

The majority of natural diamonds come from South Africa, Russia and Canada.



Education & Enhancement

Pen Or Pencil, Which One's Your Favourite?

Angad Gautam, AIS Gur 46, X H

re have all time and again come across the saying that "pen is mightier than the sword", and while it may be the case, the real question is if the inked tool really as strapping as its stationery counterpart, the peerless pencil. Though, having managed to stir the geometry box for eons, the two with their own set of sharp and blunt points have made it just about impossible for the papyrophiliacs out there to reach a conclusion, we would still give the discussion a go and try and settle the centuries old debate once and for all. Who do you think would competently wield the spectre at long last? Read on and know for yourself.

solid at my core. Graphite, anyone? Yes, that solid carbon is what my insides are made of, so back off. Pen: Well, even with my plastic body, I am 100% more attractive than you. And if strength's the criterion, let's talk about my writing tip that has

facts to trump you, my fame alone is enough. Remember how NASA created a space pen, not pencil, because your weak tips have this weird habit of floating in air without much substance within. Besides, you think you can compete with the countless varieties I come in? Lamy, Montblanc International, Parker, Sheaffer, Waterman - ever heard of these luxury brands that produce me? Well, you wish! **Pencil:** Say what you want but just know that the kids love me matter then! Pen: I am sorry to break it to you but the kids are forced to use you. Geometry box: Oh, stop fighting for God's sake! Chhotte bachhe ho kya? You are both important to me and to the kids, and what is this con-

test? You think I'll let a stupid

contest decide who's the best

when you are both equally im-

portant for me? Stop with this

stupidity and focus on working

together for the greater good of

everyone.

The 2022-23 Stationery Awards in progress...

Pencil: I am beyond grateful to be able to receive this huge honour of being the best stationery. For the same, I would like to thank-**Pen (cutting it off):** I don't think you need to thank anyone for an award

that you are clearly robbing me of. What do you have that I don't? **Pencil:** Not the proprietorial pen again, God! Though I am in no way answerable to you, but, for starters, I, unlike you, am a slender tube of the distinction of being made of brass, an alloy of zinc and copper, known for its strength, appeal, and resistance to corrosion. Talk about being stylish and long lasting, unlike your 'solid core' that keeps breaking at every chance it gets. If anything, you should be sued for making such false claims.

Pencil: Sued? Well, I am here since the 1790s. Nicholas-Jacques Conte, a and prefer me over you. These scientist serving in the army of so called luxury brands don't Napoleon Bonaparte, is the man behind my invention. Put some respect on my name.

Pen (booing): I can only laugh because my forefather, the reed pen, was invented by the Egyptians way back in 3000 BC. So, check for facts before you make such statements and save yourself the embarrassment. Pencil: But that won't change the fact that you don't give people the chance to erase or correct their mistakes. Guess who's winning at life! Pen: Umm... you, for one, deserve to be erased out of existence *laughs* **Pencil:** And is that what you call a



Rake in that review

l am important

wood. Slender is the keyword here! clap back? And that's how the said awards **Pen:** No, that just shows I don't need got scrapped for ever! Plus, in case you don't know, I am

Exam stress pe charcha Book Review Some Suggestions To Beat The Board Exam Stress Part III

Ashmita Karmakar AIS Noida, IX F

you ask me, "Ashmita, feel burdened by. The stress susinstead. At this rate, I should put when do you feel stressed tains itself in a cycle, it may it as a subject in my schedule just grow and ebb, but it never dies. Lout?" I am most likely to like Math or Hindi. Since stress reply cheekily, "All the time!". Here is how it goes: First, I get wins a larger chunk of my time compared to my main subjects, it stressed about things such as im-You will then say, "Granted, but surely deserves this respect, pending tests, assignments, projwhen are you the 'most' stressed?" I would now reply in ects, etc. Then comes the doesn't it now? interesting part where I divide an Frankly, taking stress is much an honest, serious tone, "The easier than doing the actual times when I feel absolutely zero entire month into stress periods work. While tensing ourselves stress are the times that I am the for each stress task. Finally, I start taking the real stress, which most stressed". There I said it! out, we give ourselves excuses as As a student, I practically drive is about the time that got wasted stressed, the only elixir, the only to why we cannot start the work, myself to take stress. I either feel in stressing out. The month is or why we cannot complete it, 'amrut' is to work hard. GT

like I am not doing enough or that I am taking the task lightly, especially if it is a task I don't

over but the stress cycle is not. I can simply do the work and study, but I decide to take stress

but doing the actual work leaves us with no such choice. It's human nature to choose easy over hard. So, is there a lesson in this? Well, the answer is quite simple. Do not take stress and do the work. If you are 'pariksha'stressed, the solution is to study. If you are ballet-stressed, the remedy is to brisé. If you are basketball-stressed, the cure is to dribble. If you are 'Ctrl-V'stressed, the key is to command 'Ctrl-X'. And if you are work-

Book: Hamnet Author: Maggie O'Farrell Published in: 2020 **Genre:** Historical fiction

Synopsis: Set in the late 16th century, the novel follows the life (and death) of Hamnet, the son of William Shakespeare and his wife Agnes, who passed away in 1596 as a victim of the bubonic plague. The writer takes us through the events that took place prior to, during, and after Hamnet's death, and brings to life his story with a non-linear narration where chapters alternate between the past and present. The novel as such is divided into two parts-Part I which is subdivided into chapters and ends with Hamnet's death, and Part II which is written entirely in one flow and begins with the events that take place immediately after Ham- and emotion has been perfected net's death. It can be interpreted that this choice was made by the author to provide a parallel to the unending nature of Agnes's grief. Why is it worth reading: The descriptions are evocative and

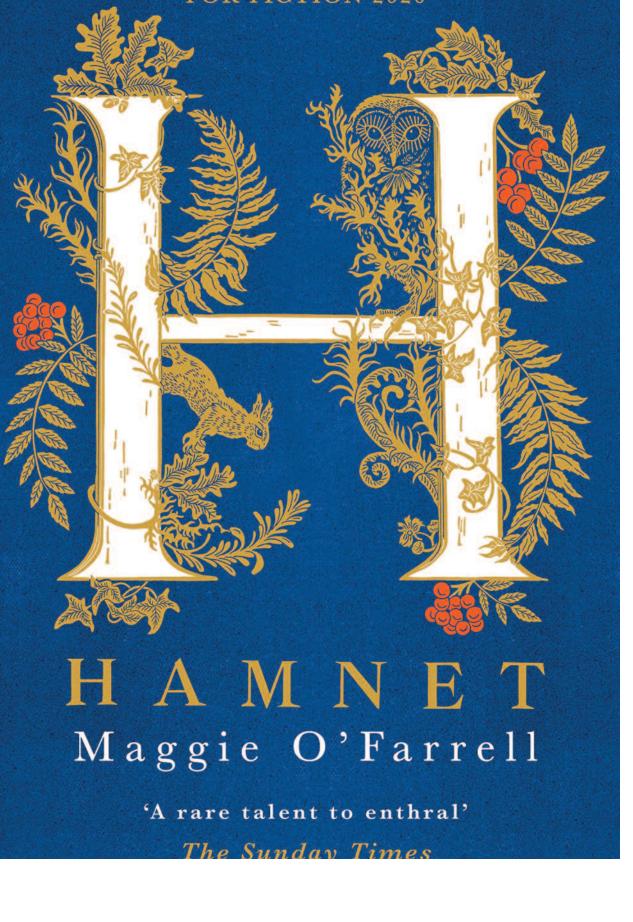
lyrical which allow the story to

flow as smoothly. Plus, despite

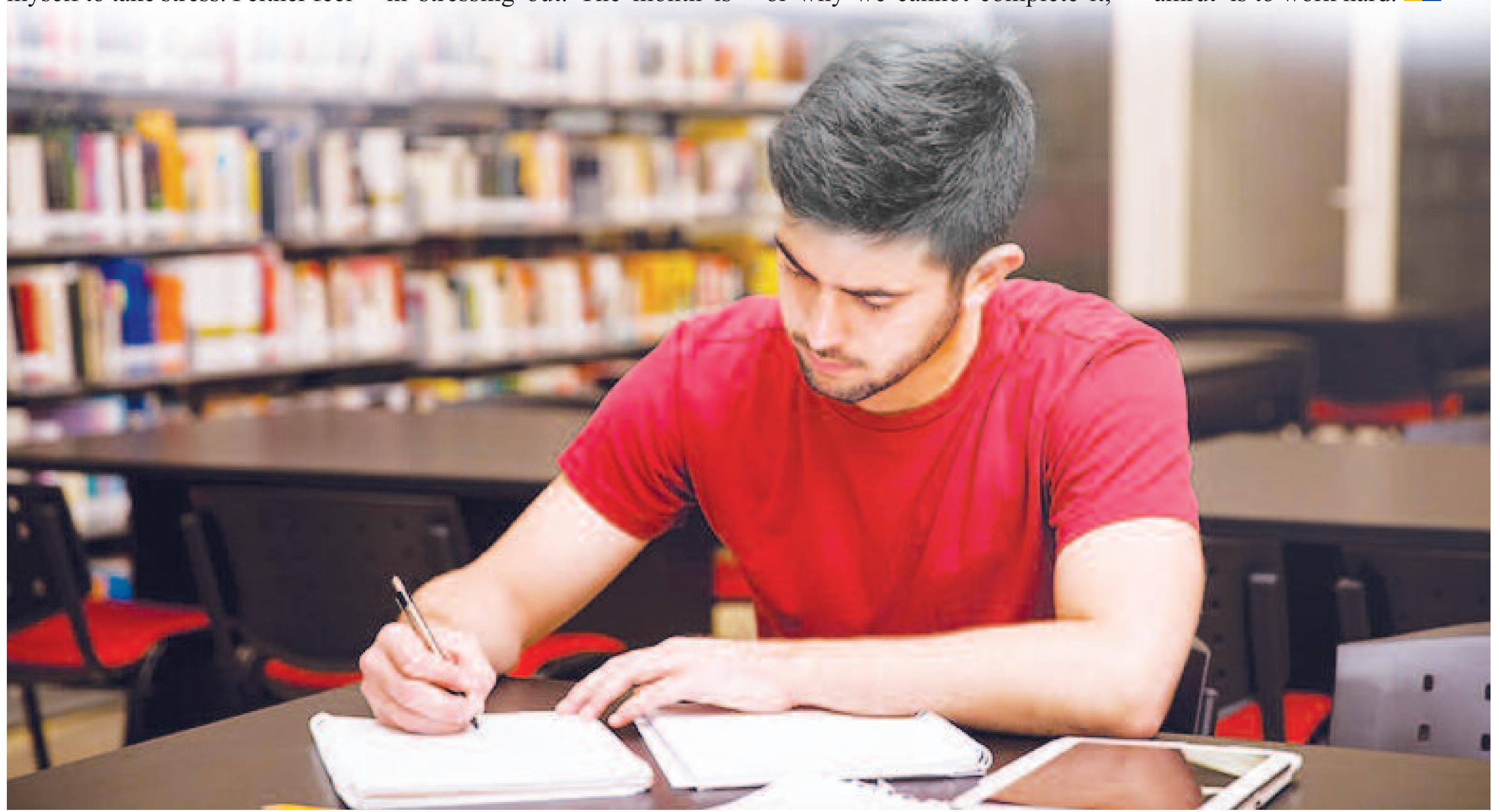
being the father of the novel's

protagonist, Shakespeare is

never referred to by his name,



so as to not draw attention away



from the overwhelming emotion laced throughout. The author has paid utmost attention to detail in an astonishing way. Be it Agnes's childhood, Hamnet's worry about his twin sister Judith who has taken ill, the Bard's job as a Latin tutor before he went on to become a famous playwright, every event to a tee. Go give it a read and see for yourself.

Iconic quote: "What is given may be taken away, at any time. Cruelty and devastation wait for you around corners, inside coffers, behind doors: they can leap out at you at any moment, like a thief or brigand." **Rating: * * * * * Review by: Ishanya Sharma**

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