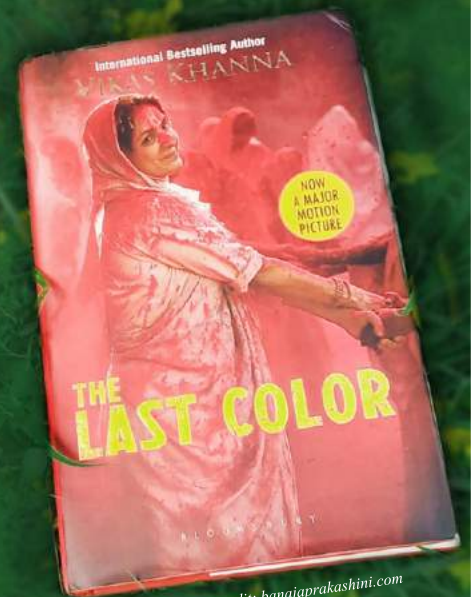


Image credit: banajaprakashni.com

time, their friendship grows thicker and breaks the barriers of the caste system. She promises Noor that, this Holi, she will splash colours on her. But unfortunately, Noor passes away on Holi eve and Chhoti gets imprisoned by the corrupt police.

Twenty-four years later, Chhoti fights for a societal reform after becoming an advocate. A reform that would bring about the rehabilitation of both street children and widows.

The Last Color is a uniquely beautiful story of promises, friendship, and the human spirit coming alive through the shackles of bondage.

- Drakshan Aber (8E)



Fashion Mood Boards

Dear Fashionistas of BHIS, In this section, we have paired one part of the outfit with one accessory. Complete the look by adding your own style statement. Mix these pieces and create your own outfit to suit various occasions. Don't forget to email us the complete look at [editorialboard@bhisbhopal.edu.in!](mailto:editorialboard@bhisbhopal.edu.in) Please ensure that your contribution is from your own collection.

#1 "Going out for a lunch with your friends" outfit



Image credit: shein.in



Image credit: converse.com

Style it with any choice of bottoms that you wish and a necklace.



#2 "Going out for a picnic with your family" outfit



Image credit: nykaafashion.com



Image credit: kay.com



Style it with a plain top and a pair of stilettos.

#3 "Going to the Airport" look



Image credit: 7zonlineshop.eu



Image credit: a



Style it with a plain top and a pair of stilettos.

#4 "Got off from a flight at 3 am" outfit



Image credit: myntra.com



Image credit: kickscrew.com

Style it with a t-shirt and a watch.

#6 "Bowling" outfit

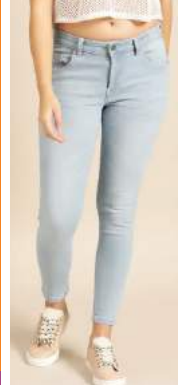


Image credit: myntra.com



Image credit: etsy.com



Style it with a smart top and a pair of shoes.

#5 "Impromptu walk at the beach" outfit



Image credit: loveitbabe.com



Image credit: 3suisses.fr



Style it with a pair of shorts and slippers.

Orange Mojito

A classic mocktail, the mojito is a favourite summertime beverage worldwide. The mint and lime give it a cool, refreshing flavour, and the soda lightens it up with a fizzy crispness to enjoy this Vitamin C loaded beverage in summers!

Ingredients:

- A lime
 - Pulp of 5-6 sun-ripened oranges
 - 6-8 mint leaves
 - 2 tsp of powdered sugar
 - 1/2 a glass of orange juice
 - Crushed ice (as much as you like)
 - Club soda
4. Add a splash of orange juice and crushed ice or ice cubes.
 5. Pour the mix in a tall ball glass or rock glass.
 6. Now slowly pour soda to the top of the glass.
 7. Add a fresh sprig of mint and a thin slice of orange on the rim of the glass.
 8. Serve immediately.

Enjoy and beat the heat!

- Mysha Jain (7E)

Instructions:

1. Put some small lemon slices and a couple of refreshing mint leaves in a shaker.
2. Now add the orange pulp with a tinge of sugar.
3. Muddle just enough to dissolve the sugar and release the flavour of the mint.



FOCACCIA BREAD



Actual image of the dish prepared by Prashasti

This flat-oven baked Italian bread looks fancy but isn't quite hard to prepare. If you bake it with love, it will surely turn out well.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of all-purpose flour
 - 1 cup of warm water
 - 1 tsp active dry yeast
 - 1/2 tsp sugar
 - 4 tbsp. olive oil
 - 1/2 tsp salt
 - Vegetables of your choice (tomatoes, onions, bell peppers, olives etc.)
 - Italian herb seasoning
2. Add the flour, oil, and herbs. Cover the dough and set aside in the refrigerator for 12 hours.
 3. Grease a pan and transfer the dough into it. Top it with vegetables of your choice, cover it and set aside for another 2 hours.
 4. Bake in a pre-heated oven at 200°C for 25-30 minutes.

Relish this bread with your favourite soup or salad.

- Prashasti Praveen (10C)

Instructions:

1. Mix the warm water, yeast, sugar and salt and let it bloom for 10 minutes.

Tête-à-Tête with Himanshu Joshi



Himanshu Joshi

Singer, Music composer, Poet,
Writer, Photographer and Filmmaker

For this issue of The Billabong Bulletin, the melophiles of our school had the honour to have got the valuable opportunity of interviewing Mr. Himanshu Joshi. Trained in Hindustani Classical, Kumaoni and Gadhwal folk music, Himanshu's voice has adorned innumerable songs of fusion rock band Indian Ocean. A music composer, writer, poet, photographer, and filmmaker, Himanshu also plays several percussion instruments.

Alumni- Atharva Korde (Batch of 2015-16), Adi Verma (Batch of 2018-19), students- Ananya Parakh (Grade 11), Simran Ahuja (Grade 10), and the Literary Coordinator- Ms. Noor Qureshi, interacted with Himanshu, one of the finest singers from the fusion rock genre as he shared his valuable insights into the world of music. The interview was streamed LIVE on Facebook.

Excerpts from the Interview

Q1 What does music mean to you? Did you have an inspiration that you would look up to while growing up?

See, music has always been an integral part of my life. I grew up in a family that was composing music or singing or generally, there was an atmosphere of music at my place. And I was fortunate enough to have an uncle of mine mentor me in my formative stage, Mr. Mohan Upreti, who was considered one of the musical geniuses. *(He continues to tell us more about his uncle, the era of the '70s, his fondness of Mohammad Rafi, and his classical teacher Ustad Ishtiyaq Hussain Khan of Rampur Sahaswan Gharana. He then tells us about Amir Khan Sahab and other influences in his life. He also talks about how western music, poetry, and ghazals also influenced him in his formative years at Jamia Millia Islamia University.)* And later on, I got to understand and appreciate the beauty of singing. You obviously meet people and then you hear them live and all these influences are subliminally there in your mind. That's how you become a little more mature in terms of your understanding of music.

Q2 The independent music scene in India has developed quite a bit and independent artists are getting the recognition they deserve. Do you think we can expect a proper independent music industry parallel to Bollywood, in the future?

So, the independent music industry, even today it exists, right? Bollywood has produced some great music and it still does.' *(He mentions independent music artists like Vishal Dadlani composing music for Bollywood and continued giving us some examples.)* 'It will always be a part of the existence of the Indian music scene in India because great singers have performed and are still performing as far as the Bollywood songs are concerned.' *(He continues by telling us how filmmakers are looking for new sounds now and the hegemony of composers and singers that existed earlier.)* 'The 70s era is something that will always remain at the pinnacle of any Bollywood compositions that we hear even today. But the freshness of new sound has come into Bollywood where three different composers may be composing in the same film. And that's brilliant as we've started hearing more voices and textures. Don't wish away Bollywood! It will always be there. Independent musicians do associate with Bollywood. And you hear some wonderful music that comes from Bollywood as well.'

Q3 A lot of Indian rock bands like Parikrama, Motherjane, and Indus Creed started in the same era as the Indian Ocean. However, Indian Ocean is one of the only few bands that has been able to sustain its fame and fan base for such a long period. What according to you worked for the band?

(Laughs) Well, it's a tough question. As far as our band is concerned, we've had a lot of changes. *(He tells us about the changes the band went through.)* I can tell you honestly, that we don't make music according to the trends that are going on. He further tells us about how the band members come together and compose their music when he adds, 'I think what has kept us alive is the fact that we believe in what we play. Unless and until we are happy about it, it doesn't go out. We



record a song only once we have performed it live in front of an audience and gauged the public reaction. Our music is very organic. The tune comes first, lyrics follow.' *(He then tells us the story of how they do things.)*

Q4 How do you strike a balance between music and film-making?

Filmmaking is my passion. I also do a lot of films for corporates in terms of their promotional material or their company profiles. Usually, there's a lean period for the band from April to July and some part of August. The band season starts towards the end of August and goes on till March. October-November-December is the big season for us. That is the period when we do the most number of shows. It is very tough to strike a balance as I am straddling two boats. But the band has been very supportive. It becomes tiring but I have been managing it well. *(He tells us about his tours, his tight schedule, and support from family that helps him focus on his music as well as filmmaking.)*

Q5 Music of films like 'Black Friday' and 'Masaan' are exceptional because they contribute to the narrative of the film which is generally missing in Indian cinema, where songs are used to break the monotony. Being a filmographer yourself, which route do you prefer?

I don't do fiction. I am more into documentary and corporate films. So that's a different genre of filmmaking that I do. But as far as the other filmmaking is concerned, we don't do films regularly. *(He tells us about what works for them and the route they follow.)* There is a change that we have seen. A bigger part is entertainment, though. When you talk entertainment, there has to be a song and dance number which cannot be wished away. But more and more experiments are happening now and it's a great change. For eg. Swades where the songs are carrying the narrative ahead. It's a new trend and I hope it flourishes.

Q6 Poetry and music composition, both require rhyme and rhythm. What strikes your observation while creating such unique pieces?

When we do music, we have the tune first and then the composition comes in, the lyrics come in. We're fortunate that we have friends who are brilliant lyricists and contribute to the same kind of thought process as ours and it mixes in. *(He tells us about a few lyricists and their work.)* When you compose music, it is to a meter. If a composition is to a meter, the lyricist has to write to that meter. *(He shares more details about the process and his experience while composing songs.)*

“Photography takes an instant out of time, altering life by holding it still.”

- Dorothea Lange



Ishveen Kaur (8G)



Drakshan Abeer (8E)



Sarthak Kumar (11B)



Prakhar Bhandari (8B)



Devansh Kumar Sahu (10A)



Nilotama Singh (9B)



Jiya Nagpal (6D)



Jiya Tuteja (12A)



Daksh Agrawal (7A)



Ishani Tarte (Jr.KG B)



Siddhi Jain (7B)



Anupreksha Shukla (8B)



Tiyana Shrivastava (4C)



Aiman Fatima (6D)



Mysha Jain (7E)



Simran Ahuja (10B)