

# Vasant Valley *TODAY*

## The Greek Crisis

Since 2009, the European Union (EU) has wrestled with a sovereign debt and financial crisis that many consider the biggest current threat to the global economy. This economic crisis subsequently became a political crisis as well, and has resulted in the fall of a number of national governments due to its either direct or indirect impact.

After years of bailouts and a battered economy, *Greece would have been on the brink of becoming the first country to leave the Euro zone*<sup>9</sup> (AKA Grexit). The crisis began in 2009 when the new Greek government informed the EU that the previous governments had been hiding the deficit and misinterpreting budget data. This deception was not of a small amount, but instead large sums of money which eroded the confidence of investors and made the EU fearful. Once this fact came into light, everything went downhill.

Greece has been provided with financial assistance since the past five years. The economically stronger countries as well as the European Central Bank and the IMF ( International Monetary Fund) have provided Greece with loans continuously. The First Austerity package included a freeze in salaries of government workers while the second comprised of various budget cuts. This was still not enough for Greece and thus the Prime Minister formally requested the EU for an international bailout package which was granted. After taking six austerity packages and two bailout packages worth billions of euros, Greece was still in need of crutches.

The elections were then held and a left wing party, Syriza won due to its anti-austerity campaign, and they successfully bet that they would in fact reject all of Europe's austerity packages. *Everyone loves freebies. What they don't realize is that nothing in this world, comes free.* Instead of helping, Syriza has made things worse for Greece.



On the 5th of July, In a polarising referendum called by the radical leftist government of Alexis Tsipras at only eight days' notice, Greeks voted by more than 60% to 40% in support of the prime minister, spurning the extra austerity demanded – mainly by Germany and the International Monetary Fund – in return for an extension of bailout funds. there was a referendum held on whether to accept the bailout package and the indebted but adamant Greek public blatantly refused. On hearing this result, the finance minister resigned.

Negotiations for a third bailout package for Greece have begun for 80 billion euros. Greece has put forth new reform plans but the EU are skeptic about them. The creditors fear that Greece will not keep its promises after the past two packages worth 240 billion euros.

Greece has been given multiple chances to redeem itself and has evidently failed on every occasion. The stubborn Greek public refuses to implement austerity but wants to continue to live the laid back life and spend the governments' money. They fail to realize the consequences if they do not change their ways. And now, much like a toxic relationship, Greece has accepted the financial aid package yet another time.

There is a lesson for all the democracies in the world. In the election campaigns, many parties promise things for free i.e. they propagate that one can live the life on the hard earned money of others. This way of living cannot last more than a few decades for a country, after which the downfall is inevitable.

-Aditi Singh, 9

### SCHOOL WATCH

#### Hindi Kahani Lekhan

#### Pratiyogita

#### Class 10

- 1st - Avrokin Raj
- 2nd - Pranavee Ahuja and Ananya Jain
- 3rd - Ananya Dalmia

#### Class 9

- 1st - Aditi Singh and Rabiya Gupta
- 2nd - Ashutosh Trivedi and Subiya Asad
- 3rd - Saniya siddhu and Prisha Kumar

#### Class 8

- 1st - Asmita Shah and Shaurya Bhardwaj
- 2nd - Dhruv Rattan Nashier and Smittee S Oberoi
- 3rd - Chinmayee Shukla & Anandini Khanna

#### Class 7

- 1st - Srijit Koley
- 2nd - Anahit Bindra
- 3rd - Uday Dabas

#### Class 6

- 1st - Katyayani Jha
- 2nd - Sara Eva Khosla and Arshiya Gaur

- 3rd - Sanaa Bedi & Anshumaan Singh

#### Marketing Strategy

#### Competition - Class 11

#### & 12

- 1st Mayank Sharma, Ricky T. George, Anantya Dube, Neel Mehdiratta and Armaan Narang
- 2nd Arman Anand, Aditya Vikram, Esha Bhardwaj, Sukhmani Singh and Malika Oak

#### Guided Creative Writing Competition

#### Class 6

- 1st- Anshuman Singh, Aarush Shah
- 2nd -Ishaan Wahi
- 3rd - Arshya Gaur, Sarah Eva Khosla

#### Class 7

- 1st- Vedika Bagla, Reana Soni
- 2nd - Rahil Datta

- 3rd- Prithvi Oak

#### Class 8

- 1st- Tanvi Bahl, Anoushka Clays
- 2nd - Darini Chandok
- 3rd - Asmita Shah

#### Class 9

- 1st- Aditi Singh
- 2nd - Ananya Nair
- 3rd - Sahir Singh

#### Class 10

- 1st- Zoya Siddiqi Hassan and Ishita Malhotra
- 2nd - Kanish Chandrashekhar
- 3rd- Arshya Chopra

#### Class 11

- 1st- Agrima Rai
- 2nd - Kamya Yadav, Yash Garde
- 3rd- Nikita Dhawan

#### Class 12

- 1st- Malika Oak
- 2nd- Ricky, T. George and Asmita Hajra
- 3rd- Serena Nanda

**Congratulations!**

# Wimbledon 2015

The emotions that go into this sport, the raw passion displayed, is channelled by the players and converted into brilliance that astounds and amazes the millions watching them. When I was not weeping for Sharapova (every avid fans one true love) I watched dumbfounded as the ball flew from one court to the other while as the commentator aptly put it "The games played this year were too unbelievable to be called tennis."

And for those of you who weren't bothered enough to watch the games here is are the highlights of the tournament this year: Nadal was eliminated early at the hands of Bob Marley? I hid in bed and cried when Sharapova lost the semi-finals to Serena Williams, Warwinka was eliminated early by God knows who and Venus Williams was throttled by her sister Serena.

And now for the finals. The upcoming and perhaps most surprising appearance was that of the Spaniard Garbine Muruguza.

She made it all the way to the finals and entered fierce battle against Serena Williams. The first set was tight but Serena Williams fought well and managed to snag it. This came as no surprise as most of the support lay with her and it was meant to be a smooth victory. In the second set Muruguza was down 5-1 and somehow managed to break Williams thrice. But of course we knew it was coming and Serena (my god she's in every second line) managed to raise the champions shield.

Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic also fought the good fight with some of the most intense rallies, break points and baseline shots. In a match split between dry and rain-threatened, the world's best player wore down the world's favourite player 7-6, 6-7, 6-4, 6-3 and spread the misery for the Swiss's many fans over five minutes short of three hours of compelling theatre. They were going set for set until the older Federer had succumb to exhaustion and the 28 year old managed to claim the title for the third time. It

might have fallen a set short of the tremendous 2014 battle but this was still a fitting conclusion to a tournament of many surprises and a lot of familiar moments.

There was also a massive amount of celebrity attendees such as Benedict Cumberbatch, Hugh Grant, Bradley Cooper, Kate Winslet, David Beckham, The Royal Family and our nation's Farhan Akhtar, Anushka Sharma, Virat Kohli and Sachin Tendulkar. This year's Wimbledon could only be defined as surreal and it has left me itching to watch the next Grand Slam.

*(And if you have ever felt useless and worthless in life just remember Andy Murray also has a younger brother who plays professional tennis. Ladies and gentleman, Jamie Murray. Wait who?)*

- Aryan Sadh, 9



## व्यापम स्कैम

व्यापम स्कैम' - एक ऐसा शब्द, जिसने पूरे देश को स्तब्ध कर रखा है, जिसने सभी भारतीय छात्रों को दुविधा में डाल दिया है, कि क्या देश में इतना भ्रष्टाचार है कि कोई भी अनैतिक साधनों द्वारा अपने अंक बढ़वाकर, परीक्षा में उत्तीर्ण हो सकता है? दो हजार से भी अधिक अपराधियों की गिरफ्तारी के बाद भी, मध्य प्रदेश के इस स्कैम के कई सौ सदस्य आज भी आजाद घूम रहे हैं। शिक्षा मंत्रालय के सदस्य और यहाँ तक कि मध्य प्रदेश के एक पुराने शिक्षा मंत्री से लेकर, कार्यरत डॉक्टर, सभी पैसों के लालच में डूबकर, अनैतिक साधनों द्वारा नाकाबिल छात्रों को डॉक्टर बना रहे थे।



अपराधी अमीर परिवारों से लाखों की फीस लेते थे, और घोटाले के सभी सदस्यों के बीच बाँट लेते थे। सरकार के व्यापम बोर्ड में इतनी ठगी और भ्रष्टाचार ने सभी को चौंका कर देशवासियों का सरकार पर से विश्वास घटा दिया है। जिन लोगों ने इस स्कैम पर जानकारी एकत्रित कर उसका पर्दाफाश करने का प्रयत्न किया, उनमें से भी कई मारे गए। ऐसी लगभग तीस से चालीस मौतें हुई थीं, जो साधारण कारणों के नाम पर, ठीक से नहीं जाँची गईं। राजनेताओं, मंत्रियों, छात्रों, और अनेक भ्रष्टाचारियों के लालच के द्वारा बनाए गए इस जाल में, अंत में नुकसान केवल आम आदमी और सामाजिक कार्यकर्ताओं का ही हुआ। इस स्कैम से जुड़े गिरफ्तारियों की संख्या बढ़ती जा रही है। जिन्होंने इस स्कैम का संचालन किया था, उन सब के खिलाफ सी.बी.आई. द्वारा पूरी ईमानदारी के साथ कारवाई होनी चाहिए और उन्हें कठोर से कठोर सजा मिलनी चाहिए। अपराधियों को सख्त सजा देने से ही उन्हें सबक मिलेगा और भविष्य में फिर ऐसी घटनाओं की संभावना कम होगी।

आँचल महाजन, 10

### IN NUMBERS

**35** deaths accepted as unnatural by SIT. It had originally told HC 23 deaths were suspicious. Congress and activists say over 45 individuals linked to the scam have died mysteriously.

**55** cases registered so far

**28** chargesheets filed

**2,500** accused, mainly from MP, UP and Rajasthan

**2,000** arrested so far. **500** accused wanted

**1,079** medical students who were declared successful between 2008 and 2013 have had their results cancelled

**30** CCTV cameras installed on Vyapam premises since scam broke, up from the fewer than 5 that it had earlier

**33** State Industrial Security Force personnel guard Vyapam office round the clock; only private guards earlier

# Satoru Iwata

*“On my business card, I am a corporate president. In my mind, I am a game developer. But in my heart; I am a gamer”*

Many of us will know Satoru Iwata as the man behind Nintendo’s striking success in recent years, and even more of us know him for his signature catchphrase, ‘Directly To You’; two things we will remember him by for years to come.

However, few people are aware of his work with HAL Laboratory, a company that he joined prior to Nintendo in 1983. During his time at HAL Laboratory, Iwata-san worked as a programmer on SimCity, Earthbound, the beloved Kirby franchise, and later, the Pokémon franchise that has fostered an entire generation. Here was a man that has stood at the helm of the greatest industry gaming has ever seen and fearlessly directed it through years of success, and just as many years of hardship. Here was a man of such dedication and sincerity that when his company was met with misfortune, he cut his own pay in half to help support them. Here was a man who understood ‘fun’ well enough to mass-produce it and bring it ‘directly’ to your doorstep. And he was the warmest, happiest individual.



Alas, however, this intrepid commander’s voyage has come to a conclusion. The world has lost a great man, but he did not leave us without syncing our screens, rumbling our controllers, and touching our hearts. Rest in peace, Iwata-Shachou. I’m sure I can speak for countless gamers when I say that our world wouldn’t have been the same without you.

*“Even if we come from different sides of the world, and speak different languages. Even if we eat too many chips and rice balls. Even if we have different taste in games, every one of us here today is identical in the most important way; each one of us has the heart of a gamer”* - Vatan Singh Rajan, 12

## SOJOURN WITH NATURE

*“The very basic core of a man’s living spirit is his passion for adventure.”*

I had the pleasure of attending a 14 day intensive adventure course at the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkhand. The NIM campus is settled amidst the lap of nature and was a welcome change from the scorching heat of Delhi. As I smelt the pine and took a deep breath of the fresh mountain air, I felt exhilarated. When we assembled for morning PT, I was greeted by 47 sleepy faces. We had strenuous PT involving running up and down a hill and completing a complex obstacle course. I was exhausted at the end of it, but was just the beginning of what would be the most fun filled and exhausting 14 days of my life. Our first day mainly composed of lectures and I’ll admit, I slept through most of them.

Our first trek was to Tekhla, an area known for its rocks. Once we reached we set up our tents. We did intensive rock climbing there and we learnt how to use rock climbing equipment. In Tekhla we did river crossing, and learnt about rescue operations. Our next expedition was to Harsil, and we set up camp on the river bank of Bhagirathi. We trekked to Saat Taal and Raati where we saw a glacier in its icy cold beauty.

I formed unbreakable bonds with my fellow trainees as when you’re motivating them, sharing ghost stories, finding scorpions in your tent with them, you become close in a different way. At the end of the course, the PT didn’t tire me



anymore and every mountain seemed conquerable. These two weeks taught me more than any book could, I have the mountains to thank for teaching me courage, team work, adventure, survival and living amidst nature in harmony.

-Samridhi Hooda, 10

## Magna Carta, Still Relevant!

Magna Carta is one of the most important documents in history. This ‘Great Charter’ restrained the power of a monarch at a time when he was supremely powerful, and guaranteed rights and liberties to individuals. This year marks the 800th anniversary Magna Carta, a document hailed as a



symbol of justice and fairness.

In 1199, King John inherited the throne of England as also the ongoing expensive wars with France. To continue the wars, he ruthlessly demanded higher taxes from the nobility, confiscated their land and levied unjust fines.

The Barons rebelled and took over London. Finally, after negotiations, on June 12, 1215, the king was forced to put his seal on the Magna Carta. The document laid down rules that were intended to protect a limited class of people from the worst excesses of the king.

Although then, the Magna Carta, failed to resolve the conflict between the King and his barons, today it is largely considered as the first step towards parliamentary democracy. It has strongly influenced constitutions of many countries and has been cited by many great personalities like Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela.

There are four surviving copies of the Magna Carta and they have all been granted the U.N. World Heritage status.

- Rabiya Gupta, 9

## Tall Tale

**The Amazing Monsoons of 2015:** This year monsoons brought unprecedented rainfall to the city of Delhi. There was water and more water everywhere. All the streets turned into streams quite similar to the city of Venice. But the most amazing sight was that of flyovers which turned into waterfalls and rollercoasters. Boats started plying about instead of cars. Our school also started plying a big ferry instead of a school bus to pick and drop children. The school playground turned into a big lake and the alcove into a swimming pool. During P.E we started going for swimming and fishing instead of our normal games. It was a lot of fun. One day while fishing with Gabiya, we got lucky, Wow! There was something tugging hard at the fishing rod. We both pulled with all our might and Ooh! La! La! It was a humongous fish. We had to struggle to keep it in the boat, which almost capsized. The fish had huge fins nearly our size. With great difficulty we pushed it into the boat, sat over it and got it ashore. The whole school gathered to see the giant fish. Mr. Kapur called an expert chef to cook the fish. All the school children and teachers had a great feast of fish and chips to celebrate the astounding monsoons of 2015.

- Advaita Seghal V - A

**My Birthday Present:** Wow, July is here and it is my birthday month. But like every year the heat spoils the fun. It's time for the schools to start but it's so hot and muggy. That's why I don't want to get out of my a.c. room. One night before school was to reopen I prayed to God. I asked, "God can I have a pet which will cool me in summers, will carry my water around and one that I can take anywhere I want." God has been pleased with my good work thus far and so he said, "A pet dog or a cat cannot go everywhere with you so how about a pet cloud." I couldn't believe it but he really gave me a small cloud in a jar. My 'personal' cloud. Do you know what I named him? I call him 'Hello' and whenever I greet someone and say hello, my pet cloud starts raining. On my first day of school after the holidays when I met all my friends and said hello to them my little cloud started pouring. It poured the whole day long. I am sure you remember the first day of school when it rained and rained all because of my 'hello'.

-Bhav Khanna V - A

### Fantastic Goa

This summer, I got a chance to visit a few places like Mumbai, Goa and Aurangabad. But I will share my special trip to Goa as we were celebrating dad's recovery from his recent surgery. On a cloudy afternoon, our family landed at Dabolim Airport and we headed to our resort in South Goa. I was amazed to observe the huge coastline of Goa with various villages and beaches like Calangute, Candolim and Butterfly Beach. I realised that Goa is mainly divided into North and South Goa with Panjim as its capital. The people there are very simple and mostly eat sea food. As it was monsoon, all water sports were closed. Still, I had lots of fun at the resort doing water zorbing, tambola and pool crossing. I also got the opportunity to celebrate the rain festival 'Sanjao' where we wore floral wreaths, danced around the pool, had fruits and splashed in the water repeatedly. Though each day was memorable with new learning, my most favourite experience was the walk by the beach with my family. I can't forget the waves touching my feet but I was fearless as mom and dad were holding my hands. *Miheeka Bagla III - B*

### My Amazing Trip To Singapore

This summer I went to visit my mama, mami and my cousins in the really exciting city of Singapore. We did a lot of amazing things but my favourite was a trip to Universal Studios- a theme park which is known to be the best in the world. My favourite ride was the roller coaster, which made me feel like a bird flying through the air. We also saw a 4-D movie which had these really cool effects. My cousin's condominium has a really awesome pool in which I swam everyday and eventually learnt how to swim in a perfect manner. I met my best friend, Nandini over there and we had a lot of fun together. All in all, it was the best holiday of my life! *By Avni Prashar III - A*

### Trip To Kabini

One of my favourite places that I have visited recently is *Kabini in Karnataka*. My family and I went by air and then took a taxi to reach our destination. We stayed in a beautiful little cottage near the Nagarhole National Park. We went by boat into the national park and saw lots of wild animals like elephants, birds, crocodiles and deer. While on our trip we did lots of fun activities like swimming and taking rides on elephants and bullock-carts. The elephant's name was Meenakshi. I learnt that elephants like to bathe in the river and eat bananas. Kabini is a beautiful place and I loved the greenery and the animals. Next time I visit Kabini I would want to learn more about nature. *Diya Nambiar III - C*



गर्मी की छुट्टियाँ  
गर्मी की छुट्टियाँ होती हैं मस्ती  
के भरपूर  
छुट्टियों में हमें नहीं जाना पड़ता  
बकूल  
खुशी के आइसक्रीम खाते हैं  
और मीठे गाने गाते हैं  
देर बात तक टी पी देखते  
खूष हँसी मजाक करते  
शाम को हम खेलने जाते  
पापन आकर भमोभे खाते  
पेड़ पर करते चढ़ाई  
और खाते खूष मिठाई

जब गर्मी की छुट्टियाँ खत्म  
मस्ती करना भी खत्म।

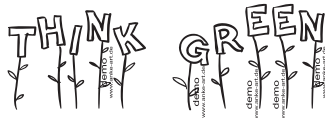
भुमाया बेबी, पृथ्वी राजन खन्ना, तारा भवना,  
पिंपरी दीप सिंह और मान्या बेबी वगैरे

### नैनीताल

नैनीताल एक सुंदर हिल स्टेशन है।  
यहाँ एक झील है जिसमें बहुत भारी  
नाँव हैं। मैं यहाँ एक नीली और पी  
ली नाव में बैठी। उसको एक आर्द  
मी ने चपू से चलाया। मैं होलिडे  
कैंप में रही थी। मैंने उधर तीन  
नए दोस्त बनाए। मुझे नैनीताल  
हमेशा याद रहेगा। काष् मलिक दो व

### By Nursery





If a fruit from a tree, a leaf from its plant, a petal from the flower or a bud from the stem falls, we may just ignore it. However, if every such fruit, leaf, petal or bud is plucked consciously or sheds naturally do you think vegetation on this planet would it be possible? Each and every component surrounding us makes up the environment, be it vegetation or wildlife. Similarly each person can make a difference, every element adds to the world we live in today and the loss anything is the loss of an essential component of our nature. With this gradual depletion this planet of ours will struggle to survive. In contemporary times the technological advancements are gradually destroying our environment instead of giving it a boost. Living in one of the most polluted cities of the world --- Delhi, I feel we all should be well aware and contribute in small measures to help restore a pollution-free environment that we lack. One should not underestimate their capabilities and should reach out to achieve what we used to once possess.

**"When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful"--Malala Yousafzai**

And keeping this in mind, being the generation of the future we should be one step ahead and foresee the consequences of our irresponsible actions.

All of us know about the depletion in the ozone layer but only some would know



that it is recovering from its earlier situation. After an intensive research a UN study says that the ozone layer is now showing early signs of thickening after years of depletion according to the 2014 results. This has surprised several environment experts around the world, scientists' claim it's due to political determination. Serving this as a milestone, there is hope for

change by doing our own part to help conserve these surroundings.

Did you know? Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours... The amount of wood and paper we throw away each year is enough to heat 50,000,000 homes for 20 years... About one-third of an average landfill is made up of packaging material... Rainforests are being cut down at the rate of 100 acres per minute! We have endless potential to save the world we live in...

**"Only when the last tree has died, the last river has been poisoned and the last fish has been caught, will we realize we cannot eat money!"**

**"If we could unfold the future, the present would be our greatest care" - Edward Counsel**

- Srishti Bajoria, 11

## Creature Feature

The day was Thursday, the 24th of December, 1935. The time, 11:30pm, when a foal was born to the Royal Zoological Society of London. The Mare looked at her newborn foal with large loving eyes, as the zookeepers cheered and uncorked a bottle of sparkling wine, for his was no ordinary equine. This was a Przewalski's horse.

The Przewalski's Wild Horse (*Equus ferus*) originates from Mongolia, and is one of the oldest breeds of horses in the world, considered the only truly wild horse. Named after the Mongolian explorer Przewalski who discovered them, the Przewalski's wild horse, stands at about 13 hands, (52in /132cm) at the shoulders, and bears primitive features, such as a brush mane, dorsal stripe, thin tail and a wide neck.

Przewalski's horses are protected by law in Asia since 1926, but their numbers dwindled over the last century, until they were extinct in the wild. Extinct in the wild (EW) is the most critical conservation status a species can be placed under.

15 specimens were captured in the 1900s and given to zoos in Europe. Out of his number, 13 remained in 1945, consisting of just 9 breeding individuals. Every Przewalski's horse living today is a descendant of one of those nine horses. A cooperative

venture by the Zoological Society of London and Mongolian Environmentalists helped to establish a new wild population in



their native habitat in Mongolia. As of 2011, there was a population of about 300 individuals in the wild, and 1500 breeding in captivity.

The Przewalski's wild horse is still endangered as for its conservation status, but its comeback is truly remarkable, and a hope for all other endangered species.

-Soham Kacker, 9B

## मैगी के नाम खुला खत

डियर मैगी

दिल से मैं यह कहती हूँ कि तुम्हारे बैन होने पर मुझे सबसे ज्यादा दुख हुआ। तुम मेरे परिवार के बाद मेरे लिए सबसे महत्वपूर्ण चीज़ थी।

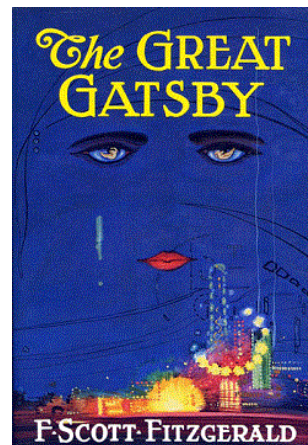
मुझे घर के किचन में घुसने का साहस तुमने ही दिया। हमें खाना नहीं पकाना आता किन्तु तुमसे ही हमें पता चला कि यह गुण न जाने हुए भी पेट भरा जा सकता है। देर रात तक परीक्षा के समय तुमने कभी मेरा साथ न छोड़ा और मुझे तुमसे कोई अफसोस या शिकायत नहीं थी। कभी नहीं सोचा कि तुम दो मिनट में तैयार हो जाओगी और तुम्हारे लिए हर वक्त इंतज़ार किया। सब कहते हैं कि तुममें MSG ज्यादा है, लेड की मात्रा अधिक है और तुम्हें खाने से हम बहुत बीमार पड़ सकते हैं लेकिन तुम्हें तीस साल से खाने वाले नागरिक तुम्हारे बिना कैसे जी पाएंगे? मुझे यह नहीं समझ आया कि अगर तुम अपने पैकिट विदेश में बेच सकते हो, तो यहाँ क्यों नहीं? तुम्हारी कंपनी नेस्ले ने तो कहा है कि लेड की सीमा नियत से ज्यादा नहीं है किन्तु फिर हमें यह उबलबुध क्यों नहीं है? मैं आशा करती हूँ कि तुम अब उपभोज्य खाना मार्केट में लाओगे। तुम्हारे स्वाद के इंतज़ार में।

असीस कौर, 10



## BOOK REVIEW: THE GREAT GATSBY

Set in the Jazz Age in the United States of America, "The Great Gatsby" is a magnificent book on each and every level, and indeed, a classic. The author, F. Scott Fitzgerald, takes you on a heart-warming and roller coaster journey, spiced with romance and determination, recreating the society during the United States in the 1920's. Fitzgerald has brilliantly captured the post-war America, where there seemed to be only a thin line of difference between illusion and reality, and an obsession with social status and wealth. The book is told from the viewpoint of Nick Carraway, who spends his summer in a cheap, rented house, sandwiched between palatial and expensive houses. Carraway tells the tale of his neighbour, Gatsby, who throws a party every weekend, the type where everyone comes for the sake of enjoyment, whether invited or not. Yet, though a great host, Gatsby is never a part of the parties he throws, he simply seems to stand by as a mute spectator. Rumours about his past and credibility are constantly afloat, but no one knows that he has a secret dream, almost an obsession, that he desperately wants to fulfil.



As one embarks on the journey with Nick, the disillusioned world of the people in the Jazz Age comes to light, and one will find oneself loving, sympathising with and hating the characters at the same time. By chronicling Gatsby's tragic pursuit of his dream, the author has effectively brought forth the never-ending conflict between illusion and reality in front of the reader's eyes. In my opinion, The Great Gatsby is certainly the last word in literary fiction, it is not a book, it's a masterpiece.

- Aanchal Mahajan, 10

## Teacher of the Month Mrs. Sarkar

From her monumental installations to incredibly stunning sculptures, Mrs. Sarkar has long been the backbone of Vasant Valley's artistic creations. To celebrate her larger-than-life ideas and creative vision, the Editorial Board interviewed her as the Teacher of the Month:

**When did you start teaching?**

I started teaching in Calcutta in 1963, and began work at Vasant Valley School in 1998.



**What motivates you to teach?**

After I finished Art College, it dawned upon me that the art studio wasn't where I belonged. So I looked around and found my true calling and passion in teaching. Teaching young children is a real delight, as I feel that their creativity knows no bounds.

**Are there any particular artists that inspire you?**

As of today, there aren't any. However, when I was in college there were many that inspired me, particularly expressionists.

**What is the inspiration behind the**

**various large-scale art installations that we see around school?**

Whenever I come up with an idea or a lesson plan, it gives me the greatest satisfaction and happiness. I've been lucky to be an art teacher, it's what keeps me going. The creativity just comes from within me.

**If there were one piece of advice you could give to students, what would it be?**

Repetition makes us boring. One thing I've always felt is that most of my students feel I wish for them to be artists. However, that's not the case. Do what you love, and love what you do as long as it's with creativity and passion. Creativity to me is the most entertaining and freeing



As told to Sarina Mittal, 11

## Playlist

### Top 10 Songs to Dance to

1. Watch Me (Whip /Nae Nae)- **Silento**
2. Lean On- **Major Lazer & DJ Snake (feat. MØ)**
3. Little Lotto- **Alo Wala x Nucleya (feat. MC Zulu)**
4. Hey Mama- **David Guetta ft. Nicki Minaj, Bebe Rexha & Afrojack**
5. You Know You Like It- **DJ Snake & Aluna George**
6. Worth It- **Fifth Harmony ft. Kid Ink**
7. Turn Down For What- **DJ Snake & Lil Jon**
8. I'm Madonna- **Madonna ft. Nicki Minaj**
9. Let Me Love You- **Mario (Tim Gunter Remix)**
10. Fire Meets Gasoline- **Sia**  
- Sarina Mittal, 11



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