

The e-book revolution

From the crack of dawn, technology stirs us with its reliable alarms, and caresses us with the cooling breeze of our ACs as we drift off to sleep, weaving its wonders into our everyday lives. GT pays homage to this silent saviour that simplifies and enhances our existence with a brand new series, unwrapping A to Z of iconic tech pieces, one letter at a time. Here's presenting the **K** in this series that changed human life as we know and live it.

Saisha Gogia, AIS Saket, VIII C

The tech: Kindle
The inventor: Gregg Zehr

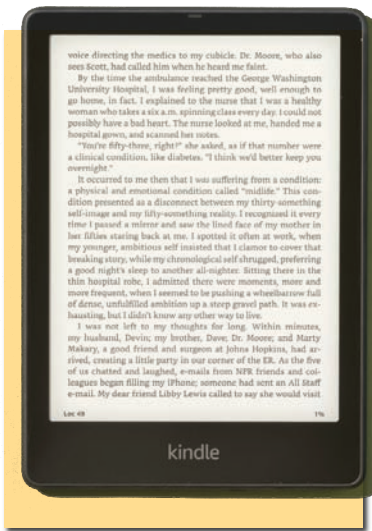
How was it invented?

In 2004, while looking for solutions to develop business in the digital arena in response to Apple's iPod, Amazon, one of the biggest online booksellers at the time, started to develop an e-reader device. Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, asked Lab126, an Amazon subsidiary, to come up

with such a device that would allow consumers to buy, download, and read online every possible book at a low price. It was originally developed under the codename 'Fiona', but was later renamed as 'Kindle', meaning to light a fire, by branding consultants Michael Cronan and Karin Hibma.

When did we get to know it first?

Amazon launched the 1st-generation Kindle in November 2007. The device had an asymmetric shape, a full-size keyboard, a white bezel, a dark 6-inch e-ink display, a headphone jack, and an SD card slot for expanding memory. Priced at around 399 USD, it also came with an internal storage of 250 MB, good enough for 200 medium-length books. Amazon also made around 90,000 books available for purchase and download upon its release, owing to which, the device was sold out within 5.5 hours of its release, providing an appealing and comfortable eBook reading experience to the buyers.



Why do we use it?

Kindle has completely revolutionised the way people read books. It provides a portable, convenient, and lightweight way to carry an extensive library of books in a single device. The look and feel of a paperback, a built-in dictionary, search functionality, wireless connectivity, and accessibility to thousands of titles are features unique only to Kindle. With multiple variants ranging from 6-inch displays to a 10.2-inch screen and even a Wacom stylus in some variants, it serves all kinds of readers. The device's battery life is long too, reducing the need for frequent charging. Additionally, Kindle's e-ink technology minimises eye strain, making it comfortable to use for extended reading sessions compared to traditional screens.

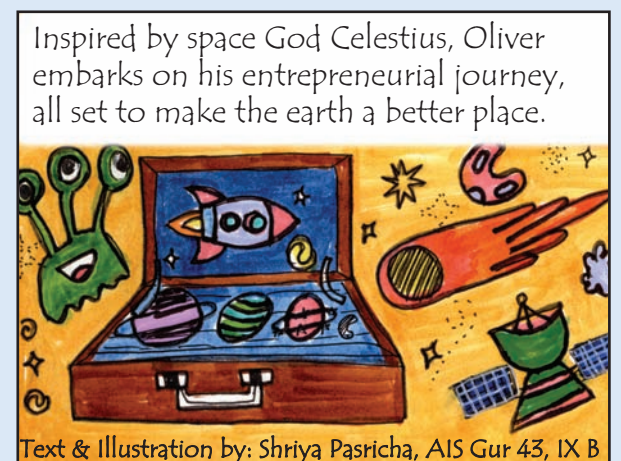
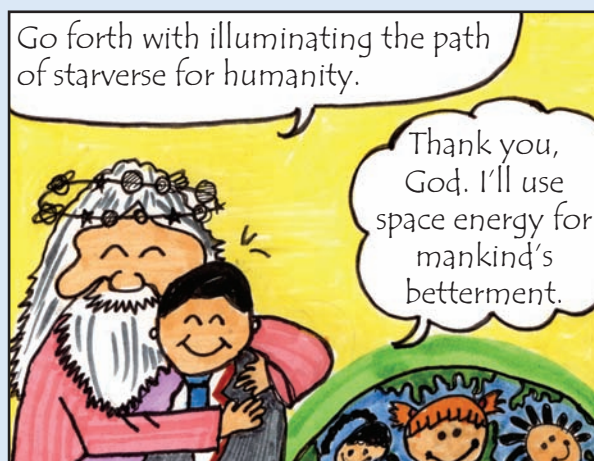
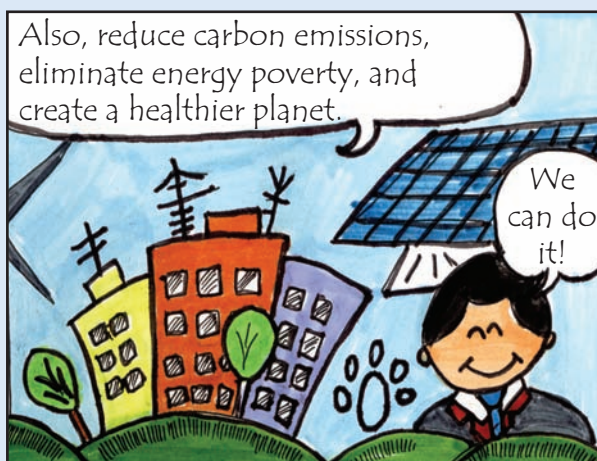
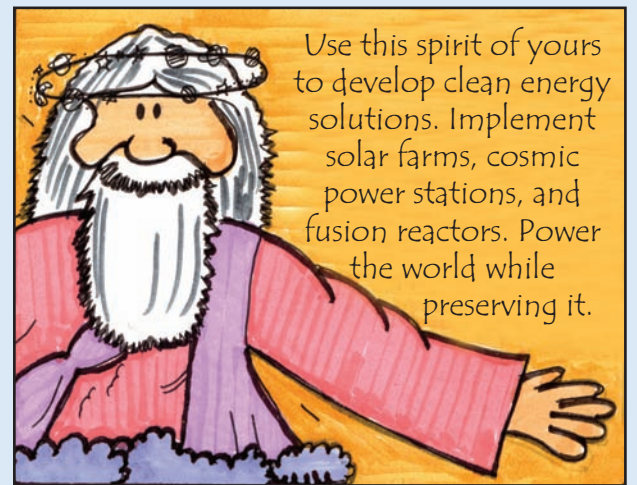
How has it helped our lives?

The device became popular among readers because Amazon stayed true to its original



Fun fact: A Kindle's display is made with millions of microscopic capsules that are filled with particles floating in a clear fluid which are covered with a thin film on top.

objective of encouraging people to read books. The extent is such that, today, more than 63% of eBook readers use Kindle, because it provides an optimal way to read books. Furthermore, by enabling independent writers to readily share their work with the world through Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing, Kindle has revolutionised publishing, too. If that wasn't enough, the Kindle app can be used on a variety of platforms and devices, allowing users to pick up where they left off when reading on whichever device they choose. So, if you read extensively, a Kindle is sure to make your reading experience seamless and enjoyable. [G](#) [I](#)



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