

Tulika Banerji, ANN

"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers."

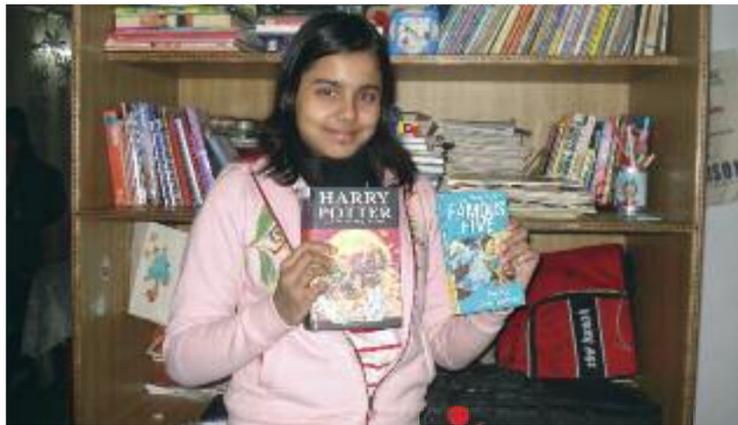
-Charles W. Eliot

When most kids her age while away their leisure hours on the telly or play stations, Ruchismita's reading habit has brought about life swinging changes. A swelling collection of Enid Blytons', Nancy Drews, Harry Potters and Booker winning 'The White Tiger'; Ruchismita Bhattacharjee of class IX, AIS Vasundhara, has a wide taste in literary works.

This, from someone, who was never really into books. "As a child, I didn't enjoy reading much, though everyone

A book that changed my life

in my family forced me to! Much later, when a friend gifted me Enid Blyton's 'Famous Five' on my 9th birthday, that's when the bookworm in me really got into action. I found that book so intriguing that I was completely hooked to reading more of its kinds!" Ruchismita candidly confesses. A voracious reader, she can devour a book from start to finish in a day's time, but consciously prevents herself from doing so, "I try hard not to finish a book in a day as then, I don't have anything left to do!" Ruchismita is now eagerly waiting to lay her hands on JK Rowling's 'Bee-dle, the Bard.' ●



What's your iZone

Are you special, are you fun?
Do you have something to astonish everyone?
Is it a swank collection or a room full of cars
Or fancy telescopes to check out the stars?
Is it a trendy corner that makes you proud?
Show it to the world, shout out aloud!
All you need to do is to make us a call
Share your coolest hobby with one and all...
GT Reporters will check out your show
It's about time to let the whole world know!

Is it a quirky pastime, a funky collection or a lip-smacking recipe—what is it that makes you cool among your gang; what is your I-Zone? Tell us about it before time runs out. Call us at 011-41888381 or email at tbanerji@amity.edu

To Kabul with love: Ruchismita with Hakima (Centre) and her brother



"I survived with a leg fracture"

If there's one book that truly changed Ruchismita's life, it has to be 'The Kite Runner' by Khaled Hosseini which talks about the plights of Afghan refugees. Miraculously, when a relative who was hospitalized, shared a room with a 17 year old Afghan girl Hakima, a victim of terror attacks in Afghanistan, she couldn't stop herself from befriending her. An interaction with Hakima that changed Ruchismita's life...

Where did you live in Afghanistan?

I lived in Kabul and studied in a girls' school 'Lesai Naswan Jui Bahar.'

What happened on the day when you were attacked?

The Governor and a minister were to visit the area near my school. My classmates

and I were made to stand at various points to honour them with flowers. As soon as the VIPs entered the boundary, a terrorist wearing explosives all over his body entered and bombed the place. The suicide bomber, the VIPs and people surrounding them, including some of my classmates died on the spot. As I was positioned a little far away, I survived! But as the explosives exploded, I was thrown away with a great force. I don't know what happened after that but when I woke up, I was in a hospital in Delhi! I survived with a leg fracture and small injuries all over my body. Now, I want to study here in a Delhi college.

What do you like about India?

First of all, there's a lot of peace here as

compared to the daily shootings taking place in Afghanistan. Here everything is a lot cheaper and of better quality. India is a very nice place and the doctors are good, too. And I just love Bollywood!

Which Bollywood stars are you fond of in particular?

I love Shahrukh Khan, Sanjay Dutt, also Tulsi (Smriti Irani) of *Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi* and Anurag and Purna of *Kasauti Zindagi Kay*.

What has India done for your country's development?

India has done many things. It has built an Apollo hospital and constructed many buildings and roads there.

(Hakima is now back in Kabul and in regular touch with Ruchismita.) ●

Jack and Jill's empty pail

Guest Column



Yukti Anand,
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Jack and Jill went up the hill with empty pails one day
On the way to the hill, Jack told Jill of a boy called Willie DeKay
Willie was a brat, you'll agree to that, if you listen to Jack's account
For the things Willie did were vile and horrid, and ghastly to recount.

One fine morning, stretching and yawning, Willie got off the bed
AC, lights and fan just ran and ran, and Willie just scratched his head
(Oh, he left them on from dusk to dawn), and dragged his stinky feet
Out of his room, into his bathroom and began to brush his yellow teeth

And while he was brushing, water was gushing out of the running tap
(Jack observed that what Willie deserved was an eye-opening slap)
If Willie should slaughter precious water, there wouldn't be any to drink
Such a plight would serve him right, when he'd have to bathe in the kitchen sink!

Willie was never thoughtful, he was slow and slothful; he was running late
His mum made a fuss- "You'll miss your bus", and gave him breakfast on a paper plate
So on his way to school, he ate his full and felt a giant burp implode
He crinkled his nose and wiggled his toes, crumpled the plate and tossed it on the road.

At school, Willie was a big, fat bully; to his teachers he was a big, fat pain
His plummeting grades led to livid tirades, but Willie just scratched his head again
He made paper planes and he made paper cranes and paper he would waste and fritter
The playground he would gag with plastic bags that each day he'd use and litter.

One day, when Willie went out to play, he saw the most lovable little kitten
To sentiment he wasn't prone, he had a heart of stone; he wasn't in, the least, smitten
He picked the thing up, gave it a fling up in the air, and the helpless kitten landed
In a garbage can, (Willie, that wretch, isn't half a man!) he left the poor thing stranded

And so forth and so on, Willie would go on, wrecking his earth without a care
Willie is arrogant, Willie is ignorant, and to him his environment isn't half an affair
He pollutes and litters, wastes and fritters, cruel Willie DeKay is an idiot, if truth be told
If all Willies knew a thing or two, they wouldn't have let such a crisis unfold

The world won't smell so rotten if we aren't as misbegotten as horrible Willie DeKay
Let yourself, the earth and me breathe fresh and free, let's make this world a little better everyday
The earth is sick, but bit-by-bit, we can make it, if we realise now, if we don't delay
Because every big and little issue is now and today...don't just put it away- for there is no way!

Its time to groove on, people!

Kanchan Joneja
VIII-I, AIS Noida

The movie 'High School Musical' was a big hit and spread like wild fire across the globe in November 2006. All age groups favoured it and the foot tapping music was perfect for the youth to groove and shake.

Getting updated

Disney in India had started a countrywide interschool group-dance competition 'My School Rocks' and organized it again last year for High School Musical. Its popularity among Indian audiences symbolizes the fame of Disney Channel's contemporary and universally relevant content. 'My School Rocks' contest is basically a means to promote the movie and to provide viewers delightful moments to be enjoyed with the peer group and the entire family.

About the movie

HSM 1: It is about a boy named Troy (Zac Efron) who is the captain of the basketball team and Gabriella (Vanessa Hudgens), the brainy and beautiful member of the academic club, break all the rules of the East High society when they secretly audition for the leads in the school's musical. As they reach for the stars and follow their dreams, everyone learns a thing or



two about acceptance, teamwork and just being themselves.

HSM 2: Along with their friends, Chad (Corbin Bleu) and Taylor (Monique Coleman), Troy and Gabriella set off to Lava Springs to enjoy their summer and make it a memorable one! But Sharpay (who owns the place) wants to win Troy's heart by taking advantage of her position and tricking him into working for a college scholarship. This makes him think if he would like to rise to the top and leave the Wildcats (his basketball team) and Gabriella behind. But in the end he realizes that it is more important to think about the present and enjoy with friends and so they get to-

gether to have fun in the sun! The hip and entertaining movie is set to fun tunes and cool dance moves!

HSM 3: High school Musical 3 released in October 2008 for the first time in theatres, unlike the previous ones that were premiered only on Disney Channel! Now high school seniors, Troy Bolton (Zac Efron) and Gabriella Montez (Vanessa Hudgens) are facing the prospect of being separated from each other as they go off in different directions. Joined by the rest of the Wildcats, including Sharpay Evans (Ashley Tisdale) Ryan Evans (Lucas Grabeel), Chad Danforth (Corbin Bleu), Taylor McKessie (Monique Coleman), and others, they stage an elaborate spring musical reflecting their experiences, hopes and fears about the future. Those of you who haven't watched this one yet, what are you waiting for? ●