

Category Classes 9-12

The Young And The Depressed

Khushi Gupta; Class 12; LCTH
TOPIC: Young And The Depressed

She's walking towards the light, hoping for one last time that it will consume the pain of this deadly toxic world, hoping to have a freedom that had free not just in its name and she finally closes her eyelids.

Giving up the weight of the world with it.

Moments later her eyes are open and she feels light, not metaphorically but literally light. Light as a feather and she's wearing a white satin dress which makes her slender curves even more beautiful, the kind of dress she would never wear because of her insecurities, her hair is long and flowing down her shoulders and her perfect collar bones.

For the first time in a long time her eyes don't hold a melancholy tune. For the first time in a long time her green eyes showcase the beauty of the emeralds they are. She's still in a white light walking somewhere she doesn't know exists, she wonders whether this is the heaven or hell they talk about, she wonders which one she's in.

And in front of her eyes comes a figure of something she doesn't know what.

She's beautiful, with gold locks, brown eyes, dusky skin and beautiful silk robes. This woman doesn't have a halo on her head yet she seems divine.

And this pious woman asks, "how are you Zoe?"

She's startled, she doesn't know this woman, yet something about her is so familiar, but how does she know her name. So she asks hastily, "but how do you know my name?"

She answers in a smile so beautiful that it captured her soul. She said, "I know everything and everyone but today I want to know you from you."

This is the first time Zoe realises that this maybe the god people talk about and therefore in all innocence She asks, "are you god?"

The divine woman laughs heartily and says, "you might believe so, Hindus, Christians and Muslims have got a part right and a part wrong, Buddhists have a good understanding but again are not right and this goes for many religions but I am what you might call god."

Zoe had been an atheist all her life so she asked the woman, the divine, where she was?

And she replied, "you are where you want to be"

Zoe couldn't comprehend the riddle but decided to go with it. So she finally asked what she wanted to since she arrived, she asked, "am I free?"

And the divine creature came close to her ear she could smell the beauty of roses and the fragrance of the first rain in her breath when she said, "you will be when you want to."

Her words filled Zoe's eyes with water she was trembling with what she was consumed all her life, the walls she buried herself in. She was once again a 4 year old child whose wearing a light pink dress trying to play with her dolls, when her mother's employee comes to play but it's not all fun and games, he looks at her with something which is not love, young Zoe can not comprehend the misogyny in his eyes and she's crying and crying as the man thrusts

himself inside her, she bleeds in pain tells him to stop and he tells her to not tell anyone and she does so because that 4 year child is overcome with disgust for her own flesh and body, that child is so strained that she at a tender age of four turns to a shrew. She's overcome by the pain of her childhood the touch that cursed her life and had now followed her to death. In front of the divine one, Zoe cries like a baby and the woman embraces her. She says, "you were not wrong my dear, you were not at fault stop punishing yourself and redeem your soul. Stop taking the punishment of somebody else's sin."

And something about these words made her feel a little less caged and a little more hopeful. She breathes a deep breath and for the first time in a long time feels free, she feels free of the burden that strained her.

She smiles at herself and looks at herself and in many years for the first time she feels beautiful and she turns to thank the divine one but The divine one then vanishes into thin air.

Zoe opened her eyes, she was the 18 year old she is, lying in the hospital gown, her slashed wrists covered in bandages. Her parents by her side, happy that she opened her eyes, and this time she was happy too. She looks at them and she told them I am free, I feel young and after a long time not under the boulder of depression.

This, Too, Shall Pass

Aastha Bhaik, Class 11, LCTH

Topic: Pandemic Stories

“Phew! I’m finally done with all my online classes for today! I deserve a break now.” I got up from my chair, stretched a little and threw myself on the couch. Usually, I’d take this time to make coffee and read a book or watch Netflix. However, today was different. I felt bored of my own company and decided go out for a game of cricket.

I loved to play cricket, and my neighbors made it even more fun. Ever since I was 7 years old, my favorite part of the day was to get ready, lace up my shoes and make my way to the playground. There, I would meet Sahil and Kriti. Sahil was as old as me and Kriti was one year younger. All of us studied at the same school. Over the years, our bond strengthened and we became very good friends who confided in each other and were there for each other at all times.

I called Sahil first, mainly because he was always available. “Hey Sahil! Are you free right now? It’s been so long since we had a proper cricket match! Come let’s play na. Meet me at the playground in 10 minutes. Oh, and don’t forget to call Kriti.”

I had expected Sahil to jump right in, but all I received was a long pause. “Hey, are you there?” I asked him in surprise. “Yes, I can hear you Shrey. But don’t you know?”

“Know what?” I asked almost reflexively.

“About Kriti, of course!”

About Kriti? What was it about her that I didn’t know?

“No, did something happen?” I asked Sahil.

“Well, yes. I’m afraid I have some bad news. Kriti’s father tested positive for the Coronavirus disease. An ambulance just took him to the hospital.”

I found myself lost for words. I didn’t know how to react. “I-uh-is she alright?”

“I haven’t spoken to her as yet; I came to know only a few minutes ago. Why don’t you know? This is the only thing that everyone in the neighborhood is talking about. Open your curtains and look outside. You’ll see for yourself what’s going on.”

I was baffled for a second, but I did as Sahil had told me to. I drew the curtains, and the sight in front of me was unbelievable. Two people wearing PPE kits were sanitizing Kriti’s house from the outside. A policeman had come to enquire about the case. Kriti’s mother, Mrs. Pooja, was speaking to him.

Mrs. Pooja was the strictest woman I knew. She always had a stern look on her face. All the children in the neighborhood were terrified of her. Whenever our cricket ball used to go flying into her balcony, nobody would even dare to ask for it. She could almost always be seen with her arms crossed in disapproval. Her eyes reflected the strong headedness and firmness she so clearly possessed.

Today, I could see her standing at her front door. Her face was covered by a mask, and her eyes conveyed a different expression. They now represented her inner state of fear and

confusion. She looked weak. Her arms were by her side. The revelation had shattered her. She needed time to absorb what was happening around her.

As the policeman asked her questions, she responded inarticulately. She nodded at times and only spoke when she needed to. This went on for another ten minutes. When all the formalities had been completed, she closed the gate and went up the stairs into her house. She shut all the windows and drew all the blinds to shield herself from the remarks and glances of the neighbors. It was as if she was shutting the door to the life she had known up to this moment and preparing herself to enter into a new world of uncertainty.

I texted Kriti many times and even tried to call her, but there was no response. An hour later, my phone rang. I sprinted across the living room as fast as I could and picked it up. Sure enough, it was Kriti. "Hello Kriti? Are you alright? Is everything fine? How's uncle?"

"Hello, Shrey. Yes, everything's fine now. Dad is in safe hands and the doctors are saying that he'll be back with us very soon. Ma and I aren't allowed to go outside, of course, but we have been assured that all the groceries and essentials will be delivered right at our doorstep. We are taking proper precautions as well. We are wearing our masks and gloves, washing our hands, disinfecting the house and taking care of ourselves. It's going to be okay."

"That's such a relief! Take care, Kriti."

"Thanks, Shrey. Bye."

As I put down my phone, I started thinking of how I had been so ungrateful and selfish. I was always cribbing about my online classes and assignments. I would frown at the thought of doing even a simple chore. But the incident that had occurred made me realize that there were problems bigger than my own.

Later that evening, I baked a chocolate cake and topped it with roasted walnuts and put it in a box. I wrapped the box in a packet and attached a note at the top which read, "Take care and stay safe! Remember, hope is a good thing. This, too, shall pass. Love, Shrey."

I wore my mask, laced up my shoes and hurried to Kriti's house. I rang the doorbell, placed the packet at the gate and ran back as fast as I could. I watched Mrs. Pooja from my window as she picked it up. As soon as she read the note, she looked up at me. A smile lit up her eyes. Without a word, she went back inside. A few minutes later, my phone lit up with a text from Kriti- "The cake is delicious. Thank you!"

At that moment, I knew that I had been able to make a difference.

Blue: Racism is Real

Ritisha Thakur; Class: 11; Loreto Convent Tara Hall

Topic: Racism Is Real

'I want you
To colour me blue
Anything that takes to make you stay
Only seeing myself
When I'm looking up at you'

I walk down the street, my earphones plugged into my ears, my phone in my pocket at I look up at the clouds above me.

Dense, dark clouds, almost the same colour as my skin, hiding any hint that it's still day, rumbling with thunder indicating the arrival of the oncoming storm.

I kept walking till a drop of water landed on my nose, then another and then another.

I looked around and ran towards the nearest rain shelter, which was already occupied by a few people. As I entered I saw an elderly lady move to the corner.

I smiled shaking my head, but I was used to it by now.

After all, it has been centuries. Centuries where humans developed and evolved but they haven't changed.

You must be confused, as I speak like I'm an immortal, which I am, so let me introduce myself.

I'm Krishna. The god of compassion, tenderness and love.

It's okay if you are surprised, many people are, because they think that they know who I am, but they don't.

But we won't talk about that today, it's a tale for another time.

Currently I'm visiting the earth as a fifteen year old boy. I look at a shop in front of me, a place for selling groceries, and then I look at the billboard placed on the roof, of the shop, directly in front of me.

Another fairness cream's advertisement.

Mortals. I still remember the time Brahma created them. They were just made to live and love. There was nothing hard about these tasks, but as the decades went by, they have surprised us.

I'll break it down for you to understand it easily. And what's a better example than your own self?

Krishna. My name. It means black or dark, but almost every portrait I've seen of myself, portrays me as blue skinned.

I won't say it's not true, as a baby I was fed poisoned milk which indeed gave my skin a bluish tinge, but it didn't make me blue.

Blue represents infiniteness which may be another reason, humans view me as having blue skin, but when the blue becomes as light as white, it does get racist.

But I won't mind, because humans are meant to make mistakes and learn from them.

But it hurts when they don't, it hurts when they tear each other apart on the basis of skin colour, when they don't learn and inflict more harm on others.

Human skin colour wasn't any kind of indicator of superiority. Neither was any other body feature like eyes, ears, nose, lips etc, but somehow, humans have made them a criteria for superiority.

Skin colour and other body features were distributed to humans so they can adapt well in their environments.

Dark skin was given to people living in regions with extreme heat so their skin doesn't get sun burnt, dark hair was meant to prevent the sun to damage people's head, bigger eyes were provided to see a wide range, whereas light skin and hair was to absorb maximum heat from the sun, and smaller eyes to prevent fast winds to hurt them.

But somehow as time passed, light hair, light skin and pretty eyes were criterias for superiority and prettiness.

Aryans in Germany and India are referred to as pure bloods, when they are actually not natives of the land. Just because they are fair does not make them superior or give them any right to impose that they are superior than anyone.

The lady sitting in the corner keeps staring at me, clutching her purse and bags tightly in her hands, as if any second I'll snatch them and run away.

I smile at her but she doesn't notice.

Anyways if we just talk about modern India, people here have a major skin colour complex, which might have been funny, hadn't it been so harmful and toxic.

Kids, from a very young age, even if not taught directly, pick up on facts like dark skinned people are inferior to light skinned people and must be treated that way.

It's more heartbreaking when parents and peers shun and compare their own kids and friends on basis of skin colour.

Such kids might be possessing great talent, but develop an inferiority complex, hindering them from achieving the greatness that awaits them.

Everywhere you look around you can see advertisements by companies trying to sell their own fairness products, especially targeting girls.

Even most of the matrimonial advertisement ask for 'fair' brides to be.

It's as if fairness, long hair and doe eyes are the benchmarks of being pretty!

It's wrong.

Everyone is born pretty, both inside out.

If you ask a mother and who is the most prettiest child in this world, she'll say it's her own, it won't matter if the kid has light skin or dark skin, a small nose or a big nose, crooked teeth or straight teeth, big eyes or small eyes. To her it'll just be a bundle of joy and happiness. The prettiest creature she has ever seen.

Discriminating and shunning people on the basis of their race, of course, it mentally scars people, but sometimes the oppression is too much, and sometimes it turns physical too.

Dark skinned girls, especially in so called high class households are mistreated and abused, just because of their skin colour.

I kept looking at the elderly lady. She seemed sick and weak, but every time her eyes met mine she turned away.

Oh and Indian mindset about racism isn't limited to just Indians too, it runs deeper than that, they have prejudiced opinions about non-indians too.

Indian tourism blooms during festivals as foreigners are interested in Indian culture, but oh bizzare humans!

They glorify white foreigners, try to act nice to them, offer them their services as they are getting paid for it, try to act like them, even if they make a fool of them in a process.

But the atrocities inflicted on dark skinned foreigners is something I'll never understand.

They stare at them like they've never ever seen anyone with dark skin before. They glare at them as they were the ones who ruled them and robbed them. They discriminate.

I look up the schedule for the timing of buses. The next bus arrives in 5 minutes, so I wait.

I watch as a little girl walks with her mother, giggling while skipping on the road as the rain stops. She jumps in a puddle formed near the shop as the muddy water splashes on the mother's white clothes.

The mother looks angry now, scolding the little kid, who looks like she's about to cry. Why? Just because her white clothes are dark now?

White is the colour of purity, thus I understand why humans would see it as such, but black, the colour of Ma Kaali, is a colour that represents what's beyond all forms. Even if so skin colour isn't what defines a human. It's their values and morals.

An Asian could be just as much of a good person as an African or an European. Their races don't define them.

Humans can be a bit foolish when they fail to see this, but all of them aren't. Some of them are hopeful and ambitious souls who, when speak of something, they do achieve it.

These people now at the motive of not only, not being racist but being anti-racist are going lengths to achieve their goal.

They spread love, not hate, and thus I help. I heal.

I try to spread the message that race does not define one. It doesn't define their values, morals and motives. It does not define their function and roles in society.

People should be identified as human beings and not be identified by their race or what they look like or other racial stereotypes with no base.

Human society today is judgemental when it comes to people and who they are, what their race is, where they belong from or what they do. Humans are at fault when they determine a person's potential by their race. Human society has influenced them to think and act a certain way and if you don't think, look or act the same, then society frowns and looks down upon you. They expect you to live up to all racial stereotypes as if they matter. They don't.

Time and again I've said it and I'll say it again. Nothing defines you more than your acts.

Racism is real, but so is hope. I can assure that one day everything will be better.

But for now I see the bus coming towards us.

There are more people at the shelter than there were when I arrived. There is a hustle among them to get on the bus and reach their destination.

The elderly lady starts rushing towards the bus too, but falls. People don't notice, the bus is about to leave. I walk to her and help her up. She's apprehensive as I dust her clothes and bags but doesn't protest.

I walk her to the bus, seat her in the reserved seat and then I start to walk towards the window.

The bus reaches its destination. People get off and I do too. Someone clutches my forearm before I leave.

"Thank you" she says and smiles. She is now more at ease.

"There's no need to thank me" I shake my head, smiling myself. "It's what I was supposed to do."

She smiles again. "Blue colour suits you" she says and looks at her wrist watch. "I'll have to leave now, my son might be here for me any minute, it was nice to meet you" she says and walks away waving at me.

I smile, walking in the opposite direction, towards another destination, another person and another blue that awaits me.

Respect, Care And Unite - Be The Change

Amanat Chauhan, Class 11, LCTH

Topic: Topic: Pandemic Stories

‘Wow, what a beautiful day!’

I exclaimed while I was taking a stroll outside my house smiling, feeling relaxed as I had come back home after spending about two months alone during the lockdown in Mumbai and then in an institutional quarantine.

It was so horrifying to fly back home in such circumstances with mask, gloves and a face shield on my face. I was so terror-stricken that I didn’t even sip water throughout my journey.

It was such a relief to be back home with my family.

Just then I saw my old school friend, Gaurav, heading towards somewhere.

‘Hello , Gaurav ! How are you?’, I excitedly shouted, picking up my mask and proceeding towards the main door.

Suddenly my mother came in my way and pushed me back inside the house.

“Mom, why are you pushing me? I will maintain a distance but at least let me talk to him”.

“Shhh!he visit home of people suffering from the coronavirus. God knows he might be a carrier of the virus. You stay away from him.”

“But mama, why is he even doing so? Is he nuts !”

Since that day I started avoiding him. I felt it was extremely foolish of him to put his family and neighbours at risk.

But God does have his own ways to bring realization. One fine day my mother receives a call from father. Tears rolling down her cheeks, hands shivering and with a quiver in her voice, she said, “Mr. Sharma has tested positive for the corona virus.”

“Mr. Sharma, father’s colleague?”

“yes....G-g- go and clean your fathers room. He needs to be isolated”I could feel the terror in her voice.

By the evening we had the plate of ‘house under quarantine ’pasted on our main door. There was an atmosphere of distress in the house. Around 8 pm, I received a call.

I picked it up and said “hello ’’in a very grim voice .

“Hi , I am Gaurav. Please do not worry. Uncle will be completely fine. I am leaving medicines, fruits, vegetables and a list of all the instructions to be followed outside your main door. Please collect these items and save my number. In case of any trouble, remember I am just a call away. Stay strong.”

My conscience was filled with guilt for the person I looked down upon had come to my rescue.

The next day my father also tested positive for corona virus whereas my mom and I were negative because of the precautions we have taken.

We could see a change in our neighbour’s behavior. We had become the object of scorn.

Slowly my father recovered and tested negative on the 15th day.

Frequency of Gaurav’s calls kept decreasing and the remorse inside me kept increasing. I desperately wanted to not only thank him but also apologies to him.

Finally, one day I saw him passing by our house and I quickly wore my mask and ran to talk to him.

“Gaurav! Thank you, thank you, thank you so much for being our pillar of support. I am so sorry that I was never supportive of what you were doing. I am sorry that I misjudged you.”

“Tarana, there is no need to either thank me or feel sorry,” he said sweetly.

“ Please have a cup of tea with us, it will be a pleasure.” I requested.

With some reluctance, he entered the house and we all sat in the open verandah. My parents expressed gratitude towards him and after a while, he saw the curiosity in my eyes and said, "Actually, I lost my brother to this virus."

"What? Saurabh? Oh my god!" I exclaimed with shock.

"he had gone to Italy to pursue higher education. He was young and could have survived the virus but not the hatred. After he came out to be COVID-19 positive, his landlord did not allow him to enter the premises. Medical facilities were not provided to him and he could not even fly back to India.

He was left with no money, no food and no house. His phone's battery drained in a day and we lost contact with him. We tried contacting the embassies but all went in vain.

Finally, one day, we received a call from an embassy only to know that he was no more.

From that day my family decided that we will not let this happen to anyone else. Every day my mother makes nutritious food, my father brings essentials from the market and I visit the homes of corona patients, delivering them the supplies."

Every word he said moved me.

"Gaurav, you truly are a warrior. Please include us in your mission too." I said with teary eyes and a gratified heart.

Since then my mother cooks, father arranges medicines and other supplies and I deliver them. I realized that the virus was our enemy and not the people suffering from it. If we all wish to fight the virus, we cannot attach a stigma with it. Respect, care and unity can go a long way.

Category Classes 5-8

An Invasion From Mars

Samaira Thakur; Class 8; Loreto Convent Tara Hall

Topic: An Invasion From Mars

The year was 2130. It was a big day for the citizens of Mars. They had finally finished their planet's biggest project after decades of hard work. They had finished their space shuttles and finally two brave astronauts boarded the ship. As they prepared for takeoff they knew that everyone's eyes were on them. They simply could not mess it up and there was no way they could, it was a foolproof plan or so they had been told. They took off and in a matter of minutes they were in space. They carefully dodged a few asteroids and they were on the way to a planet to which they would never reach. Sivln, one of the brave two felt his heart in his throat. There was silence for the first few minutes which was interrupted by the loud sound of the emergency alarm. They had run out of fuel for some reason. A calculation must have been wrong. They thought this was it for them. They had known what they were signing up for when they had boarded the ship. But in that moment they made a decision. They had set out to go to a planet to which no one had been and that they would do. They steered towards a planet. They steered towards a planet that every astronaut knew to stay away from but they had no choice.

They entered the earth's atmosphere and landed safely in something which appeared to be a forest. Not sure what to do next they heard a familiar voice in their earpieces telling them what to do next - their instructions were simple- do not make any contact and wait for further instructions. But curiosity got the better of them. they couldn't just stay put they decided to go a little further and that's when they saw their first human. Or so they thought little did they know what they had seen was a dog. They ran as soon as they saw it and got separated. They both made their way back to the shuttle." Where is your shoe" sivln asked. "Running away from an unknown species requires sacrifices." Curt replied. After going back and forth many times they decided to make their way out the forest, and found a street. They were not sure what laid ahead but followed it anyway.

They made sure they were not seen by anyone. Not sure what to do next they approached a building they pushed the door as hard as they could but realized it had to be pulled and stepped in. They saw shelves and shelves of books in front of them they looked up to a sign which they were sure they could not read As they looked at sign Sivln knew that they could not read it indeed but that was not what made him shocked this language whatever it was well known throughout the galaxy, it was considered one of the oldest languages not only in their planet but in the whole galaxy it was yet to be deciphered but it seemed that the humans had done that years ago. Looking at it he found himself in a dilemma. He felt his feet go numb and he heard a sound not sure if it was in a sound in his head or an actual noise he looked at curt, the look on his face assured him that it had indeed had been a very real noise they exchanged looks and made it sure someone was coming they found themselves running again. Sivln had never been much of a runner and he found it a little amusing that he had to go to another planet just to go for a run. They hid behind the very last shelf but that too didn't seem to enough as the footsteps grew louder.

They pushed themselves against the wall wishing they could go right through it. And that was when they saw their first humans. They were much smaller than the humans. He was

paralyzed with fear but soon realized they were as scared of them as they were of the humans. He began to examine the species they looked similar but had some distinguishing features. One of them had much longer hair compared to the other. Then one of them grew closer very slowly and very carefully and held out its hand at first, he thought that he was offering him something but saw that his hand was empty then he saw Curt hold out right hand and slowly walk towards them he wanted to stop him but he didn't instead he did the same.

He thought how this would go down in history. How two planets formed an alliance by simply holding out their hands. And then the humans started back off they looked back as if they wanted them to follow and so they did with no clue about what would happen next. They led them out of the building and into another into a room and handed them some items he did not know what were. They were in all colors and shapes. And then a one of them motioned it towards his mouth as if he wanted them to eat it. But much to their disappointment he did not. Over the course of the next few days they continued to follow them. Sivln always wondered why they had not been allowed to contact the humans. Since had they seemed so harmless. He realized during this time how similar their planets were. Both of them had their own versions of trees, plants, buildings and houses. He was beginning to enjoy his time on this strange but beautiful planet. The one day out of nowhere they ran to them with a terrified look on their face, and it appeared that they were saying something but they could not understand them.

They led them out of the house and pointed towards the sky to a spaceship which looked like the one they had landed in, approaching the surface. Sivln quickly figured out what was going on. They had not made contact with their planet in days as he had given his device to the human without thinking straight and had forgotten it existed and back at Mars they had assumed that they had been taken hostage. But it was too late to fix his mistake now.

He had not formed an alliance by holding out his hand, He had started a war.

Invasion From Mars

Amiti Verma; Class 8; LCTH

Topic: Invasion from Mars

It was a bright sunny morning on our planet 'Earth' my vacation were going on and I was in my hometown Shimla. Like my daily routine, I woke up at around eight thirty, brushed my teeth and rushed out of my room to drink a hot cup of chocolate milk.

I was first taken aback when I realized that my breakfast wasn't ready in the kitchen. I was anxious and looked for parents and siblings all around, but to my surprise, there was dead silence in the house. Neither could I hear my younger sister yelling nor could I find my mother busy managing her office reports. I couldn't believe myself and began to cry and yell in pain.

I felt that it was my fault, for the previous night I wished that my family should disappear all of a sudden and yes; it so happened. I cried for a very long time, not bothering whether I was late from my daily schedule or not. I soon decided to move out in fresh air. As I was walking, I heard a creaking noise coming from the back door of our house. I rushed out and was assure that it was trick played on me by my parents.

As soon as I opened the door, a huge beam of light fell on my eyes and I unable to see anything. My mind was muddle-headed at that time suddenly I felt as if a huge rock came out of nowhere and struck my head. I was unconscious. The last thought which came to my mind was that now, I'm surely going to die. I was unaware of my surroundings and didn't know for how long I had seen lying there. My unconscious brain left a blurry image of what I had seen.

When I woke up and got back to my senses, I realised that I was in a cell with strange people playing fancy trickr around me. I felt as if I knew who they were. These people had very strange looks and attire. I tried to recall those ugly faces in mind. My hands and feet went numb. I soon realised that these people resembled the so called 'Aliens' which I once saw in a movie.

I was yelping for help. I wanted to get out of their soon. For a long time, nobody bothered to hear me, but then, I heard footsteps, as if approaching me cell. The cell's door opened and I saw a person walking towards me. He seemed to be the head of all 'Aliens' and had a similar attire. My words spluttered but I gathered the courage to ask him where I was. i could easily maks out that the head's name was ' Maor' for it was inscribed on his badge.

On hearing my question, 'Maor' laughed and gave me a heart shocking news. The 'Aliens' had invaded our planet. I was curious to know where my family members were. 'Maor' replied, with a gein on his face that all of them were sent to the 'Prisioner's Azloaban.' I requested 'Maor' to not cause any harm to my family.

'Maor' ignored my plea and I kept on weeping. My only aim in mind was to save my planet 'Earth'. after a long pause, 'Maor' wrote a note on paper and even commanded his assistant to call the force. I leaned forward to see what was written and to my surprise; the letter read, 'MISSION EARTH: CAPTURE IN A DAY.' 'Maor' felt that I wasn't successful in knowing

their plan but I furtively picked up the map beneath the note. I hid it behind my back and pretended to be unconscious.

Later, when 'Maos' left, I unfolded the map. I could see red marks all around the 'continents' and was sure that all of them were under their control now. Just beneath the map, they had mentioned to leave in a space shuttle within one hour. I wanted to escape as soon as possible. I checked everywhere but there was no loophole in the 'Alien' management.

Suddenly, I saw a hole beneath the table where 'Maos' wrote the note. I bent forward and saw a bottle with a potion in it. I immediately grabbed it and stood up. The cell opened again, but this time the people appeared to be the commanders of the 'Alien' force. I tried to run out quickly but the commanders were powerful.

At that very moment, the bottle dropped from my hand and the potion fell on the floor. It had a very strong smell and when I looked around, I could see the commanders fainting. Taking benefit of this, I ran out of the cell. I could hear a red buzzer beeping loudly. I was confused with the path, but somehow managed to hide behind a door. I unfolded the map and was desperately looking for a clue.

While checking the second time, I noticed a small star on the map. It was shining brightly. I gently pressed on it. The star moved on the map, as if creating a path and guiding me to an unknown place. The star stopped and gleaned where I was sitting. I decided to follow this path. The path was strange but safe too. I had to first pass through a pipeline, which wasn't easy. I somehow managed to cross this hurdle.

At the end of the last pipe, I had to jump in a hole. I bounced with a sheed and swirled around a hoopla, Like structure. I finally landed in a very noisy area. I grabbed the map quickly and looked around. I could see people, yes the people of our earth. all of them were enclosed in cages. I looked for my parents and was successful in finding them. I narrated the whole story to my father and handed him the map. My father informed me that all the cages were closed by a spell written on a key.

I searched for the key everywhere but wasn't able to find it. The people were looking at me as if

I was the only hope for them. I was distracted continuous my sister she was trying to hide something in her hand. I snatched it from her and the key was there. I was overjoyed and banded the key to my father. He tackled cautiously and was successful.

All the cages opened and we ran out of the exit door. As soon as we came out all, we should see the alien force petrified. All of them headed towards the space shuttle which disappeared within the blink of an eye to our neighbouring planet 'Mars'.

An Invasion from Mars

Kiaan Amrik Thakur; Class 5; Dayanand

Topic: An Invasion from Mars

Beautiful night a shooting star fell to the surface of earth. don't think it was just a shooting star, it was a spaceship. Riding this U.T.O were two martians name Uber and Knot. when they had landed they landed on a beautiful planet named .But they had no time to relax and enjoy the view. This was because of two reasons the first reason is that they are on a secret to save someone and the second being they were being by the evil martian team called LOED Hurry up Knot before we get into trouble. Uber you are always so serious relax sometime. You know I can't I am so worried you know Earthlings don't know we exist and why would uncle come to this planet without telling anyone.

Time lets move its not like we've travelled 6836 million K.M. The other hand I.S.R.O had found out about the spaceship but did not think it was a spaceship they thought it was a asteroid and they thought it was a asteroid with precious metal so they went to investigate with a team of scientist, soldiers etc.

Scientist 1: That's weird!

Scientist 2: What's weird?

Scientist 1: Asteroids just hit earth's surface.

Scientist 2: Yeah, so what ?

Scientist 1: It should not have survived the earth's atmosphere and it should have caused a little explosion.

Scientist 2: You work too much take a rest.

Scientist 1: Yeah mabey . But what about it.

Scientist 2: (In microphone) An asteroid has been found investigate.

They head out to the spaceship but they could not find it because it was in camouflage, so they could not find it and started to return back when they saw a U.F.O. It was L O E D!

They come for uber and knot.

L O E D Leader: Surrender the martian rebbles .

Soldier 1: Surrender the what rebels,

Soldier 2: we don't have any rebels.

L O E D Leader: Don't lie to me earthling. If you don't surrender them in 5 hours I will clestroy Earth

The good Martian team had informed Uber and Knot. Now Uber and Knot had 2 people to save their uncle and earthlings that they had to hurry because they had only 3 hours left. They had already saved their uncle while the soldiers and scientist were preparing for war with L O E D. So were Uber and Knot. The war had began .The evil Martians were winning But Uber and Knot had infiltrated the L O E D control room and planned a bomb. But the L O E D leader had found out and immediately went there . There uncle had already activated the bomb. They were about to leave through a pod but, the evil Martian leader had arrived. He, Uber , Knot and their uncle start fighting . Uber and uncle got injured. Now it was all up to Knot now to save the day, can he do it or will all this efforts go to waste Knot had managed 5 hits. EML (Evil Martian Leader)was badly injured . The bomb was about to leave the spaceship. But he could not let his fellow Martians die , yes, they were bad but still Knot could not let them die . Knot said in a microphone to all evil Martians to leave the ship . And Knot put E M L in the pod among Uncle Uber . They had taken the pod to the place were they had landed and they gave the humans and his family magic healing elixir , he gave some to E M L but E M L had become friends and he had joined the good Martian , Ubar , Knot and their family was happy that their uncle was back and they lived happily ever after .

Invasion from Mars

Bhavya Rana, Class 6, Dayanand School

Topic: Invasion from Mars

Today is the last night of the year. We organized a party to welcome the new year everyone seems happy.

Oh! NO what is this?

A bright light shone from the sky. Some Plates descended from the sky to the Earth. Some bizarre people came out of it and created havoc all around. We all panicked and there was stampede all around. We understood that they were alien. We were taken aback when they spoke our language.

One of them came to us and said "I am Pingcho, the leader of this army. We came from Mars. You, the people of Earth have made our people very upset. You always keep sending something to our planet for research."

Because of this our people are scared that may you capture our planet. Then we decided that now we will attack the Earth. This news reached to our leaders and they reached the spot with our Army immediately and the army chief Mr.Malik tried to talk to them.

Mr. Malik: "what do you want, why are you wreaking havoc in our beautiful planet."

Pingcho : "I am king of the Mars planet, we have come to destroy the earth. We want to teach you a lesson."

Malik: "But we did not intend to harm you all."

Pingcho: "But it has happened."

Malik: If this happened we apologize to you. We are willing to make new discoveries. We want to know more about space.

Pingcho: Due to your desires and wishes people of other planet have to suffer.

Malik: Sorry for that. Trust us. We don't want all this but what to do, the earth is very big, there are many countries in it. All want to be strong and powerful. Perhaps this is the reason that these countries are crossing their boundaries whose consequences will now have to bear innocent people.

(Then another alien comes forward)

Alien: But, how can we trust you.

Malik: Who are you?

Alien: I am Rohmbus.I am the chief of this planet.

Malik: So, what do you want now?

Rohmbus: We want to fight with you.

Malik: But war is not the solution to any problem, it will cause a lot of damage on both side.

Pingcho: There is no other solution to this problem war will continue.

Malik: Ok,if you want war then we are ready.

(War started from both sides Bomb, Missiles and other lethal weapons were used .Many soldiers on both sides were killed. The war lasted for several days.)

Malik discussed with his leaders that the army of Mars have modern weapons. Our Weapons are not enough to fight with them.

(Army of Mars on the other hand)

Pingcho: What is the state of war?

Rohmbus: Oh Lord! We have very powerful army, you don't worry. We will definitely win the war.

Pingcho: But, somewhere i am not feeling good because of war so many innocent people are suffering.

Rohmbus: No, you don't think so. People of the earth also created trouble to our planet.

Pingcho: May be you are right.

Actually, Rohmbus the chief of Mars army was very cunning and greedy .He not only want to become the king of mars but also want to rule the earth as well. So he planned that when they will the war and control over the Earth, he will also kill the King and become King himself.

(The war went on for several days. The forces on the both sides were tired, so Malik decided to talk with Pingcho.)

Malik: We feel that this fight should end here now.

Pingcho: Yes you are right, both of our Army lost our Soldiers.

Earth is also very beautiful planet like our Mars.

Rhombus: No Lord, we will call more soldiers from our planet.

We will definitely win the war.

Pingcho: No, I have already taken the wrong decision in your

words, due to which many of our soldiers were killed. I do not want to lose who are left.

Pingcho to Malik "Tomorrow we will hold a meeting in which we will promise not to harm each other and will remain peacefully. What do you think?"

Malik : Ok my friend I am fully agree with you.

Rhombus felt bad and he thought he will not let this happen.

He will finish it all.

Next Day

All the members of both sides gathered, but Rohmbus was not among them. He had planted a bomb at the meeting place.

The people of both sides were happy, but they don't know what is going to happen with them.

Then there was a loud explosion.

Suddenly, I woke up. I was completely drenched with sweat.

"Oh! It was a dream".

I smiled but then thought what aliens occur? Do the good and bad people exist everywhere?

If yes, do we really harass them?

Probably yes, many powerful countries show their power in the space. This may disturb the peace there.

It is the first morning of the new year, So we should make this decision on the arrival of the new year that we do not cross the boundaries created by God. We should not fight each other.

We have to give up the habit of ownership over others so that everyone can be happy in their own places.

Category Classes 2-4

Keeping Our Surroundings Clean

Kinshuk Sharma; Class 4; Indirapuram Public School

Topic: Keeping Our Surroundings Clean

All of us live in a neighborhood or surrounding. We must keep our surrounding neat and clean. This will help us to live healthy and better lives. Keeping our surrounding clean will only help in the betterment of society. Every household generates waste or garbage. Now, waste or garbage should not be thrown anywhere and everywhere, but only in trash bins. Throwing garbage all over the place will only dirty or surrounding and pollute the environment. Controlling the use of plastic bags will also help to keep our surrounding clean. One should use recycled and eco-friendly products such as paper or jute bags instead of plastic bags. Throwing of plastic bags by the roadside only makes our surrounding dirty and unhygienic. Plastic bags are not soluble so they clog drains and cause water logging. Do not litter on the road or in your neighborhood. Littering causes land, air and water pollution. Try planting trees and plants that will beautify our surroundings as well as keep us healthy. Greener surroundings look beautiful and also reduce pollution to keep us fit and healthy. Dirtying our surrounding will only cause harm to us. So, keep the surrounding clean and live happy and healthy lives. Everyday, plants and animals become extinct as their habitats are destroyed by human influence. At this rate our world will become extinct quickly. Picking up trash when people are out in the public would greatly help this situation. It is not hard to find a trash can in parks. Making sure people clean up would benefit everyone. If people see trash which is not theirs, they could pick it up themselves knowing they did something to help the world. You can make your neighborhood a cleaner and safer place by organizing a neighborhood cleanup.

Another great way to make sure we keep our surrounding clean and green is to pick up garbage we find in ditches and highway. This purpose is keeping our health healthy. Ways to keep the highway clean are being cautious trash is not thrown out of car windows and going outside to clean up the ditch.

Always keep a litter bag in your car so you won't be tempted to toss unwanted trash out the window. Going out once a week to clean up ditch would not only make it look nicer, but also keep the neighborhood healthy. The litter found in ditches can harm our environment. People need to do their best not to pollute. Prevention is an important step, so set a litter-free example for your family, friends, co-workers and neighborhood so helps keep your community.

Human, animals, plants and all other living organisms live interdependently on earth. We all need each other in order to live long and fulfilling lives. Plants require the carbon dioxide in the air we breathe out while humans require the oxygen that comes from plants.

We also depend on the plant for fruits and other foods. Keeping the surrounding clean ensures that the plants and other animals have optimum conditions for them to thrive and therefore provide us with all that we need from them.

Humans depend on nature for many things. It is only fair that we reward nature by keeping it clean and avoiding pollution.

Many people like to leave the city and go to the country side, the woods or the mountain where there is fresh and clean breathing air for camping and travel. This is mostly because there is no pollution in the country side as there are very few industries and factories and also because the surrounding is clean.

Rubbish in our surrounding smells terrible and attracts all manner of flies and insects that contributes to the stench which forms a major characteristic of dirty surroundings.

To create our surroundings green and clean, we ought to take actions and become the shift that we would like to view others, everybody keeps complaining about the way other men and women are polluting the surroundings without needing any corrective step. A lot of the moment people additionally pollutes the surroundings by participating several actions such as littering. As change agents, we will need certainly to specify a great case using dustbins and draining throw away to continue to keep the environment tidy. Reuse goods every time you are able to, producers utilize a great deal of stuff when packing consequently we wind up using lots of squander goods, rather than throwing a number of the things taken for packaging may be properly used for storage. If we could be creative, than you are going to likely be astonished to understand many methods of reusing things which you just thought were crap. To keep a fresh setting, it's very important to purchase items created from nontoxic and non-toxic substances that will support conserve precious tools. Rather than getting disposable plates, cups purchase very good superior things which may be cleaned and also be re used. Some of the easiest methods for keeping up a very good environment would be really to look after our own trees as shrub aids in cleansing the atmosphere and managing air contamination. Having allocating of bushes inside our area may let us remain healthier.

Keeping Our Surroundings Clean

Dishika Kukreja; Class 3; Dayanand

Topic: Keeping Our Clean Surroundings

Once there lived a man named Kelvin in Jamnagar. He was very fond of drawing. He had done his studies in engineering but was very fond of singing too. He was a man who was believed to do multi-tasking. Once he went to Jodhpur for drawing beautiful sceneries. He believed that Jodhpur is very beautiful place but when he reached Jodhpur the place seemed to be dirty. He was very sad to see so. He was now motivated by his friends, in order to take some action against this issue. He first wrote an article and forwarded it to the Editor of a newspaper. Then he saw differences which were very little. But he did not leave hope and started with cleaning the surroundings nearby in Jodhpur. More and more people joined with him with the passing time and a time came when many people were motivated by Kelvin.

Kelvin is the one who had tried to change Jodhpur. Jodhpur was again called the Most Beautiful Place.

He has been awarded as first person to be a part of cleaning India in 1987.