

Vasant Valley TODAY

Dear Noor,

Letter to the Editor

Writing this letter to you right now, feels surreal. I remember this past year reading all the previous Letter to the Editors from time to time, sometimes to seek some inspiration, advice or just to know that it is not only me, that there have been others before me and there will be others after, who have felt the exact same thing. Because being the Editor is a position that only someone who has been Editor can understand. Someone once called it “The Crown of Thorns” – I don’t think there is a term that captures being Editor quite as well.



Over this next year, you will grow to both love and hate being Editor. You will love the creative space it gives you and yet hate it when you can’t come up with any ideas. You will love the feeling of when the newsletter comes out and yet hate the deadline you had to meet for it. You will see yourself transform into that stereotypical Editor, the one who is frantically typing into a computer, averting one crisis after another.

If there was one thing I was thankful for through my year as Editor, it was my Editorial Board. They are your very own quirky, highly intelligent, super efficient (well sometimes) family. Depend on them, for being Editor is not a one-person job. If being an Editor is like being in a war, they are your armour. They will be the ones who get you through. There were many times those twenty people came to my rescue, by staying up late to write another article or to compile entire issues on their own (Thank you, Kaamya).

There will come many times this year, where it will all seem like too much. Exams, friends, extracurricular activities, it may seem impossible to balance. You may even come to doubt your abilities as an Editor and question whether you are good enough. Just remember these feelings are normal, in fact they are almost a part of the job description as Editor. Remember to believe in yourself, believe in your talent.

“Stay inspired as an Editor. To always be creative, always think out of the box.

The tradition of Vasant Valley Today has been passed on to you, respect the tradition and make your own change to it.”

It is only when you stay inspired is being Editor worth it. Don’t settle either. When articles, pictures or layouts aren’t good enough – don’t stop making changes. Keep going till you are happy with the final product. As an Editor, you will get busy with compiling and editing, that you might forget the reason you became editor in the first place – your writing abilities. Write in the newsletter as much as you can because this year will be your last.

Through the year, I remember the feelings of resentment, anger I had at times towards being Editor. I remember complaining constantly about it and how I couldn’t wait to be done with it. And yet at the end of the year, when I saw all my newsletters together, I felt a sense of pride. I looked at every newsletter and remembered the story behind each one, each picture, each article. Because at the end of the day, Vasant Valley Today pushed me, inspired me, most and most importantly, made an editor out of me. Just as it will make one out of you.



*With love,
Tarini*

SCHOOL WATCH

Sulekh Competition Class 5 1st Advaita Sehgal, Gaurang Deka, Sukriti Jain and Shaan Kanwar	and Udhay Aman Chopra संस्कृत श्लोक लेखन प्रतियोगिता - कक्षा नवमी
2nd Devanshi Sawhney, Aryan Sansanwal, Jai Mittal	१. राबिया गुप्ता ९ अ २. प्रियम डेका ९ स ३. आशुतोष त्रिवेदी ९ अ
3rd Saara Chopra, Mehek Anand, Innyat Passi, Vi- raj Puri, Ruhan Chopra, Krishna Dev Agarwal	विराज जिन्दल ९ ब Congratulations!

INTER-HOUSE TRACK

“वसंत वैली के पच्चीसवें ‘ट्रैक एंड फील्ड मीट’ के रोमांचकारी अवसर पर आप सब का हार्दिक अभिनंदन है।”

यह सुनते ही सारे बच्चे सतर्क जाते हैं और सबकी आँखें ट्रैक की तरफ मुड़ जाती हैं और आवाज़ें गूँज उठती हैं। हर जगह मुकाबला हो रहा था और बच्चों की आँखें ट्रैक पर टिकी हुई थी। हमारे स्कूल का बैड जैज़ गाने बजा रहा था।

The nervous faces walking away from the bleachers, towards the track and the sudden uproar could only mean one thing; the races were beginning. There was a deafening buzz from the students as the athletes sprinted across the racetrack in abashed glory.

The cheering continued as the Bhaiyas and Didis bolted through the track and did us all proud, after which the parents competed in a 4X100m relay race. This was followed by the teachers v/s parents tug of war. This event was inevitably won by the teachers!



The atmosphere was effervescent- the paint, the waving flags and the never-ending house spirit. The athletes had truly outdone themselves; motivated by the cheers, proudly wearing their medals and maturely taking the losses in their stride in the true spirit of sportsmanship!



आखिर में रीले शुरू हुआ। इस प्रतियोगिता का सबको इंतजार था क्योंकि रीले को जीतने पर हाउस को बीस अंक मिल जाते हैं। तभी एक टक-सी आवाज़ आई और दौड़ का आरंभ हुआ। सभी विद्यार्थी अपने-अपने हाउस की जयकार में जुट गए। सबके मन आशा से भरपूर थे। यह आशा कि तकदीर उनके साथ हो और वह जीत जाएं। कुछ मिनटों के बाद ‘ब्लू हाउस’ के बच्चे खुशी से झूम उठे- जीत उनकी हुई। तभी एक बार फिर आशा से भरे बच्चे बैठ गए। लड़कों की रीले में कौन जीतेगा ? इसका उत्तर ‘रेड हाउस’ था।

अब सिर्फ एक चीज़ बाकी थी। कौनसा हाउस प्रथम आया? क्रम यह था - १. रेड(लाल) हाउस २. ब्लू(नीला)हाउस ३. येल्लो(पीला) हाउस ४. ग्रीन (हरा)हाउस

The Language Barrier

Home is supposed to be a safe haven. Somewhere no one can attack you. Nothing will happen to you. Is my city my home? Is it not the place where I spend my days roaming the streets or the buildings. It is supposed to be a place where I am safe. Where no one can harm my interests and my beliefs, or my body and peace of mind?

What are the functions of the police in a city? The police are people who enforce laws upon wrongdoers, they are people who look after the welfare of the citizens. This is of course a case irrespective of which continent you live in or country or city or district. However, status quo suggests something entirely different- there are cases where people are downright denied of justice, and treated like vermin.

An old man (57 years of age) from Gujarat India, living in Alabama is currently hospitalized under critical conditions; after being assaulted by young police officer Eric Parker. He beat up this elderly man quite harshly and is now facing a trial for third degree assault. But why did he thrash the man in the first place?

The alleged report was because he couldn't answer Parker's questions ; because he couldn't understand English. Hence the resultant hitting and violence. In such a case wouldn't perhaps a more gentle and perhaps more understanding approach be taken, toward a citizen who is evidently unable to understand instead of a reenactment of The Hunger Games?

Police brutality is unacceptable. Power should never give anyone the right to kill, maim or even beat. Lawmakers and rights activists alike have expressed concern about the rise of aggressive policing all across the US, highlighted by incidents such as the one in Ferguson, Cleveland, New York, and now Alabama. Why not let the judicial officers deal with the criminal once you've caught him?

‘Power makes some men crazy and results in sorrows for the others’ - Anonymous

FIELD MEET 2015



To conclude the long and exciting day was the medal distribution ceremony and, of course, the announcement everyone had been waiting for- The Moksh Dang Memorial Award for Athlete of the Year, which was won by Ransher Singh Manhas yet again!

"It was the best last track and field meet. Couldn't have asked for more..."

-Aryaman Trehan, Games Vice Captain

"There are clear demarkations between each house. But you can still see an entire school come together. And that's pretty amazing."

- Viruj Memon, Blue House Captain



"The nine-year long wait was well worth it!"

-Shankar Salwan, Red House Captain

"This was my last sports day. I'm going to miss running on this track, but it's really been worth it these last few years."

-Arjun Khanna, Head of Games Council

Everyone should take part in sports day, not only to win, but for the spirit of their house and the glory of sports.

- Vrinda Puri, Head of Games Council



"Sports Day motivates children. I enjoyed leading the march past this year."

-Jai Mittal, Red House Captain, Junior School

Covered by Devika Vir, Rabiya Gupta & Aditi Singh

आप की दिल्ली



हम सब दिल्ली में रहते हैं, अतः यह आवश्यक है कि हमें दिल्ली में होनेवाले कार्यक्रमों के बारे में खबर हो। फ़रवरी का सबसे धमाकेदार कार्यक्रम - विंटेज कार रैली एवं ऑटो शो २१ एवं २२ फ़रवरी को आयोजित हुआ जिसमें लाल किले से गुडगाँव तक सारी गाड़ियों ने दौड़ लगाई।

पहला भारतीय ओपन पैरा गेम्स २०१५ ३ मार्च को होगा। १४ मार्च को जसोला कॉम्प्लेक्स में फुटबॉल प्रतियोगिता होगी। १९ मार्च को लोधी एस्टेट में श्रीमान धीरज पॉल द्वारा बनारस के घाट में ज़िंदगी

चित्रकला का प्रदर्शन होगा। २० मार्च को भारतीय चित्र यात्रा के दफ़्तर में की एक रोचक प्रस्तुति होगी।

जिस किसी को दिल्ली की सैर करने की इच्छा हो, उसे एक बार होहो बस की सवारी अवश्य करनी चाहिए। जिस किसी को पुस्तक पढ़ने में रुचि हो, उनके लिए एक सुअवसर है- हैबिटेड सेंटर का पुस्तक मंच- जहाँ वे हिस्सा लेकर अपना शौक पूरा कर सकते हैं। २ मई को द्वारका में खास बच्चों के लिए कुछ खास प्रतिभा पुरस्कार का आयोजन होगा। दौड़ने के शौकीन लोग ३ मई को यमुना रेस में हिस्सा लेकर पर्यावरण संतुलन का सुंदर संदेश दे सकते हैं! तो क्या सोचा आपने ? आप कहाँ अपना शौक पूरा करना पसंद करेंगे?

-वेदिका बागला, ७ ब

Expectations VS Reality

New subjects may seem daunting and mysterious- Class 12 gives you just the right advice to get you through!

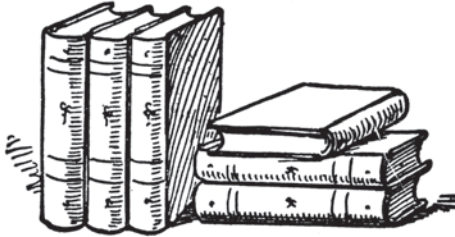
1) Psychology- Expectations:

We'll learn about schizophrenia,

and all those other brain disorders! It'll be super fun, because we all know how strange and interesting our minds are!

Reality: It isn't as easy going as we had figured- considerable amount of effort needs to be put in. Starting from the basics might get you eager to

leap into more complex concepts, but the subject builds up and gains momentum!



2) Sociology- Expectations- Isn't sociology the study of indian

tribes and family relationships? About the society, its rules, and how it functions - like entertaining soap operas!

Reality: It's like an educating film reel playing- but at the same time, it's like a bollywood movie unfolding. Be prepared to take notes and study a ton. However, the best part about the subject is that you'll (mostly) be able to relate to what you learn in class!



As told by Ishita Agarwal, Manya Tandan, Arman Anand, Arman Puri, and Malika Oak, 12

3) **Accounts-** *Expectations- Accounts is about adding prices and subtracting losses maybe some multiplication? Like calculating statistics and learning about the economy... no wait, that's Economics!*

Reality: It may be a bit monotonous at first, but we promise you it gets fun. Also if you understand it, you'll ace it for sure.

4) **Business Studies-** *It's about Demand and supply, and things that I don't understand. I know taking business studies will make me the next Wolf of Wall Street, and who doesn't want that?*

Business studies is interesting though you will need good memorising skills. It's long but not difficult at all.



5) **Physics-** *Physics isn't easy. But it's about the world around us, and come on!*

Just imagine the kind of admiration I'll get when someone asks me what my subjects are! So what if I won't have a social life...

Reality: Physics is like everything one expects it to be and a whole lot more. It presents a new outlook on the myriad concepts that it covers. Even though one must study regularly for the subject, the feeling of accomplishment of solving a difficult question is second to none.

6) **Computer Science-** *Computers are the future and I can create my own games and then play them all day-that's the dream!*

Computer science is like an art, an application of all the structural skills you have into creating programs. It teaches you a language, almost bringing the technical world alive.

स्वच्छ भारत फिर स्वच्छ संसार

स्वच्छ भारत, एक बढ़िया विचार है। इस से हिंदुस्तान और हिन्दुस्तानियों का भला होगा। यह सही समय है कि हमारा पूरा देश इस समस्या का हल निकाले।

2 अक्टूबर 2014 को प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने स्वच्छ भारत अभियान का शुभ आरंभ किया। महात्मा गाँधी का यह एक सपना था कि सब भारत वासी स्वच्छता के बारे में सीखें और उस पर अमल करें। वे पर्यावरण को साफ रखने में काफी ध्यान देते थे। अगर सब नागरिक छोटे चाहे बड़े अपने घर तथा आसपास की जगहों को साफ रखें तो बीमारियाँ फैलनी बंद हो जायेंगी। हमारा घर, मुल्क, और देश सुन्दर दिखाई देंगे। सफाई के मामले में हम हिंदुस्तानी विदेशियों से बहुत पीछे हैं। भारत को स्वच्छ और साफ रखने से हमारे पैसे, जो अस्पताल में और दवाइयों के लिये खर्च होते हैं, बच जायेंगे। हम देश को विकास की ओर ले जा सकेंगे। सफाई और स्वच्छता भारत के सभी नागरिकों की एक सामाजिक जिम्मेदारी बनती है। स्वच्छ भारत से सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य और सफाई बढ़ेगी और इस से भारत की आर्थिक स्थिति में सुधार होगा। सिर्फ दो घंटे हर हफ्ते

लगाना है हमें इस काम में। स्वच्छ भारत में लोग ना गंदगी करेंगे और ना करने देंगे। विद्यालयों में विद्यार्थियों को सब कुछ साफ रखने की आदत पड़ जाती है, तब वे बिना बताये ही अपनी जगह के साथ-साथ आसपास की जगहों को भी साफ और सुन्दर रखने का जिम्मेदारी ले लेंगे। जहाँ पर सरकार या नगर पालिका अच्छा प्रबन्धन नहीं कर पाती है, वहाँ कुछ स्वैच्छिक संस्थानों को सफाई के काम सौंपना चाहिये। इन संस्थानों को इच्छानुसार कुछ भुगतान भी दिया जा सकता है। हमें गावों में और ज्यादा शौचालय बनाने होंगे। इस में नगर मुनिसिपलिटि और पंचायत की विशेष भूमिका है। भारत की स्वच्छता की यह कोशिश मानव श्रुंखला बनकर और बढ़ेगी। अखबार, टी.वी. और रेडियो पर प्रसारणों और चर्चाओं द्वारा लोगों की जानकारी बढ़ेगी। कुछ सालों के बाद हिंदुस्तान पश्चिमी देशों जैसे एकदम बढ़िया और सुन्दर हो जाएगा। यही मेरी आशा है।



एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

-चिन्मयी शुक्ला, 8

Raahgiri

Living in a city where walking fifty steps is nearly impossible without a succession of angry drivers honking at you or getting run over by a car, a concept like "Raahgiri" seems to appeal to the residents more than any form of pro-pedestrian or cyclist rules and regulations. In a quest to make the roads of Gurgaon accessible and safe for pedestrians, the government and Delhi Police had taken the initiative to introduce the concept of Raahgiri Day. Inspired by the concept of 'Cycloviva' in Columbia, Raahgiri allows communities to come together and enjoy the streets without being worried about chaos or traffic.

Every Sunday morning, the residents take to the streets from six to twelve and indulge in a series of activities like cycling, yoga or zumba. People from all walks of life come together to promote awareness about pedestrian rights. The aim of this initiative is not just to create healthier and fitter communities but to also foster within the citizens a desire to protect the environment.

The movement, having been a massive success in Gurgaon and the NCR has now spread to variety of cities all around India following the same basic principle of 'reclaiming the public spaces' instead of creating new ones. Citizens are given the opportunity to step out and enjoy, breathe in a little fresh air and for a change not be in the midst of the bustling polluted streets of the city.

'Raahgiri' can be translated as 'sweet rebellion' and it truly is one. It seems to be the first step towards revolutionizing the public sphere in India.

-Nimran Kang, 10



The Journey of a River

A rising river flows down the
High hills,
Passes through the
Wild winds.
Meandering here and there
Scattering everywhere
Separating from each other
Joining one another.
A river is like a growing
Seed trying to germinate,
It passes through the
Congested cities and states
To its last destination.

*Rudra Pratap Singh and
Saanya Anand IV - A*

It starts from a source
It has a lot of force
It acts very wild
The longest river Nile.
Splashing, flooding through the towns
Jumping, crashing on the ground,
It washed away all the tiles
The longest river Nile.

It carried away all the trees
For the river has all the might,
It happened on one stormy night
The longest river Nile

*Ayra Monga and
Ishan Singh Puri, IV - A*

Starting from mighty mountain top
Flowing like a sparkling stream.
It doesn't seem to stop!
Even if we put a wooden beam,
It is so hard to stop a river,
As it goes hopping, jumping and tumbling!
Rivers flood and destroy houses,
People lose lives and need medical atten-
tion.
It flows into the mighty ocean.
And finally reaches its destination

*Anivartin Daga and
Aayana Kapur IV - A*



Raj was bored. It was halfway through the summer holidays and he was fed up, so he decided to go exploring. He climbed up to the top of the stairs, when he saw a door which had never been there before. He went in and in the middle of the room was a strange purple box. IT had a picture of a magic wand on the front. He slowly lifted the lid, peeked underneath and saw something which would change his life forever...

He saw a genie. Not just any ordinary genie, a very unique one. Instead of coming out of a lamp, this genie popped out of the box. It was totally like a jack in the box, and because he was not any ordinary genie his rules were also different. As soon as he popped out he said to Raj, "Hello master, so first of all I will tell you my rules- 1. You are only allowed one wish. 2. If you have wished once then you can't wish again." Raj thought for a long time and came up with his wish. He thought, "There was no such rule that I couldn't wish for unlimited wishes." So he wished for unlimited wishes and his wish was granted. Life was now so easy now for him. If he wanted Ice- cream he could call for it, if he wanted to fly he could do so. One day he wished to become a cricketer and he became one. He played for the Indian Team; he became very famous as a cricketer and retired as one too. He died in 1958. His great grandson today is known as Sachin Tendulkar.

Rohan Singh Pahwa V- A

It was a locket with an hourglass carved on it. It was written on a piece of paper in the box. This is a 'Time Turner'. Turn it to go back in time. It will take you back or forward in time. Raj turned it three times and went back three years. The house hadn't changed. Raj then turned it hundred times and arrived in March 17th 1912. "I can get on the Titanic," he thought excitedly. So ten days later he found himself on the Titanic. It was hard getting around without being seen because there were people everywhere. He stole food from the kitchen and slept in the hold for five days until he excitedly watched what happened from the deck. Then grrr... and shoo... as water filled in. They had hit the iceberg. He ran to the back of the ship and held on to the railing and watched the chaos. Then he slid down and hid from the crew. He turned the timer turner hundred and three times and arrived again at his house just as his mother called, "Raj dinner time!"

Jehan Vir Singh Bhandal V- A

युग्म- शब्द चुने, कविता में चुने

मेरी खगिया

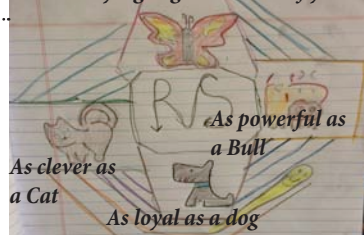
खगिया में इधर- उधर भागते-
दौड़ते
कूदते- फाँदते खेलते दिन भर
न होती कोई पढाई- पढाई
कभी नहीं करते
लडाई- शडाई।
खगिया बहुत हरी- हरी
पेड़ पौधों से भरी हुई
फल- फूलों से भरी हुई।
खुंदर- खुंदर महक से भरी
हुई।
खगिया में ठंडी- ठंडी ओस की
बूँदें चमक रही
जैसे गोल- मटोल मोती की
लडिया पड़ी हुई।
छोटी- छोटी चिड़िया लगती
न्यासी
देखो- देखो मेरी खगिया कितनी
प्यारी।

अज्ञेता सहगल 5 अ

दिवांशी

मेरा नाम है दिवांशी
खेल कूद है मुझे पसंद
दोस्तों के साथ करती
मौज मस्ती
अंधेरे में मुझे लगता है डर।
पेड़ पौधे लगते मुझे प्यारे
बगें खिलंगी तितलियाँ
पशु पक्षी ये सबारे
भाग - खगीचों को खनाते
कितना खुंदर।
खाना पीना है मुझे पसंद
डाल चावल में खाँक शौक
से
रात दिन मेहनत करके
अच्छी लड़की बनना है मुझे।
दिवांशी साहनी 5 अ

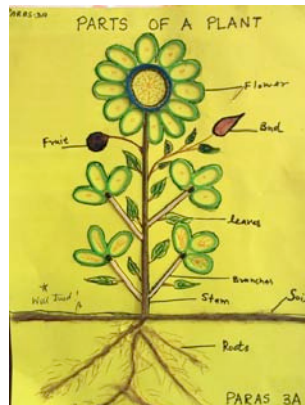
Flying High as a Butterfly



Jehan Vir Singh Bhandal V- A

*Ritwick Sapra, class 4C
designed this logo in his I.E
class to bring out attributes
of his personality.*

*"My name is Ritwick and
I have an answer to every
trick!"*



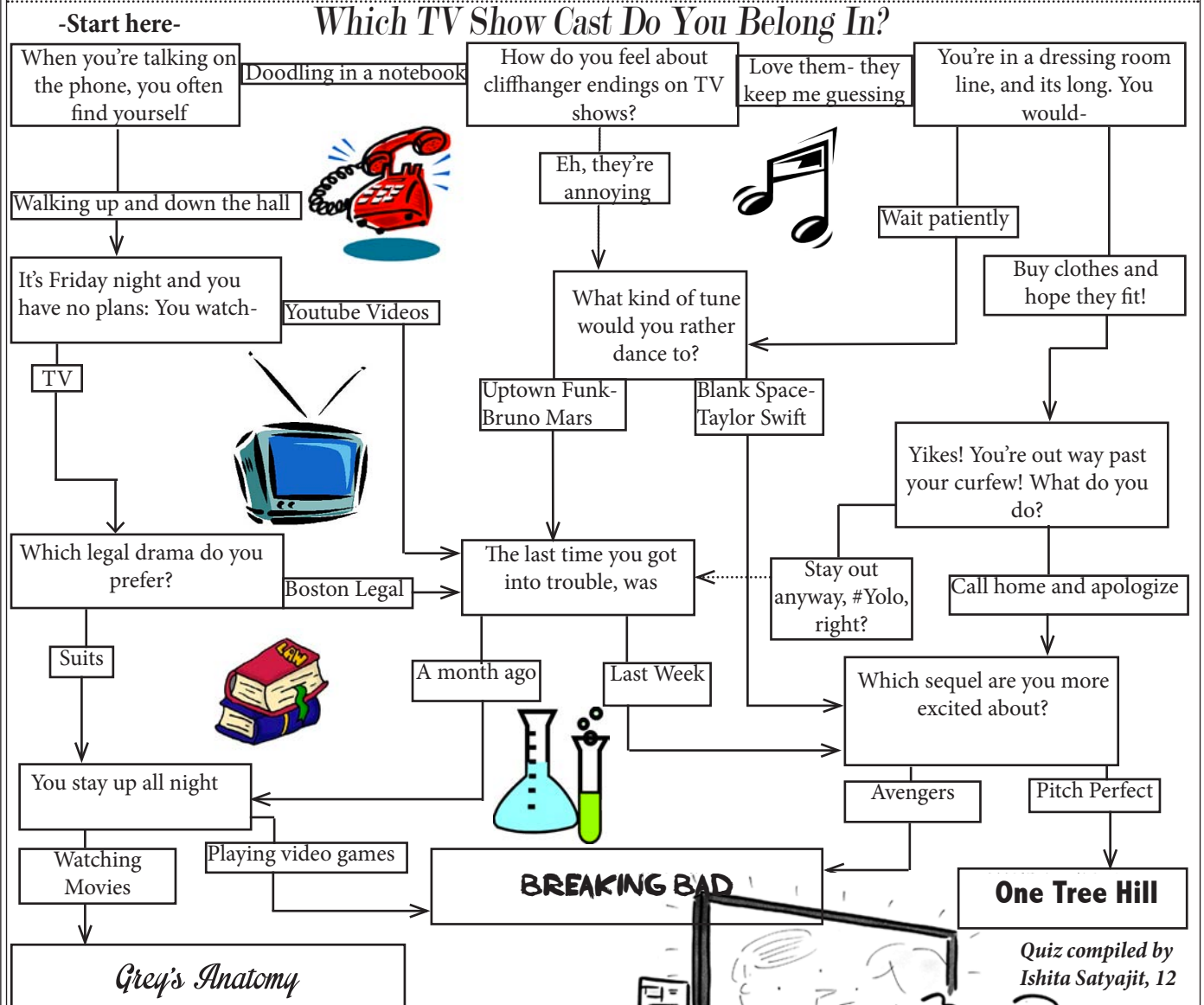
Recycling bits of rope, rubber bands, match sticks and bottle rings to illustrate parts of a plant.

Paras Kumar III - A



Reedaan Chabra I - A

Which TV Show Cast Do You Belong In?



Quiz compiled by
Ishita Satyajit, 12



"Only the picture is high definition.
The shows are as bad as always."

Ten Things That Happen at Camp

1. Endless drama regarding tents allocations.
2. Handling that one kid who is carsick and soon enough turns into a fountain of regurgitation.
3. Last minute hiding of all the food inside the tents- moments before they are checked
4. Mysterious disappearance of all cans of deodorant.
5. Friendships strengthened through the strangest, and most adventurous experiences.
6. Tremendous amounts of short-lived batch unity.
7. That one fight no one can stop talking about for the next couple of weeks.
8. Immense pangs of hunger, and bottles of the sandiest water.
9. That one group of boys who are welcomed into the Principal's office with open arms.
10. The formation of a lifetime of memories in a span of 4 days, which leaves every student counting the days to the next surge of adrenaline rush!



- Aryan Sadh, 9

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