

Vasant Valley

April, 2011

T O D A Y

facebook

friendster

twitter

myspace.com
a place for friends.

VS.



"the people who are looked up to are the ones who get into Brown or Berkley on early decisions and not the ones who have the most Facebook friends"

The Real Life Of the Vasant Valley Teen

After the recent article exposing the downright shocking activities an Indian teenager is involved in, we started to think about teenagers a little closer to home- students in Vasant Valley School. So we asked ourselves, 'Are we really this scandalous?' Truth is, we're not. That is, only if you compare us to the teenagers the article in India Today talks about. The world is made of saints and sinners, and then there are the Vasant Valley students, who lie somewhere in the middle. Of course some of us may slip off the fence onto either side, but we always come back to a place that is more or less in the middle of these two extremes. Belonging to one of the best schools in India (reports speak for themselves), scandalous behaviour is not a luxury we can afford. FYI (for your information), while all of us are very familiar with 'teenspeak', it has never been used to outwit the adults. In keeping with our very lazy attitudes, everything has just been reduced to

abbreviations to make things easier to remember. Abbreviations like LOL (laugh out loud); BTW (by the way) and TC (too cool) don't shout out scandalous, do they? The Vasant Valley teenager is not gullible and naïve, rather s/he tries very hard to steer clear of problematic situations, i.e. trouble. Like the article suggests, we too want to live in the future, but in a society like ours, the people who are looked up to are the ones who get into Brown or Berkley on early decisions and not the ones who have the most Facebook friends and are seen just about everywhere. The Vasant Valley teen knows the correct degrees of exclusivity and aloofness and will always use them to their advantage. We do not follow the Facebook fads- 4000 + friends, hourly photo updates to grab eyeballs and relationship status changes so the world can know what's going on. Our love for privacy might be mistaken as snobbishness to a third person.

"Our love for privacy might be mistaken as snobbishness to a third person."

Facebook is like a street- you don't converse with every *chaiwalla* and traffic policeman you see on the road, do you now? None of us would ever be caught dead in any of those markets that sell duplicate stuff from around the globe. So you have this one guarantee- the Vasant Valley teen condemns piracy in every which way.

The Vasant Valley teen knows the difference between black and white. We've been made aware that way. We're smart enough not to indulge in activities that will eventually harm our bodies, reputations and future. We might do things that seem somewhat grey but we ultimately have our head on our shoulders. We have goals set out that we intend to achieve and these thorns in our paths- let's call them... 'bad activities'- will not stop us from getting to our destinations.

We are in between adolescence and adulthood; a very crucial stage of our lives. It seems that most of India doesn't seem to know what to make of today's young, liberated Indian teen, but they need not worry. The VVS teen knows how to have fun, but at the same time not be stupid about it. This is not an age of "uncertain and confused state of maturity" (as quoted in the article). Agreed, it's probably the most carefree time of your life when you're SUPPOSED to let loose. But Vasant Valley teens don't forget it's also the time of their lives that if taken care of well, will the pave the way to success for many years to come.

Vedika Berry & Suvira Chadha, 12



School Watch

Awards

The team of Shiksha Kamra, Ojasvi Jain, Yoshika Sangal and Arushi Agarwal won the **Financial**

Analysis Competition for Class 12.

The winners of the **Science Spelling Bee** are Aditya Chopra (6), Shaurya Sarin (5) and Saanvi Bhatia (4).

In the following competitions, the students who secured first place are:

English Poetry Recitation (5)- Suryadip Bandyopadhyay

Hindi Just A Minute (5)- Vinayak Satsangi

Hindi Poetry Recitation (4)- Sehej Kaur

The winners of the **Math Quiz** are:

8- Red House (Ricky George, Rishabh Periwal, Neel Mehdhiratta, Sushain Sadhu); **7-** Red House (Rushil Vohra, Arjun Vir Kapoor, Siyon Khosla, Ananya Sagar); **6-** Yellow House (Kanishk Ali Khanna, Aryaman Nirvan, Vivan Yagnik Sethia, Prakhar Jain); **5-** Veeraj Jindal and Adit Kapoor; **4-** Shubham Kalantri; **3-** Armaan Gandhi and Arya Vohra

A Talk by Ms. Anita Roy

The students of class 9 had just settled down in the plush conference room of our school when Ms. Anita Roy walked in. We had been told that she was an editor for various newspapers and magazines in India and naturally to be on our best behaviour.

Ms. Anita Roy began by asking us a common question, "How many students here like reading?" Half of the batch's hands went up, out of which most were the girls'. After this quick survey, she went on to have quite a few interactive conversations with us. She picked out random people and asked each of them what books they like reading. She was slightly disappointed when she discovered the so called 'most wanted' authors weren't Indian. She informed us that there was some real Indian writing talent out there just waiting to be unleashed!

Ms. Roy also told us about editing and the innumerable skills required to be a good editor. She explained how essential an editor's job is. The editor must look into the minds of both the reader and the author, and when the work is done, it must be at its level best. She compared the editor's job to that of a diamond cutter's; how a large misshapen object such as a raw diamond can turn out so much more fine and valuable after going through the diamond cutter's hands. She also told us that editing does not pay well and that she is one of the few people who does the job not for the money, but for the pure joy it gives her.

She was very interesting to talk to and spoke with great confidence about a subject which has been stereotyped as 'boring' and 'time-consuming.' Seeing the joy she got out of doing what she loved has inspired us not only to be writers or editors but also to be creative and do what we enjoy most in the professions we choose. She certainly gave us a lot to think about and chew on.

Indraneel Roy and Ananya Jain, 9



THE DISMAL DELUSIONS OF DIRECTORS

The standard portrayal of an Indian on an American sitcom is a dark skin coloured IT genius with an uncanny accent which sounds suspiciously like a South Indian. Factually speaking, Indians are known as proud, self-respecting and, yes, 'brown' people all over the world. American sitcoms however, delineate them in a completely different light.

The most common example one can take is from The Big Bang Theory, in which Raj (an Indian) is one of the five protagonists of the show. Raj has a psychological fear of talking to women and an accent which you wouldn't find a single Indian having anywhere in the world. He is often shown talking to his parents through a webcam, who keep him updated on their sadly misinterpreted-by-the-American-director's, 'Indian' lives and who he should marry, in the same outlandish accent. Raj is also known not to like Indian food, refusing to eat it whenever the group orders it for dinner. This brings to light Raj's dislike toward his Indian heritage as he claims he is sick of curry and rice, something that he has apparently had to have every day of his life while he was in India. Another instance is in the form of Principle Figgins from Glee, who is seen to be talking in the same ridiculous accent, have the same stereotypical appearance and the same misconceived behaviour and gestures. These are just two of the many Indian characters who are portrayed in the same norm. In reality, these conceptions of Indians are not true. It is undeniable that Indians can be loud and unruly sometimes, but judging them by that and not considering their sophisticated and well behaved population isn't fair. Also, Indians can be 'white'. So to the directors, "Go get a reality check."

Aakanksha Jadhav, 9

INDIAN PREMIERE LEAGUE 4



The fourth season of the DLF Indian Premier League is underway and this time there are 2 more teams competing for the title- Kochi Tuskers Kerala and Pune Warriors India, making a total of 10 teams. But this is not the only thing that is different this time round- players are playing for new teams now! We are all used to seeing Gautam Gambhir decked out in the red and blue of the Delhi Daredevils but we will now see him in the purple and yellow of the Kolkata Knight Riders. Not to forget, India just won the world cup after 28 long years! Though it is not easy for the Indian fans to get over something like a world cup victory, the players will naturally be fatigued. However, the electricity, spice and flair of the IPL is sure to bring an end to the World Cup hangover!

As I write this article, I'm watching the match between Delhi and Mumbai on TV, and I can tell you that the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium is packed. Lasith Malinga is destroying the Daredevils at the moment and the crowd has gone completely quiet. Delhi's score- 88 for 8! It is a great atmosphere with the huge sixes flying out of the ground (though it's the wickets which are flying at the moment!), the cheerleaders and the charged up crowd.

Critics have been saying that because the World Cup just got over and India won, the fans don't want more cricket. However, in the few matches that I have seen so far, the crowd has been awesome, fired up and noisy! I think all these things give a fair indication that people love and are very interested in the IPL and no Indian can ever be tired of cricket! So what if the world cup just ended? The IPL is a completely different scene. There already have been some close, exciting, tense and thrilling matches and there are sure to be many more to come.

"The electricity, spice and flair of the IPL is sure to bring an end to the World Cup hangover!"

Ishan Sardesai, 11

Walk for Autism

In celebration of World Autism Day, Tamana School had organised a walk in association with Action for Autism. Schools across Delhi were invited to gain awareness and sensitivity towards differences in society.

At the venue, the founder of Tamana School spoke to us about the obstacles she faced in setting up the school because the residents of Vasant Vihar objected against a "school for 'mad people' in an such an elite neighbourhood". She handed over the mike to her daughter, Tamana, an autistic young adult with cerebral palsy, whose speech brought tears to every listener's eyes.

We walked around Vasant Vihar along with children studying at Tamana, from the School of Hope to the Basant Lok complex. Each of us was given a badge and poster to hang on our back, to attract attention to basic information and slogans. At the Basant Lok complex, street plays had been organised to create awareness about autism, drawing members from all walks of life at the market to stop and listen. During the walk, I made friends with an autistic teenager called Shruti. She seemed quite intent on figuring out the contents of my water bottle. When I offered her a sip, she was absolutely thrilled. She drank the water gratefully before asking me if she could share it with her friend too. After her friend also had a couple of sips, she went and told everyone how she was great friends with me. The basis of this declaration was my sharing water with her.

The simplicity of the entire situation touched me deep down. One of the first things that each of us learns as a child is that sharing is caring. Yet, in this big bad world, we lose touch with such a fundamental value. To find our values again is almost halfway there to finding our true self and answering all the philosophical questions that pop up in our minds from time to time. And now imagine a person who never got lost in the world, who always remembered his or her core foundation. You decide whether to call this person by the R word, or whether to call the person gifted, special and in touch with themselves...

Advika Gupta, 12

World Autism Awareness Day

Yamuna Yatra: Memories

"One night we had to cook a meal for the entire camp and I was on the team that was kneading the dough. We did everything from collecting the water to doing the dishes, and we finally understood the importance of the staff that cooked 3 meals a day for us. All the groups that were cooking different dishes had to work together to share the knives, the cutting boards, and everyone helped different groups out. It was great to discover that we all worked together so cohesively, as one large harmonious unit, and above that, the food was delicious."

- Ojal Khandpur

"When India played Pakistan on the night we were in Jaan ki Chatti. A lot of us trekked down 1km to the tea stall to watch the match on the tiny TV they had. A lot of the villagers had already congregated there. We all ate Maggi and chowmein, while watching, and the hot food was just what we needed. The atmosphere was amazing. We chanted and screamed for India, it felt great that all of us, from different walks of life, were so united in our love for India and our desperate desire that our country wins."

- Rhea Badal

"I had just climbed up a stream with freezing cold water, and I couldn't feel my legs or hands. It had been extremely tough, and I was cold and tired. I looked up, and it was snowing. Some of my friends and I ran to the bridge (in Yamunotri) and tried to catch the snow on our tongues, or just let it hit our faces. That moment - with the beautiful Yamunotri valley stretched out in front of me, the foggy mountain peaks rising above, and snow swirling in the air, was just pure ecstasy. The tiredness faded immediately, I felt like I was in heaven."

- Amira Singh

"While the other groups went to the villages neighbouring our Lakhamandal campsite, Mr. Jha thought it'd be awesome if our group went on a trek that he had been on a million times before. But, he lost his way, and made us climb this mountain where a landslide had taken place a few months ago and so as a result, the route was very risky and tough. While we were all waiting to plummet to our deaths (seriously, not kidding), he made us sit down where we were and started singing 'Bawra Man' which echoed fascinatingly off the mountains. Had the boys not helped us and had we not worked as a team, one of us may not be here today. The reality of the situation really stunned us, but when we reflected on it later, we realized that we did actually enjoy ourselves."

- Aditi Banerjee

"I always get a tear in my eyes when I remember the first morning in Musoorie when Mr. Jha sang Bawra Man for us, and our last morning together in Vrindavan where he ended the Yatra by singing it for the last time. It was great how we got an opportunity to be together and strengthen our bond of friendship."

- Naina Lal





भ्रष्टाचारः एक समस्या

देश के पहले प्रधानमंत्री पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू ने कहा था: 'भ्रष्टाचारियों को सड़क किनारे लगे लैंप पोस्टों पर टाँग दिया जाएगा।' किंतु आज 50 वर्ष बाद भी भ्रष्टाचार का विरोधक लोकपाल विधेयक तक राजनैतिक समर्थन को कभी की वजह से पारित नहीं हो सकता। नतीजा - अन्ना हज़ारे के नेतृत्व में हुआ एक विशाल जन आंदोलन।

भ्रष्टाचार भ्रष्ट+आचार शब्दों के मेल से बना है। भ्रष्ट का अर्थ है-मर्यादा से हटना या गिरना तथा आचार अर्थात् आचरण या व्यवहार। यह तो सब को पता ही है कि भ्रष्टाचार ने अपने पाँव भारतीय समाज में बड़ी गहराई से जमा लिए हैं। इसने राजनीति धर्म संस्कृति व्यापार उद्योग कला आदि में घर बना लिया है। पर इस सूर्यी में सबसे ऊँचा स्थान है हमारे चुने गए प्रतिनिधि भ्रष्ट नेताओं का। सरकार के साथ आज भाई भतीजावाद रिश्वत सिफारिश व काला बाज़ार जैसे शब्द जुड़ गए हैं और प्रशासन का कोई भी कार्य रिश्वत दिए बिना नहीं होता।

यद्यपि भ्रष्टाचार को समाप्त करने की चर्चा प्रत्येक व्यक्ति करता है फिर भी यह दिनोदिन बढ़ता जा रहा है। कथनी और करनी में अंतर होता है। हाल ही में उम्मीद की एक किरण दिखाई दी है क्योंकि सिर्फ 'कथनी' का सहारा न लेते हुए भ्रष्टाचार के विरोध में कानून बनाने के लिए एक आंदोलन का आह्वान हुआ है। इस आंदोलन की जड़ में है प्रतिष्ठित गांधीवादी अन्ना हज़ारे। यह महाराष्ट्र जन्म विरोधी व आंदोलन छेड़ने वाले व्यक्ति 73 वर्ष के हैं और दिल्ली में लगभग 100 घंटों तक आमरण अनशन कर रहे हैं इस आशा में कि लोकपाल बिल प्रभाव में आ जाए। यह बिल भ्रष्ट अधिकारियों एवं नेताओं के करतूतों की जाँच कर सकता है और जन शिकायतों को सीधी तरह निवटाने को चेष्टा करता है। अन्ना की देशभक्ति एवं साहसी उपवास को सलाम करने के साथ-साथ उन हज़ारों लोगों को नज़र अंदाज़ नहीं करना चाहिए जिन्होंने इस समाजसेवी का जवरदस्त समर्थन किया।

मैं स्वयं को बहुत भाग्यशाली मानती हूँ कि मुझे अपने विद्यालय की वदौलत जंतर-मंतर जाने एवं ऐतिहासिक आंदोलन में शामिल का अवसर प्राप्त हुआ। वहाँ लोगों का बड़ा जलसा लगा था। अन्ना की झलक तो नहीं मिली किंतु लोगों के नारे - "एक दो तीन चार वंद करो यह भ्रष्टाचार" "इनकलाव ज़िंदावाद एवं उनके अत्यंत उत्साह ने मन में एक अनोखी देशभक्ति की भावना उजागर करी।

5 दिन पहले जंतर मंतर पर भ्रष्टाचार के खिलाफ प्रारंभ हुई लड़ाई में आखिरकार अन्ना हज़ारे और उनके करोड़ों समर्थकों की विजय हुई। गत वर्षों में सबसे चिंताजनक बात यह थी कि भ्रष्टाचार और समाज में फैली अशुद्धताओं को हमने स्वीकार कर लिया था। "हादसा वह नहीं जो गुज़र चुका हादसा यह है कि सब खामोश है।"

-अन्ना ने हमारी इस खामोशी को तोड़ा है।

वसुधा दीक्षित 10

Tulips

Under the sky so bright
Contracting nutrition from the sunlight
The various colours of tulips in the field
Have my emotions revealed.
Seeing the tulips oh so white
The world seems so bright
Seeing the tulips all red
The world seems to consist of happiness only.
The hillside outside my window
Seems to have no boundary for beauty
When I lie on my couch and have nothing to do,
My thoughts take me back to the tulips dancing in the fields.

Aadya Singhania, 6

Need a Spark to Start a Revolution

It all started from just one spark and the fire is still spreading. It all began because of one food vendor in Tunisia who was frustrated by the way the rulers treated him, so he burnt himself in front of the government office. But that was just the beginning. After some time, the population of Tunisia came together and forced the rulers to leave the country. To appease the crowd, the rulers abdicated and abridged the time duration they were supposed to rule. Now there was a stampede of people full of anger so the army took over and promised the people that they would support the government chosen by the public. Now this has started spreading in other countries and nations too such as Egypt, Algeria and Libya. If the fire keeps spreading there can be a concern of wars happening in those areas especially Libya as their ruler is resisting to leave the country. The fire has just started spreading, when is it going to burn out and who is going to act



like an arbitrator, no one knows.

Shreya Bahl, 6

Equality

A room under a roof
Or a room under the streetlights,
When you have a plate full of food
Or you don't even get a bite.
If you fly in an airplane
Or if you fly torn kites,
If you pick a gun to shoot
Or you get in to street fights.
When you have a home to stay
when it's cold
Or if you shiver and freeze all night,

If your skin colour is dark
Or if you are pale white.
When you are on top of the world
Or miles away from that height,
When spending is easy
Or you'll just think you might.
When you are begging
And I'm relaxing as the sun shines bright,
When the rich get their needs
The poor should have their rights.

Aanchal Sharma, 7

मेरी ज़िन्दगी में माँ का महत्त्व

रोती हूँ मैं तो वहलाती हैं

हँसती हूँ तो साथ मेरे खुशियाँ मनाती हैं।

किसी से सब कुछ मैं नहीं कहती इनके अलावा

हाँ! यही हैं मेरी माँ।

जब मैं हूँ दुखी तो बड़ा लाड-प्यार हैं करतीं

लेकिन मेरी वदमाशी देखने पर गुस्से से आवाज़ उनकी है भरती।

मुझे अच्छा इनसान बनाने के लिए नहीं सुनती हैं वह कोई वहाना

अपनी डाँट के पीछे छुपाए रखती हैं ढेर सारा प्यार मेरी माँ।

इनकी वजह से है मेरा अस्तित्व

और मेरी परवरिश में बहुत है उनका महत्त्व।

यह सिखाती हैं मुझे क्या है अच्छा और क्या बुरा

मेरी पहली अध्यापिका हैं मेरी माँ।

बुरे और अच्छे वक्त में संग मेरे वह हैं चलतीं

चाहे बहुत नेक काम किया हो मैंने या बड़ी से बड़ी गलती।

मेरी सबसे अच्छी दोस्त अपने-आपको उन्होंने बनाया

सिर्फ जन्म देने वाली औरत नहीं हैं मेरी माँ।

छोटी थी जब मैं तो चलना सिखाया उँगली पकड़कर

ताकि अपने पैरों पर खड़े होकर मुश्किल पार करूँ मैं बिना डरकर।

बनना है मुझे भी बुढ़ापे में उनका सहारा

क्योंकि सबसे ज़्यादा प्यारी हैं मेरी माँ।

निकिता धवन 7

The Lost Cat

Once upon a time there were two girls called Siya and Jiya. They had a pet cat. One day the cat went out to play in the garden. The cat went up the tree to look for a mouse. Then the cat got stuck on the tree. Jiya called out to the cat. Then Siya heard a 'meow' from the tree. She looked up the tree. She saw the cat. She got a ladder. Jiya held the ladder. Siya climbed the ladder and got the cat down from the tree.

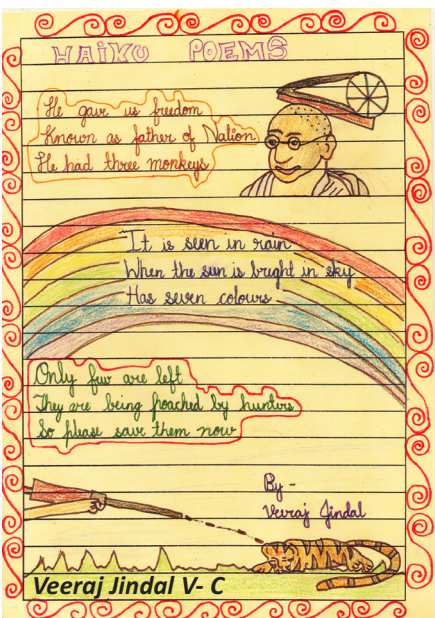
Yashohari Dalmia II - A



The Cat Which Was Stuck

One day two girls planned a day out and went for a walk. They said, "We'll set off to the park tomorrow." Next day they set off to the park for a walk. On the way one of them saw that a cat was stuck on a tree. She told the other, "Look", she said, "a cat is stuck on a tree. We'll have to try and get her down. I can get her down because I have a ladder and my father taught me how to climb it. I will just go fetch it." And she walked away and was back soon with a ladder. She climbed up and saved the cat. And then she let go of it and that was the end.

Aadarsh Chowdhury II- A



मेरा वसंत वैली,

बच्चों की शान वसंत वैली हमारा,
वसंत वैली महान, दूर - दूर तक उसका नाम,
बच्चों का परिवार अच्छी शिक्षा अच्छा ज्ञान
वसंत वैली संसार, सिद्धांत गाँधी तीन - स
बच्चों का नारा,



Dragonflies are one of the fastest flying insects. They can fly as fast as 56 kilometres (35 miles) per hour in still air and even faster if the wind is blowing in the same direction as they are flying. They are also predacious insects that spot, catch and eat their prey in the air. They need to have very good vision to catch their prey in mid air and they do so with their bulging eyes that have 28,000 lenses each to help them locate their meals.

Vama Borah IV- B

I Illustrated as I Listened!!!!

Shiv went to the shop and got a fish for lunch. It was a fresh fish. Mummy was not at home so Shiv put the fish in a dish in the dining room. Kitty crept into the room. She liked the smell of

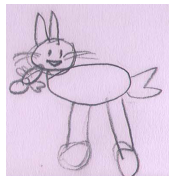


the fresh fish. "No one is at home. Let me get the fish and have a good lunch," she said. Just as Kitty was going up the chair to get the fish



Shiv came in. Kitty got the fish and ran out to the park.

Sara Khanna I - B



समय पर विजय

महाराज युधिष्ठिर राज्य के कामों में बहुत अधिक व्यस्त थे। तभी द्वारपाल ने आकर कहा, "महाराज एक व्यक्ति आपसे मिलना चाहता है।" "उसे अंदर लाओ।" यह कहकर युधिष्ठिर अपने काम में व्यस्त हो गए। वह व्यक्ति अंदर आकर उनकी प्रतीक्षा करने लगा। उस व्यक्ति ने अपनी बात बोलने की कोशिश की पर वह कुछ कह ना सका। क्योंकि युधिष्ठिर कुछ परेशान से थे। युधिष्ठिर ने फिर जल्दबाजी में कह दिया, "आप कृपया कल पधारें।" भीमसेन को यह बात अच्छी नहीं लगी। धर्मराज ने इस व्यक्ति की बात कल पर क्यों टाली दी? यह सब सोचते सोचते भीमसेन द्वार पर रखी दुदुंभी बजाने लगा। भीमसेन ने सेवकों को आदेश दिया, "सभी मंगल वाद्य बजाए जाएँ और मांगलिक वस्तुओं से थाल सजा कर लाए जाएँ।" सेवकों ने उनके आदेश का पालन किया। भीमसेन ने पुष्पहार लेकर प्रवेश किया। युधिष्ठिर ने चकित होकर पूछा, "भीमसेन यह क्या हो रहा है?" भीमसेन ने कहा, "महाराज यह मंगल वाद्य आपकी 'समय' पर विजय की खुशी में बजाए जा रहे हैं। आपका कल पर अधिकार हो गया है। तभी आपने उस व्यक्ति को कल बुलाया है।" युधिष्ठिर को अपनी भूल का अहसास हुआ। युधिष्ठिर ने कहा, "सचमुच किसी काम को कल पर नहीं टालना चाहिए, उसे तत्काल करना चाहिए। उस व्यक्ति को बुलाओ मैं अभी उसकी प्रार्थना सुनूँगा।"

आदित कपूर पाँच - स



Book Review: Skunk Girl by Sheba Karim

In this witty, humorous and absorbing novel, author Sheba Karim paints a lucid picture about the struggle of a teenage Pakistani girl living in contemporary American society. As we journey our way with the fairly likeable protagonist, Nina, she takes her first tentative steps into high school with the additional pressure of being the only Asian girl in her class and the daughter of two very kind hearted but conservative and orthodox parents. As for the cherry on top of the icing, add a sister who aced her way through high school and easily secured for herself a place at Harvard. And if that wasn't enough, Nina is perpetually plagued with other worries that she can't vocalize. Although she respects and loves her overbearing parents, it is difficult for her to comprehend the reason behind having to stay at home on a Saturday night while her friends are at a party or at a school dance. To add to the cultural differences Nina already has with her classmates, she is further expected to be the perfect Muslim Pakistani girl- one who speaks Urdu, wears a *salwar kameez*, acts cordial around all her relatives and eventually marries a perfect Pakistani Muslim boy, high on the prestige scale of her parents.

Her nightmare comes true when she wakes up one day to discover that overnight she has turned into a hairy gorilla. In her teenage world, where her other friends never seem to find the need to wax, the magnitude of her hairy problem is bigger than it seems. The author so accurately describes her feelings when Nina says, "If high school was a cell, my friends would be in the nucleus and I would be floating in the cytoplasm." It's no wonder that Nina feels like a misfit living in a society where bleaching her moustache is the only hope she has left to fit in. The only thing that makes high school bearable for Nina is the support of her two compassionate best friends, Helena and Bridget.

Then, in the midst of all her awkward attempts to be a normal teenage girl, the expected happens. An Italian transfer student, Asher Richelli, ambles into the plot. With his perfect olive skin and light brown hair, he has every girl in school pining over him and hanging onto his every word. Of course Nina, who nurtures a silent crush on him, thinks she stands no chance against the gorgeous blonde, button nosed Serena. But as the plot drifts on, predictable situations begin to unravel and the importance of the story is momentarily lost in clichés. However, the depth of the novel is rescued when Nina discovers for herself that being a Pakistani-American teen is not the end of the world. All in all, throughout the book you will find yourself laughing with Nina, sympathizing with her woes as she lives under the shadow of her super nerd sister, and rejoicing with her as she finally recognizes herself for what she truly is inside, the skunk girl.

Sidak Kaur, 12



BUSTED!

"The day I start believing you, I'll suicide!"
- Sarthak Grover
We hope that day comes soon.
"Look, I can speak French.. Ola!"
- Vikrant Puri
Stick to P Language, it's more your level.
"I'm not a pessimist, I'm an atheist"
- Navina Singh
After seeing you we don't believe in God either.

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Song Review: Friday- Rebecca Black

*It's Friday, Friday; Gotta get down on Friday
Everybody's looking forward to the weekend, weekend*

Rebecca Black is a classic example of the term 'overnight success'. With over 34 million YouTube views and cracking the iTunes top 100, Black gained her success with her single "Friday". The song is about a girl with her friends singing about how excited they are for the weekend (clearly the song has a very deep meaning). The lyrics are not only completely meaningless but also so irrelevant that it has me to the point where I'm questioning this girl's insanity. She says 'Gotta get down to the bus stop, Gotta catch my bus, I see my friends' - *Um*, why would you go to the bus stop then have your friends pick you up in their convertible (which they are clearly not old enough to drive). Then she goes on to say how 'Yesterday was Thursday, Thursday. Today it is Friday, Friday. Tomorrow is Saturday, and Sunday comes afterwards' - Oh my god. Thank you so much Rebecca, you have provided us with such ground-breaking information with your ingenious song. But it's not just the lyrics; her voice is by far the most annoying thing I've heard in my 14 years of existence. It sounds awful; it's screechy and it's been auto-tuned to the point where you can't even hear her real voice anymore.

The fact that she is so famous completely dumbfounds me. The song sounds like it belongs on an episode of "Barney & Friends" and her voice belongs in a sound-proof room surrounded by tone deaf people and far away from the rest of the world. Its popularity sickens me. So what would be the final conclusion on Rebecca Black? Well, no one says it better than Charlie Sheen, "Rebecca we don't hate you because you're famous, you're famous because we hate you."

Tarini Sardesai, 9

