

Vasant Valley *TODAY*

In the Wake of Disaster

“Just outside the gates of Tudhikel, a traumatized city was starting to come back to life. Numerous shops opened for the first time and traffic jams returned with a vengeance. And all over the capital, donation boxes for earthquake victims have surfaced. At an upscale coffee shop in Kathmandu’s tourist district, a sign read: “You have two hands. One is to pour latte and the other to help quake victims.” Normally, the city would be bustling with tourists at this time of year. But after the quake, many foreigners left and it was an easy walk through the narrow streets. At Durbar Square, where Nepal’s historic temples and palaces once stood, tourists have been replaced by residents who have started to venture out to take a look at all that they have lost.”

We all felt the tremors sitting in the peace and quiet of our homes in Delhi. While our chandeliers only shook and floor slightly trembled, buildings were collapsing on themselves and lives were falling apart in Nepal. The earthquake, which killed at least 6,300 people and injured more than twice as many, had a magnitude of 7.8. Nepal suffered a huge loss; infrastructure was destroyed, and families were broken. Apart from that, the country was damaged economically, and was immediately struck by this huge natural disaster. About 90 percent of soldiers from the Nepalese Army were sent to the stricken areain the aftermath of the earthquake, under Operation Sankat Mochan, with volunteers mobilized from other parts of the country. The Nepalese government emphasized the need for quick action and International aid. Rainfall and aftershocks were factors complicating the rescue efforts, with potential secondary effects like additional landslides and further building collapses. Impassable roads and damaged communications infrastructure posed substantial challenges to rescue efforts. Many countries from all around the world offered their help through monetary funds, humanitarian aids and supplies and other help like water, food and sanitation.

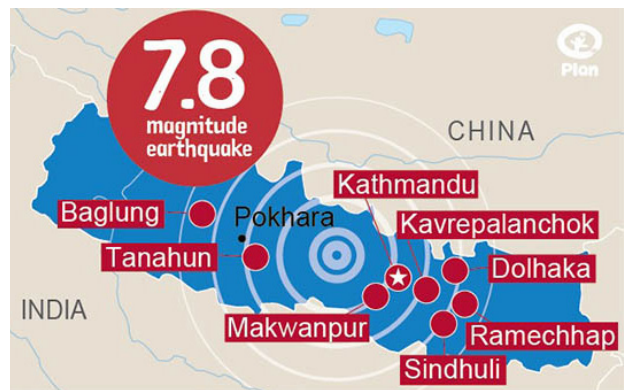


The Indian government launched Operation Maitri in order to provide guidance, relief and rescue in the earthquake. Immediate dispatch of relief and rescue teams, including medical teams, was ordered to be sent to Nepal. National Disaster Response Force teams, with more than 1000 personnel were also sent to Nepal. Air India reduced fares on flights bound for Kathmandu from Delhi, Kolkata, Varanasi, and announced that it would also carry relief material onboard its flights.

“In the end, it’s important to understand that the situation in Nepal is chaotic.” Aid efforts haven’t yet reached remote areas. Of course, it’s easy to put someone in front of rubble saying no one’s doing anything, and broadcasting in on television, But that doesn’t mean donations aren’t being put to use. In Nepal, as with natural disasters in the past, getting aid and supplies to the right places doesn’t happen overnight: Do your bit and help heal and rebuild.

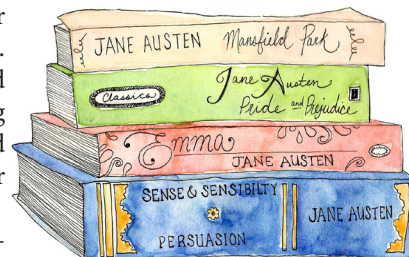
SCHOOL WATCH

Poetry Writing Competition - Social Science Class 4	Shyla Khattar and Aditya Garg 3rd	1st Ashutosh Trivedi and Rabiya Gupta 2nd
1st	Arshya Gaur Class 7	Kabir Singh and Aditi Singh 3rd
Sana Mehra and Ruhan Kumar	Uday Dabas 2nd	Aman Nayar Class 10
2nd	Aanvi Gupta 3rd	1st Anchal Mahajan
Vir Dang and Shylla Seth	Aayushi Nagpal and Rishi Raj 3rd	2nd Anya Jain and Ananya Jain
3rd	Mishra Class 8	3rd Harsh Vardhan Vaish
Meher Dhawan and Ritwick Sapra	1st Shubham Kalandari	Congratulations!
E-mail Patar Lekhan Pratiyogita	2nd Dhruv Rattan Nashier and Aadya Chaudhary	
Class 6	3rd Anahita	
1st	Class 9	
Agastya Rattan		
Nashier		
2nd		



So, Why Don't You Read?

The thrill of picking up a book and drowning within the folds of its creamy pages never gets old. It's amazing to immerse yourself in a world that someone else has created for you. Reading provides a sort of release for a lot of people. A way out of all the problems and hurdles that life lies down for one. So for some, reading is the best way to pass time. Losing themselves in different dimensions, different cultures, different eras, parallel universes and so much more. And then there are those people who would rather watch the television or go out and go shopping, but never read.



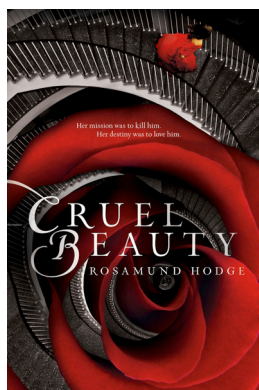
Scientific study shows that reading improves vocabulary and writing skills, it helps to improve negative attitude and has also shown to help people get over depression and other psychological problems that people go through.

But the question remains, why exactly don't 'you' read? Everyone has their own reasons, the same way some people love chocolate and some people just don't. It's a strange phenomena, but it occurs all the same. Some of you may even say that reading isn't for everyone but that's exactly where you go wrong. Reading can be release for everyone, it is just the will-power and determination and concentration.

But you all who don't enjoy reading, probably won't have even read this and if you have then this should be just another article like the chiding voice of your mother saying "Kuch toh padh loh beta!"

So before you ignore this article and turn to the next page to read the next one, here below lies a selection of books that you can read over the course of the summer, when it's too hot to leave the house and the pool is being cleaned.

Recommended Reads



Cruel Beauty- Rosamund Hodge (It just so happens that the sequel, titled *Crimson Bound*, is releasing this May! If you're a fan of twisted fairy tales this is definitely for you)

The Cage- Meghan Shephard (If sci-fi interests you a, try out this read)

Illusionarium- Heather Dixon (Any fans of *Divergent*, *The Hunger Games* and *Jane Eyre*? This YA sci-fi romance book is your read, even if you only liked the movies)

Daughter of Deep Silence- Carrie Ryan (This one is a murderous, thriller, intriguing YA novel. Fans of *Castle*-this one is for you!)

Enchanted- Althea Kontis (If you like *Once Upon a Time* you are going to find yourself not being able to but down *Enchanted*)



The Scarlet Series- A.C Gaughen (Intrigue and mystery and revolutionary criminals, anyone who loves *How to Get Away with Murder* will adore this

The Selection series- Kiera Cass (Regency and ruling Kingdoms, if you like *Reign* based on *Mary Queen of Scots*, you are definitely bound to enjoy this)

The Poison Study series - Maria v Snyder (If you like the *Game of Thrones*, this is a slightly more teen friendly version of it. It's filled with intrigue, murder and a pinch of magic)



Dorothy Must Die- Danielle Paige (This one is a classic tale twisted in an infinite circle, and more childish and easy to read. If you find that you want to actually take the time and read, then this one is the best choice)

An Ember in the Ashes- Sabaa Tahir (If you liked the *Percy Jackson* movies, this is the book for you. Discover different worlds and historic sites.)

Magonia - Maria Dahvana Headley (Meet your slightly jarring, little more realistic "The Fault in Our Stars")

Misfits - Jamea Howe (With strong characterizations, this is a realistic book about difficulties of school social life, but avoids scaring the will to live out of the reader. It is relateable, funny, but not overly-dramatic.

साइना की जीत

साइना नेहवाल भारत की मशहूर बैडमिंटन खिलाड़ी हैं। वर्तमान में वह दुनिया की शीर्ष वरीय खिलाड़ी हैं तथा इस मुकाम तक पहुँचने वाली वे प्रथम भारतीय महिला हैं। ओलंपिक २०१२ में साइना ने इतिहास रचते हुए बैडमिंटन की महिला एकल स्पर्धा में कांस्य पदक हासिल किया। बैडमिंटन में ऐसा करने वाली वे भारत की पहली खिलाड़ी हैं। २००८ में बीजिंग में आयोजित हुए ओलंपिक खेलों में भी वे क्वार्टर फाइनल तक पहुँची थी। वह बीडबल्युएफ विश्व कनिष्ठ प्रतियोगिता जीतने वाली पहली भारतीय हैं।



२०१२ के ओलंपिक में कांस्य पदक जीतने वाली साइना नेहवाल पहली बभारतीय खिलाड़ी हैं जिन्होंने □□□ श्रेणी में प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त किया है। चीन की खिलाड़ी को हराकर, साइना नेहवाल ने अप्रैल २ को फिर एक बार दुनिया में प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त किया। चीन के वुहान में चल रही एशियन बैडमिंटन चैंपियनशिप में भारत की वर्ल्ड नंबर १ बैडमिंटन स्टार साइना नेहवाल ने जापान की नोजोमी ओकुहारा को हराकर टूर्नामेंट के क्वार्टरफाइनल में जगह बना ली है। साइना ने वर्ल्ड नंबर १० जापान की ओकुहारा को तीन गेम के मुकाबले में २१-१४, १०-२१, २१-१० से हराया।

-इशिता मल्होत्रा, १०

WHICH EMOJI ARE YOU?

1. Your favourite way to exercise, is

- dancing
- long runs
- gymming
- yoga

2. Your go-to pair of shoes is

- Heels
- Boots
- Converse
- Loafers

3. Your one last meal would be at

- Mamagoto
- Burger King
- Big Chill
- Subway

4. How do your friends describe you?

- Daring /fun
- Silly/ creative
- Shy /nice
- Sassy /beautiful

5. Your identity in school, is?

- The cool one
- The geek
- The eccentric, weird kid.
- The bored one

6. If you saw a celebrity at a mall, you would

- Take a picture to post on Facebook and get tons of likes
- Run straight to them and get an autograph.
- Go to them and do something weird.
- Throw something at them and hide

7. Your favourite animal is

- A Cocker Spaniel
- A Beagle
- A Siamese cat
- A hamster

Tally Your Results!

MOSTLY A's- The world is your oyster. You're always wearing a crown, and ready to rule!

The Crown



MOSTLY B's- You're loyal, sweet and hard-working. Your ideas will take over the world someday!

The Wide Grin



MOSTLY C's- You're a little out of this world! You belong to a whole new league, and you're just here to pass your time.

The Alien



MAJORITY D's- Your standards are high, and that's that. You don't settle for anything less than the best.

Mr. Unimpressed



There's a Light at the End of the Tunnel

There's a light at the end of the tunnel,
The light is my final home
It's where I'll be,
When my journey is complete,
It's where the darkness will fold.

Theres a light at the end of the tunnel,
The path is so very long
But I will work my whole heart out,
For it's my salvation,
The light is where I belong.

Theres a light at the end of the tunnel,
All my demons stand in the way
But I'll beat them down,
I'll come out a victor,
Then the light will take me away.

Theres a light at the end of the tunnel,
But It's starting to look dim
The path is crumbling,
I can barely move,
And the walls are closing in.

There was a light at the end of the tunnel,
But I couldn't see inside
It was my reward,
It was sanctuary,
Where my fears should have died.

There was no light at the end of the tunnel,
There was nothing at the end of the track
The end was just the beginning,
And the white,
Was always black.

- Saieeshaa Sethi, 12

-Arushi Butani, 9

Breakfast In School

Imagine you are a car. After a long night of sleeping your fuel tank is empty. Breakfast is the fuel that gets you going so you can hit the road at full speed! I always check on the school website what I am going to get for breakfast the following day. I dread the day I get Aloo Paranthas with butter as it is my least favourite food. But I know it is healthy, so I have to learn to like it. I liked the hummus with pita bread but not the falafel. I will learn to eat everything which is on my tray and keep my fuel tank filled to keep my engine moving. Fruit is also something I look forward to, especially bananas. When I have a healthy breakfast I work fast. So, if I do this everyday, my teacher will not scold me.

Arjunveer Khara 4-B

I was sitting in class and my stomach started to grumble and make funny noises. I was starving and started dreaming about fluffy pancakes with maple syrup and sizzling brownies. Finally it was time for breakfast in school. My tray came with a cheese slice, crackers, baked beans and a banana. Suddenly the banana jumped out of the tray and started singing:

“Monkey’s Love Me, Kids Do Too,
Come Eat Me I Am Waiting For You”

Before I knew it the cheese slice started making funny faces at me. The baked beans started to bubble and said:

“HELLO, My Lovely Queen!

Please Don’t Be Mean

Eat Me, I’m The Baked Bean “

Suddenly I heard someone call out my name. It was my class teacher Ms Seth. She said “Sriya, can you stop dreaming and finish your breakfast soon?” I realised that I was so hungry that I had started dreaming about food.

Sriya Gupta IV- C



By Nursery

धरती को आज खचाना है

धरती को आज खचाना है
और भी पेड़ - पौधे उगाना है।

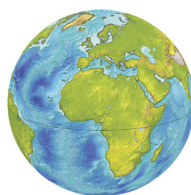
पेड़ों को काटे नहीं
ज्यादा गाड़ी चलाए नहीं।

धरती हो रही गरम
फिर भी नहीं आती शरम।

मजे से हम जी रहे
जानवर खेचारे मर रहे हैं।

धरती हमने खचानी है
हरी भरी खजानी है।
जो कहते हैं कर दिखाना है

मिलकर प्रण निभाना है।
जेहान पीर पाँच - ए



धरती हमारी माँ
धरती हमारी जननी है
अहुत प्यारी यह भूमि है।
सूरज की रोशनी देती है जीवन
चन्द्रा की शीतलता करती हृदय को
पावन।
हरे भरे पेड़ पौधे पर करते पक्षी
प्राण
अच्छ हवा की लेते श्वाँस।
अभी प्राणी मिल जुल कर रहते
तभी तो अब पिछान यह बात कहते।
पृथ्वी हमारी नहीं
हम पृथ्वी के हैं।
यह तो है हम अब की रक्षक
हम पशुधा के क्यों बन रहे हैं भई
क।
रुहान चोपड़ा पाँच - बी

धरती
धरा हूँ मैं अबने प्यारी
रंगों से मैं खनी न्यारी।
हर रोज एक नया अंधेरा
भानु निकला उड़ गया अंधेरा।
नील गगन में इंदु और चमकीले तारे
भूमि के यह प्रिय नजारे।
अमीर बुनाए मधुर आ गाना
पृथ्वी ने झूम - झूम के नृत्य
कर डाला।

पुष्प हँस रहे हैं खिल - खिलाकर
उपवन को तो महका ही डं
ला।

मेघ खरब कर लाया ठंडी
जल भागर का भर - भर
आया।

हर ऋतु है इस जग की न्यारी
धरा हूँ मैं अबने प्यारी।
राण्या नागर पाँच - बी



I Felt Angry Because...

I was closed in a cage and I kept growling. I was sad because I was very far away from my family and I was feeling lonely. I was also scared because I didn't know whether I would get food or not.

Nylah Dhawan II - C

I was closed in a cage I would feel lonely because I miss my family and friends. I will get angry because I have been caught without any reason. I would feel helpless. I would pray for somebody to help me. I feel that I have lost my power.

Kavya Malik II B

I was closed in a cage I wouldn't know how to get out of it. I would miss my family and friends. I will get angry because I have been caught without any reason. I would pray for somebody to help me.

Priyanshi Sapra II - B

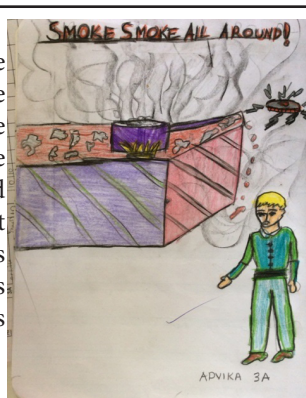


Listening and Illustrating

The piercing sound of the alarm reminded Jai that he had forgotten to check the pot of stew heating up on the stove. The stew had boiled over, the bottom of the pot was scorched, and smoke was filling the kitchen. Dinner was obviously ruined, and Jai was

in a big trouble. What a mess!

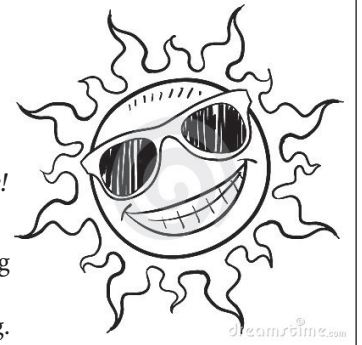
Story Illustration by Kyra Dhar and Advika Seghal (III - A)



25 THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER

No matter what your plans are this summer, this list will keep you occupied. Beat that intense summer heat, by making the most of your vacation! Make each day count, because this time will never come again. Use your summer to unwind, relax, and catch up with your friends and family!

1. Connect with your friends. Get off your phone and your ipod, and go on adventures together!
2. Go for a picnic (on a day where the sun doesn't absolutely kill you!)
3. Help out with housework, who knows, you might find some treasures lurking in your attic!
4. Have a BBQ with your family and friends, and get to know each other better.
5. Take a nap in the hammock in the open, and enjoy the beauty (again, on a not-so-sunny-day!)
6. Go for a long drive, and really explore your city.
7. Have a water balloon fight! If you want to be more fun and creative, set up a mini waterpark in your garden! Get floats, an inflatable slide, and have an amazing day with your friends!
8. Go hiking, and relive those adventure camp moments!
9. Make homemade Popsicles! Freeze your favourite drink (for example Sprite), or be more creative and use fruits and juices.
10. Paint! Unleash your creative side, and who knows, you might discover your hidden talents!
11. Sleep under the stars with your best friend.
12. Go out swimming! This is a given, and it is one of the most fun things to do in the summer!
13. Go to the water park, and really enjoy your day
14. Do something what you haven't done before. Maybe try a new sport, or a new instrument! After all, the summer is your time to shine!
15. Go canoeing, or boating with your family and friends
16. Volunteer for something. Make a difference to the world, and also have a great time!
17. Fly a kite. This is a fun and easy activity, and can keep you occupied for hours on end!
18. Build a huge sand castle. Maybe have a competition, too!
19. Roast Marshmallows. They taste absolutely heavenly.
20. Make a travelogue. It doesn't matter if you actually travel outside the city, just keep recording all the fun things you do!
21. Make a home movie! Shoot it with your siblings, cousins, or friends. It could be a comedy, a horror movie, or even an epic drama!
22. Make new friends! It's always fun to meet new people.
23. Try every flavour of ice cream and your local ice cream parlour!
24. Have a movie marathon with your best friend! Stay up the whole night and have a great time with coke and popcorn!
25. Sleep late, wake up late and relax!



Beat the Heat!

~ Ayushe Nagpal, 7

Symptoms of Ignorance



Our society is made up of stereotypes & prejudices which in turn often lead to discrimination. And because we know that they do exist, it's our job to walk through them. And how much ever we talk about our awareness and acceptance, we still endorse them- either overtly or covertly.

"The one effective way of breaking stereotypes is not living up to them."

Prejudice on the other hand is basically opinion based in the absence of evidence and is a product of ignorance. It lurks and hides behind barriers of tradition. We

allow our ignorance to prevail upon us and make us think we can survive alone. Alone in patches, alone in groups, alone in races, even alone in genders. Prejudice and stereotypes are a symptom of ignorance and we must treat them before it gets out of hand and turns out to be fatal or incurable. We make accusations and have preconceptions, but how many times do we actually verify the stereotypes and prejudices that we discriminate people with? For example, Aristotle maintained that women have fewer teeth than men; although he was twice married, it never occurred to him to verify this statement by examining his wives' mouths. A person's own opinion is the best companion of his life, but one must first verify it to ensure that it is truly his own and not the thoughts of others. We have become puppets of society, and are always afraid of anything different and thus make pre-assumed notions and build upon them. We've come so far in the fields of science and technology, but it seems like our thought process is still stuck in eras long gone. It really is high time that we rethink our choices and opinions.

All of us have faced some sort of stereotypes or prejudice sometime in our lives, and not one of us can say that we felt 'okay' or 'good' about it. Personally when one talks about India as if it were some underdeveloped, backward, village, it drives me mad. Similarly if someone says that girls are not capable of pulling off military jobs or that football is a 'boy sport' also upsets me to immeasurable amounts.

We don't approve of the preconceived notions, yet we have stereotypes on other races, regions and people. Like Constance Chuks Friday once said, "Free your mind of the damaging clots of bias, being kind only to your own kind isn't kindness at all". Supposedly, even God doesn't propose to judge a man till his last days, then why should you and I?"

-Ishwari Dasgupta, 11

**"We all use stereotypes,
all the time, without knowing it.
We have met the enemy of equality,
and the enemy is us."**

(Paul, 1998)

For The Love of Music

Inter-House Western Music Competition

The hallways on the ground floor echo with melodies. The performing arts room is forever filled with students playing the piano and looking up lyrics. The school is buzzing with contagious excitement, with passion, and with fervour. The Mark D'Souza Inter-House Western Music Competition is



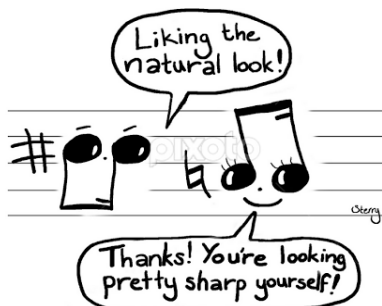
almost here. Whether it's the loud applause that welcomes each participant on stage, the bright, colourful house posters, the soulful instrumental performances, or the downright playful group songs, it is so much more than just a competition.

Eagerly awaited, it ties together the whole of senior school with fun, hard work, and genuine love for music. Some of the most talented musicians grace the stage every year and blow the audience away with their sheer talent. The most difficult part of the Mark D'Souza competition, is getting everyone together and in the same mindspace as you. Trying to get everyone coordinated, singing to the same beat, on the same pitch; it's easily tougher than performing on stage. But if you do it right, the result makes it worth every bit of the effort everyone put in.



I don't really consider this a competition, winning is just a bonus. The spirit is really in the preparation of all of it; the thrill of getting it right, performing on stage and even the frustration when it isn't working. It gets people closer, which is in a nutshell, what music is truly about.

The thing is, for some, music is more than just a mere combination of notes and tunes that sound good together. To some, music means a language, a part of life, a vital part of themselves.



Music is a profession for some, for some it is a distraction and for others it is nothing less than a religion. And, in celebration of this love for music, let's welcome the Mark D'Souza Inter House Western Music Competition 2015, and raise the bar once again.

- Varun Vasudeva, 11

The Book Thief

Imaginative, one of a kind, heart-warming, and intricately woven, 'The Book Thief' is a beautifully written account of the Holocaust in the second world war, written through the perspective of a young, German orphan who has an interest in books. In writing this book, the author- Markus Zusak- has done a brilliant job. Not only has he managed to provide his readers with a vivid description of the scene and/or characters present, but he has done this without overwhelming the reader with language, thus using a writing style that is neither too dense nor arcane. He paints a story so vivid you start to feel revulsion and hatred towards war in general and you glimpse the raw and horrifying truth of what the Holocaust was for not only for Jews, but for Germans and children as well.

The novel was published in 2005 and listed on the New York Times Best Seller list for over 4 years. It pivots around the life of Liesel Meminger, a young German girl whose parents have died in the war and whose brother died from a sickness. She is sent to a foster home with Hans and Rosa Hubermann as her foster parents. The book is all about the repercussions Liesel faces due to her upbringing in the middle of a war, and centers around her passionate compulsion to read books and write stories. Suddenly, her life is thrown into havoc as the war takes an ugly turn for Germany, and an unexpected surprise puts her life in even more danger than that of other children her age.

In short, 'The Book Thief' is a novel I strongly recommend to people of any and all ages. Be ready with a handkerchief to wipe your eyes as tears, of both happiness and sadness, are an inevitable factor when it comes to reading 'The Book Thief'.

-Saahil Armaan Kumar, 9



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