

Graphic: Pearl Sharma, AIS Mayur Vihar, X A



Fractions gone wrong

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Amay, a twelve-year-old boy with messy hair and a permanently puzzled expression, was often spotted scratching his head over his math homework. Fractions, decimals, word problems, no matter what it was, his notebook always ended up looking like a battlefield. With every passing day, his excuses for incomplete homework ran thinner, and the punishments from his teacher grew harsher. He had already used the classics...“My dog ate it,” “I left it at home,” and even “Aliens stole it.” But now, he was running dangerously low on creative excuses. One evening, while half-heartedly searching the internet for ‘easy math tricks’, a bright pop-up caught his eye: “An app to solve all your math problems in seconds!” His eyes widened. Finally! A saviour! “An app that can solve everything while I sit back and relax? This is it!” he whispered, adrenaline rushing through him.



Without a second thought, Amay downloaded it and pulled out his dreaded homework.

The first question was simple: “Simplify 12/18.” Amay typed it in and waited. The app chirped cheerfully, “Hello! Before we begin, did you know fractions were used by the ancient Egyptians? They even used pictures of birds!” Amay frowned. “Uh, no thanks. Just give me the answer.”

“The real answer,” the AI purred mysteriously, “lies deep within your soul.” Amay’s jaw dropped. He stared at his dog, Biscuit. “Forget Math homework, Biscuit. Just eat me instead.” Biscuit wagged his tail happily, as if that was the best idea he had heard all day.

Five minutes later, the AI was still blabbering about prime numbers and cracking jokes that weren’t even funny. In desperation, Amay video called his best friend Mike. “This app won’t shut up!” Amay groaned. Mike smirked. “Try bribing it. Maybe cookies work?” It sounded ridiculous but Amay was desperate. He dangled a

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chocolate cookie in front of the webcam. “Answer my question, and this cookie is all yours.” The AI hummed. “Tempting... but sugar is bad for my processors. Instead, how about I tell you a knock-knock joke?” “No!” Amay screamed, while Biscuit barked furiously at the laptop, as if siding with him. Minutes ticked by. Amay’s patience drained faster than his phone battery. Finally, he decided to try the last trick. “Okay, AI. I’ll pay you in Bitcoin if you stop messing around.” The app chuckled smugly. “Bitcoin? Sorry, I run on bits and bytes, not bitcoins. Also, I don’t like market volatility.” Amay collapsed on his desk, de-

feated. It was already 7:30 pm, just thirty minutes before the deadline. He groaned, shoved the app aside, and opened his crusty Math notebook. His only chance was to solve it himself.

The app, sensing defeat, finally surrendered. “Twelve over eighteen simplifies to two over three,” it announced calmly, as if it had solved the meaning of life. Amay scribbled the answer, stuffed the cookie in his mouth, and

vowed: never trust a flashy ad. Biscuit wagged his tail, clearly proud that his human had survived yet another Math battle.



Pic: Shantam Neogi, XII D | Model: Eshal Ahmad, XI C; AIS MV

Aadya Behl, AIS Mayur Vihar, IX A

I am the rear-view mirror inside a car
Whatever the distance, never getting far
Never an entity, never my own, but
Just a reflection on tempered chrome

They glance at me to see someone else
Never important, never seen as the best
I am looked at only to help them steer
A trivial tool to check, not one to revere

They search for the roads fading behind
But never pause to look for what is mine
I am a silent watcher, steady and near
And yet all they do is change the gear

Objects in the mirror are closer, they say
I wish they would notice me someday
I guess a mirror is all I am fated to be
Never the one they will truly get to see.

Poem



Read Play and Win 92

Reading your favourite GT can fetch you a prize too. Complete all the boxes below. Click a picture and send it to editor@theglobaltimes.in or submit your responses by visiting The Global Times website (<http://theglobaltimes.in/readplaywin/>). Three lucky winners will win a prize every week!



Q.1 What is the tagline of the top story on page 1?	Q.2 Who is narrating the autobiography on page 5?	Q.3 What is the name of Amay's dog in the short story 'Fractions gone wrong'?
Q.4 On which page can you find the poster on 'What happens when you download an app'?	Q.5 Which famous playback singer has been interviewed on page 3?	Q.6 What is the name of the product that has been advertised on page 4?
Q.7 Which mission is being planned on page 12?	Q.8 Who has conducted the ground reporting on page 10?	Q.9 Name the editor-in-chief of AIS Mayur Vihar.

Name:.....Class:.....School:.....
Results of Read Play & Win-91: **Vibhav Goyal**, AIS Gurugram 46, IV H; **Avant Jain**, AIS Gurugram 43, V E; **Drashti Singh** AIS Vasundhara 1, V B