

# From student to council

Illustration: Medha Dhall & Nitya Sehgal, AIS Saket, XI F

Every year a group steps down, passing the baton to a new lot. Every year, dreams are realised and broken, friendships soured and strengthened. Every year, students walk the path to a pedestal of respect and popularity, the Student Council. And every year in this bid to glory, lessons are learnt and reiterated, lessons on leadership that go beyond the race. **Anushka Barthwal, AIS Saket, XI F** takes note.

*If only I had won that*

Suddenly, while filling the form you realise your achievements might not be enough for the post you desire. You wish you had participated in that science exhibition even if you were in the Humanities section. And that weight of not involving music into your co-curricular feels heavy. You wish that you had more laurels and had walked the extra mile to more triumph. And it is then that the word ‘all rounder’ starts meaning more than ever.

*Leadership doesn't come easy and you've*  
*to be holistically developed to be deemed*  
*fit to hold the mantle of responsibility.*

***Lights shining bright on you***  
Suddenly, you're in the limelight. You've submitted the form and now you're under scrutiny. Every detail, starting right from the tidiness of your hair to the way your shoe laces are tied, matters. Even potential leaders are role models.

***Leadership is about being an idol, right from the minutest detail to the largest trait.***

***It's all about the journey***

Suddenly, the recommendations of every teacher who has ever taught you starts mattering a lot. You consciously start



greeting the primary teachers with a wider smile. You soon realise that getting a position is not just about working hard for one particular year, it's about every milestone of your school journey.

*Leadership, like Rome, is not about a day.*

***But it's just a conversation***

Suddenly, you realise that articulating your thoughts into cohesive words is important. Every syllable you utter in the interview counts and hence, self appreciation in front of the mirror is replaced with interview rehearsals. You realise the power of words and the importance of deliberating on them.

***Leadership is not about shouting but using your words wisely to communicate.***

*Que sera*


Suddenly, you have to come to terms with possible rejection and failure. Yes, you might have applied for the Head Girl but you became the General Secretary. There will be moments when you'll crib, even cry, but at the end of it, you have to make the best of your share, a share that perhaps someone else is crying over. Even it wasn't the position you wished for, you ought to put your best foot forward.

*Leadership isn't getting what you want but making the most out of what you have.*

***Dosti badi hi haseen hai***  
Suddenly, you can figure out the difference between friends and acquaintances. While

both you and your best friend were running for the same post, you realise that friendships goes beyond labels, tags and titles. And if it did not last after the council results, it wasn't worth it.

*Leadership is not just about walking ahead of everyone and showing them directions, but treading the path together.*

While leadership involves being a front-runner, it also involves being responsible. While filling the form, you might've believed the only important thing was the blue sash or the gold badge, but as you take the pledge, or even if you don't, you realise that the lessons learnt in the race are a greater reward than anything else. 

# Bend it like Aditi

*She is a footballer with spunk, an inspiration for all, a virtuous humanitarian and most of all, an Amitian who breathes the values and principles of the red building*



### Aditi Chauhan: The first Indian woman to play for a leading English Football club

**Devyani Goel, AIS Saket, X B**

The first Indian woman selected to play for a top English football club, West Ham United Ladies, Aditi Chauhan has brought immense pride to her alma mater, AIS Saket. With her undaunted passion for the game and her ever soaring spirit, she has reminded us that hardwork, diligence and morals can turn dreams into reality. In an interview with GT, she shares her journey to glory, her life values, her achievements and more.

## On self-doubt

There were times when I doubted choosing football over other individual sports because even after playing for India I was not getting the recognition I deserved. There were times when people around me used to judge me for choosing what I loved. But there were positive people around me like my family, friends, coach, and a trainer/mentor, who always encouraged and motivated me to work hard.

I decided on improving myself and enjoyed the hard work without being bothered about the results. I learnt that while things may not always end your way, you should do everything which is required on your part with the greatest determination.

## On the sports scenario in India

Media plays a very important role in promoting a sport. In a cricket dominated country, it is important to spread awareness about other sports and athletes who work really hard to compete at international level. It is nice to know that sports like Kabaddi and Wrestling are slowly garnering popularity amongst people. Government support is also vital to encourage and motivate athletes in different sports.

### On her greatest achievement

Representing the country is the biggest achievement for an athlete. When I see my school and my country feeling proud of my accolades; nothing can beat that feeling. As for me, I was also blessed with the opportunity to play at a good level in India as well as in Europe. Being a part of a Premier League club like West Ham is an achievement close to my heart.

## On her school life

I owe a lot to my school; it was here that my

journey began. I thank Anil Yadav sir, the first person who told me that I should play as a goalkeeper for the Delhi U-19 team and the Amity family for being so supportive. From the sports scholarships to helping me manage my academics when I had to play with the Indian team, Amity always stood by me.

## On choosing to play football

I was initially involved in many sports but slowly realised that to excel, I should focus on one. As I continued football, I saw my potential as a goalkeeper. In the 11th grade, when I was selected for U-19 India camp, I decided to pursue this sport further. I wanted to become the first choice for the goalkeeper of the team. And I started working towards this goal.

### Message for sport aspirants

It takes a lot of time and dedication to achieve your dreams and you go through different phases, of highs and lows. But it's very important to have positive people around you to get past the difficult times. Don't think about what the sport will bring you in the future. Instead, work hard to bring out the best in you. The results will follow. At the same time it is also important to focus on your academics as well. Education not only helps you in your career after sports but also during it. [G.U](#)





I'm not a photographer, but I can picture me and you together.

**Akshita Shreya, XI D & Devyani Goel, X B &, AIS Saket, Page Editors**



Pics Digvijay Singh, AIS Saket, XI C

# History in stores, now open...

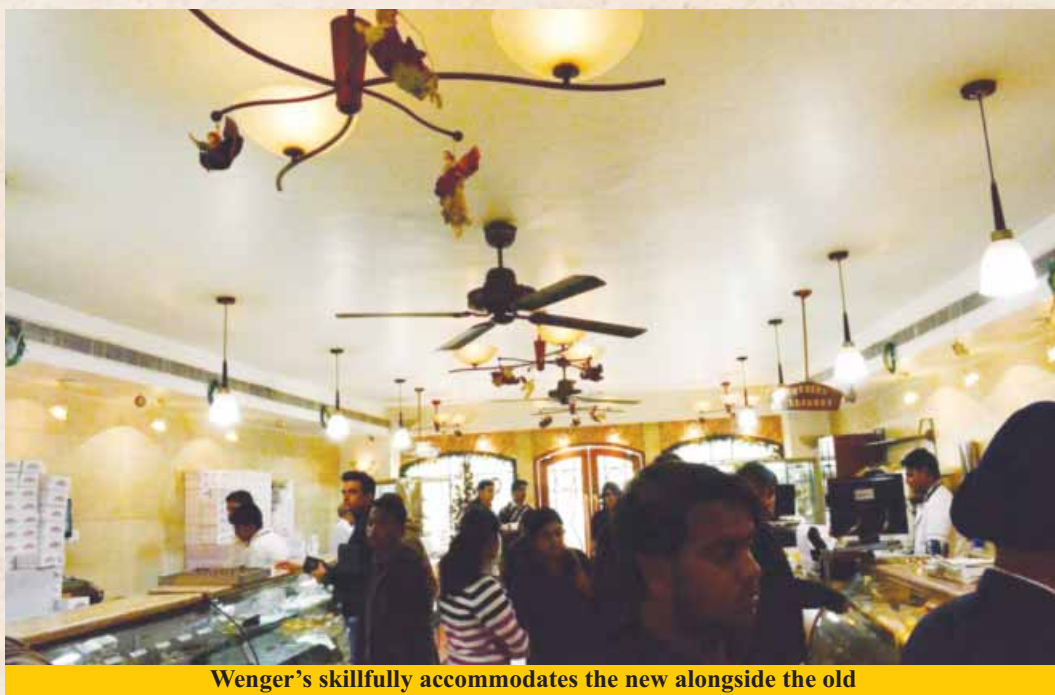
**J**ust as a child, no matter how old, returns to their mother, every Dilliwalla eventually ends up at Connaught Place, moving past the plethora of mundane malls. **Akshita Shreya, XI D & Devyani Goel, X B, AIS Saket**, hunt for the vintage shops that hide in the musty corners of the glittering 'good luck charm' that truly entail the legacy and pride of this place.

## Something old

Even though the unintentionally well hidden shops are hard to locate, the rustic charm and cosy comfort of decades old shelves are worth more than any trouble taken to reach them. The proudly decorated walls of uniform retailers Devichands, with photographs of its original set up in Lahore, speak of its legacy. "Business for us now, is less of a trade and more of an ode to our history," says a staff. For others, it's a way to stay true to their roots. "It's my family's heritage," says Satish Sundra who



Devichands Lahore roots on display



Wenger's skillfully accommodates the new alongside the old



Old story (up); new heroes (down)

inherited Ram Chander and Sons, claimed to be India's oldest toy shop. Another family run business, Adarsh Typewriters, though proud of its heritage, is cynical about its future. With generations of customers coming to his eatery, Charanjit Singh from Wenger's pastry shop has seen CP grow into its mammoth size in his 50 years of work experience.

## Something new

While many businesses choose to carry forward old traditions, change is inevitable. For Wenger's, this change comes in the form of frequent renovations of both, its building and menu. "As public taste diversified, so did our pastries," notes Singh. Ram Chander and Sons, on the other hand, restricted change only to new toys and imports from various countries. Sundra remarks, "My children attend toy fairs from all over the world every year to scout for

new, and interesting toys." Of course, as times change, certain places like Adarsh Typewriters find themselves short of business. "We barely make enough to get by," the owner sighs.

## Something borrowed

Like the structure itself, most old shops in Connaught Place can be considered as parting gifts from the British. "Wenger's," in the words of Charanjit Singh, "was initially set up to cater to the dietary needs of the *angrez* who refused to eat *daal-chawal*." Devichands, on the other hand, could foresee the impending Indo-Pak partition, and hence, established their business in the newly-built area. However, not all credit can be given to the Queen and Country. Places like Ram Chander and Sons, often visited by the royalty and who's who of the subcontinent, are as much a product of their clients

as they are of their owners.

## Something gold

What makes all these places glitter in the clutter is perhaps mostly their dedication to serve hospitality along with quality. "We override competition with warmth, trust and affection," says Sundra, Ram Chander & Sons, who calls himself the 'Grandfather of Toyland' and bonds with every customer who comes to his own version of Narnia. For Wenger's, its quality of products and hospitality that has always attracted the crowd. But what is common in all these businesses is their originality, genuineness of work and undeterred passion. No matter how many Hamley's toy shop and McDonald's find their way into the city, the hidden treasures shall forever have a place in the hearts of Delhiites.

## News Room

# Hulchul

### Pencils and stencils Finishing touches



## We the team

### Creative words Literary explosion



### Editor in chief We did it!



### Creative fabric Running through



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All others are first drafts, but you're the final selection.  
**Shobhit Ranjan**, AIS Saket, XI, Page Editor

# Gap-ing at our faces

**T**he illustrious Gap Year. The deepest desire of every student and the nightmare of every parent. Among anecdotes of relatives saying, "Log kya bolenge" and an impending midlife crisis, you never know if it turns out to be an amazing medicine for your tedium. **Anushka Barthwal**, AIS Saket, XI F, gaps at the gap.

## GAP FOR WHAT?

A gap year refers to the midway year which many take "off", usually between school and college. While some use this gap year as an opportunity to combine working and community service; others travel independently, sometimes finding work as they go.

## THE GOOD STUFF

**Mera kya hoga?** Many parents are averse to the idea of a gap year, driven by the fear that a gap year might mar the chances of admission to a reputed university or placement. The truth, however, is that many foreign universities are open to the idea of students taking a gap year; in fact some are even offering financial aid! Princeton, for instance, has been offering need-based financial aid for gap year students participating in its Bridge Year Program.

**Chase your dreams:** According to National Law University, Delhi, roughly 30% of Class XII students take a break to prepare for LLB entrance tests. The



Illustration: Nitya Sehgal, AIS Saket, XI F

### NOTE

■ GapGuru & Volunteer India offer organised gap year programmes.  
 ■ SkillGapFinder is a primary counselling service in Delhi that provide guidance in matters of gap years.

year taken off can act as a leeway to prepare for the entrance exams. "It has been found that the success ratio is fairly high in such cases, going beyond 60%," says Prof GS Bajpai, NLU Delhi.

The same is the case with IIT and MBBS preparations.



**Kya kare kya na kare?** A gap year can help students gain a better sense of what they want to study in college and thus enable informed career choices. Ankita Barthwal, who took a gap year after her XII grade says, "Taking a gap year- travelling and volunteering, made me understand my interests better and helped me choose my field for higher education."

## THE BIG BADDIES

**Now what?** Sometimes, gap years are not for everyone. You might end up just sitting in front of your laptop screen and eating a tub of ice-cream. Dr Akanksha Bahuguna Kaul, a lifestyle management expert, says that many students end up losing motivation or being distracted halfway, in turn leading to regretting their decision.

**Money, what money?** Managing an entire year without any kind of monetary layback can burn a big hole in your pocket. Most banks avoid offering loans to students who take a gap year.

**Lambi Judaai:** On the social front, you may be dismembered from your friend circles who are hanging out together in college. Besides, a gap year means that by the end of it, you'll have to enter the rigorous style of education once again, and this might make your assimilation in the entire process difficult.

Taking a gap year is a big step, hence, well-researched decisions go a long way. Plan and deliberate on your choices; discuss them with your parents and take advice from counsellors. And above anything else, it is important to mentally prepare oneself.  

# My teacher, my tikki

What happens when the two 'loves' of your life come together? A delectable comparison! Enjoy the treat

**Ayushi Singh**, AIS Saket, IX B

**D**elicious food is the way to every man's heart; and a teacher touches many hearts with her charm. Hence, the comparison between the two is inevitable. Read on and find your teacher in your favourite street food.

**Paneer tikka:** A teacher who is just as spicy as the *paneer* garnished with chili. Not to forget the chopped vegetables put in between, just like her occasional scolding, that serves the same purpose- to remind what's good for us.



**Dhokla:** "Beta, I am always there for you, aa jao kabhi bhi." This teacher keeps calm and absorbs all the woes of the tender children, just like a sponge.

**Papdi chaat:** For the one who is an all rounder.

All goodness seems blended with *chutney* and topped with *sev*. Her multi-faceted talent and colourful personality emerges in every way.

**Samosa:** The strict disciplinarian who attempts to mash and resize children to fit them into the stiff walls of rules and regulations. This teacher is a hit or a miss amongst students.

**Fruit Chaat:** Fresh and young; she is aware of new trends and has a sense of style. Flaunting a new look every day, our very own Miss Chandni turns the school into a fashion ramp.

Like every *chaat* is unique, every teacher is distinctive in her own way. And likewise, we may go anywhere in the world, but the craving for street food and the respect for teachers will never die in our hearts!  

Pic: Ragini Mathur, AIS Saket, XI F; Models: Teacher & students of AIS Saket



Pic: Ragini Mathur, AIS Saket, XI F

# Col(our) saviour

**T**ipi tipi tap. Which colour do you want? **Akshita Shreya**, AIS Saket, XI D, picks the ones that aid the learning process.

Colour psychology, a relatively new field in the doctrine, is gaining importance worldwide as an efficient learning tool. The aim is to relate colours to the thoughts they evoke and apply it in everyday teaching and learning. Here's how.

**Yellow:** While going through the lengthy and dreary chapters in your history or science books, use a highlighter to mark the points to be remembered, preferably a yellow one as the colour yellow stimulates mental activity. But one shouldn't overuse it to make the entire page look like a speck of sun, because it also happens to be the most fatiguing colour to the eye.

**Red & Orange:** While making notes for revision, choose warm colours like red and orange to write the key-terms as they are related to high energy and instantly draw eyes towards it.

**Blue & Green:** Always pick a room with blue or green walls as they relieve stress and are known to have a calming effect. So, the next time you think of hurling the book at someone, the wall's colour will calm you.

**Purple/Violet:** If you intend to write wonderful creative writings, use a purple/violet pen to write, as it prompts creative output twice as much as warm colours. It also helps in brainstorming.

**Use it all:** While making notes for revision, use pens of different colours, as they are visually appealing and can also hold a person's attention for a longer period of time. Which colours? Make a rainbow, don't be hesitant. Just keep altering it!



Pic: Ashna Sharma, AIS Saket; Model: Parth Khular, AIS Saket, VI A:

If I were the headline, would you be my byline?

Ujwal Sachdeva, AIS Saket, XI C, Page Editor

Graphic: Tanush Bhagat, AIS Saket, XI C

# Bheja dry

What happens when the mind goes blank? Scientific things, of course!

Siddharth Dua, AIS Saket, IX C

You are standing in an auditorium. The lights are shining bright on you. This is the most important speech you've ever made. As your turn approaches, your hands become clammy, your throat parched and your brain, it simply goes BLANK. But how can your brain give up, when you need it the most? Going apart from one possibility of having a rapid onset of dementia, there has to be a reason for the sudden loss of thought processes. Of course, one cause is natural aging process. But unless you are Benjamin Button, you can't possibly have the mental capacity of a 60 year old at 16. Social anxiety can shut your brain down as fast as your friends lunge for the chowmein of the canteen. When you're afraid, your body shifts into fight-or-flight mode. Blood rushes to large muscles -your arms and legs, so you can take action. And blood leaves the parts of the brain that aren't help-

ful in a fight or a race - parts of the brain that govern memory and verbal skills. As soon as you get anxious, you enter into a reactive state than a reflective one and your conscious mind starts to roll down its shutter. In a reactive state, you are like Milkha Singh, ready to run. This is great when you have to run for a medal, but not when you've to make coherent responses. Recently, researchers have identified certain regions of the brain that become hyperactive during a panic attack. These regions include the amygdala, which is the fear centre of the brain. As soon as your amygdala becomes responsive to your hyperactive state, your mind gets confused. By now, you must have understood the science behind your blank canvas, but how do you pull yourself out of this empty hole? If you are in the middle of a conversation or giving a speech and your mind suddenly goes blank, address it. Own up to it. Laugh about it. Everyone can relate.

Do not give yourself a hard time over your *kora kaagaz*.

So the next time your mind turns into a potato, don't fret. Try and turn it into the beautiful fried chip that it is. 🍟🇮🇳



# Stumped by science

Ujwal Sachdeva, AIS Saket, XI C

“A wicket in hand, 8 runs required, the ball is lofted well up in the air, and this could well mean the cup. Oh goodness! what have we just witnessed. The ball has hit the Spidercam and has landed safely on the ground. It has been called a dead ball by the umpire.” A billion voices gasped across the stadium and a thought dawned upon them all - has technology come in the way of a good old entertaining game?

## Citius, altius, fortius

Translating to “Faster, higher, stronger”, the motto of Olympics is something taken a bit too seriously by technology. Oscar Pistorious, a South African sprinter was allowed to participate in both the Olympic and Paralympic games, owing to the lack of agreement on the use of prosthetic legs. Controversy dogged him as several runners complained of the sprinter getting a technical edge over them. The blades of the prosthetic provided an aerodynamic design and reduced the area of contact with the track, allowing a faster sprinting pattern. The apprehensions were confirmed as Pistorious went on to win games.

## A perfect stroke

The Polara line of golf balls, manufactured by Aero-X Golf Inc is proven to reduce errors upto 75%, making the game easier and less competitive while deskillling the

sport to quite an extent. Technology aiding lower-skilled players, made it unfair for the skilled and experienced players, already adept at making accurate drives.

## The ‘spider’ man

The spidercam, a hovering camera seen on a cricket field has prevented many match winning catches and boundaries. The most recent example being the 5th ODI between India and Australia where Virat Kohli was denied a boundary off the first ball of his innings, with the match eventually becoming a last-over thriller.

And it's not only the batsmen who suffer, but the fielders too deal with similar fate. For instance, Steve Smith was unable to take a catch due to the ball hitting the wires of the camera.

## Suit up!

It isn't just about Barney Stinson anymore, even swimmers these days are using the phrase. The introduction of high performance polyurethane and neoprene suits in 2008 led to nearly 200 world records being broken within a span of 2 years.

Known to cut down fatigue, coupled with increased buoyancy and speed, these suits helped break 43 records in the 40 events at the World Swimming championships at Rome in 2009. The suit was banned later on. Post the ban, there were noticeably less number of records at the London Olympics. 🇮🇳

# Kabhi sushi kabhi plum

Remember Bharat Bhushan from Bheja Fry? Just like the gullibility of the protagonist, you too are a target of the money-hungry capitalists who with their logical tricks, expand your waist size and retract your pockets. Their mantra: science. Too bad to be true? **Ria Chopra, AIS Saket, XI F** attempts to revoke reason in the burger-stuffed minds.

## Neela dosa, peela soup

If we say red, and you get a mental image of Priyanka Chopra shimmying to ‘Lal Dupatta Ud Gaya Re’, there's news for you: you don't need food, you could probably exist solely on Bollywood. For the rest of us, red means increased appetite. According to studies, red raises a person's blood pressure and heart rate, thus causing hunger to be more prevalent. Further on, yellow and orange

are bright and cheerful colours, and people in a happy mood tend to spend and eat more. This is why fast food chains have these colours displayed prominently (McDonalds and KFC, don't try to play me further).

## Yaadon ki baarat

When restaurants play psychiatrists, they use psychological behaviour to manipulate their customers. People usually gravitate towards dishes that make them feel nostalgic or give them a sense of familiarity. This is why some restaurants name dishes in connection with family members.

For example, ‘Grandma's Chicken Soup’ or ‘Papa's Burgers’, are sample dish names that are sure to catch your eyeballs at some dinner.

## Sunn raha hai naa tu?

The music being played affects the overall ambience of the place, which in turn, influences the cus-

Illustration: Medha Dhall, AIS Saket, XI F



air to the restaurant, thus making customers expect higher prices. Coffee shops, on the other hand are more likely to play instrumental songs as opposed to songs with dominant lyrics, proven to prevent interference within conversations.

## Zubaan pe laaga, namak drinks ka

There is a reason why you feel the need to accompany your cinema hall popcorn with coke. Shocker- the word is science. Most salty snacks heighten the dispatchment of the thirst signal to your brain which says, “Maine tumhaara namak khaaya hai, ab tumhara paani bhi piyunga.” This sly titbit of your body's metabolism plays right in the favour of bar owners, who

profit from sodium's dehydrating effects. One way to get an upper hand here is to order a glass of water- your *Namak Halal*.

P.S: Dear tycoons of the food world, “Don't underestimate the power of a common man, *because yeh public hai, yeh ab sab jaanti hai!*” 🇮🇳





Jahaan teri yeh nazar hai, meri jaan mujhe ‘khabhar’ hai.  
Adrija Tripathi, AIS Saket, XI D, Page Editor

# I know that feel, bro

Ever put a newly photocopied paper up to your face because it was cosy warm and then felt guilty for acting like a weirdo? Don’t worry, everyone’s in the same place, feeling as weird as you

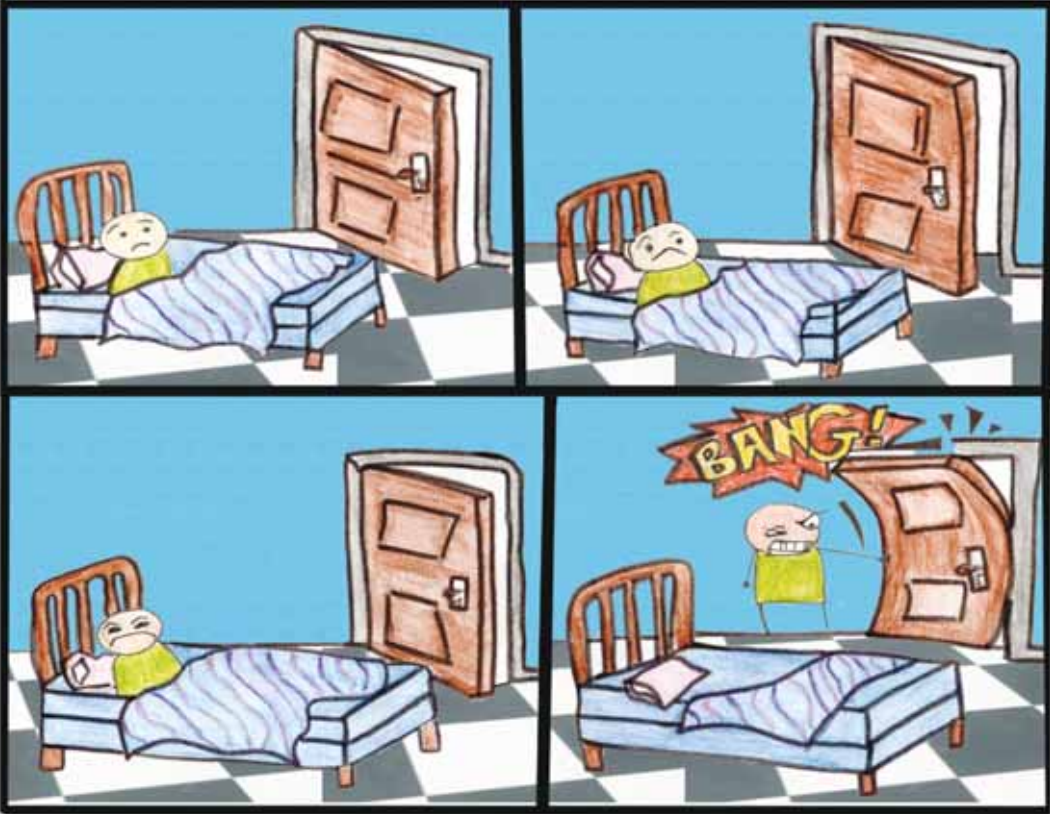
Ria Chopra, XI F & Akshita Shreya, XI D  
AIS Saket,

There are, a lot of people on this planet. And most of us have certain reactions to some things that we think that others don’t understand, but in reality, we’re all feeling the same thing. (And what we’re all feeling right now is a sense of confusion at how that sentence turned out). Get it? No? Same pinch! Let’s try again.

**Rehearse entire argument in your head because you feel it is better to be prepared.** We all do this. Looking in the mirror while combing your hair and your thought process goes something like - “And if she says \_\_, I will say \_\_. But what if she insults me by saying \_\_? Then I’ll have to remind her of \_\_. And then I’ll say \_\_ and she will say \_\_ and then I can use that really cool movie dialogue I’ve always wanted to use.”

**That weird feeling of wanting to be fair to all your clothes so you wear items that aren’t necessarily your favourite.** Obviously, you feel bad for that one shirt that keeps lying at the back of your closet because you don’t like the colour. But there are

Illustration: Medha Dhall, AIS Saket, XI F



days you feel sorry for it. Let’s put it on and be a kind person.

**Your brain randomly remembers embarrassing things that happened years ago.** You’re just lying down, minding your own business, maybe trying to get to sleep and WHAM! Your brain decided to casually throw memories at you that make you cringe. Warning: Overload of feelings of embarrassment.

**The feeling of utter embarrassment when you hear a recording of your voice.** “I don’t really sound like that, do I?” you think listening to the voice that sounded pretty much like a cross between a walrus and a buffalo with a bad case of pneumonia. You feel like hibernating when they say that you actually sound like that.

**When the door of your room is slightly open and it irritates you beyond comprehension.** And then you try to close the door using the Force. You finally have to admit defeat, get out of our cosy blanket and slam the door shut because you want everyone to hear the sound of your exasperation.

Can’t relate? Error 404: Feelings not found.

Graphic: Adrija Tripathi, AIS Saket, XI D



## Anybody can write

Trying to save the literary kingdom from downfall by Shakespeares of the WhatsApp era

Himadri Seth, AIS Saket, IX B

It appears to be the era of writing, as with the numerous blogs, story sharing sites, Kik, Tumblr, and the omnipresent WhatsApp; everyone is unleashing the hidden writer sleeping inside them. The opportunity has even led people into believing that ‘IDK, lol, Imma cool lyk that’ are also master literary pieces. Because, after all, voicing one’s opinions and penning down one’s ideas is what writing is all about, right? Not really. Here are some basic errors that mark the difference between what we consider ‘good’ and ‘bleh’ articles.

### Arduous palaver

For a writer, the first priority must be to make sure that what he writes makes an impact on his readers and that just does not happen when one has to sit there with a dictionary. Many writers write bright, witty intros but then spoil their story by overloading the rest of it with long, puzzling words and complicated grammatical constructions. This is done to ‘impress’ the readers but it ends up causing discontinuation in reading with words that make you want to tear your hair out of your head. “He coughed out the metallic tasting life support liquid.” You meant blood? Right?

### Recurrence of repetition

Are you familiar with that feeling when your friend repeats a story he has already shared, twice? Boring, isn’t it? Same applies to writing. Repetition indicates that the writer has ran out of his ‘creative supply’ and has built a mental shrine for the muses above. The recurrence of content is can be allowed in poems and speeches to emphasise on the theme. However, it’s a big ‘no-no’ for stories. “I, Mojo Jojo, am your master, and you shall obey my commands like the dogs you are! Because I am your master, it is I who you will obey!” Repetition much?

### Is this okay?

So they might be telling you of some great incident of the past, then they are sidetracked to another topic and finally they settle at fish and chips and you, the reader, are left with one question, “Wait what?” You asked for Drake and got Baba Sehgal. You did not sign up for that! “Hitler was the dictator of Germany during the Second World War, but did you know he was also an artist? Art reminds me of Mona Lisa which is one of the finest pieces of artwork ever! Her expression is neutral and one can’t decide whether she’s smiling or frowning. This is totally what Kristen Stewart does...” Conclusion: Stewart is a Nazi reptile.

## From A, B, C, to α, β, γ

As caterpillars turn into butterflies, they witness changes manifold. For the ones at school, these changes come through the most indispensable objects of their being; from bags to lunchboxes. Devyani Goel, AIS Saket, X B, presents the change.

### From 10 pencils to a refill

Ever noticed how all 6 year olds seem to be carrying pencil boxes that take up half the space in their bags? It has everything- from pencils to scales to erasers that smell like bananas. Showcasing a smiling Cinderella on the top, some versions even have a built-in compass (don’t ask why; nobody knows). And then, you realise that you don’t actually have to carry the entirety of your glitter pens’ collection to school everyday and Cinderella is replaced by football teams’ logos and solid colours. Every V grader has the essentials- 2 blue pens, 1 black pen, a couple of pencils, a scale, an eraser, and a glue-stick if there’s a UT that day. By the time the kids reach Class XII they’ve given up on the whole concept of preparedness, and borrowed pen refills are

carried around in pockets. An eraser is an alien object, and how dare you ask them

about something as trivial as a pencil when they have 5 notebooks to submit in the next 24 hours?

### From the tie in place to untied hair

With their shirts freshly ironed and skirts perfectly pleated, little kids are all picture perfect. Their hair is neat and nails are proper and of course, how can we forget the handkerchief pinned to their pocket with only the cutest safety pins available in the market? As time passes, uniforms get gradually more unruly. Shirts start coming undone, shoes start getting dirty and hair starts defying gravity. By the time one reaches Class X, belts are long gone, ties are lost and seeing a top button closed is next to impossible. And any twelfthie who claims to have never worn pink socks to schools should be taken with a pinch (or a box) of salt.

### From fancy sandwiches to anything

In the beginning, tiffin boxes are filled with something new everyday of the week and small containers carry chocolate bourbons and *kaju ki barfis*. Don’t wish to part with biscuits you saved to eat at the end? Just say that your mum doesn’t allow you to share food and boom, no one will ask ever again. Or at least till someone comes up with the classroom barter system, where one Oreo is worth two plain biscuits and all disputes are solved by ‘rock-paper-scissors’. Eventually, the contents of your tiffin start disappearing before lunch break while you eat someone else’s pasta and 11:15 am is accompanied by trips to the canteen. After all, when will that guy-you-said-hi-to-once-in-4th come in use? And if you’re all out of distant acquaintances, remember- someone’s birthday is just around, and they are therefore obliged to treat half the school to ice cream 🍦

Pic: Ragini Mathur, AIS Saket, XI F







# Leaders & leadership

*"The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence."*

-Denis Waitley



Dr Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

Leaders are not born; they are made, with hard work, perseverance and dedication. A leader is not just someone who expects his followers to do as he commands. Rather, he is someone who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way. Being the leader is a great accomplishment. However, leadership comes with a set of roles and responsibilities. Besides walking the path and leading the way forward, all leaders have five roles in common. A leader is a communicator. S/he needs to reach out to the team members, convey the tasks that need to be accomplished in the most effective way. To be an effective communicator, a leader must be a good listener, too. A leader is a thinker, s/he must have a vision. S/he should understand the core values of the organisation and work towards upholding its ideals. A leader is a decision maker; s/he should know how to perform under pressure, identify problems and provide effective solutions. A leader is a team builder; s/he must know the strengths and weaknesses of each member, should allocate responsibilities and empower them. Most of all, a leader is an ethical image builder; s/he shoulders the responsibility of demonstrating an image of fairness and integrity besides setting extraordinary standards of performance. While, being a member of the student council brings unparalleled thrill and joy, it is a position vested with great prestige and responsibility. The top story of this edition encapsulates the journey to the student council; a journey of passion, commitment, power and responsibility. A responsibility, I'm convinced my Amitians are fully capable of shouldering. 🇮🇳

## Sage for GT



Divya Bhatia  
Principal, AIS Saket

February is named after the Latin term februum, which means purification. I greet you in the beginning of the shortest, yet the most celebrated month in the year. February heralds the beginning of spring, new hope and love. There couldn't have been a

better time for the school's contest edition, a product of the budding and blooming talent encompassed by Amity.

Our Chairperson, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, often tells us the story of the three Brahmins who offer a choice of love, wealth or happiness to the members of a family, love wins over the rest because where there is love, happiness and wealth are sure to follow.

At Amity, under the guidance of our Founder President and Chairperson, students are taught to take pride in their culture and value system. The serenity of havans, the mosaic of special assemblies, the array of activities instilling in the students the fundamentals of the rich, varied and vibrant culture are all intricately woven in the academic calendar. The cover story, a reminder of the Amity values is based on the disappointments and happiness, achievements and joy of the students as they step into the role of responsibility as members of the student council. This edition is the palette of colours presented with a delicious mix of beautifully written articles which are sure to keep you entertained. A special word of congratulations to the entire editorial team for their commendable work. 🇮🇳

Published and Printed by Mr R.R. Aiyar on behalf of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan from E-26, Defence Colony, New Delhi 110024 and printed from HT Media Ltd, B-2, Sec 63, Noida (UP). Editor Ms Vira Sharma.  
■ Edition: Vol 8, Issue 4 ■ RNI No. DELENG / 2009 / 30258. Both for free distribution and annual subscription of ₹ 800.

Opinions expressed in GT articles are of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors or publishers. While the editors do their utmost to verify information published, they do not accept responsibility for its absolute accuracy. Published for the period February 8-14, 2016

# I am us

The recent acts of violence and havoc have definitely given us a lot to think and ponder upon. But are we all lost causes, or are there some who can restore our faith?

Anushka Barthwal & Himangi Bhawsingka  
AIS Saket, XI F

A candle lit, a march on the streets. A tear shed, a mother wept. Countless debates have been spoken, innumerable arguments have been presented. Yet, the madness continues. The past year has been a tumultuous one. We were shell-shocked by the carnages executed by terrorist organisations all over the world. And while we prayed for a moment, we soon went back to our lives. Be it the Gujarat Riots or 9/11, be it the Dadri lynching or attacks in Syria, it was the people who killed, and not guns. And somehow, we forgot humanity when it was needed the most. Nevertheless, every cloud comes with a silver lining. While some betrayed mankind, some resurged



Perspective

as messiahs and saviours. Like Grace Beryl Caroline, who is trying to restore the livelihood of those affected in the Chennai floods that uprooted thousands of lives. She is also trying to provide books and other stationary items to those children who have lost their means of education in the overflow. Safer, an Algerian Muslim helped two women who were hurt in the Paris attacks, the perpetrators of which were propagators of Islamic State who claimed to fight for Islam. However, Muslim students in Paris, openly condemned these actions. Sometimes, brotherhood and fraternity does not need a force of nature or brute violence to resurface. In a small town in Ludhiana, called Nathowal, Hindus and Sikhs have come together to help their Muslim neighbours rebuild a mosque. Of the Rs 25 lakh invested in the project, around Rs 15 lakh have been

contributed by Sikhs and Hindus. Humanity surfaced yet again as Jews, Muslims and Sikhs in Montreal, joined hands to celebrate Christmas in a special way. Over 300 homeless people were provided hot holiday meals by members of different faiths. They believe that the festival is all about sharing and hence, they rose above their religion to help the needy. The year 2015, which has gone by has been a tumultuous one for all indeed. We have cried together and laughed together. We have grieved as one and rejoiced as one. But we rose again, uncut. And perhaps that is what humanity is all about. To expect a world undivided and untarnished by the pangs of evil is like expecting a finite universe. It is not only impractical, it is impossible. What we can do however, is ride out the tide with determination to emerge assimilated on the other side. 🇮🇳

# Fault in our bucket list

Deep buckets and shallow promises... is this what it has come down to?

Shobhit Ranjan, AIS Saket, XI C

Filling water in buckets is old school; now we fill our buckets with life goals & call it a 'Bucket List'. A Bucket List is called so because it refers to the to-do list of things one has to complete before kicking the figurative bucket. Since everyone has a bucket list, the result is weird buckets in all shapes and sizes. Now, there is a 'summer bucket', 'winter bucket', 'red bucket', yellow bucket' et al. But a peep inside these buckets, and we realise that all of them are the same; narrow in their contents. "Visiting Vegas" or "Going bungee jumping" are some of the most popular points found in most buckets. Bucket lists come in a prototype, and anything

outside that particular prototype won't be called a bucket list to begin with. It would turn into a so-called preachy Nobel Prize winning speech. They may be called buckets, but the superficiality of the desires they are filled with turns them into a mere

Illustration: Asmita Chakraborty, AIS Saket, X B



katora. It is nice to have a bucket list, but they are increasingly becoming about 'I, me and myself'? They are now a way of commercializing actions that triggered satisfaction. While having bucket lists is a pleasant way to keep track of your aims, they do not just have to be about your goals and desires. They can also be linked to something that is an improvement for the whole world. Now this doesn't mean that you stop counting things that make you happy, but try correlating them with something good you can do.

Want to visit the Amazon rain forest? Great; but be sure to plant a tree back home. Want to have your own dog? Adopt a street mongrel. Want to buy your own house? Be sure to make it green. So pull out your bucket and see how they can inspire you to do for the world. 🇮🇳

## Little pearls of wisdom

# You're not alone

Gauri Srinivas, AIS Saket, XI F

I read something on Tumblr a while ago. An anonymous person asked a blogger what would it feel like to be gone, because they felt ready to go. The reply touched my heart. The blogger talked about how your mother would feel when she found you laying lifelessly, never to wake up again. They talked about how it would shatter your family, and how your best friend's world would collapse. They talked about how everyone's life that you've touched in any way, would be completely altered if you were not there. The crux of their answer was- you matter. No matter how meaningless your life seems right now, and even if your parents scold you and look disappointed, it doesn't mean they don't love you. And this is not to put pressure on you to stay alive because you'll hurt people. I'm just trying to emphasise that you're valuable, to me, to your

family, your friends and that girl you once helped. You're valuable because the blood in your veins is ichor and it deserves to stay alive, and not be a dried up stain on the carpet. You're alive and breathing, and you woke up today and had that shower and ate that toast. And I'm proud of you for that. And I want you to know that life gets better. Life does create tough situations and keeps the doors closed. But those doors will open one day. You may not have any direction right now, so why not use this time to introspect and take care of yourself because you weren't able to do that before. Use this stillness to think about your past and what you did wrong, and think about your future and what you plan to do right. Think about yourself and know that you are important and you will change the world in ways that may or may not be visible, but they will still be real. Think about yourself. Carry on. For me. For yourself. You're not alone.

Illustration: Amrita Bindra, AIS Saket, XI D



## The Feb Fervour



Debjani Das  
GT Teacher Coordinator

"Write until it becomes as natural as breathing. Write until not writing makes

you anxious."

The February sunshine ushered with its golden rays the spring of writing. Iridescent creative sparks were noticed, embers stirred-fire blazed and the Saket GT contest edition bloomed. Believe me, this unique creative mission of crystallising the contest edition is an enriching multi-sensory experience. It's not masquerading knowledge and learning through mundane pedagogy. It is a novel encounter- it is the high alchemy of the soul that combines words and ideas to create magic. Indeed, it was a Herculean task with ideas to brainstorm, topics to research, illustrations to embellish and of course, the whooshing sound of deadlines to meet. Today, as the students work at the editorial desk for the final draft and I leaf through every page, the aroma of memories waft in and out. Hope we've carried our February fervour through all the creative inputs of this issue and you will enjoy its magic.





# Cryptid creepers

Remember the blue eyed-horse with wings of an eagle and the body of a fish that you saw in cartoons? These cryptids are quite close to those childhood imaginations; except that they maybe for real



**Cryptid:** Mothman

**Semblance:** It is a humanoid, with the size larger than an average person with glowing red eyes and brown wings.

**Sighting evidence:** It was first seen near Clendenin, West Virginia, when a group of five men who were preparing a grave for a burial saw a brown human shape with wings, lifted off from behind them and fly over their heads.

**Cryptid:** El Chupacabra

**Semblance:** The name which literally means 'goat sucker', is said to be a reptile-like creature, with leathery or scaly greenish-gray skin and sharp spines or quills running down its back.

**Suspected evidence:** When goats and chickens started turning up dead with blood drained out in Puerto Rico in the 1990s.

**Cryptid:** Yeti

**Semblance:** The legendary abominable snowman of the Himalayas is an overlarge hairy ape-like creature who is very shy and likes to stay away from humans.

**Archaeological evidence:** The most famous evidence is a 'scalp' found in a Buddhist monastery in Tibet.

**Cryptid is an animal whose existence or survival is disputed or unsubstantiated.**

**Cryptid:** Loch Ness Monster aka Nessie

**Semblance:** A reptilian creature with an eel-like head and flippers. Said to be a descendent of the dinosaurs.

**Clicking evidence:** Resident of Loch Ness, a lake in the Scottish highlands; the popularity of this mythical creature stems from the immensity of evidence such as photographs and the timelessness of the tale.

**Cryptid:** Jersey devil


**Semblance:** Emitting a 'blood curdling scream, Jersey devil is a flying biped with hooves. With a kangaroo like body, head of a goat, bat like wings, small arms with talons, hooved hind feet and a forked tail, this creature left everybody intrigued.

**Popular evidence:** The Jersey Devil is a legendary cryptid said to inhabit Pine Barrens of southern New Jersey, USA and is popular lore in the area.



Illustration: Asmita Chakraborty, AIS Saket, X B

Storywala



Asmita Chakraborty  
AIS Saket, X B

Catching the train

It was my second year at boarding school and I was sitting on the platform waiting for my train to Dehradun, my hometown. I was sent to Delhi for studies, a buzzing metropolis where days and nights passed so soon. My family had to suddenly go to Haridwar and so I had to spend the night alone. I had been pacing up and down the platform browsing through bookstalls, reading articles

on murders and mystery. As soon as the train arrived, the platform was an inferno of heaving, shouting, agitated, human bodies. I struggled to find my seat.

Arrival

The rain was cold and the wind came tearing down the mountain passing with tremendous force. When I stood at the station Khan *chacha* was there to receive me. He had been our family’s caretaker since we moved to Dehradun. That night when I lay down after the long journey, I suddenly heard a spine chilling scream.

The fragrance kept following me. I somehow reached home and shivered all night.

After repeated shouts for help, I unbolted the house gate, took a candle started walking in the direction of the sound.

Dark Night

It was a wild night, trees lashing themselves in frenzy. A few drops of rain dropped, thunder over the nearby mountains. Loneliness stretched ahead of me. I proceeded to the old warehouse which remained locked for years. I couldn’t find anyone nearby. But as I approached the middle of the woods I caught a glimpse of someone walking in the dark. A sweet smell of wild Delphinium flowers filled the air. This was the same fragrance I could smell every time Khan *chacha* was around. I asked “Is that you *chacha*?”A girl replied, “Do you know the way to the warehouse?” The moment I saw her face I stood still in shock and then started running, never bothering to looking back. It was a familiar face. It was Khan *Chacha*’s daughter who committed suicide after being harassed for dowry a week ago. The fragrance kept following me. I somehow reached home and shivered all night.

Dawn

At dawn my mother was the first to find me in that condition. She said “We should have postponed our trip to Haridwar for Khan’s funeral.” I felt heavy. Khan *chacha* was murdered at the warehouse, protesting for her daughter, adowry victim. My heart was beating. What I encountered last night were two wandering souls in one, still seeking justice. As the first sunrays seeped through the windows; the slow wind chanted a dirge and the fragrance of delphinium swept inside the house.

Sonali Chitkara  
AIS Saket, X A

Ingredients

For popcorn

Butter .....2 tsp  
Peanut oil .....3 tsp  
Popcorn kernels .....2/3 cup  
Salt .....to taste

For cinna-sugar popcorn

Popped popcorn .....8 to 10 cups  
Butter(melted ) .....2 to 3 tsp  
Cinnamon powder .....1 tsp  
Sugar .....to taste

For spicy pepper flake popcorn

Popped popcorn .....8 to 10 cups  
Butter(melted ) .....2 to 3 tsp  
Paprika.....½ tsp  
Red pepper flakes.....1 tsp

For cookie- cream popcorn

Popped popcorn .....8 to 10 cups  
Oreo biscuits (crushed) .....12

Method

Popcorn

Heat oil in a saucepan or a pot with

lid and set over medium-high heat.  
Pour in popcorn kernels and sprinkle salt in the pan.  
Add butter to the pan and cover with the lid.  
As soon as the kernels start to pop, shake the pan with the lid in place, so that the kernels pop properly.  
Pour the popcorns in a bowl and season with salt if desired.

Cinna -Sugar popcorn

In a small bowl, combine melted butter, cinnamon powder and sugar.  
Pour the entire mixture over popped popcorn and toss to combine.


Spicy pepper flake popcorn

In a large bowl combine popped popcorn with melted butter, paprika and red pepper flakes and toss to combine.

Cookies and Cream Popcorn

Add the popped popcorn with crushed Oreo biscuits in a bowl.  
Mix it well so that the cream is evenly distributed.

Pic: Sonali Chitkara, AIS Saket, X A



Sonali with her popcorn

Flavouresque popcorns


WORDS VERSE

Pic: Ragini Mathur, XI F; Model: Nitya Sehgal, XI F; AIS Saket

A writer’s block

Habeeb Tehseen, AIS Saket, XI F

I scratch my head, tap the glass  
Gaze into the dark, remember the past  
The hours and seconds move on the clock  
I'm sure as hell, I have a writer's block  
  
It started as a vague thing I grasped  
But somehow through my fingers it passed  
I missed it once and I missed it twice  
It's morning again and now I've missed it thrice  
  
As for the idea, one can only speculate  
Was it good or bad, excellent or great?  
I think it was about a rainy day  
In a small town, in the end of May  
  
I wonder if it were tragic or happy  
Was it romantic, or just downright sappy?



Did it have a shop, where they sold books?  
Did it have the police, did it have crooks?  
  
Did it have a park, where I could walk?  
Did it have a phone, over which I could talk?  
I wish to hell that I could remember what I thought  
But alas, sans ideas, I have a writer's block.

DANCE AWAY

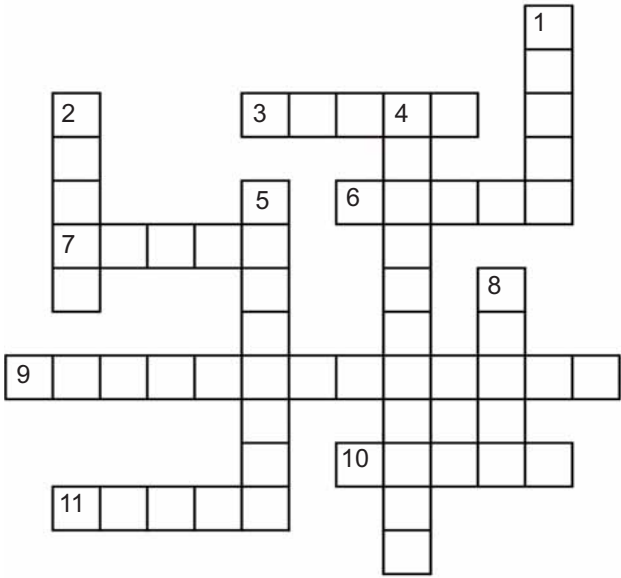
|Swetabh Changkakoti, AIS Saket, VIII A

Across


3. Mithun Chakraborty is known for  
6. This dance form rhymes with ‘Rambo’  
7. This dance goes great with spicy tortilla chips  
9. This line dance was set to Marcia Griffiths’ song “Electric Boogie”  
10. This long row of people have no connection to that river in Africa  
11. This dance is a mixture of African and Cuban

Down

1. It takes two to  
2. This 1960’s dance is a great workout for your waist and hips  
4. They were all over this dance in South Carolina back in the day  
5. This one hit wonder 90s dance has nothing to do with pasta  
8. Found on playground as well as in the 1930’s




Answers: Across: 3.Disco 6. Mambo 7.Salsa 9. Electric slide 10.Conga 11.Rumba  
Down: 1.Tango 2.Twist 4.Charlestone 5.Macarena 8.Swing




CAMERA CAPERS


Parth Monish Kohli, AIS Saket, X C




Crane in the rain



Fly me to the Moon



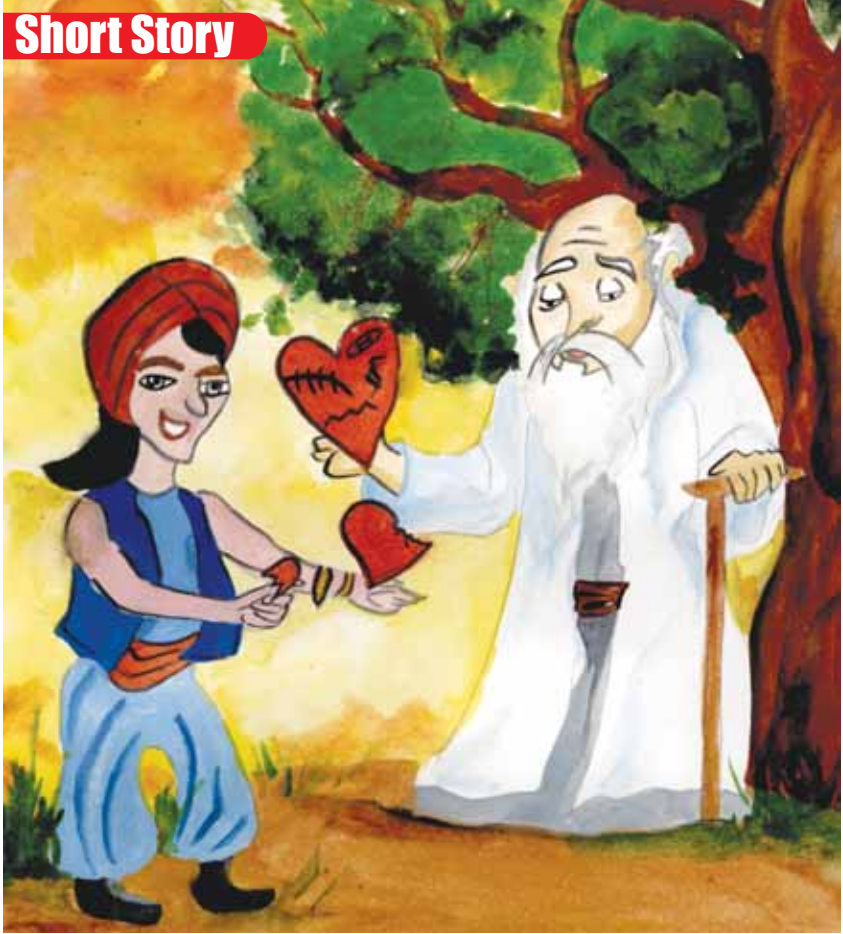
Alvin going nuts





# The scar of the heart

Illustration: Nitya Sehgal, AIS Saket, XI F



Nitya Sharma, AIS Saket, III A

[In a heavily crowded place]  
A young man (shouting): Look at me. I have the world's most beautiful heart.  
\*People were stunned and mesmerised to see his flawless heart in perfect shape.\*

[From the crowd]  
An old man: No, my son. I have the most beautiful heart in this world.  
Young man (Astonished): If that is true, then you must show us your heart.  
Old man: I will show you my heart. (His heart, however, had scars all over. It was not in shape.)

Each scar represents the love that I have shared with others. When I share love, I get the same in return.

Young man (laughing loudly): Are you mad? Look at my heart, you cannot find even a bit of imperfection in it.  
Old man: Dear boy, do you see these scars? Each scar represents the love that I have shared with others. When I share love, I give away a piece of my heart. I get the same love in return and I fix the broken places with the pieces I get from others. Sometimes, I do not get back the love I give to others. Hence, the piece does not resemble what I gave away. Hence, my heart is full of uneven edges. So where do you see the real beauty? You heart has no scars. It indicates that you have never shared your love with anybody, have you?  
(The young man stood still, with tears rolling down his cheeks. He walked towards the old man, tore a piece of his heart and gave it to the man with the most beautiful heart. Everyone in the crowd was crying by now.)

So what did you learn today?  
A new word: Mesmerised  
Meaning: Captivate

## POEM

### Little Alaska

Ashmit Bhardwaj  
AIS Saket, V B

When I went down town strolling  
I saw a snowball rolling

It was big and fluffy, wooly and wide  
Ran and ran from side to side

I watched it tumble  
Down the slippery street

Illustration: Amrita Bindra, AIS Saket, XI D



I followed it over the road  
And then across the wintery board

Panting and panting I stopped right by  
And ended up as a broken toy

Later when the dog turned around to me  
I struck my head to go and see

Finally he showed his real looks  
I saw his blue eyes in a glittery look

After all this running and effort it took  
I went to it and there I stood

It's body made of stone  
I ended up to be alone.



Madhav with his recipe Nutella mousse

## 2 ingredient recipes

Madhav Sharma, AIS Saket, V C

### Ingredients

#### Nutella mousse

Cream .....2 cups  
Nutella .....1 cup

#### Cheese Crisps

Corn chips (Nachos) .....2 cups  
Cheese (grated) .....2 1/2 cups

#### Dates and oats energy bar

Pitted dates .....3 cups  
Oats .....3 cups

### Method

#### For Nutella mousse

- In a bowl, beat the cream until it is light and fluffy.
- Then add Nutella and continue to beat until thoroughly mixed.
- Pour into individual serving bowls.
- Chill for 6 hours or overnight.
- Enjoy your delicious nutella mousse with your family.

#### For Cheese Crisps

- Preheat oven at 220°C.
- Place corn chips in a food processor and churn it until it turns into coarse crumbs.

- Empty it into a bowl and add cheese.
- Mix the ingredients well.
- Place this in a baking tray lined with butter paper. Bake for 5 minutes in the oven.
- Cut the cheese crisps into desired shape when warm.
- Let them cool down completely before serving.
- Serve with the dip of your choice.

#### For Dates and Oats Energy Bars

- Place dates into a food processor and process until it has a jam-like consistency. Add a little hot water if required.
- Add oats, one cup at a time, until it's all incorporated and the mix starts to thicken.
- In a flat tray line baking paper and pour the mixture into it. Flatten with spatula.
- Sprinkle oats on top of it and freeze for 1-2 hours.
- Cut into fingers and garnish coat it with extra oats.
- Wrap individual fingers in baking paper and store them in an airtight container.



Enjoy these easy to make recipes with your family and friends.

### It's Me

**My name:** Panna Tiwari  
**My Class:** Nursery A  
**My school:** AIS Saket  
**My birthday:** November 1  
**I like:** Cartoons  
**My hobbies:** Climbing, running and dancing  
**My role model:** Mahatma Gandhi  
**My best friend:** Niya  
**My favourite game:** Hide and seek  
**My favourite food:** Noodles  
**My favourite teacher:** Ritu ma'am and Kanika ma'am  
**My favourite book:** The very hungry caterpillar  
**My favourite poem:** Row your boat  
**My favourite mall:** Select CityWalk  
**I want to become:** An explorer like 'Dora'  
**I want to feature in GT because:** I love my school and friends.



## LET'S PLAY

Prisha Dubey  
AIS Saket, IV C

### START

#### How to play

Throw the dice and move your counter as per the number on it.

Follow the instructions on the square.

In case, you are unable to, go one step backward.

Reach the happy guy to win the game.



1. Describe yourself in 40 seconds.

2. Count till 100 in 50 seconds.

3. You're late today! Miss a turn!

4. Run and get your favourite toy in 1 minute.

5. Traffic! Miss a turn!

6. Answer this: Name two things you can't eat for breakfast.

7. Say five adjectives for pen in 20 seconds.

8. Go back two spaces!

9. Share a joke.

### FINISH!



19. Act like your favourite superhero.

20. Dance on one leg.

21. Describe your best friend.

22. You're late! Miss a turn!

23. Smile! You're just a step away!

10. Mention five amazing thing about your last holiday.

11. Oops! Miss a turn!

12. Draw a pizza in 30 seconds.

13. Touch your nose with the tip of your tongue

14. Sing a song.

15. Sleeping! Miss a turn!

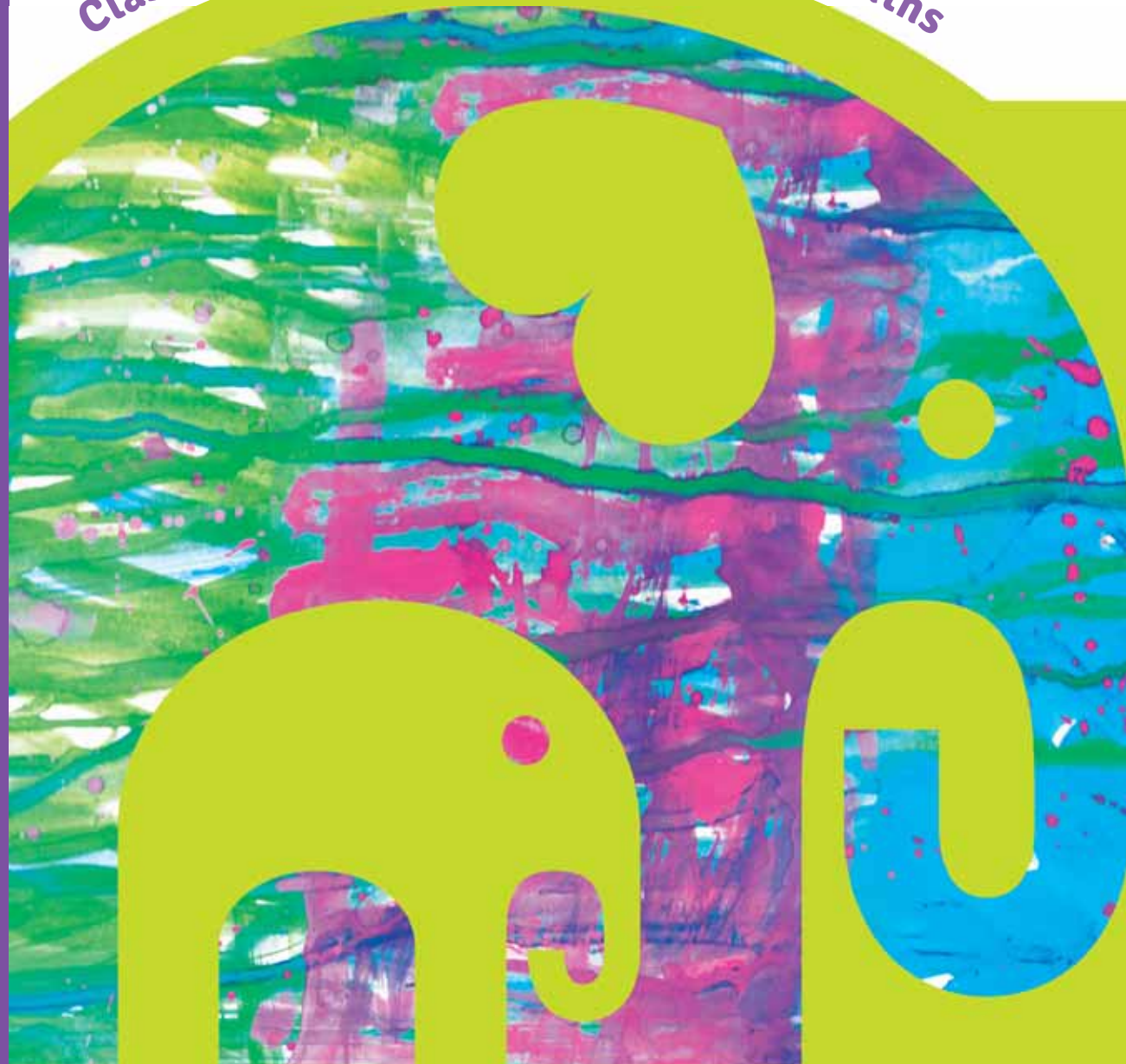
16. List five things you love to do.

17. Describe any book in 3 words.

18. Go back three spaces.



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“Getting first hand experience at university level by interacting with new people who hold similar interests differentiated Amity University Summer School from other programmes.”

**Vanshree Mathur**  
Podar International School, Mumbai



“At Amity University Summer School, the faculty was very supportive and student-friendly. Also, the practical experience of working in a news studio was very exciting.”

**Mishka Jaiswal**  
Convent of Jesus and Mary, New Delhi



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- **Course Fees:** ₹ 9,000/- (Fees subsidized by Amity Youth Foundation)
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So much love. Signing off!.

**Anushka Barthwal**, AIS Saket, XI F, Page Editor

Contest Edition



Pic: Ragini Mathur, AIS Saket, XI F  
Model: Divam Nangia, AIS Saket, VIII C  
Illustration : Amrita Bindra, AIS Saket, XI C

Poor Mihir had to go through three rounds of plastic surgeries and two rebirths; all in one life (of a soap). Courtesy: a writer who ran out of ideas, but was determined to make it to the 100000th episode

**Adrija Tripathi**  
AIS Saket, XI D

Prime-time Indian television is known for many things, except sensible content. Show-runners have achieved the impossible, ie coming up with thousand shows (all of which are the same), each with a gazillion episodes that STILL grab TRPs. We take a look on the most “iconic” ways these soapias become immortal, or at least unshakable.

### Videography

This is basically how the camera zooms into the actor’s face and then zooms out and pans around, to show the shocked faces of everyone present in the room. Then, there are times when the camera revolves around the beloved *bahu* and the conspirational *saas* enough times to make you feel dizzy.

“Gopi bahu zara chai laana!” “Ji maaji” \*returns with teacup\* \*cup falls down\* [Shocked Kokila behn] [Shocked Gopi bahu] [Shocked family pet]

### Absurd plots

The show originally starts out following what was their original plan. Since the characters can’t indefinitely keep trying to solve the first problem; the shows goes off to another direction. This keeps happening till the storyline doesn’t make any sense.

“In tonight’s episode we will see Roli return after taking the spoon from Simar. But she bumps into Jhanvi and the spoon falls into muck. Will Jhanvi notice the spoon?”

### Festivals

If the storywriter runs out of ideas, there are always festivals nearby to extend the story a little more. Even if there aren’t any festivals, there can be unannounced birthdays and anniversaries of anybody in the 40 member joint family. And the celebrations always run for more than a month. So, when TV Diwali celebrations end, it’s literally New Year’s Eve. “Akshara aaj se teej ki taiyari chalu kardo, phir kal se Navratri ki, phir Sheru ke birthday ki.”

### Time leaps

When all else fails, there is bound to be a time leap which can range from 6 months to 20 years. Sometimes the time leaps happen so often that if you try keeping count of the year the serial is set in, your brain will give up and cover itself beneath a migraine. If one assumes correctly ‘Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi’ was ultimately set in the year 2050.

“Baa apne par-par-par-par-par pote ko dekho, bilkul aapki tarah dikhta hai!”

Illustrations: Nitya Sehgal, AIS Saket, XI F

# I think, I think too much...

What if I’m judged for the headline? What if I am being watched by the President? What if I am live on TV? What if...

**Ria Chopra**, AIS Saket, XI F

**T**ed up (v) – To overthink or over-analyse.  
Ted out (v) – To overthink or over-analyse, with disastrous consequences. Used in the TV series ‘How I Met Your Mother’, these verb forms are derived from the name of the protagonist, Ted Mosby. Many people suffer from this internationally recognised and serious psychological disorder- ‘overthinking’. But what exactly goes on in the head of someone who is constantly plagued by the attacks of improbable but very scary thoughts? Read on to find out!

**You have a missed call from your teacher and a message saying ‘Call me back ASAP’.**

**Mental scenario 1:** Your teacher has finally realised that your notebook does not exist and you’re going to get yelled at, so bad.

**Mental scenario 2:** Your teacher is being kidnapped and wants you to call the goons and tell them that you will kill them.

**Mental scenario 3:** She misses your charming voice and wants to say hello!

**You were having a perfectly good conversation with someone (an attractive someone) over text and now they’ve seen your message but are not replying.**

**Mental scenario 1:** Maybe they’re busy and will reply soon. Oh wait, what if they want me to think that they are busy, but actually they aren’t.

**Mental scenario 2:** What if my message was so dazzling that they fainted by its sheer spectacular brilliance?

**Mental scenario 3:** They have been taken hostage by extra-terrestrial creatures. You will never see them again. Goodbye, soulmate.

**You’re at a party and a person you don’t really like compliments your outfit.**

**Mental scenario 1:** Miracle of miracles! They’ve finally decided to accept your awesomeness.

**Mental scenario 2:** Wait.

Did they just... compliment you? Impossible. Their mind must have been taken over by aliens or monsters.

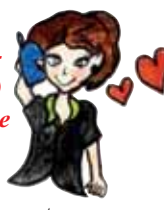
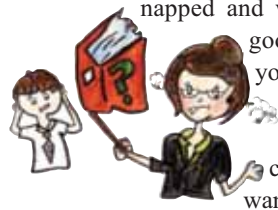
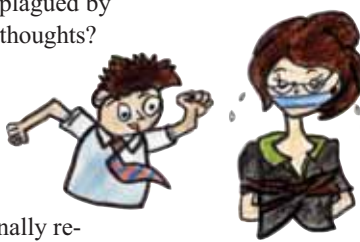
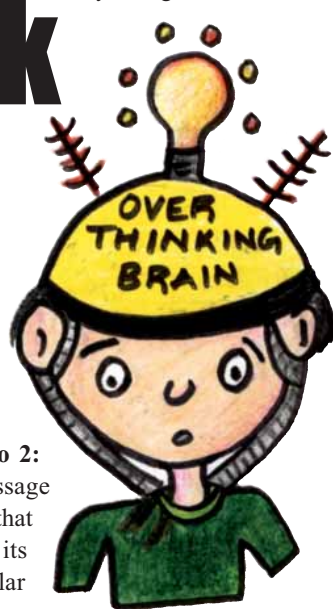
**Mental scenario 3:** Maybe this is their trick. Compliment you and get into your good graces and slowly poison everyone against you.

**You’re writing an article for GT.**

**Mental scenario 1:** Will anybody get my wit and subtle humour or will they just think this article is about 500 words of rubbish?

**Mental scenario 2:** Is the headline okay? Should I add an extra exclamation mark?

**Mental scenario 3:** What if this article is really amazing and I win an award for it? But then if I go on stage, what if I trip and fall?



# Extrapolating the essence

**C**omplicated writing is the sworn enemy of every student and the best friend of every dictionary aficionado.

**Tarini Sharma**, AIS Saket, XI F, decodes the sentences that can chase your intellect to the precipice of entanglement or so to say, simply confuse

**What they say:** The callousness of your individual disposition is undeniably despondent.  
**What they mean:** You are very mean.

**What they say:** The hypocrisy of your trendiness is sociological and is always omniscient.  
**What they mean:** Log bohot snooty hote hain!

**What they say:** Marie regarded the beautiful Rosa rubifolia as the pinnacle of horticultural excellence.  
**What they mean:** Marie likes rose.

**What they say:** My innards snarled loudly, yearning

ing for ambrosia masquerading as sustenance.  
**What they mean:** I’m hungry and I want to eat.

**What they say:** Shall I compare thee to a scorching summer’s day?  
**What they mean:** You’re really hot.

**What they say:** Are you cognizant that your smouldering roll-ups may exacerbate your asthma?  
**What they mean:** You shouldn’t smoke.

**What they say:** I truly adulate the ephemeral chi of the stridency of confrontations entombed in my personal reminiscence.

**What they mean:** I love writing in my spare time.

**What they say:** With dismal cores, we now unfurl our penons to seize the culmination of this fictitious contrivance.

**What they mean:** Sadly, the article has come to an end.



Pic: Ragini Mathur, AIS Saket, XI F  
Models: Ananya Kathuria, VI A & Adyut Bose, VII A, AIS Saket