VASANT VALLEY TODAY // PAGE

MARCH 2015

Vasant Valley

One Last Time

The Alaknanda Rafting Expedition

Between waves of sandy wind and tides of lost memories, we set off to raft from Alaknanda to Shivpuri with nervous smiles and determination. Little did we know that the nervousness would soon turn into excitement, and the determination would turn into pure satisfaction.

Amongst the many 'Lasts' that will grace our last year in school, the Batch of 2016 made this last camp one that will never be forgotten. As we passed the hills and valleys on our way to our first

campsite, we saw the skyline dotted with tents and campfires. It was almost as if we were reliving all our previous experiences out in the wilderness; it was a sight that was heartwarming. As we arrived at our



campsite, we instantly associated it with that familiar, homely feeling that comes with adventure camp. We stargazed under the raft-shelters and could hardly contain the excitement for the days to come.

The next 4 days were a whirlwind of water and exhilaration. Between 'Forward Paddle', blaring songs, and muffled whispers, we took on the river and refused to leave our rafts. There wasn't a single day where we didn't have full-fledged water-fights or cheer with our instructors. Apart from rafting, we helped set up our shelters, and put up the rest of the campsite. It was exciting to play

different roles and see the campsite come together. One moment that really stood out, however, was the day we went cliff-jumping. To jump off a 20 feet-high cliff, into the crystalline-blue water was almost life-changing. We experienced an unadulterated surge of adrenaline that will forever be etched in our minds.

"Live to fight another day, But did you really fight today?"

SCHOOL WATCH

Results of Kavita Lekhan Class 6 1st - Arshya Gaur 2nd - Mahika Dalmia 3rd - Agastya Rattan Nashier Class 7 1st - Vedika Bagla and Uday Dabbas 2nd - Rishi Raj Mishra and Anahita Mahajan 3rd - Jaivir Khera and Aanvi Gupta Class 8 1st - Tanvi Singh 2nd - Vama Borah 3rd - Armaana Chawla and Tanvi Bahl.

Results of Kavita Vaachan Class 6 1st - Rohan Malhotra 2nd - Agastya Rattan Nashier and Devaditya S Tomar 3rd - Ieshaan Mohan Puri Class 7

1st - Vedika Bagla 2nd - Ayushe Nagpal 3rd - Jai Kapoor, Shrijeet

Kolley and Rahill Vohra Class 8 1st - Bhavya Mitra 2nd - Saiesha Gupta and Darinee Chandok 3rd - Tanvi Bahl and Anahita Jain Class 9 1st - Rabiya Gupta and Kabir Singh 2nd - Devansh Gupta and Saniya Sidhu 3rd - Ashutosh Trivedi, Aditi Singh and Priyam Deka



During the expedition, the mornings were action-packed and nervous, and the nights musical and fun. We played countless hours of charades, made up movies that wouldn't even make sense to half the world, and sang in our hoarse voices. We cracked the stupidest of jokes, relived the most embarrassing moments, and played every game under the

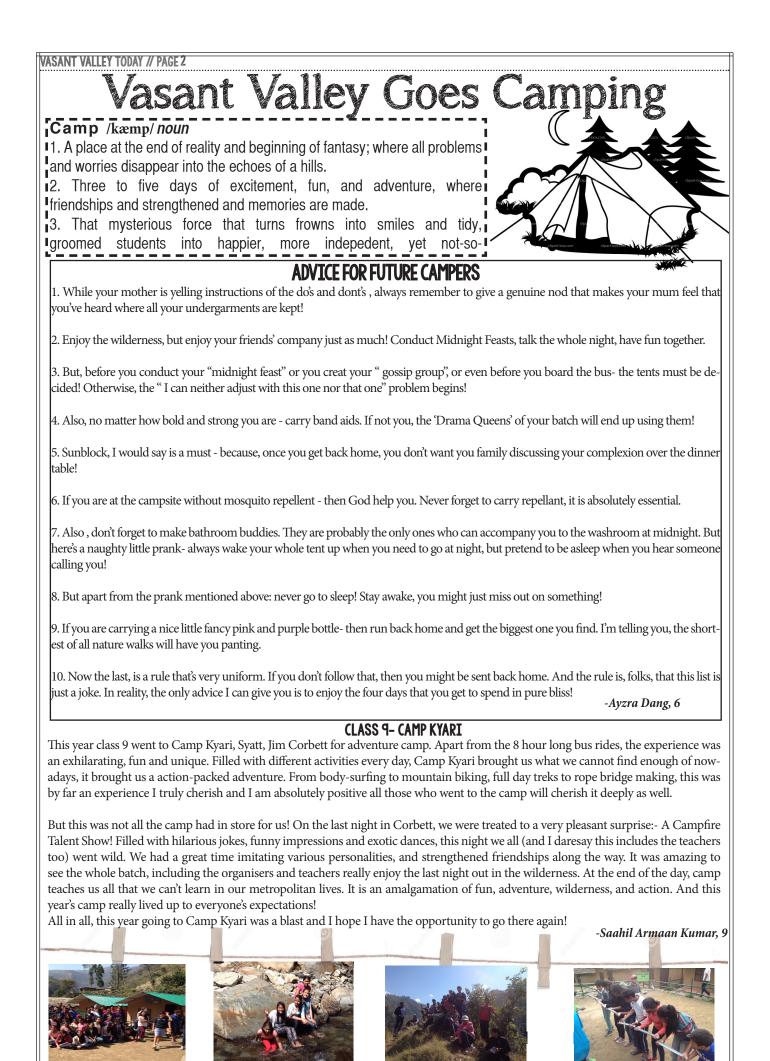
sun. It was those times, where we just sat and spoke, and just reflected on our friendships that defined this expedition. It was more than just a journey from A to B, it was a journey that we started long ago and will continue as individuals.

We counted the stars and remembered each and every moment that we had gone through, as individuals, and together, as a batch. Maybe we didn't cross

every rapid or encounter every possible experience. Maybe we didn't tick every box or climb every single mountain. But when we crossed all the campsites, all the trees, rivers, hills, and valleys on our journey back, there was one thought that rang in all our minds. We had come full-circle. We had enjoyed this camp to its fullest,



we had learnt from all our past experiences and encounters. We had changed as individuals and had definitely changed as a batch. And between waved of sandy wind and tides of lost memories, we had the best, most apt, and most exhilarating expedition we could have ever hoped for. *Noor Dhingra*, 12



कक्षा ८- टापू सेरा

इस वर्ष हम कक्षा ८ के छात्र कैंप टापू सेरा गए थे। यह यात्रा बहत रोमांचक थी। दिल्ली से देहरादून का सफर हमने रेल से तय किया। यह सफर 6 घंटे का था, जो मज़े से भरा था। कैंप पहुँचकर हमे अलग-अलग समूहों में बाँटा गया और प्रशिक्षक ने हमे कैंप के नियम समझाए। पहली शाम हमने कई खेल खेले और उसके बाद पहाड़ो में एक छोटी यात्रा के लिए निकल पड़े। रास्ते मे उगी बिच्छू बुटियाँ घास से हमे काफी खुजली भी हुई। उस रात दाल-चावल का भोजन कर हम थककर सो गए। अगले दो दिनों में हमने कई साहसिक कार्य किए जैसे कि पहाडों पर चढना उतरना रस्सी द्वारा नदी पार करना आदि। हम तीन घंटे लम्बी और दुष्कर यात्रा पर भी गए। कैंप का सबसे मज़ेदार हिस्सा वह था जॅब प्रशिक्षक ने हमे कई नई तुकबंदी कविताएँ सिखाई जैसे कि 'पील बनाना', 'जुगुज़ा' और र्रेस्म-सम-सम'। आख़िरी दिन किसी का भी घर लौटने का मन नहीं कर रहा था। मैने इस कैंप में स्वावलम्भी व आत्मविश्वासी होना सीखा। कैंप मे अपने सहपाठियों और शिक्षिकाओं के साथ बिताए यह चार दिन कभी न भूल पाऊँगी।

VASANT VALLEY TODAY // PAGE **CLASS 7- RANTHAMBORE**



Camp, for students at Vasant Valley, is so much more than a mere excursion or trip. It is a binding force; a force that transcends time, space, and distance. For class seven, camp this year was a little different. It was more luxurious than we

are used to, and many of us felt that this changed the way we perceived camp. However, all of us enjoyed the trip. Being with all your friends for three days is exciting. From the hectic train journey to looking down from the top of the Ranthambore fort- being with friends makes everything better. The talent shows, long walks with heavy bags, the mini games people play when bored, smuggling the tuck in; all of this makes the camp how it's supposed to be. I wish I

could go back to those moments and relive them. Until next year!

-Prithvi Oak, 7

-अरूषा निर्वाण, चिन्मयी शुक्ला ८

"INME IS A DREAMER, A RESTLESS EXPLORER'

The campsite for class 10 was Uroli, and it was organized by inme. Each one of us had heard the name 'inme', and had expectations galore. Hearing our friends from other schools talk about how absolutely amazing and fun filled inme camps are, each one of the 10th graders were thrilled to go! Camp began the regular way; reach school at 4 and board the buses. Anyone who's late gets left behind. The Shatabdi to Katgodam left the Anand Vihar station at 6am, with over 50 Vasant Valley students trotting with their heavy ruck sacks. The journey was full of fun and mischief. Well, it isn't really Batch of 2018 unless co-passengers on the train get annoyed out of their minds due to the loud

infinite me

gossiping, and calls of 'BLUFFI', is it? While at camp, not one moment passed with the thought 'What should I do, I'm bored'. From the ropes-course to playing Frisbee, it all added to the unique experience of a wonderful camp for the batch!



The Fuel-less Flight

As the world talks about sustainable development and renewable energy to combat the challenges we are facing due to global warming, two men, Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg, took the initiative upon themselves to make a change and do their part. Thus came to life the idea of Solar Impulse, an aircraft powered by solar energy, using not a single drop of fuel.

The aircraft is an engineering marvel with a 72 metre wingspan(larger than a Boeing 747), a weight of just 2300 Kilograms and 17,248 solar cells built into the wings which supply four electric motors. The cockpit is just 3.8 m3 and is unpressurised, thus the pilots must face temperatures ranging from -40 C to 40 C and can only sleep for 20 minutes in the one seater

aircraft. The Solar Impulse 2 will travel a distance of 35,000 kilometres between speeds of 50km/h

to 100km/h in 25 flight days spread over 5 months starting in March to August 2015. The daunting flight began in Abu Dhabi on 9 March 2015 and after stopovers in Muscat, Oman; Allahabad and Varanasi, India; Mandalay, Myanmar; Chongqing and Nanjing, China; Hawaii,Phoenix, a location in the midwest and New York, USA and a location based on weather conditions in Southern Europe or Northern Africa, the aircraft will return to Abu Dhabi in August. The most extreme difficulty in their way is the leg between Nanjing and Hawaii,a distance of 8500 kilometres across the Pacific Ocean which will take the Solar Impulse 2 five days and nights to complete.

What lies ahead in this journey will truly prove the success of scientific advancements of our time and symbolises the path to a greater judicious use of resources to protect the planet and give back what it gave to us.



Aditya Kapur, 10

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Adventure Trail

Tuesday morning was finally here! I got ready before time and with my backpack on my shoulders I set off for school. Mrs. Bakshi was at the gate welcoming us all and I gave my mom a quick hug. Our buses were waiting and I waved to my mother



from the bus as we set off towards Dhauj. When we reached Camp Wild we were informed about the teachers that were assigned to our cottages and got busy with our activities. Obstacle races were followed by a camel ride. Flying fox and Rappelling looked scary but was super fun! In Free fall we climbed the ladder tied to the tree from where we jumped with the help of a harness. Such activities made us overcome our fears and made us more confident. On Wednesday night we had the much awaited bonfire around which, all of us had to perform a play, sing or dance. I was chosen to announce what each cottage had to perform. I

enjoyed our dance cum play. Cottage # 3 was most entertaining as they sang loudly and one



even danced. After our fun filled day I looked forward to dinner and relished the 'Naans'. Even though I missed my parents and my sisters I still didn't want camp to come to an end and I look forward to it next year.

Rajaji National Park

After a six hour bus journey we reached the campsite named 'Forrest'. I was amazed by the view. There were never ending hills behind our tents and meadows with flowers in full bloom. There was no sound except for the gentle chirping of birds filling the place with peace and beauty. Once we settled down, and were assigned tents we went for lunch. After we had finished our delicious meal, we lined up and went trekking up a mountain. By

the time we returned, the sun had set and it was time for hot chocolate milk followed by bonfire and dinner.

The next day we rose early and set out for some adventure, doing Rappelling and Mission Impossible. I liked them both. In the evening it was time to get into a jeep for a jungle safari. We were lucky to spot some

elephants, herds of deer and peacocks.

After a good night's sleep, our third day at the camp began with a trek to a riverbed at sunrise. We made stone sculptures, visited the 'Water Mill' and took turns splashing in the fast flowing streams. After a tiring walk it was time for a mouthwatering meal and a long rest. We then did 'Fire Fox' and after that we were free for the evening.

The last day at the camp started at 6 a.m. when we placed our bags at the assembling area. After breakfast and my favourite hot chocolate, we loaded our bags into the bus to begin our long journey back to the hustle and bustle of Delhi. The camp at Rajaji National Park is truly an experience I am going to remember for a long time!!

Sana Mehra IV – A

তে ভাই প্রিম্ব ক্রিয়া	ब्वातेब्वाते याढ़ आई प्यारी
ন্সানস্বান,	माँ।
हम खच्चे पहुँचे हविक्राञ।	হান কা স্নাঢ় ভহ্নভহ্ন ক,
ञ्चंद्वेव था वाजाजी नैशनल	' পুৰুह उठे खुश होकर के।
पार्क	मम्मीपापा की याढ़ आती,
हम अख ऐसे खेले जैसे खेले	`মেম্ব অুঞ্জিযোঁ 'যাত্মম আ जातीं।
श्चार्क।	
ගहाँ थे ಇंगखिरंगे पेड़	अवहान मुखर्जी थाहा ४ए
जिञ्नमें छिपे थे खकरीभेड़	
एक दिन मिला चावलञाजमा,	

Camp time in Vasant Valley always brings in euphoria and excitement to one and all, so how can I be spared? Although I woke up 'N' number of times at night, I managed to reach the school at 5 am on 17th March 2015. All my batch mates were on time too, so we started the bus journey at 5.30 am, waving goodbye to our anxious, teary eyed and yet smiling parents. This year, class 5 was going to Camp Kyari near Jim Corbett National Park. We played games, sang songs, chatted and enjoyed our tuck.

Camp Kyari

We reached Camp Kyari at 1.30 pm, after a breakfast halt at Gajraula. We quickly settled in our allotted mud huts. After lunch, we enjoyed some free time. At 4 pm, we went for a village walk, amidst beautiful fruit and sindoor trees, breathing in clean cool air and feeling close to nature. We also tasted some fresh mulberries. Venturing back to the campsite we had a sumptuous dinner and went to bed. This year the activities included rappelling, river time, trekking, jungle safari and body surfing. We were divided into two groups for the same. On the first day our group-Shivalik Safari -crossed the shallow stretch of river Kosi and trekked to a steep hill side; where we enjoyed rappelling in turns .While waiting for our turn we made sand castles and dipped our feet in the river and enjoyed our river time. When we went back to the camp we played badminton, soccer and hopscotch with teachers joining in as well .Oh! How we loved this informal time! We also had a group activity called Mission Impossible, based on the famous scene of Tom Cruise in the movie. At night we had a bonfire and performed some skits .Night times were for sharing interesting anecdotes in whispers and enjoying midnight tuck feasts away from teacher's eyes - shh!



The next day we woke up to pleasant and sunny morning. We went body surfing in knee deep water of the Kosi canal after a short trek. Body surfing was the highlight of this year's camp and it was the first time for us. Though the water was freezing cold, each one of us did it twice. Flowing down with the water current was great fun. We also had a

BATH [hot shower] back at the camp site - also the first time in my VV camping history. We went for the Jungle Safari in the evening and managed to spot dancing peacocks, large tuskers, big monitor lizard, and deer. After yummy hot chocolate we managed to catch the highlights of the World Cup action of the India and Bangladesh match. After some playtime, bonfire and an early dinner we retired to our mud huts .On 20th we left the camp site after breakfast at 7:45 am, and stopped for a quick lunch at The Meritan, Gajroula . We were eager and excited to meet our families. We reached school at 3:45 pm, and that was the end of 3 days of fun and adventure. Advaita Seghal V - A

Our Trip to Surjivan Farm

We were very excited to go to Surjivan farm. We went with our teachers and friends. We went by bus. In the bus my friends and I ate snacks, played games and chatted a lot. When we arrived at the farm, we sat in the 'Gol Ghar'. After a little snack we were divided into teams and went for activities. Our first activity was that we went for a nature walk. We saw many things like: solar panels, geese in a pond, a cow and a calf, a vermi compost pit and a few more things. Then we went for a tractor ride. We saw mustard fields, neem trees, roosters and birds. After that we went to the herbal garden and we saw pink pepper, lemon grass, camphor and more plants. Finally we ground bajra in the 'chaki' and made roti on the chulla. Then we ate lunch. I enjoyed the yummy food the most.



THE MEMOIRS OF A MADMAN

The dull blaze of a clouded sunrise filtered in through my window, invading my sleep with blotches of red. I threw aside my sheets and stood up to look in the mirror. My muscles twitched and flexed, and I pinched my mouth into a 'U' shape. I still remembered how to smile. I threw my hands up

in exasperation, irritated at these quotidian exercises. Frustration is a feeling. I still feel. I picked up and scanned the daily newspaper. "MADMAN Still Wandering the Streets Beware," the

second page read. That's the first day in the week I had hedged the headlines. 62 years ago, an algae originated hormone was tested on human brains, and was found to respond to the effect of orange light. The photolytic effect, founded by the laboratory I worked in, was a major accomplishment in disease control. Diseases were cured such as arthritis, tumor, cognitive speed, confusion, depression, sadness, anger, frustration, and now jubilation. I am one of the few humanoids alive who still remember anything before 'the Great Fix'. I shook my head clear and walked out of the door to the teashop. The slight drizzle brought back fond memories of dancing in the rain as a kid. This act of joy was soon indexed under the 'Book of Symptoms'- all anyone believed in anymore. The waitress at the shop offered me hot tea, and I let the steam warm my frosted nose until she left. I then swiftly stood and walked towards the newest customer, slipping in 2 drops of my newest experiment on the way.



"Your tea, sir," I said to the young teenage boy briskly. I slowly walked back to my original spot and skimmed a magazine in anticipation. In a few minutes, I heard the telltale unison of turning heads. The boy spit out my tea and glared at the nearest waiter. "Who do you think you are serving me such a vile insipid cup of tea!?" he screamed. The room of people should have widened their eyes, raised their eyebrows, and clicked their tongues at his audacity. Audacity, however, was a term not known anymore.

I crossed my fingers and checked my watch. 1:40minutes. The boy continued to rant in frustration. Then just as the manager called for an ambulance in absolute serenity, the boy froze. A myriad of emotions flashed across his face a few times before it rested back to delighted politeness. 3 minutes. My record.

I felt wrinkled form at the edges of my eyes as my teeth showed in a brilliant smile at my magazine. I scurried back home and pulled out my well worn leather book and traced its title. "Memoirs of a Madman," it read. I smiled at its irony. I was normal in another world. I opened the next page and neatly wrote:

28 February 2085. Change: New combination with more LiAlH4.

Result: Time increased to 3 minutes. No harm done.

Theory: Localized areas Feeling of the day: Hope.

-Malika Oak, 12 Winner of the Creative Writing Competition

Teekli Village

The Sociology and Geography students of class 12 visited Teekli village for a village survey. The main focus of the visit was to study the social dynamics of a village and the working of the Panchayat.

On reaching the village, we admired the unique sights of nature, while waiting for one of the people living in the village to guide us to different parts of the village. We learnt, that out of a group of 15-16 members, there are 5 women in the Samiti. They focus on restoration, enforce-



ment and implementation of government policies, or "Gaon ka Vikas". The members of the Panchayat meet daily and discuss various issues concerned with their village. The Panchayat can also summon the people who do something wrong in the village by asking them for a fee.

After meeting the Panchayat, we headed towards the families we were assigned to meet and interact with for an hour. All the students were divided into groups of four to understand the problems, lifestyle of the families in the village in depth. Each group had different families, but gathered similar information from their respective interactions. All the families belonged to the community of Yadavs, and majority of them were engaged in agriculture and cow herding. They told us about the festivities, celebration and togetherness that exists among them.

Though there is maximum effort to abolish caste and gender inequalities, some differences still exist. Many are not happy with the method and form of governance taking place but shy away from initiative due to the difficulties faces by them. Their views were quite contrasting to those of the Panchayat. The Modi wave has taken the village of Teekli by storm, and each household has high hopes regarding the Prime Minister.

After meeting the families, we visited the girl's school of Teekli and interacted with girls from ages 5-11 as they showed us around their classrooms. Twenty-six of us sat under the sun and shared our lunch in the Jhankar Garden, supposedly where all the weddings of the village take place. The trip ended with a tractor ride along the mustard and wheat fields.

This trip was a glance into the lives of people not so far from us but so vastly different from us. We were able to observe and analyze the fully functioning village society. Though an interaction with some non-Hindus and SC's would have been even more enriching, overall this experience was phenomenal. We got an insight into their occupation, religion, political system, households, difficulties etc. Teekli village is definitely on the road to development and prosperity.



-Ananya Anand, 12

VASANT VALLEY TODAY // PAGE6

Which Fictional World Would You Belong In?

1. What do you enjoy doing in your free time? a. Playing a sport 4. You're running late for b. Running a party; youc. Studying a.Arrive late and walk in d. Hanging out with fearlessly your friends b.Strategize and make a plan to get there 2. Where do you see c.Catch the nearest bus yourself in the future? and try to make it on a. At a rebellion time b. As an athlete d. Ask your friends for c. As a famous writer help d. College comes first! 5. If you had one final 3. What is your favorite wish before you died, what would it be? Color? a. Peaceful old age a. Green b. Yellow b. No more plague c. Gold c. Social Justice d. Blue d. Safety for all your friends

The Sound of Music turns 50

A timeless movie, The Sound of Music is a heartwarming true tale about the Von Trapp family.Christopher Plummer plays a widowed naval officer, Captain Von Trapp, who has seven adorable children. Julie Andrews plays the role of a governess, Maria, who brings love and music to his family. The songs from movie are considered classics that are hummed by all of us.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of this movie which has delighted gen-

erations over the years. The film premiered on March 2nd, 1965 in New York and has since become nothing short of iconic. The festival marking its golden jubilee will be held in June in Salzburg, Austria. There will be performances, parades and tours of the famous Sound of Music sites. A choral extravaganza at the famous uni-



hits like Edelweiss and Do-Re-Mi and other classics by Rodgers and Hammerstein. Twentieth Century Fox has scheduled a major campaign for the gold-

en anniversary, including a home entertainment release. The film will also be A's = You belong in Panem, you are wiling to fight against shown in more than 500 theatres across the U.S.

IF YOU CHOSE MOSTLY President Snow's oppressive rule and what wouldn't you give

to be a part of the Hunger Games. If you're lucky you could It's roaring success has been due to the superb combination of a great story, meet Katniss and Peeta at the Capitol. May the Odds be Ever magnificent music and the breathtaking views of the Austrian Alps. This movie will, hence, continue to remain relevant and will delight people of all in your Favor.



B's = You belong in the Glade. Run-ages for a long, long time!

ning is your life and the way your brain works. You'd probably figure a way out of the cursed maze before any of the others do!

C's = The Wizarding world is incomplete without you. Your Hogwarts letter probably got stolen by the jealous postman. You're probably an elite wizard or witch with brains and brawn. You'd excel at everything and Harry Potter would be your best friend.



Fun Times at Adventure Camp

We were off for adventure camp. The separation from home never gave us cramps! It was lots of fun, We enjoyed it more than a ton! Camp Kyari, Corbett, was our home for the next few days, Complete with a mandir for us to pray! On Day 1, we went for a village walk late afternoon, Along the way we saw many langoors! The next day's safari was so exciting, Unfortunately there was no tiger-sighting!

We saw many stags and deer, We haven't had so much fun all vear! Body surfing and trekking were thrilling, Rappelling and chilling by the river were equally gripping! Playing cricket and badminton all day, For a while, we also watched the India-Bangladesh match, which we won, hurray! As all good things must come to an end. To the teachers..a big Thank You... I'd like to send! Ishaan Kapur V- C D's = Camp Halfblood. You need help and quick. If you haven't learnt how to fight your way out of scary situations and who better to help you than Chi-

.....

ron? If you feel that you have a powerful pull to the demigod world, look around for a guy friend who might have small foot problem. He could be hiding hooves .. - Zoya Hassan, 10



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