Chrysalis

Kritika: Hey Kevin! What’s up? How’s summer been for you so far?

Kevin: Hey Kritika! Well, it’s hard to say, really. I’m just starting to have a little fun nowadays, but up to this point it just felt like; I’m uncertain, actually. I was pretty bored. What about you?

Kritika: Bored? Why? I have been enjoying my vacation for quite some time. I visited places, met my old friends, more of like a reunion trip. Travelling to new and breezy places to escape from this blazing heat is not a bad idea after all. Maybe you should think of going somewhere too?

Kevin: Aah. Yes, I should. Some things came up and I haven’t been able to go anywhere so far, though. I am mostly cooped up at home. Boring, it is. Plus the fact that most of my friends aren’t in town right now doesn’t really help. This might be the most depressing vacation, I’ve ever had.

Kritika: Aw, I feel sad for you. This might have made you miss college terribly, right? Such a long break after the wonderful second semester we’ve had is pretty monotonous and depressing, to be frank.

Kevin: Yeah. The second semester was amazing. Time just flew by. And three months of vacation?  That’s like a third of the time we’ve been in college!

Kritika: I know. I have a bucket full of such amazing memories of the last semester. There was so much in such a short span of time. Synapse, Drama Night, Elections and so many workshops. Some or the other thing kept us preoccupied every day.

Kevin: Yeah. Elections! There was so much intrigue and politics around that time. It was like someone was

re-enacting Game of thrones or House of cards, but without the intelligent parts.

Kritika: Haha, yes. It’s been one exciting ride though. Now when I sit at home doing nothing, I remember how busy we used to be back then volunteering for synapse, vouching for candidates during the elections, practicing all day and night for the drama night. We were so packed up with responsibilities. It might’ve felt like a burden then, but in retrospect, wasn’t synapse the sweetest time we had this year?

Kevin: Yes. Definitely. The whole month leading up to Synapse was so amazing. Being awake till 2AM, volunteering. It might’ve seemed like a chore sometimes, but I had a mighty good time making some of the paintings that were hanging around in the cafe. And the four days of Synapse. Can’t forget that.

Kritika: Seriously. It was an amazing time. Remember Ragna Rock? We weren’t able to move even one body part post that event, let alone our heads. But now, when I look back to that time, I wish it came back and saved me from all the boredom at home.

Kevin: I wasn’t able to walk straight after Ragna Rock. I almost had a broken knee because of the mosh pit. It took me half an hour to walk to my hostel room. Then I took a nap, and went back to the DJ.

Kritika: There was no question of missing the DJ even one single night.

Kevin: You bet there wasn’t. I got bronchitis after Synapse. Actually, not even after Synapse. Starting the last day, after Ragna Rock. And I was still sitting there on the railing at the back of the OAT during Nikhil D’Souza’s concert.

Kritika: Those 4 days were so wonderful. But do you realize that our *first year is over*? We are sophomores now. Kids no more. We can’t be so carefree all the time.

Kevin: Don’t remind me of that, Kritika. A day or two before I left for the vacation, I saw a kid who came in with his parents, just wandering around in the campus, asking for directions. Probably a prospective fresher. And I just couldn’t help but think “It feels like yesterday when that was me.”

Kritika: Exactly. It just feels like yesterday that we were there, standing at the same crossroad, waiting to begin a new chapter of our lives. When we go back to college now, we’ll see new faces roaming around in the campus. Maybe even turning up to us for advice! I feel so old now.

Kevin: Well, it does seem like the year went by in a haze, but not everything was so fun.

I mean, some of the classes? Oh, the horror. And I’m still conflicted about the labs too.

Kritika: Oh yes. The initial CT labs were quite boring or maybe went over our heads as well. But we somehow managed to cope with it and even had fun while making the project. Oh, you were my group leader too. Go Kevin!

Kevin: Hey! Now that I think about it, I was. It went quite well, won’t you say? And the labs! Those were quite the ordeal. Yes, some of them did go over my head too. During a couple of labs, there were literally times when I’d be daydreaming and by the time I had my feet rooted back in reality, my lab partners would be done with the experiment and all I could say was “What’s this? What’s that?!”

Kritika: Yeah, well, I remember that. I used to sit next to you and always looked up to you or your partner for the experiments. When you guys had no clue, my partner and I just sat there chatting without a care in the world. I even remember getting scolded by the TA twice. But in my defence, I would like to say that I got serious by the time end-semester examinations were approaching (doesn’t everybody?).

Kevin: Oh, I remember that quite well. People used to be more often at others’ desks than their own. I don’t even know how we passed that subject without most of the labs making any shred of sense at the time.

Kritika: But second semester was pretty good overall. I liked the subjects more than the ones we studied in the first semester. Moreover, we were even allowed to have laptops (although it made my routine terrible).

Kevin: True. The laptops were a boon, but only half of the reason that time passed so fast, amidst a semester chock-full of events. I find it hard to believe that any subsequent semester may beat this one as far as the fun factor goes. But I also find it hard to believe that any subsequent semester will sadden us as much or leave us feeling as empty. You know, this was the first time we’ve lived through a farewell in college. When we head back after the vacation, the campus will be void of a lot of faces we saw, and beamed at every day.

Kritika: I completely agree with you. Half of the people that we used to see every day will be found nowhere near enough. We had an amazing batch of super seniors and the fact that they have passed out and gone away will be a little uneasy for us to accept. But like I already said, we’ll see new faces too. The universe always balances out, always.

Kevin: Yes, not to mention they’ll be back soon enough for the convocation! Well, at least some of them. And what you said about the new faces. Well, I’m not really sure how I feel about being a senior. I certainly don’t *feel* like a senior.

Kritika: Because we have been spoon-fed till now. Maybe we’ll have to become more responsible now about studies as well as the clubs we are associated with. I am looking forward to my sophomore year with a lot of hope.

Kevin: Oh yes. I’ve heard that the third semester is hard as nails, but dunno. We’ll see. Everything has its time. After all, all you need is a few friends and late night CRs. And in that moment, I swear, you can be infinite.

Kritika: You know you’re a sucker for quoting things, right?

Kevin: Oh yes, I know. That I certainly am.