

A Canopy Nepal Literary Magazine

Buneka Katha

June 2024 Issue X





Buneka Katha - © Canopy Nepal All rights reserved.

Published in 2024

Designed and Developed by Canopy Nepal

For the avoidance of doubt, you must not adapt, edit, change, transform, publish, republish, distribute, redistribute, broadcast, rebroadcast, show, or play in public this booklet or the materials on this booklet (in any form or media) without Canopy Nepal's prior written permission.

Names of the firms or commercial products, if quoted, do not mean their endorsement, and failure to mention a particular other is not a sign of disapproval. If you become aware of any material in the magazine that you believe infringes your or any other person/organization's copyright, please report this by email to info@canopynepal.org.



CANOPY
NEPAL



Message from the Editor

Dear Readers,

It is with immense delight that I welcome you to the tenth issue of Buneka Katha, a milestone that we're elated to celebrate with you. A tradition that began six years ago, this biannual magazine has been highlighting the journey we as Canopy have traveled so far. As usual, this magazine is a compilation of some of our stakeholder experiences, event highlights, and most importantly, stories woven by our learners.

As I write this message, I am reminded of my first experience working on Buneka Katha Issue 5, three years ago. Over these three years, I have been lucky to witness incredible progress, both in Canopy's work and on the pages inside this publication series. We continue releasing this publication twice a year with the hopes that it sparks conversations, inspires action, and fosters a sense of community among our readers and learners. I am exhilarated to bring fresh stories and perspectives to our beloved magazine, and I hope you enjoy reading this as much as we enjoyed writing it.

Furthermore, I extend my sincere gratitude to our devoted team of writers, designers, photographers, contributors, and advisors. Their commitment, creativity, and collaboration are the driving forces behind this magazine that transform ideas into compelling stories and pieces. Without their efforts, this publication would not have been possible. I am deeply thankful for my team and proud to have worked alongside such an inspiring group of individuals.

Finally, as we move forward with our work, it is imperative that we continue addressing the persistent challenges in the current landscape of education, especially in regard to its accessibility and equity in Nepal and around the world. In a time when education should be a universal human right, we must remain a proponent for and work towards helping create solutions that guarantee that every individual, no matter their culture or upbringing, has equal access to learning opportunities. This issue of Buneka Katha, like its predecessors, aims not only to highlight our personal accomplishments and aspirations but more importantly, to shed light on these crucial issues and inspire action within our community.

Thank you for being a part of this journey.

On Behalf of Canopy Nepal,
Nimish Raj Sharma
Editor-in-Chief



Meet the Team



Editor-in-Chief

Nimish Raj Sharma

Content Curators

Aliya Khan
Aastha Pandey
Anjula Joshi
Kriti Shrestha
Nimish Raj Sharma
Pragya Thapa



Magazine Designers

Isabelle Hiller
Monal Bhattacharai
Nimish Raj Sharma

Photographer

Supriya Mainali

Contributors

Nipun Malla
Ritima Shrestha



Facilitators

Acchata Sharma
Anisha Bhandari
Binita Paudel
Bisesta Sharma
Natasha Shakya
Nischit Neupane
Prabhat Mahato
Sadhikshya Paudyal
Sambridi Guragai
Samrachana Gajurel
Saugat Sapkota



Special Thanks to

Angirash Karki
Mohit Rauniyar
Monika Limbu
Rhoda Neupane
Subhash Chandra Bhandari
Srijana Parajuli
Tanisha Agarwal



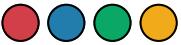
Table of Contents

Inside Voices

- 03** From Learning to Leading: A Facilitator's Story
- 05** Crossroads of Careers: Utkrishta Sharma
- 07** A Mother's Tale of Resilience
- 09** Exploring a Dynamic Approach to Learning
- 11** Uncovering Students' Hidden Talents
- 13** Building Confidence and Creativity

Event Highlights

- 19** Some Lifelong Connections
- 21** From Ideas to Actions
- 23** Cultivating Change: The Impact of Storytelling
- 25** Canopy Beyond Nepal



Buneka Katha

- 30 Born to Die
-
- 31 बदलाको कथा
-
- 32 The Mysterious Mirror
-
- 34 आमाको माया
-
- 35 The Black Stain
-
- 36 राम्री गुडियाको डरलाग्दो स्वभाव
-
- 38 Echoes of the Mural
-
- 42 गम पछिको आलोक
-
- 45 Hanako Ritual
-
- 47 समयको सपना
-
- 49 The Mystery Game
-
- 50 जाटुको दुनियाँ
-
- 51 Rainbow Flag Girls
-
- 54 जीवनको लक्ष्य
-
- 56 The Price of Life
-
- 57 दुर्घट्वहारको फल
-
- 59 A Mysterious Land
-





Inside Voices

This section contains articles that capture the experiences of our team members, students, teachers, and scholars' parents. Through in-depth one-on-one interviews, the articles are a compilation of a long term relation with our students and scholars.



From Learning to Leading: a Facilitator's Story



Life comes full circle, and no one could testify to this better than one of our Katha Bunaun learners, Ms. Prarthana Sharma. Going back to 2018, when Prarthana was studying in grade 7 at Bhanubhakta Memorial School, she was introduced to Canopy Nepal. Being a shy and reserved student, not wanting to express much in the classroom, and having a fear of public speaking, she got the experience of being a learner at one of the very first programs of Canopy Nepal.

During our program, not knowing what to expect, Prarthana enjoyed every minute of the session. The program was filled with interactive activities that motivated the learners to be comfortable and share their stories. Along with that, Prarthana also got the opportunity to participate in Katha Bunaun. This session helped her explore her imagination and express it in the form of story writing and storytelling. Seeing this transformation within herself, she wanted to do something more and explore her potential.

**Interviewed by
Aastha Pandey**

This is when Prarthana got the opportunity to become the founding president of our very first Canopy Club, which was established at Bhanubhakta Memorial School in the year 2019. Prarthana was given this chance because she attended the sessions with zeal and focus. She also demonstrated a strong commitment to the sessions by swiftly adjusting to them. Seeing this, Ms. Ishwari Dhungana, the principal of the school, decided to make her the founding president.

Being the founding president came with a lot of roles and responsibilities to fulfill. This role required her to become a leader and run the club for two years. During her tenure as a founding president, she organized many programs at her school, like training sessions on how to use Google Workspaces, debate competitions, waste management programs, fundraisers, and many more. Being a president, she had to lead the whole team as well as ensure the smooth functioning of the programs. Along with her confidence, this opportunity helped her enhance her leadership skills as well as her public speaking skills.



Leading a team as president made her realize her potential, and this experience in turn encouraged her to work in a similar environment. Her dedication to her craft drove her back to Canopy Nepal, this time not as a learner but as a facilitator.

All the love and support that she received during her sessions from our team members motivated her to become one herself and radiate the same love and support to future learners. Along with this, she also wanted to work with children and contribute to their positive growth, so this year, Prarthana joined Canopy Nepal as a facilitator. She is now facilitating our programs, Katha Bunaun and EIC, in different schools, where she is passionately working with students to enhance their creativity and critical thinking skills by providing them with soft skills like teamwork, communication, confidence, public speaking, and time management. She claims to be loving this journey so far, and she is inspired to work

with Canopy in the upcoming years.

She is now facilitating the programs at her own school, where everything first started. Coming this far, one of the many favorite things that she remembers from her session is making a "Zentangle", which is a self-help art therapy practice to enhance relaxation and focus. She still uses this therapy whenever she is feeling a little stressed.

She hopes to study social work and pursue her career as a social worker in the future, and she believes that her learnings as a facilitator and the knowledge she will acquire from her experience with Canopy Nepal will direct her to reach her goals. This journey of Prarthana who once started as a student and now became a facilitator is very inspiring and the growth seen in her is highly commendable. A timid student who was afraid of speaking in front of her class is now facilitating sessions and educating dozens of young students.



Crossroads of Careers: **Utkrishta Sharma**

**Interviewed by
Aliya Khan**

She recalls a session that she conducted online for the students of a school in the United States where she could contribute to promoting her national language and make the Nepali students residing in America write stories in Nepali. She could not describe the happiness of being able to make an impact on Nepali students in America while sitting at her home in Birgunj when the entire world had stopped. She also recalls how she got love from all the students and received the sweetest letters and poems when she took her final session as a facilitator. After completing her tenure as a facilitator, she became a Club Mentor at Canopy. She was one of the first club mentors of Canopy Club, which was an initiation to create a longer and greater impact on students and enhance their qualities by providing a platform for them to showcase and polish their skills in leadership, communication, event management, and many more. She found being a club mentor a little tough in comparison to the role of facilitator because the students were too new to the concept of a Canopy Club. This brought great responsibility upon Utkrishta and a chance for a chance to interact with them personally.



Utkrista Sharma is a confident and visionary individual who brings along a lot of creativity and innovation wherever she goes. During her work at Canopy Nepal as a Field Volunteer, she proved herself to be a creative and empathetic addition to the team. She brought different unique ideas to the table which were later added to the program's format. Her roles were to assess and monitor scholars, explore the need for skill development programs among the scholars, and track their progress and well-being. She fulfilled all these roles remarkably and so convincingly that she ended up receiving the title of Best Field Volunteer 2081.

Utkrishta says, "After I graduated from high school, I ended up at Canopy Nepal. If it weren't for Canopy, I would have taken some other path and would never have found my core interest." She says that she started feeling "little sparks of joy" when she started off her journey with Canopy Nepal as a Facilitator during the COVID-19 lockdown. She began at Canopy with online sessions.

Later, she became a field volunteer at CANSCHIP. From starting a journey as a facilitator to becoming a field volunteer, Utkrishta felt a huge change in herself. She expressed how content she felt when she realized the impact she had on the lives of the scholars by assessing their day-to-day growth. She explains how proud she felt when one of the senior scholars graduated as a nurse. Being a field volunteer provided her the opportunity to witness many commendable journeys of scholars.

"Canopy Nepal was destined for me," Utkristha says. She says that she realizes how the most unexpected things in life bring us to the most beautiful journeys. She says Canopy Nepal trained her to become a good person, manage life properly, and face situations with resilience. Utkrishta turned all the difficulties in her way into opportunities. As a field volunteer, when she encountered problems of improper documentation of the scholars, she wouldn't let herself stop or get discouraged, but instead, would start collecting the demographic data of the students.

Additionally, she also introduced a 'Well-being form' to track the mental and emotional health status of scholars when she felt that they needed support.

Utkrishta now looks forward to working in the field of education. She says Canopy Nepal will always be the biggest part of her journey in this field. The learnings, the experience, the confidence, and the leadership in her are what she was always searching for. These qualities have not just made her competent in her field but have also made her strong enough to face everything that comes her way while achieving everything she dreams of.

Utkrishta suggests opportunity-seeking volunteers, "you should learn to make the best out of the opportunities you get. Seek a community that provides you guidance, and do not be afraid about voicing your opinion, because your opinion can help the lives of many."





A Mother's Tale of Resilience



Living in a small, rented house with her husband and two daughters, Anisha's mom is the only one who earns a living for the family. She has to work several jobs like cleaning houses, washing clothes, and cooking to support her daughters and husband. Despite these difficulties, she is determined to give her daughters a better future.

In the early days, the family went through tough times. They often got to have only one meal a day, and sometimes she had to choose whether to buy food or books for her kids. Despite this, her daughters never complained despite having multiple desires as children. Anisha and her elder sister both understood the family's struggles and helped their mom however they could. As kids, they would collect firewood on their way home from school, carrying it in their school bags to cook dinner for the night, even though Anisha's mother often advised them against doing so.

Anisha, the younger daughter, has always been good at school.

**Interviewed by
Anjula Joshi**

She has been at the top of her class every year, but she never got a scholarship from the school. Anisha's mother further says that when she inquired and requested a scholarship, she was told that it was only given to children in rural areas who were in greater need. Even though Anisha's mom, Shova, tried to get help from the school, they only promised to connect her with other supporters who might be able to help. Then, things changed for the better when a teacher introduced the family to Canopy Nepal, which Shova says turned their life for the better. Shova expressed her gratitude towards Canopy Nepal for the positive impact on Anisha's education. She recently finished grade 12 studying management, while her elder sister is doing her bachelor's studies at Saraswati College.

Shova further added that the scholarship from Canopy Nepal didn't just help with financial aspects, but also opened up new chances and opportunities for Anisha. She mentioned that Anisha shares what she learns in the monthly meetings with her, while Anisha applies her learnings in her daily activities and her education.

This has motivated Anisha to pursue her dreams. She vividly remembers feeling relieved and happy when Anisha received the scholarship. It was a special moment, knowing that her daughter could continue studying without the constant worry about money.

Shova added that Anisha's journey through school from grade 6 to grade 12 has been highly impressive. She is working incredibly hard for her education. Anisha has grown a lot, both personally and in her studies. Now, she is more independent and confident than ever, and always excited to learn new things. Her dreams have gotten bigger too; she even applied for the Lok Sewa exams recently, hoping to help out in rural areas of Nepal if she gets chosen. This support hasn't just changed Anisha's life, it has also inspired her older sister to work even harder and focus more on her studies. Anisha's success makes her whole family proud and gives them hope. It reminds them how important education is and shows them all the

new things they can do in the future.

In the neighborhood, everyone looks up to Anisha, and everyone expresses that, even though she goes to a public school, she competes with kids from private schools and is admired for how hard she works and understands her family's struggles. Her success inspires others, showing that if one stays determined and has great support, one can achieve anything. Anisha's mom is thankful to Canopy Nepal for always being there for Anisha. For her, seeing her kids getting an education she never had makes her proud and happy. She hopes they keep helping children like Anisha who need it.

As Anisha continues her educational journey, her mother supports her every step of the way. She believes in Anisha's dreams and is confident that her daughter will pursue them, making a positive impact on her family and community.





Exploring a Dynamic Approach to Learning

**Interviewed by
Pragya Thapa**



A few years back, Sambridi Guragai crossed paths with Canopy Nepal for the first time at Bhanubhakta School as a participant in a story-writing workshop. Fast forward a few years, and she is facilitating Canopy's Learners' Hub programs. When asked about her transformation from a program participant to a program facilitator, Sambridi shared that it all goes back to her experience in the workshop.

Sambridi was in middle school when a group of facilitators from Canopy Nepal came to her school and conducted a school camp aimed at interactive learning. Just a couple of days into the session, she started noticing significant differences between the workshop and her regular classes, which piqued her interest in interactive learning pedagogies. To give continuity to the practice of interactive learning in her school after the workshop ended, Sambridi became the first Secretary of Canopy Nepal Club of Bhanubhakta School. As a board member of the Club, she conducted programs like elocutions and art competitions, targeted at the exploration of skills of students. After completing high school, she took her exploration of the world of interactive learning a step further by joining Canopy as a program

facilitator. Even though she is now on the facilitating end of the program, she heavily draws from her experience of being on the receiving end to make her sessions more effective. As a young student, she enjoyed playing with balloons to learn about power dynamics. She found energizers like 'Simon Says' much more effective in helping her regain focus in class than simply being told to focus. Similarly, group activities like story writing and presentations helped her bond with the facilitators and fellow participants, which was an integral element of interactive learning. Practical and hands-on mechanisms like these exposed her to an immersive learning experience, which taught her that learning goes beyond simply listening to the content being delivered in the classroom.

As a facilitator, she strives to create a similar impact in the Katha Bunaun and EIC sessions she takes at different schools. She also adds that the student-centric program manuals of Katha Bunaun and EIC greatly assist her in making that impact. To further amplify the impact of her sessions, Sambridi uses think-pair-share activities, in which students first reflect on things individually and then discuss

them in pairs before sharing them with the class. She believes this practice teaches them to think critically and then understandably verbalize those ideas. Another go-to technique of hers is using real-world examples while delivering content in sessions, to increase the relevance of the taught material through an interactive approach. Most importantly, she adjusts her facilitation style according to the students she is facilitating. With students of lower grades, she refers to kids' shows for real-world examples. When choosing energizers, she assesses the energy levels of learners. She says that doing so ensures that all types of students make the most out of Canopy's programs.

In her eleven months of being a facilitator at Canopy, Sambridi has had the chance to directly observe the impacts of interactive learning pedagogies on learners. In her experience, students grasp concepts better through interactive activities, thus ensuring that the program objectives are met. She has also watched numerous students grow into confident communicators as a result of group discussions and public speaking activities, which require them to present their ideas in front of peers. She also shared that the interactive activities she uses in sessions help students construct their own understanding, make personal interpretations, and draw their own conclusions. Witnessing the growth of participants of Katha Bunaun and EIC is the primary reason why Sambridi believes that interactive learning mechanisms are necessary in the sphere of education.

According to her, the learning process becomes much more enjoyable with the integration of interactive mechanisms. It also redefines what teaching and learning means and works towards greater engagement of students in the learning process.

Sambridi shares that interactive learning pedagogies were responsible for her great experience in Canopy's session. So, she considers them integral in creating positive experiences for learners in Katha Bunaun and EIC sessions. Having been a participant as well as a facilitator, she is a great example of the positive impacts of interactive learning pedagogies on students as well as facilitators, and her sessions reflect the contribution of such pedagogies in empowering young minds.



Uncovering Students' Hidden Talents



**Interviewed by
Anjula Joshi**

Laxmi Tamang is the focal teacher of Shree Balkumari Basic School. Initially teaching Nepali subjects, her colleagues recognized her ability to create strong connections with her students, which motivated her to take on the role of a CANSCHIP focal teacher. As the focal teacher, she not only provides updates on students' progress but also effectively coordinates and manages every program organized by Canopy Nepal in Shree Balkumari Basic School.

After starting her work as a focal teacher for Canopy, she was introduced to Canopy's EIC program, which helps to enhance the multifaceted skills of learners and build major aspects of soft skills. Through this program, she collaborated with the passionate Learners' Hub team. She carefully selected students for the EIC program through thoughtful discussions with the head teacher and other subject teachers, taking into account her students' interests. She claims that her goal is to provide opportunities like EIC and Katha Bunaun sessions to all deserving students, including CANSCHIP scholars. She emphasized that the EIC program has not only promoted critical thinking but also supported students in finding their interests and skills that were hidden, helping in

overall development. This has made it easier for students to understand the teacher while teaching in the English language. She further explained that students used to have difficulty understanding Science, English, Health, and Environment which has now made it much easier to understand. Active participation in interactive learning and independent learning has been seen as a major change after the EIC program. Students feel more empowered to openly express their thoughts and emotions to teachers, parents, and friends, something they found challenging before. Increased student interaction in the classroom not only benefits individual students but also motivates their peers. Therefore, she stated that it was important to extend these sessions to grades 7 and 8, as there is a noticeable gap in their ability to study, read, and learn independently.

She further added that EIC sessions have had a profound impact on the students. Grade 6 students were able to discover their interests through the session. Take Kiran B.K. from grade 7, for example. Initially interested in art, the EIC sessions helped him develop his skills further, leading to remarkable progress in his paintings and drawing.

This growth not only benefited Kiran but also his father, who proudly showcased Kiran's artwork during a home visit. His father's pride was evident as he mentioned using Kiran's designs in his handicraft business.

Moreover, the educational support from CANSHP Senior Scholar Pramila Karki enabled her to pursue a career in nursing. The EIC program has also helped children improve their English comprehension and speaking skills, making them more confident in group settings. Senior scholars have taken on mentoring roles, fostering better relationships with junior scholars, teachers, and classmates. The response from parents has been overwhelmingly positive. In the past, they were less involved in Parents Teacher Meetings, but since joining the CANSHP Program, they feel a

greater sense of responsibility and actively participate in school events.

She claims that her journey with Canopy Nepal has been deeply fulfilling.

She passionately emphasized the invaluable role of the EIC program for students whose parents work long hours. These children often miss out on vital learning opportunities at home. Through the EIC program's support, various skills crucial for their development, such as reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking, are enriched, fostering their journey toward becoming independent learners. Witnessing the transformation in students and the positive impact on their families reaffirms the importance of EIC and Katha Bunaun programs.





Building Confidence and Creativity



Misan Sunuwar, a 12-year-old EIC attendee, has a warm and inviting smile that lights up the room and spreads positivity to everyone around him. He is an energetic, positive, and vibrant student who loves making art and playing online video games during his free time. He attended an EIC session in 2023, so we decided to talk to him to catch up with his academic and personal journey ever since.

First, Misan mentioned that his spelling errors had significantly decreased, and he had begun to form proper and structured sentences more consistently. Furthermore, he also noticed that his reading had become more fluent and smooth, allowing him to comprehend texts with greater ease and confidence. Though small and subtle, these improvements were clear indicators of the program's positive impact on his overall academic skills. He further recommended that by incorporating elements of drama into their school's pedagogy, students would have more fun and be encouraged to engage and interact more actively during the session, fostering a dynamic and more interesting EIC session.

Activities and energizers would also help boost productivity and simultaneously promote creativity, teamwork, and overall well-being among students, which is why Misan feels that the EIC sessions contributed to a more vibrant and effective learning environment that could impact the lives of many students.

Misan also mentioned that he has a lot more confidence after the completion of the EIC session. He believes that he has made substantial improvements compared to his friends. He states that getting to open up and challenge his beliefs and ideas during EIC also helped him realize his dreams, as he discovered a clear aspiration and professional goal to pursue an MBA degree! He said that he wants to complete an MBA to give back to his community and make his parents proud.

Attending the EIC sessions has left a lasting impression on Misan, shaping his outlook and skills in a variety of ways. One significant impact of EIC that Misan says he will carry with him as he moves forward in life is creativity. By engaging in session activities like interpreting poems, writing stories, and debating ideas, Misan has learned to tap into his imagination more freely and has displayed his gratitude towards the EIC session.

**Interviewed by
Kriti Shrestha**





Awards and Recognitions

Hi

Harvard
innovation lab

Winner of the Spring Social Impact Fellowship Fund 2024



UN WOMEN
ASIA PACIFIC

Team member awarded as UN Women APAC's 30 for 2030 for her work in education and gender



Team member selected as Youth Ambassador

hundrED

Awarded as HundrED's 100 most innovative and scalable organizations for 2024



Team members selected as
Global Ambassador for Nepal at
Youth Opportunities

INTERNATIONAL
LITERACY
ASSOCIATION

Awarded as 30 Under 30 for
work in promoting access to
quality education

**GLOBAL
CITIZEN.**[®]

Winner of the Youth Leaders
Award from Global Citizen Now



Team member selected for
United States Youth Council
under US Embassy in Nepal



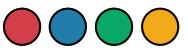
Social Innovation
Change Initiative
CENTER FOR PUBLIC LEADERSHIP



HARVARD
Kennedy School

Selected as 2023-24 Cheng Fellow
at Harvard Kennedy School





Event Highlights

This section is a short compilation of events we organized in the last year. From major events, student-organized dramas and to the establishment of sister organizations, this section captures the essence of our core values at Canopy.



Some Lifelong Connections

By Kriti Shrestha

Bold yet humble, calm yet fervent, Laxman Pariyar is a 12th grader from Kalikot, who has been a CANSCHIP scholar for four years. He is passionate about making music and hopes to become an entrepreneur one day. In fact, he has already started combining his two interests by giving guitar lessons to other students at his school.

Laxman was in grade eleven when he attended his first-ever CANSCHIP picnic, which is an annual event where all CANSCHIP scholars go on a retreat for relaxation, bonding, and networking opportunities. Laxman fondly recalled his most memorable picnic, which took place at the picturesque Switzerland Park. This special event brought together over 80 scholars from various age groups, creating a vibrant and diverse atmosphere. The day was filled with activities like singing, dancing, and playing games that encouraged interaction and bonding among all the scholars, allowing them to share their experiences and learn from one another. The natural beauty of Switzerland Park provided a perfect backdrop for tranquility and enjoyment, making it an unforgettable experience for Laxman and his fellow scholars.

Laxman, being an outgoing individual, effortlessly engaged in conversations with new acquaintances. He connected and formed a special bond with the younger children, whom he played a variety of games with.

He also fostered meaningful relationships with his fellow senior scholars, who were especially fond of his singing voice. His warm and friendly demeanor made him approachable, and the children naturally drew to him.

Laxman described his bond with all his fellow CANSCHIP scholars as pure and unadulterated. According to him, the open and frank nature of the picnic supervisors from Canopy helped create an easy environment for the scholars to open up and approach each other. The connections formed during their time together at the picnic were deep and genuine as they got to know each other well by sharing their stories, from family struggles to personal achievements. Laxman feels he made lifelong connections from this picnic.

Even today, Laxman has maintained these connections and stays in touch. Laxman enjoys hanging out with some of the senior scholars, cherishing the friendship and support that developed from their shared experiences with CANSCHIP.

According to Laxman, after he got to meet new people and learn firsthand about their life struggles and how they were growing as individuals, his own problems started to appear much smaller, which made him feel more humble and grateful for the life he was living.



He also shared his realization that today's children possess the capacity for remarkable depth of knowledge, understanding, and fearlessness compared to when he was their age. Their fresh perspectives and confidence highlighted the significant changes in how younger generations are growing up.

He embraces the saying "Respect the old, and

love the young." He really resonated with the stories shared by his fellow scholars, each narrative echoing unique experiences and challenges.

"Trust your intuition and follow your heart because only you know what you're truly capable of" was a piece of advice Laxman gave young scholars he met at the picnic.





From Ideas to Actions

By Aastha Pandey

Canopy Nepal, which started with the idea of providing scholarships to disadvantaged students, is now not just limited to providing scholarships but has expanded its area into promoting interactive learning as well. Identifying educational inaccessibility as the main problem, Canopy Nepal was born. But this was not the only problem that Canopy envisioned fighting. Along with providing scholarships, Canopy wanted to tap into the world of traditional classrooms, where conventional rote learning methods often failed to capture the imagination and potential of students. Recognizing this, Canopy Nepal started its program EIC, where everything started.

Identifying problems in education and solving them was the main focus of Canopy Nepal when it first started and the relationships along the way have added invaluable contributions in the formation of the organization. The teacher-student relationship that was built when our founder, Mohit, was in college, turned into an important aspect of building Canopy Nepal as a whole. This is where Saugat's story with Canopy started. Saugat, a development practitioner and the co-founder of Nepal Center for Integrated Development, was always a mentor of Canopy and an advisor before the advisory board was even formed.

Similarly, Bijeysh, an advocate for social change

and the founder of SAATH and Daanfe Works Enterprises Nepal, has known Canopy from the very beginning and has been guiding us throughout our journey. Alongside this, Shristi, who is working for universal education accessibility, also had a huge impact as a mentor while creating the organization. With their insights and guidance, even before Canopy was legally registered, the team gained confidence that Canopy would create a positive impact on students' lives.

Canopy Nepal then started expanding its programs where Katha Bunaun was added along with EIC and scholarship programs. During this phase, our founder attended a writing workshop to help with the Katha Bunaun program. This workshop was given by Niranjan, an educator and author with a love for education, the arts, culture, and storytelling. This student-teacher interaction where the values of story writing and storytelling coincided created a bond, and Niranjan has been Canopy's mentor and guide ever since.

Similarly, Aditya, a director at MC Group, leading a manufacturing division with a history spanning over 100 years, who previously worked in the public and non-profit sectors across America, Africa, and Asia, and Nancy, a brand professional who has worked on diverse projects primarily in the South Asian market, found out about the works of Canopy Nepal

through Global Shapers. Their vision, work, and values aligned with Canopy's values, which formed the foundation of this relationship. After many conversations over tea, the relationship morphed from friends to now Advisory Board members.

Furthermore, in 2020, Sareesha, Miss Nepal Earth 2022, and a founder of NGO Sahayatri, became our very first Goodwill Ambassador. This relationship has now expanded to an advisory role as well. Being an MBBS doctor, her love and dedication to improving the health of people is yet another unique aspect that adds value to this diverse group of advisors of Canopy Nepal.

Earlier this year, Canopy's formal advisory board was formed to fill in gaps like bringing in technical knowledge, helping with financial resources, working on Canopy's visions, performing external communications, and bringing in inclusion and diversification in the organization.

Aditya is helping Canopy explore areas outside of Kathmandu and expand Canopy's programs

there and Niranjan is helping incorporate themes of inclusivity in our programs and work culture. Likewise, Shristi is helping in external communications to raise funds from the United States, Bijeysh provides insights to Canopy from a social enterprise perspective, and Nancy is helping out with building connections with people and helping with Canopy's branding. Similarly, Saugat is helping build connections at local levels and expand Canopy's programs, and Sareesha is helping promote Canopy's work digitally. This board is composed of distinguished professionals from seven diverse fields, bringing a wealth of experience and a holistic perspective to decision-making processes. The expertise and insights these members contribute are invaluable to Canopy Nepal, significantly enhancing its ability to address various challenges and seize new opportunities. With their guidance, Canopy can tackle complex issues with a well-rounded approach, integrating different viewpoints and strategies that might not have been considered otherwise. Each advisory member's unique background and skill set enrich our discussions and decisions, fostering a collaborative environment where innovation can flourish.



Cultivating Change: The Impact of Storytelling

By Aliya Khan

Every year, the best story written in Valley View School's Katha Bunaun session gets adapted into a drama that the students perform on their Annual Day function. This has become an annual tradition that Valley View and Canopy Nepal always look forward to. For the past few years, the itinerary of the Annual Day function of Valley View School contains a huge space for the Canopy drama.

This year too, a story titled "A Big Wedding Mistake" by Aarya Baral, one of the eighth graders at Valley View, was showcased on the school's Annual Day. This drama stood out as a depiction of the thoughts of a young mind on wedding rituals and family bonding. This drama was narrated by the writer herself and was performed by her friends.

Like every year, the young artists received a lot of love from the audience. Each year, the drama acts as a huge platform for the students to express their creativity not just in front of their school but also their parents. This tradition has successfully become a source of communicating the students' thoughts and talents to their parents. By building the courage to act as artists on stage, the bottled-up thoughts that teenagers struggle to communicate directly to their parents get a chance to be showcased on this day.

The stories that are received during the Katha Bunaun sessions are a treasure of young voices and minds. They do not just reflect creativity but do so by demanding change and innovations. Students, through their stories, express their desire to seek positive change in themselves, their schools, their parents, and everything around them. That is why the dramatization of these stories acts as a strong platform for students to raise their voices.

The school also understands the need for Katha Bunaun sessions and the Canopy drama. They collaborate with Canopy Nepal and always help create the space for new ideas and innovations. The Principal of Valley View School, Mr. Subhash Chandra Bhandari, recalls how many years ago, Riya Paudel, a former Valley View student who later worked as a facilitator at Canopy, helped create a connection between the two organizations.



He also expresses how happy and proud he feels when he sees all his students being able to enhance their critical thinking, creativity, confidence, communication, and leadership. The students at Valley View claim that they eagerly wait to reach grade eight so that they too would be able to take part in Canopy sessions. This excitement is also partly a result of the praise they hear seniors give to Katha Bunaun and the skills they see them learn. Mr. Bhandari takes the drama and the sessions as a way of helping the students socialize.

He says that these stories and drama are the responsibilities that the school wants their students to take on their shoulders because the students may be small by age but they possess great potential.

The drama is also a great opportunity for Canopy Nepal and the school to showcase their cooperation and collaboration to the parents and their whole team. It is also a way of showing that the school is open to new ideas and innovations that the students may need for their development.

The drama, the story, the emotions, the talent, and the dedication showcased by the students are celebrated by the school and the parents. The parents feel very proud seeing their kids on stage about this annual tradition and want this to continue. They believe that the students get to express their interests and passions and that the stories have the power to bring positive changes in their school, family, and community.





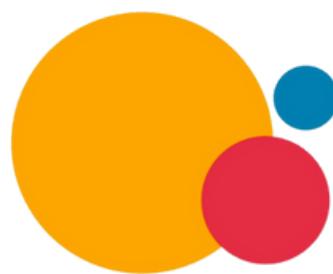
Canopy Beyond Nepal

By Nimish Raj Sharma

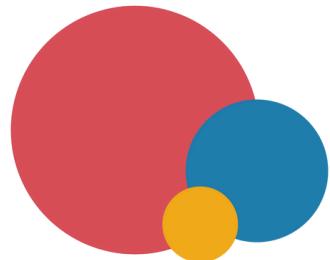
After years of extensive planning and behind-the-scenes work, we are elated to announce the establishment of Canopy France and Canopy USA, sister organizations of Canopy Nepal. Having been officially established in 2022 and 2024 respectively, Canopy France and USA are international chapters of Canopy, and they help the work that we do in Nepal stay sustainable and prolific through self-sufficient fundraising.

In the past eight years, hundreds of people have supported our cause and played a significant role in the formal establishment and operation of Canopy. While many of them are from Nepal, we realized that we had just as many people in France and the USA looking out for us. Take Ainhoa, the treasurer for Canopy France, for example, who has been familiar with Canopy Nepal since 2015, even before we were established as an enterprise. Ainhoa came to Nepal in 2019 to work as an intern at Canopy for six months. Having spent a substantial amount of time working in the development sector, she helped us revise and build our Learners' Hub curriculums. When she returned to France, she realized that there were hundreds of people like her, who wanted to help out kids in Nepal, but were not able to due to travel difficulties, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This led to the brewing of the idea of building a medium through which individuals in France could support the education of Nepali kids. Thus began Canopy France.

As days went by, we realized that we could venture out for a similar project in the USA too. We were immensely grateful to realize that there were hundreds of people in the USA too, who were willing to help out our work. Besides native USA residents, dozens of Canopy team members have relocated to the USA for education and work, and they have always kept Canopy in the back of their minds, and are willing to be involved in future projects. Furthermore, our collaboration since 2018 with ISLearning, an educational enterprise in the USA, has allowed us to stay connected with and learn about the culture of the US education system. Hence, recognizing the prospects of Canopy USA, that chapter too has officially begun.



CANOPY
FRANCE



CANOPY
USA

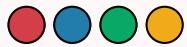
For now, one of the biggest roles of Canopy France and USA is to help Canopy with fundraising that can be used to support the children that we work with. However, in the next couple of years, we are open to the idea of taking Canopy Nepal programs, adapting and customizing them to the educational system and culture of France and the USA, and start implementing them there. After all, Canopy's biggest objective is to work on SDG4, to help provide inclusive and equitable quality education for all. While we currently predominantly work only with Nepal children, the issues we try to tackle are present abroad too.

While it is true that the status quo of education in the USA and France is far ahead of that in Nepal, there are still many rural areas in the two countries where educational accessibility is still a problem.

Thus, we look forward to exploring the possibility of expanding Canopy programs to the USA and France by reconstructing, polishing, and customizing programs like Katha Bunaun, and implementing them there.

One of the biggest motivating factors for us during this entire process has been the love and support we have received from our friends who have worked with Canopy. More and more people around the world are recognizing the fact that accessibility to education is a serious issue in Nepal. With a roughly 73% dropout rate from secondary school, the current state of the Nepali education culture is concerning, to say the least. We, as we have ever since we began in 2016, hope to help improve this scenario and reduce this statistic, and we know that Canopy France and USA will play an instrumental role in helping us do so.





Canopy in Numbers

OUR REACH

215

PARTNER SCHOOLS
AND COLLEGES

209

SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS



7

PROVINCES REACHED

14,000+

STUDENTS REACHED

129

SCHOLARS GRADUATED

7,000+

STORIES WRITTEN

RESOURCES PROVIDED

- **HEALTHY MEALS PROVIDED:**



94,000+

- **SCHOOL SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED:**



22,000+

- **LH SESSIONS CONDUCTED:**



2,100+

- **SESSIONS IN HOURS:**



16,000+



GENDER RATIO

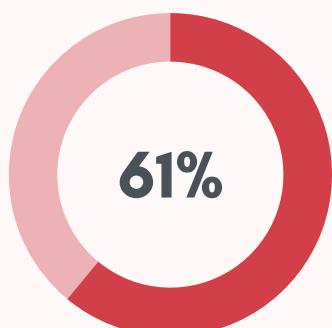


70% FEMALE | 30 % MALE

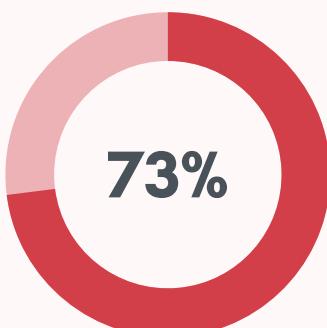
CANOPY WORLDWIDE

Canopy's donors and scholars are across the globe, in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, France, and, of course, Nepal.

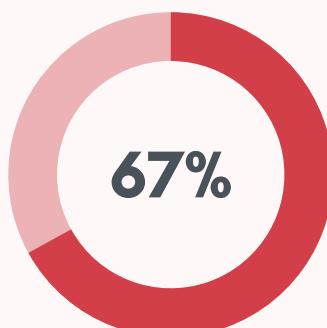
GROWTH STATS



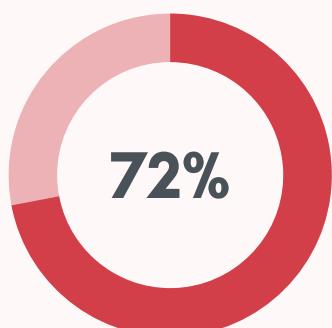
Improvement in
Reading



Improvement in
Writing



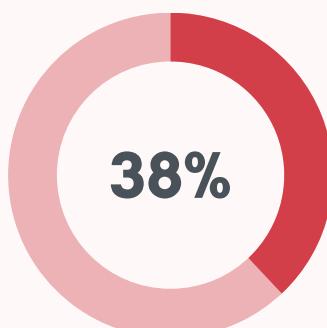
Enhancement in
Self-expression



Increase in
School Attendance

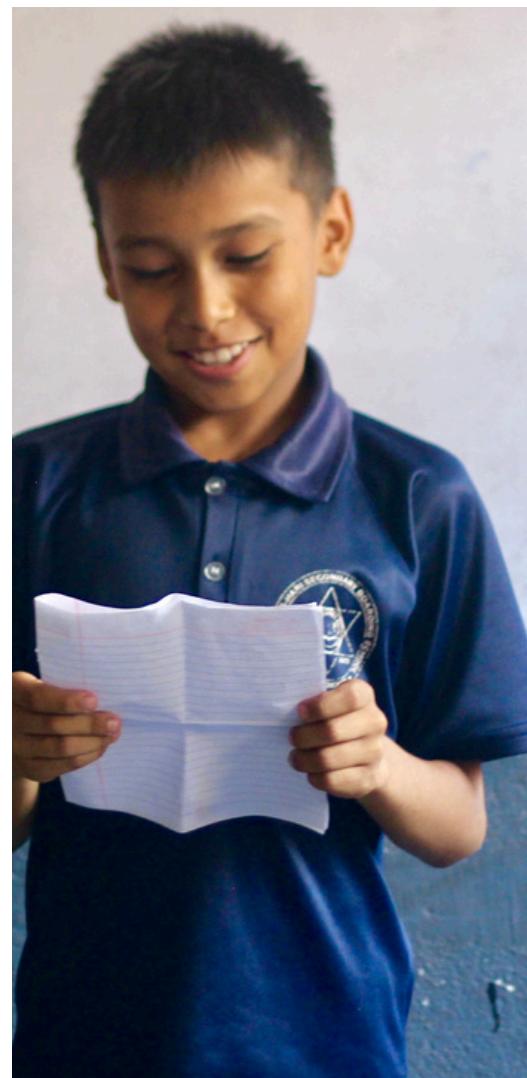


Increase in
Graduation Rate



Improvement in
Academic Results

This data is the average growth rate after a session of the 14000+ learners Canopy has worked with.



Buneka Katha

This section contains the stories written by the 'Best Story' award winners from our Katha Bunaun sessions. From horror to romance, our learners have expressed their creativity in a variety of themes and styles. We hope you enjoy these stories as much as we did!



Born to Die

By Medhawi Mainali

Grade 8

Bhanubhakta Memorial School

"In my stories, I explore the challenges I faced while growing up, meeting various people, and enduring bullying. I also delve into the societal issues and injustices I witnessed. I felt an inner drive to address these problems through my writing because I strongly believed that they needed attention."

-Medhawi

The priest pulled out her nails, and toenails and cut her hair. She cried out in pain, "Please stop you're hurting me", Anastasia trying to pull herself away from the priest. While the villagers felt delighted seeing her suffer terrible pain they yelled with joy, "Die witch, die."

The village of Edinburgh is a weird place. Even in the early 2000s they still lived in a cottage. The people there were superstitious, whenever they saw a black cat they would kill it. The place always smelled like a rotten dead body and blood splatters were everywhere and after the clock struck midnight, there would not be a soul in the streets.

Now continuing Anastasia yelled out loud, "Why are you doing this to me? What did I do to deserve this?" The villagers stopped laughing and said in a serious tone, "You deserve this for being the biggest trouble to this village since the day you were born we never get sunlight, it never even seems to rain. There are no trees full of leaves." The priest yelled out, "Now we burn her." She started to cry as they started to burn her alive.

Anastasia was a pretty young lady with her long curly strawberry blond hair, her purple eyes her pale white skin and her tall height. She was a kind, helpful and compassionate young girl who was brilliant in her studies. She had her life on a silver platter until the day the villagers had a dream that she was a witch, they started throwing rocks at her daily until the day they held a secret meeting with the town councillors. They decided to baptize her. The town baptized differently by pulling the nails, and toenails, cutting their hair and finally burning them alive.

After a few years the village got even worse they thought the baptism took some time to work. Little did they know the girl they killed was haunting them and the village. She didn't want to let them go this easily. She wanted to kill them all. Even long after things got even weirder. Animals were dying, diseases were spreading and fires were happening. Then she wanted to start torturing and killing them. She started with the priest by doing the same thing he did to her. Then little by little, she haunted more and more villagers. Then started a huge fire and killed them. She still didn't find peace. It is said that she haunts the village of Edinburgh to this day.

बदलाको कथा

“जसले नराम्रो गर्छ ऊसँग पनि नराम्रो नै हुन्छ भन्ने कुरालाई देखाउनको लागि मैले यो कथा बदलाको बारेमा लेखेको थिएँ। मैले पहिलो चोटी कथा-लेखन कक्षामा बसेर कथा लेख्न सिकेको हो।”

- निशान्त

निशान्त पुडासैनी
कक्षा ८
आदर्श योग हरि विद्यालय

कुनै एउटा बर्मुडा भन्ने जड्गलमा दुई जना साथी सुरज श्याम घुम्न भनेर बाइकमा चढेका थिए। बिच बाटोमा श्यामले झर्किंदै, “म आज बाइक चलाउछु, तिमी पछाडी बस। तिमीलाई बाइक चलाउन आउदैन त्यसैले म चलाउने छु,” भन्यो। यतिकै कुरा कुरामा दुई जना साथी बिच झगडा भयो। दुई जना दुई बाटो तिर लागे। दुई जनालाई केही थाहा नै थिएन कि उनीहरु कुन ठाँउमा थिए। उनीहरु हराई सकेको सुरजलाई आनुभव भयो अनि सुरजले पछाडी हेर्यो तर सबै सुनसान थियो। सुरजले डराएर शायमलाई कल गन्यो तर सम्पर्क हुन सकेन। सम्पर्क हुन नसकेको कारणले सुरजले श्यामसँग कल गर्न सकेन त्यसैले सुरजले आफ्नो मोबाइल गोजीमा राखेर जुन बाटो आएको, त्यही बाटो मैं फर्कन थाल्यो तर श्याम अलि अगाडि जाँदा एउटा स्याललाई देख्यो। त्यो स्याललाई देखना साथ शायम चिच्याएर भाग्यो अनि श्याम र सुरज दुबै जाना जुन ठाउँबाट छुटेका थिए, त्यही ठाँउमा फर्केर आए। तर त्यो स्याल शायमको पछाडी आयो अनि दुवै जाना साथी डराएर चिच्याउन थाले। त्यसै बिच एउटा जड्गली मान्छे, मुगाली आएर स्याललाई भगायो अनि सुरज र श्यामको ज्यान बचायो। अनि तिनै जाना साथी भए।

तर त्यो दिनको झगडाले सुरज श्यामसँग धेरै रिसाएको थियो। रिस रिसमा सुरजले श्यामलाई मार्यो तर यो कुरा मुगलीलाई थहा थिएन। अनि भोलिपल्ट मुगलीले सुरजलाई सोध्यो, “सुरज खै त श्यामलाई देरिवन अनि सुरजले भन्यो, “मलाई थाहा भएन तिमीलाई किन चाहियो।” सुरज मुगलीसँगै झगडा गर्न थाल्यो, झगडा झगडा मैं सुरजले मुगलीलाई पनि मार्यो अनि त्यसैको १० दिन पछि सुरज आफ्नो घर आयो तर सुरजलाई थाहा थिएन कि श्याम र मुगलीको आत्मा उसको

अगाडी र पछाडि बदला लिन आएका थियो। एक दिन राती सुरज आफ्नो कोठामा सुत्न जाने बेलामा श्याम र मुगलीको आत्माले सुरजलाई मारे र आफ्नो बदला लिए।





"I love reading books as they take me to a different world and provide me with creative ideas. So, as soon as I heard the theme, I knew what I wanted to write about: something scary and fantastical."

- Eshana

The Mysterious Mirror

By Eshana Bhandari
Grade 7
Bloom Nepal School

"The teachers are gone", Rashmi exclaimed. "I guess our plan is gonna be successful", I added. Me (Eshana), Rashmi, Greshika and Dikshya are planning to roam around the abandoned room of our school.

The teachers were gone, the night had fallen and we had told our parents that we were gonna do a sleepover in someone's house. Rashmi, Greshika and Dikshya had said that they were gonna sleep at my house and I said that I was gonna sleep in Rashmi's house. We were hiding in the washroom until all the teachers went. The school was a 5-floor building with some dim lights.

I could hear the chirping of owls and the sound of wolves. It was a full-moon night. As we entered the abandoned room (which was a store room 2 years ago), I could see some figures in the dim light of the store room, one with long hair and a chubby body which was Dikshya, one with short hair and short height, which was Greshika and another with long hair and tall height which was Rashmi.

I could see that Greshika and Dikshya were scared because they had soft hearts and they could get scared really easily while on the other hand, me and Dikshya were daring, we were not scared easily. I was the one to make this plan to explore this abandoned room.

"Where are we gonna find the mirror?" Dikshya asked. "The storeroom is huge, so let's divide groups and search it", Rashmi added. We were searching for the mirror because of the rumours which were spreading all over the school that if the mirror was found then, we could get some powers.

"I am really scared. Can we please go home?" Greshika asked. "But our plan will be wasted, so let's continue Searching", I added. "We have really little time, can we please start searching for it", Rashmi said aggressively. "Oh...ok", Dikshya said hesitantly. We started searching the mirror. "look!" Rashmi said excitedly. We gathered around her and found a shiny thing lying on the corner of the floor. We lifted it and looked at it. I felt dizzy and slowly my eyes stopped supporting me.

"Wake up", I heard a familiar sound. As I opened my eyes slowly, I could recognise that she was Dikshya. "Fast, fast stand up", she said nervously. Now, when I woke up, I saw that my friends were scared. It was daytime, the sun was shining and we were in the middle of our school grounds. "What happened?", I asked them. "I guess we are in the future time," Greshika said nervously. Her voice was thin and she was really scared. "Calm down", I said in a soft voice. "How did you know that we are in future?" I asked Greshika. "I asked today's date one of the children roaming in our school and his reply was "August 15" but the last time we were in the store room on August 10", Greshika replied. While we were talking, suddenly the land started moving and I could not stand properly.

The children were still reading inside the school. Suddenly, the building fell and we could hear the screams of the children. Finally, we understood that it was an earthquake.

Fortunately, we were on the ground so, we did not die.

Slowly, we started feeling dizzy again and fainted. When we woke up, my head was aching and the room was roaming up and down. The mirror was beside us, darkness still surrounded the environment and we were in the store room again.

After a while, when I felt a bit better, I told them about my dream. I found out that it wasn't really a dream because we had felt the same thing. We decided to tell the principal and help to save people and children from the incident that was gonna happen on August 15. When we told him, he did not believe us but when we insisted, he made a notice that on August 15 everyone was gonna sit in an open ground.

This incident did happen on August 15 but no lives were lost. We were appreciated and given a full scholarship from our school because we saved everyone's life. Of course, the mirror is safely kept in the museum, but nobody knows what the specific purpose of the mirror was, why was the store room abandoned and why the other students also tried 'to go to another world'.





आमाको

माया

सुष्मा कापले

कक्षा ८

नेपाल आदर्श माध्यमिक विद्यालय

“मेरो आमा र बुबा छुटेर बस्नुभएको देखेर मलाई आमाको माया कस्तो हुन्छ भनेर थाहा छ त्यसैले मैले आमाको मायाको बारेमा कथा लेखेको हुँ।”

- सुष्मा

कुनै एउटा रानीपुर नाम गरेको ठूलो गाउँ थियो । त्यस ठूलो गाउँमा एउटा सानो परिवार बस्थे । त्यस परिवारमा आमा, बुबा र छोरा थिए । आमाको नाम मनमाया, बुबाको नाम हरिलाल र छोराको नाम कृष्ण थियो । कृष्ण बालकै थियो । उसले आमालाई धेरै दुःख दिन्थियो । उनिहरुको एउटा ठूलो खेत र दुई ओटा गोरुहरू थिए । हरिलाल र मनमाया बिहान, दिउँसो, जहिले पनि खेतमा जान्थे । असारको महिना थियो । खेतमा धान रोप्ने कार्यकाम चलिरहेको थियो । आमा घरमा खेतालाहरुलाई खाजा बनाउँदै हुनुहुन्थ्यो । आमा खेतमा गएर सबैलाई खाजा दिनुभयो र सबै जना घर फर्के । असार १७ गते कृष्णको जन्मदिन थियो । जन्मदिनको अवसरमा घरमा आमा बुबाले ठूलो कार्यक्रम राख्नुभएको थियो । जन्मदिनको अवसरमा बुबाले केक ल्याइदिनुभयो । आमा र छिमेकीहरु मिलेर खाना बनाउनु भयो । कृष्ण चौध वर्ष पुग्यो भनेर आमा बुबा धेरै खुशी हुनु भयो । तर त्यस दिनको १५ दिन पछि बुबाको मृत्यु भयो । बुबा रुखमा पात झार्छ भनेर चढ्नु भएको थियो, तर लडेर बुबाको मृत्यु भयो ।

रुखबाट झर्ने बेला बुबाको खुट्टा चिप्पेर लढ्नु भयो । आमा धेरै दुःखी हुनुभयो । त्यसपछि घरमा एक गाँस अन्न खान पनि गाहो भयो । आमाले धेरै दुःख गरेर पैसा कमाउनु भयो र कृष्णलाई पढाउनु भयो । कृष्णको उमेर बिस वर्ष भैसकेको थियो । कृष्ण माथी घरको सबै जिम्मेवारीहरू थियो । आमाले कृष्णलाई पढाउन सहर पठाउनु भयो । आमाले गाउँबाट कृष्णलाई पढाइ खर्च पठाइराख्नु भएको थियो । कृष्णको पढाइपनि राम्रो चल्दै थियो तर कृष्ण बिस्तारै कुलतमा फस्दै थियो । आमाले पठाउनुभएको पैसा सबै कुलत र चुरोटको धुवामा सकिदै थियो ।

उता गाउँमा आमाले सोच्दै हुनुहुन्थ्यो अब कृष्ण ठूलो भयो । अब पैसा कमाउँछ अनि मैले दुःख गर्नु पर्दैन भनेर सोच्दै बस्नु भएको थियो । आमालाई कृष्णको धेरै याद आएको थियो त्यसैले कृष्णलाई फोन गर्नुभयो तर कृष्णले फोन उठाएन ।

आमाले धेरै चोटि फोन गरेपछी मात्र कृष्णले फोन उठायो । कृष्णको आवाज सुनेर आमा धेरै खुसी हुनु भयो । कृष्णले आमाको हाल-चाल नसोधी "आमा पैसा चाइएको थियो" भन्यो । आमाले "म भोली पठाइदिन्छु" भन्नु भयो । आमाले कृष्णलाई "गाउँ आइज बाबु" भनेर फोन राख्नु भयो । आमाले धेरै भइसकेको थिये पैसा नपठाउनुभएको । आमा बिरामी भएको कुरा कृष्णलाई थाहा भयो । त्यस पछी कृष्णले गाउँ जाने तयारी गर्यो । कृष्ण गाउँ गयो । गाउँमा आएर हेर्दा आमा बिरामी भएको बेला पनि तातो घाममा खेत जोत्दै गरेको कृष्णले देख्यो र कृष्णले आमालाई बोलायो । आमाले कृष्णलाई देखेपछि धेरै खुसि हुनुभयो । कृष्णलाई अङ्गालो हालेर आमा रुनु भयो र कृष्णको पनि औंखा रसायो । कृष्णले मनमनै सोच्यो, "आमा यस्तो तातो घाममा काम गर्दै हुनुहुन्छ मेरो लागि तर मैले बुझिन । म बाँचेको भन्दा मरैकै ठिक हुन्थ्यो," भन्ने सोच्दै थियो । कृष्णले "अब सहर जाँदिन, र गाउँमै बसेर आमासँगै काम गर्नु" भन्यो । यस पछि दुवै जना मिलेर बस्न थाले ।



The Black Stain

By Gresika Parajuli

Grade 7

Bloom Nepal School

"I like writing comedy-thriller stories and acting them out with my friends. That is why for this story, I decided to write something scary and thrilling. I don't usually write stories, so this was a new experience for me, and I enjoyed it a lot."

- Gresika

"I am so hungry," Eshana said hungrily. "What should I eat?" again Eshana. "Go check the kitchen" Greshika replied. Merrily said, "It is a sleepover guys c'mon". Eshana went to the kitchen and she didn't see anything but an apple.

She noticed the apple had a black stain. She tried to cut it but she couldn't. It appeared again. "Guys there is a problem," Eshana said. "What?" Merrily and Greshika asked. There is this mysterious stain in this apple", said Eshana. "Are you joking", said Merrily. "Just cut it off," said Greshika. "I tried", Eshana said. Then Merrily tried, Greshika tried but the stain would not go.

They were scared now. Eshana tried to touch the stain, and then she disappeared from there. Greshika got so scared that she fainted. Merrily was panicking seeing all this. She brought a bit of water in her hand and put it in Greshika's face and she woke up. On the other hand, Eshana was in another universe. She started feeling cold in her hand. She saw a block of ice in her hand when she found it was her power. In a normal universe, Merrily and Greshika also touch the stain and end up in another universe.

Eshana looked at Gresika like she was an alien. Gresika felt her hand was wet and as for Merrily, she felt cold in her hand because of the wind. They started hating each other. Every time they saw each other they would use their power to disappear from that place. One day Eshana and Gresika met at a place. Eshana could not hold it now she snapped and Gresika died because of the cold. The same thing happened with Merrily and one day Eshana also died. Now all three of them were in the normal universe so they tried to solve the mystery of the apple. They had a friend who was a scientist. They took the apple to the scientist. They found nothing so they ignored the apple and Started living their own life. The apple mystery was still a mystery. Which would never be solved.





राम्री गुडियाको डरलाङ्दो स्वभाव

“हामीले निर्जीव वस्तुमा जीवन हालेर एउटा कथा बनाउनु पर्ने थियो त्यसैले मैले यस कथामा गुडियाको बारेमा लेखेको थिएँ र त्यो गुडियाको जीवनी बनाएर एउटा कथा बनाएको थिएँ ।”

- आकृति

आकृति थापा

कक्षा ८

शिवपुरी माध्यमिक विद्यालय

तुलो झारि परिहेको थियो । म एकै बेलुकाको ९ बजे बाटोमा हिडिरहेको थिएँ । शनीवारको दिन साथीसँग घुम्न जान भनेर गएको थिएँ तर फर्कदा ढिला भयो । साथीसँगै आइतबारबाट १० दिनको लागी नगरकोट भन्ने ठाँउ घुम्न जाने कुरा भएको थियो । सोच्दा सोच्दै म घर आइपुग्ने र केही नसोची सुन्ने कोठामा गएर सुत्नै । बिहान चार बजेको समयमा मलाइ घडीको अलार्मले ब्युँझायो । हामी घरबाट ५ बजेको समयमा मेरो साथी करुना र सुधालाई लिएर नगरकोटका लागि निस्क्याँ । जाँदा जाँदै त्यो ठाँउ आइपुग्यो । हामीले एउटा कोठा भनेका थियाँ । बाहिरबाट हेर्दा घर साहै पुरानो देखिन्थ्यो तर भित्र कोठा एककदम राम्रो रहेछ । म एकदम खुशी थिएँ ।

बेलुका सात बज्यो र हामी खाना खान गर्याँ । खाना खाँदै धेरै कुराहरू गर्याँ । एकासी बिजुली गयो र हामी आ-आफ्नो मोबाइलको टर्च बालेर कोठामा गर्याँ । हामी आ-आफ्नो खाटमा गएर सुत्याँ । बिहान चराको चिरचिरसँगै मेरो आँखा खुल्यो । मैले घडी हेर्दा ६ बजेको रहेछ । मलाई मेरो अगाडी कोही हिँडे जस्तो लाग्यो ।

मैले आँफु अगाडि हेर्दा कोही थिएँ । मैले साथीहरूलाई बोलाएँ र हामी चिया पिउन गर्याँ । चिया पिएर आउँदा कोठा मिलिसकेको रहेछ । हामीले कामगर्ने मन्छेले आएर मिलायो भन्ने सोच्याँ । एकछिनमा हाम्रो नजर एउटा गुडियामा गयो । देख्दा साहै राम्री थिई । मैले आँफुलाई सम्हाल्न सकिन र त्यो गुडियालाई हातमा लिएँ । हामीले त्यो गुडियालाई सुमसुमाएर त्यही ठाउँमा राखिधियाँ । हामी नगरकोटको सेरोफेरो घुम्न गर्याँ । धेरै बेर रमाइलो पछि हामी त्यही कोठामा फर्कियाँ । ढोकाको चाबी खोलेर हेर्दा कोठा धेरै बिग्रीएको रहेछ । हामीले रीसमा त्यहाँ काम गर्नेलाई बोलायाँ र गाली गर्न

थाल्याँ । त्यो काम गर्नेले, “म यो कोठामा छिरेकै छैन,” भन्यो । मेरो नजर फेरी त्यही गुडियामा गयो । सबै खेलाउनाहरू सही ठाउँमा थिए तर गुडिया भुइँमा थियो । मलाई कता कता डर लागेको थियो ।

मैले त्यो गुडियालाई टिपे र भित्तामा जोरले फ्याकीदिएँ । मेरो साथीहरू पनी मस्सैंगै नै थिए । त्यती नै बेला कोही रोएको आवाज आयो । हामीले यता उति हेर्यो कोही थिएन । वास्तवमा त्यो गुडिया रोइ रहेको रहेछ । हामी त्यो देखेर छक्क पर्याँ । मैले डरलाङ्दा पनि त्यो गुडियालाई सोधै, “तिमी बोल्न सक्छै?” त्यो गुडियाले रुँदै भन्यो, “म अर्को दुनियाँबाट आएको हुँ ।” मैले भनै, “तिमो छुई दुनियाँ छ र? तिमी कसरी यहाँ आयौ त्यसो भए?” त्यो गुडियाले थाहा छैन भनिदियो । तिमीलाई यो कोठामा यहाँ कसले ल्यायो? “बच्चाले,” सुरीलो स्वरमा त्यो गुडियाले भन्यो ।

मैले धेरै प्रश्नहरू सोधै तर त्यो गुडियाले “थाहा छैन” भनिदिन्थ्यो । म आँफैले सोच्न सकेको थिएन म अब के गरुम? मलाइ त्यो गुडियाको बारेमा धेरै जान्न मन थियो? त्यही बेला काम गर्ने दिदीले खाना खान बोलाउनु भयो । मैले त्यो गुडियालाई डस्टविनमा फालिदिएँ र खाना खान गएँ । खाना खाएर फर्केर म सुत्नै । राती एकासी मलाई त्यही गुडियाको सपना आयो र म बिउझिएँ । मेरो साथीहरू पनि उठे र हामी बिस्तारै त्यो डस्टविनमा गर्याँ र गुडियालाई हेर्याँ । गुडियाको आँखा रातो भएको थियो । हामी धेरै डरायाँ र त्यो गुडियालाई त्याही छाडेर गर्याँ ।

बिहान ५ बजे मेरो साथीले मलाई ब्युँझायो र हामी घुम्न गर्याँ र धेरै रमाइलो गर्याँ । मैले मेरो फोन झिक्न ब्याग खोल्दा मेरो

ब्यागमा त्यही गुडिया थियो। म त धेरै नै डराइसकेको थिएँ। मैले त्खत्यहाँ लामा गुडियालाई पर्याकिदिएँ। हामी घर फर्केर खाना खाएर सुत्याँ। सपनामा त्यही गुडियाले मलाई मार्न खोजदै थियो। म डराएर ब्युझिएँ, जिउमा धेरै पसिना आएको थियो। मलाई त्यही गुडीयाको सम्झना आएर म रातभरी सुत्न सकिन। मलाई घर जान मन थियो। तर साथीहरूसँग आएपछि छाडेर कहाँ जान सक्छु र?

बिहान उठेर नुहाइधुवाइ गरेर खाजा खान गएँ। खाजा खाएर फर्कदा त्यो गुडिया हाँसेर मेरो खाटमाथि बसिरहेको थियो। मलाई डरले सताइरहेको थियो। मैले कुद्दै गएर डस्टबिनमा

हेरेँ, गुडिया त्यहाँ रहेछ अनी फेरी कुद्दै कोठामा गएँ। कोठामा कोही थिएन। भ्रम भएको होला भन्ने लायो। म त्यही सपनाको बारेमा सोच्दै थिएँ। आज त सोच्दा सोच्दै दिन बित्यो। मलाई रात नहोस जस्तो लागेको थियो। बेलुका ८ बजे खाना खाएर आएँ र सुतेँ। सुत्या फेरी त्यही गुडियाको सपना आयो र मैले राती १ बजे त्यो गुडियालाई जलाइदिएँ।

अब चाँहि मनमा एक प्रकारको शान्ति आएको थियो। तर शनिबारको दिन बिहान जुरुक्क उटदा मैले फेरि पनि त्यही गुडिया अगाडि देख्यौँ।





Echoes of the Mural

Manyata Thapaliya

Grade 10

Bhanubhakta Memorial School

"I am the winner of the Katha Bunaun competition that took place in 2023 at Valley View School. I am grateful for this opportunity to express my ideas through story writing. I hope you enjoy reading my story."

- Manyata

"Oh! I did not expect Vivian to portray things like this. I can't understand the way the world works for her". "Well, nobody does, but can you imagine, the way she sees the world is nothing like the way she perceives it ". The people I met in this school are nothing compared to my imagination. Their suffering doesn't relate to me. I can't visualize them the way I visualize myself. But it pleases me that I can have a new beginning now. Eight grade is done so I must welcome the new beginning.

The chattering in the hallways never pleased me. All I could see in people was their cruelty and they saw me the same way. I go to my usual comfort place in the school and it's not like someone imagines it to be. No, it wasn't the school's terrace, not the balcony but the staff room. People might think I have problems with students but not the teacher, how can they be so sure? I leaped through the staff room's door as it creaked and closed with full automation. I sit in my usual corner. Nobody knew that this place existed in the staff room. The school was empty as it was the last day. I could be in peace. I put on some good music on my phone and started dancing as I felt a chill down my spine. I felt like I was being watched, nonetheless, I eyed the room all across but couldn't find a single

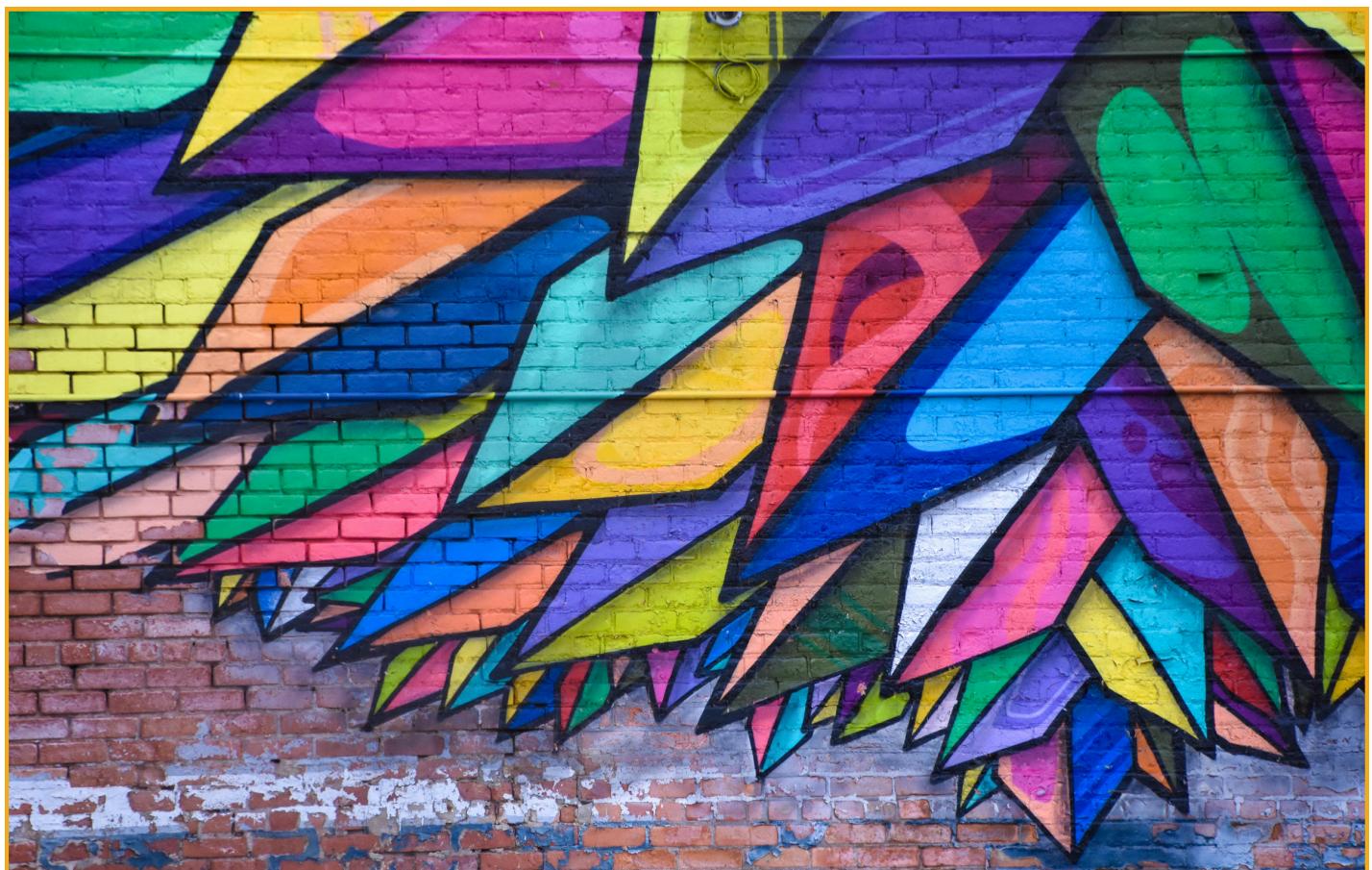
thing but a piece of paper that was unusually attracting me. I slowly went towards it and bent to pick it up. It felt vintage the paper was painted with coffee, felt dry, and had words written on it. Not any words, it was a map, so unusual that in my five years in this school, I had never seen such ways, such objects or anything.

"Map by Vii, Huh, Who is Vii? And something about this is giving me intuitions. The dark woods, is there such a thing nearby?" I looked out of the window to just find a strange, anonymous sparkle inside the forest nearby. "Let's follow this, Who knows, it might be worth it" I thought to myself. I went to the terrace to locate the sparkle, it seemed so close that I could locate it by my senses. But something about it wasn't feeling so good. I felt by the wind that I wasn't in my senses. "Hey, Vivian!" I looked over my shoulder to find Dave, the studious, quiet guy who despised the touch of girls. "What is he doing here?" I ran quickly to flee out of the terrace so he couldn't catch me or the map clutched in my hand. "Don't go, you are the only person I can find here, please" he shouted. "I had never seen you in such worry, never heard you shouting like that." I shouted back as he rushed towards me to catch me.



I felt a breeze detangling my hair, put together by a ribbon bow, and locked eyes with him. His eyes depicted worry a sort of emotion you feel when you are losing someone, a sort of look when you find out a person you cherished is no longer there. "Give me the paper", He tried to pull my hand and catch the paper to tear it down, but I wouldn't let him. "Don't touch me. Come on inch closer and you know what'll happen.", I said. "Do you even realize what this is, huh? Don't play around with this like a child. This isn't what you think it is", he replied. "Oh, so you know, then be with me. I need to look for this, I'm convinced by this that there is something that belongs to me", I said to him while catching my breath. "I will help you but you need to be with me, us together, 24/7, Is it clear?". "Uhmm, it is". I get myself convinced that maybe he'll provide me with a ray of hope with whatever this is. "Tell me about it, where did you get it?" He asks. "I found it in the staff room, Something about this gave me a chill", the look of worry yet hadn't left his face.

"Don't look at me like that, let's just go", I said. "Not yet, let me take you somewhere", he said as he pulled my hands and dragged me to the Mural I painted. The same one which changed the way people looked at me." What does this mean?" He asked. I never knew what it meant, I just painted something that was calling me. "A voice I heard, it was no dream, no imagination. Please, believe me, this is the portrayal of what I heard and what I felt", I reply. "Hmm, Come with me", he says as he drags me out of the school and stands up beside me in front of the forest. "Let's go", I tell him. "Not yet, take this bracelet and remember me whenever you are alone out there", he says taking out a bracelet from his side tote bag. I felt secure, like the feeling I had already felt. A wave of emotions traveled across my body as he tied the bracelet around my wrist. He had never communicated or interacted with a girl like this before. I looked up at him and felt hopeful that I would find what belonged to me.





"Let's go", he says, and he tightly ties my hand with his by a scarf. "If you ever feel something's a bit off, tell me immediately". "Hmm. I will", I replied. We took off to the strange forest. It felt strange, no birds. I wanted to question him, but I felt like it wasn't necessary. He and I slowly walked and walked. I kept my eyes on the sparkle and never took them off of it. But we couldn't get there. I felt a force of attraction, but no matter how much we walked towards it, we couldn't reach it. Suddenly, I felt someone's eyes on me. I immediately reported that to Dave, and the look in his eyes didn't make me feel less worried. Dave told me to ignore it as much as I could, but it wasn't all right. I felt the eyes grow more on me as I walked through a pile of dried leaves. "Who could pile up these leaves like this?", I said to myself. "Don't worry, just keep your eyes on the sparkle, the bracelet's there with you", Dave replies.

I had never noticed a single bird in that area and something about it haunted me. Then, a Raven flew out of nowhere and circled the sky with its wings. I looked upward "Do not look anywhere except the things that are calling for you", Dave said. "Yeah, I won't", I reply. As we approached nearer, I could feel Dave's clutch on my hand loosen up and his eyes seemed a bit off. "Dave, are you all right? Do we need to rest for a bit?" I asked him. "Vivian, please don't worry about me, no matter what happens, I will always be with you" He replied. I obviously felt worried as the eyes were growing on me and the Raven was following us. But, Dave was making me worry the most. I looked up at him to see that he was slowly fading. "Dave, please tell me what's going on. Please I don't want to do this without you. I'm ready to sacrifice anything, even my future, but please don't fade away leaving your bracelet behind". I cried as Dave looked at me. We locked eyes for a moment and I could see everything. His eyes were hung up on my reflection, He fixed his

eyes on mine, not leaving them behind. "It's our bracelet, Vii, not mine", he replies as he wipes my tears with his thumb. It was calming but I didn't feel Dave's thumb in my skin. I just felt a sort of sensation that told me that I was losing him. I could feel Dave's hand being farther and farther to hold. The sparkle was getting nearer, so near that I could fill it in my nerves. I was stunned by the views in front of my eyes, it was a treasure. I looked at it as it sparkled so bright that its rays blinded my eyes for a bit. As I opened my eyes, I couldn't see him. I couldn't feel him. I looked at the bracelet tied tightly around my wrist and I found the scarf lying on the ground.

Then, it hit me. "Dave, come back, Please, come back. I promise to cherish you forever please just come back. I'm ready to leave the world behind for you. I'm ready to give up everything for you. Just return, please". I screamed and shouted as I had no side of him. I ran across the forest here and there and stumbled upon a pile of dried leaves, but I couldn't reach him. I felt his grip on my hands. I could recall the way he looked at me, but he wasn't there. He had gone. A wave of breeze flew across the sky, the same one when I met Dave. I ran back to the sparkle my feet were hurting but Dave's look compelled me to go for what I needed. There I found the treasure box.

I tried to find the key. Our bracelet made a sound and it was the key. I hastily opened the box to find nothing but pictures and memories. Pictures of me and Dave, traveling, going home from school, studying together, playing video games, eating together. I cried my heart out as I realized Dave was no longer there but just in my imagination. He left nothing but memories, his scarf, photos, and our bracelet. I cried as there was nothing but pain left in my heart. Suddenly, I felt the same wave of chills down my spine as I felt when I found the map and I



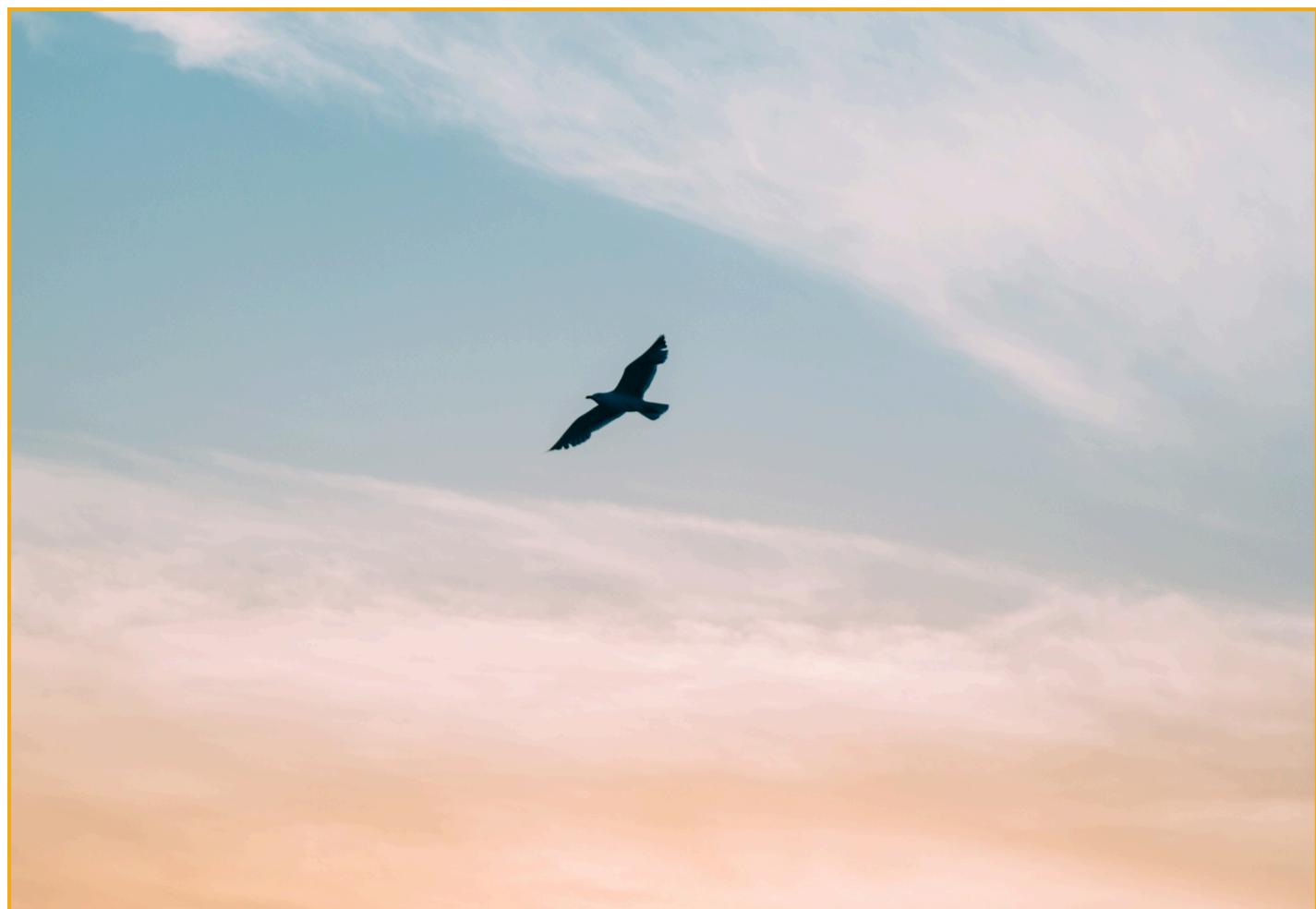
closed my eyes "Nice mural, How did you get its idea?" A boy asked me as I opened my eyes. "Oh, it was a voice that reached me and told me to paint this". "Hmm, By the way, I'm Dave". "Pleased to meet you, Dave", I replied. "I do murals too, and I kind of want to do a partnership with you, Maybe if you agree", "Sure, I'd love to. Let's meet up next week". "Oh sure, let's do it", he replied.

It was a fine morning as the rays of light hit me, hit my eyes and a breeze flew over the ocean. There I was with Dave. I could see his reflection in my eyes. "Vii, let's go, we are getting late", he said. "Coming" I reply.

"Vii, what are you doing?" "Oh! Just making a map. I imagined this while waiting for my interview yesterday". "Map by Vii, Oh dear Dave, you really know me".

"Sure I do now give this to me, and I'll put it somewhere secure", replied Dave. I then saw Dave get in his car and drive off. It was 10:00 PM, and he wasn't home yet. I called his number, no responses, no texts. I was worried and I called the police station while shaking my leg. I got a call and instantly broke down as Dave was no longer with me. All that was left were pictures, voicemails, and memories. I closed my eyes again as I saw the bird circle the sky.

A wave of chill moved across my body when I finally opened my eyes. People don't last forever, but memories do. I called for Dave as my voice echoed and all I could see was Murals. I didn't know where I was. My body was shaking as I looked at the photos. I cried, and my heart tore down. I realized that he played dead but never bled.





गम पछिको आलोक

स्वनिमा राई
कक्षा १०
पुष्पांजली माध्यमिक विद्यालय

"मैले २०२३ मा भ्याली भिउ स्कुलमा भएको कथा बुनौं प्रतियोगिता जितेको थिएँ। यस प्रतियोगितामा भाग लिएर मैले मेरो कथा लेख्ने सिप अझै मजबूत पार्न पाएँ, र तपाईंहरू मेरो कथा मन पराउनुहुन्छ भन्ने आशा गर्दछु।"

- स्वनिमा

आज मिति २०६५/१२/१५, पुष्पांजली विद्यालयको यस वर्षको अन्तिम दिन हो। सबै विद्यार्थीको खुसीको सिमा छैन। हरेकले आफ्ना साथिहरुसंग घुम्ने योजनाहरु बनाई रहेका छन्। त्यसैगरी तेस्रो तल्लामा रहेको कक्षा ८ मा पनि सबैजना रमाई रहेका छन्। तर कक्षा ८ को अन्तिम डेस्कमा एकै बसिरहेको बिदुर भनी चाही अध्यारो मुख लिएर बसिरहेको छ। कारण ? बिस्तारै कथामा पुस्टि हुन्छ।

उनि हुन् बिदुर प्रधान जो हाल १४ वर्षको छ। उ घरको कान्छो छोरा हो। समय अबधि अघि नै विदेश पालिनु भएको बिदुरको बुबाको मृत्यु भएको थियो। जसकारण उसको घरमा आर्थिक समस्याहरु असाध्यै ब्रिधि भैरहेको छ। कहिलै नभोगेको कष्ट उसले किशोर अवस्थाको सुरु मै भोग्य परिरहेको छ। तसर्थ उनको मुहारमा औस्ती लागेको छ।

कक्षा ८ को अन्तिम घन्टी बज्छ र सबै विद्यार्थीहरु आफ्नो घरतर्फ हतारमा निस्कन्छन तर बिदुर भने जबसम्म सबै विद्यार्थीहरु जादैनन् आफ्नो कक्षाकोठा बाट त क आफु बसेको डेस्कबाट पनि सर्दैन। लगभग एक घण्टापछि जब उसले कोहला सुन्न छाड्छ तब उ बिस्तारै आफ्नो डेस्कबाट उट्छ र कक्षाकोठाबाट बाहिर निस्किन्छ। हिड्दै गर्दा उसले एउटा उज्यालो प्रकाशलाई देख्छ जुन चाही शिक्षक कोठाबाट आइरहेको हुन्छ। उ अचम्ममा पर्छ। त्येस प्रकासले उसको ध्यानलाई केन्द्रित गर्छ र उ शिक्षक कोठा तर्फ लाग्छ। शिक्षक कोठा बन्द गरिसकेको कारण उ त्यहाको इयालबाट चढेर भित्र पश्छ।

जब बिदुर कोठामा प्रवेश गर्छ त्यो उज्यालो प्रकाश बाट एउटा आवाज उसले सुन्छ।

"बिदुर मैले तिमीलाई चिनेको कारण नै तिमि अहिले म कहाँ छौ।" यो अनौठो र आशार्चर्य लाग्दो आवाज सुनेर बिदुर डराउछ र डराउदै उत्तर दिन्छ, "तपाईं को हुनुहुन्छ र मेरो नाम तपाइलाई कसरि थाहा भयो?"

तब त्यो प्रकाश ले भन्छ, "नडराऊ, म तिमीलाई हानी पुर्योनी भनेर आएको होइन तर तिमीलाई आशा दिन आएको छु। मलाई तिम्रो कष्ट बारे थाहा छ र तिमीलाई फेरि पनि पहिला जस्तै खुसि देख्न चाहेर आएको हु। मा को हु र मा कहाबाट आए भन्नु आवस्यक छैन तर अब म तिमीलाई ज भन्छु सो तिमीले सुन्नु पर्ने छ।

बिदुर कैहि आशा राखेर भन्छ, "भन्नुहोस तपाईंले जे भन्नु हुनेछ, म मान्ने छु।"

तब त्यो उज्यालो प्रकाश बिलाउछ र बिदुर चकित पर्छ। त्यस समय उसको हन्शले ठाउँ छाड्छ। के भन्न खोजेको होला भनेर ऊ चारैतिर आफ्नो आखालाई डुलाउछ। उसले आखा डुलाउदै गर्दा एउटा च्यातिएको नक्सालाई देख्छ। ऊ त्येस नक्सा को आगाडी बढ्दै जान्छ र त्येस्लाई उठाउछ। ऊ नक्सालाई नियाल्दै गर्दा फेरि पनि आन्जान दिसाबाट ढुलो र चर्को आवाजलाई सुन्छ।

"यो नक्सा पछाडी पट्टिको फुलचोकी डाँडाको हो। एस नक्सालाई पच्छायाउ र तिमीले बहुमुल्य खाजनालाई भेटाउने छौ तर एउटा कुरा याद गर यस सफरमा तिमि एकै सहभागी हुनु पर्छ र हाम्रो कुराकानी तिमीले कसैलाई पनि भन्न पाउने छैनौ। यो गुप्त रहनेछ।"

येति सुन्नासाथ बिदुर त्येस नक्सालाई नियालेर फेरि हेर्छ। बिद्यालय को कर्मचारीले बिदुर्लाई फेला पर्छ र चाडो भन्दा चाडो आफ्नो घर जनलाइ आघ्रह गर्छ। बिदुर बिद्यालय बाट निस्कन्छ र आफ्नो आखा आगाडी को फुलचोकी डाडालाइ हेर्दै आगाडी घटेको घटनालाई स्मरण गर्छ।

बिदुर साझ ५ बजे तिर आफ्नो घरमा पुग्छ र कसैसंग कुराकानी नगरिकन खाटमा त्यहि कुरालाई मटर केलाएको जस्तै गरि केलाउछ। आमाले खाना खान बोलाएपनि उ आफ्नै संसारमा दुलिरहेको छ। एकछिन पछि उसलाई भोक लाग्न थालेपछि भान्सा कोठामा जनछ र खान खान्छ। त्येसपछि उ फेरी खाटमा जान्छ र तेस घटनालाई केलाउछ। मध्यरातमा उ त्यो नक्शालाई पछ्याउने निर्णय लिन्छ।

बिदुर सबैरै उद्ध र आमालाई उ साथीकोमा जान लागेको भनेर कुरा बनाउछ। आफ्नो मन्जिल तोकेर उ फुलचोकी डाडामा जनछ। उसले त्यो जुन्लेको बारेमा धेरै घटनाहरु सुनेको थियो। जसले गर्दा उसमा त्रास पनि थियो। तर पनि उ केहि आशा लिएर र त्येस प्रकाशले भनेको कुरालाई सम्झिदै आगाडी बढ्यो।

जब बिदुर त्येस खजानाको यात्रामा लग्यो उसले त्येस च्यात्तिएको ननक्सालाइ हेर्दै आफ्नो गन्तव्य तर्फ लग्यो। तर त्यो नक्सा कुनै कुनै ठाउमा च्यात्तिएको कारण उसलाई आसजिलो भैरख्यो। कतिपय बेला उसले "आफ्नो बाटोलाई गुमायो। न त उसले आफुलाई चाहिने सरसामान नै लेराएको थियो न त उसलाई त्येस घडी साथ दिने कोहि पनि थियो। उ साहै अलमलमा पर्यो।

दिउसोको समयमा जे भएतापनि उज्यालो थियो तर जब घाम ढलिकैदै गयो तब उसमा डर पनि बढ्दै गयो। उसले आफुलाई प्रस्न गर्यो ;" के जुन कदम मैले चाले त्यो गलत हो? " येस्तै प्रस्न गर्दै गर्दा फेरी पनि उज्यालो प्रकाश उ कहाँ देखा पर्यो।

त्येस प्रकाश ले भन्यो , "त किन हार मान्दै छस? हेर मैले तलाई चिनेको छु र त मैले भनेको कुरा र मैले भनेको बाटोमा हिड्न नडरा। ताइले जुन कदम चालिस त्यो गलत होइन तर असल हो। आफुमा संख्हा नगर र मैले तलाई यो समय जहाँ डोर्याए रहेको छु तेस्लाई पछ्या।

यो कुरा सुन्नासाथ बिदुरले सान्त्वना पाउछ। त्यस उझ्यालो प्रकासले उसलाई रातभर साहारा दिन्छ र उ सबै फिक्रिलाई बिस्सर हरियो चाहुर र त्येस नजिक भएको शान्त मुहानको छेउ बिश्राम लिन्छ।

त्यस दिन पश्चात ऊ नक्सालाई पछ्याउदै र विश्वास राख्दै आफ्नो गन्तव्य तर्फ लाग्छ तर उसको यात्रामा उसलाई बाधा पुराउने धेरै संकट आउनु बाकी नै थियो।

३ दिन बित्त र ऊ अजैपनी आफ्नो गन्तव्य तर्फ पुगेको छैन। चौथो दिनमा जब ऊ हिनिरहेको थियो उसले कहिले नसुनेको आवाजलाइ सुन्छ। त्यो आवाज उसलाई मार्ग देखाउने उज्यालो प्रकाशको थिएन तर त्यो आवाज अन्धकार थियो।

त्यस अन्धकारले भन्छ, "बिदुर, त जहाँ जादैछस त्यसले तेरो जीवनको बिनाश लेराआउनेछ।



त आजै यहाँ बाट फर्की र उज्यालो प्रकाशले तलाई जे भन्छ
त्यसलाई नसुन किनकि त्यो झुटो छ।"

जब विदुरले त्यस आवाजलाई सुनछ र त्यसले भनेको हरेक
थोकलाई मध्यनजर गर्छ, उसले केहि दिन अगि नै उज्यालो
प्रकाशले भनेको कुरालाई सम्झन्छ।

उज्यालो प्रकाशले केहि दिन अगिनै बिदुरलाई भनेको थियो
जुन थियो, "बिदुर तलाई यस यात्रामा हुदा अवस्य अन्धकारले
बाधा दिनेछ तर त नडरा किनकि म तेरो साथमा छु। त्यसले
भनेको कुरामा ध्यान नदे किनकि त्यसले तिमीलाई
अल्झ्याउनेछ।"

जब अन्धकारले बिदुरलाई अल्झ्याउने कोसिस गर्छ तब उसले
एउटा कुरालाई पनि पत्याउदैन र आफ्नो यात्रामा बढ़ै जान्छ।
उज्यालो प्रकाश बिदुरको हिम्मत देखेर असाध्यै खुशी हुन्छ
भने अन्धकार रिशले चूर हुन्छ।

त्यस घटना देखि बिधुरमा अजै आट, सहास र हिम्मत पलाउछ।
ऊ आफ्नो गन्तव्य तर्फ अगाडी बढीरहन्छ। बिगतका बिदुर
जसको मुहार औशीको रात जस्तै थियो यस यात्राले उसलाई
पुर्णिमाको रात जस्तै बनाएको छ।

ऊ आफ्नो लक्ष्यको अत्यन्तै करिब आइसकेको छ। आफ्नो
च्यातिएको नक्सा भएतापनि उसले उज्यालो प्रकाशले
दर्साएको मार्गलाई पच्यायेरा ज्यादै करिब आइसकेको छ। ऊ
हिँडै जादा फेरी पनि उसलाई अध्यारोले छोप्न खोज्छ तर
उसमा भएको त्यो उज्यालोले त्यस अन्धकारको अस्तित्व नै
हराउछ। करिब एक हसाको यात्रा पछि उसको खजाना उसको
आखाको नानीको अगाडी नै छ। ऊ असदै खुसि छ र ऊ चर्को
आवाजले उज्यालो प्रकाशलाई धन्यवाद व्यक्त गर्छ तर त्यो
उज्यालो कतै पनि देखा पर्दैन। उसले त्यो खजानाको
बाकसलाई खोल्छ र त्यहाँ एउटा चिठीलाई भेट्छ। ऊ
आश्र्वयचकित पर्छ।

उसले त्यो चिठीलाई पढ्न थाल्छ र चकित पर्छ किनभने त्यो
चिठी उसको बुबाले उसकै निम्ति लेखेको हुन्छ। त्यस चिठीमा
लेखिएको कुरा यश प्रकार छ :
छोरा बिदुर, यो चिठी तिमि कहा पुग्छ कि पुदैन भनेर मलाई
थाहा छैन। तर पुगोस् भनेर म आशा राख्दछु। केहि दिनपछि
आर्थिक कारणले गर्दा म विदेसिदै छु। फेरी हाम्रो कहिले भेट
हुन्छ थाहा छैन, तर केहि कुरा म तिमीलाई बताउन जादै छु।
उज्याला चिजमा खर्च गर्नु।

हेर छोरा, मेरो जीवन त कामै गरेर बित्यो तर म चाहन्छु कि तिमि
आफ्नो दाई जस्तो होइन जसले हामीलाई धोका दियो तर तिमि
एउटा असल व्यक्ति बन्नु, आमाको ख्याल गर्नु, जीवनमा
तिमीलाई धेरै दुःख आउनेछ तर कहिले हरेश नखानु, कहिले
पनि आफ्नो जीवनलाई रिस, इर्षा, प्रलोभन इत्यादी जस्ता
नकारात्मक तथा अन्धकारमा खर्च नगर्नु तर प्रेम, मेलमिलाप,
भाईचारा, शान्ति जस्ता सकारात्मक तथा उज्याला चिजमा
खर्च गर्नु।

तिम्रो जीवन बहुमुल्य छ र यस जीवन असल तरिकाले जिउनु।
म हर समय तिम्रो साथमा उज्यालो प्रकाश जस्तै गरेर हुनेछु।
तिमि डाडामा बसालिएको सहर जस्तै हुनुपर्छ जो आरुको
निम्ति एउटा मार्गदर्शक र ज्योति हुनेछ।

यस चिठी पढ्न साथ बिदुरको आखा रसाउछ र उसले उसको
यात्राको आर्थलाई बुझ्दैछ। ऊ केहि दिनपछि आफ्नो घर पुग्छ र
घटेको घटनाबारे आमालाई बताउछ। साथै उसले चिठीलाई
पनि देखाउछ। दुवै आमाछोरा एकैछिन हृदय खोलेर रुन्छन र
फेरी एउटा नया आशा लिएर आगाडी बढ्न सक्षम हुन्छन।
उनीहरुको जीवन जुन अन्धकारमा थियो बिस्तारै उज्यालोमा
परिवर्तन हुन थाल्छ।

आशा बोकेर र बुबाले भनेको कुरालाई पछ्याउदै बिदुरको र
उनकी आमाको नयाँ जीवन यात्रा सुरु हुन्छ।





Hanako Ritual

By Dipali Tamang
Grade 8
Kanya Mandir Secondary School

"I love watching anime and reading manga, so for my story, I was inspired by characters, themes, and plots I frequently see in those mangas."

- Dipali

There was a girl named Hanako, who studied in grade 3. She stays at a hostel named Oxford. She was always lonely and nobody wanted to be her friend. Due to the reason of not having friends, she usually spends her time in the toilet's 4th door. Hanako was a Little girl, she had normal behaviour like other students. Just like that one day, in the evening time, her friends were playing hide and seek in the hostel. She thought that they were playing with her too. She went to hide in the toilet's 4th door and hid there for hours but nobody came to see her. She checked outside but everybody left for dinner.

After 5 years, everything changed, the whole school was made brand new but except for that toilet, it was the same as before. There was a girl named Sujumi, who studied in grade 6, her situation was the same as Hanako but she didn't care about being alone. She was a nerd type and topper. One day, some of the girls noticed that she always went to the same 4th toilet and spent most of the time. There was the most popular and handsome guy and his name was Alex. Sujumi and Alex study in the same section. He also heard about Sujumi and that 4th toilet.

When the class was about to begin, Alex ran to sit with Sujumi and said to her, "I heard you spend your time in that 4th toilet loser." Sujumi stayed silent for 5 seconds and said "Yes, I do any problem." "Don't you know about that creepy stuff?" Alex said. "You are the most creepy thing, I know" Sujumi said. "Don't be smart, nerd you will hear from the teacher," Alex said. English teacher entered the class. "Teacher would you please tell me about that creepy toilet to this creepy girl," Alex tells to teacher loudly.

The teacher said "Years ago, a big earthquake came and all this school building was destroyed except that creepy toilet. Now it's created again but its design is old-like. 5 years ago." "What about that ritual?" Alex Asked. "Oh, about that ritual, 5 years ago, there was a girl named Hanako. She died due to the earthquake while she was in that creepy toilet 4th door, but when someone goes there, they feel something strange so, everyone believes that her soul is still there, to recall her soul we have to knock on the door 3 times and tell Hanako-san together 3 times." After hearing that whole class was silent and Alex smiled at Hanako badly. After 45 minutes the bell rang.



Alex grabbed the hand of Sujumi's and went to the same 4th door toilet and spending no time, he started to do a ritual."

"Hanako-san, Hanako-san, Hanako-san," Alex said and knocked 3 times. No answers came but after 3 minutes of silence, they heard the flush noise inside that toilet. When Alex slowly opened the door to check suddenly, one creepy hand filled with blood came outside of that toilet pot and grabbed the neck of Alex and

pulled him into the pot before Sujumi could watch more bad situations. Sujumi suddenly woke up having a mini heart attack, she was taking deep breaths fast. Straight to her bed, there was a mirror and she saw herself and realized that it was just a dream. She stood up from the bed and looked out the window, and she was shocked for 5 seconds and she fainted. The last thing she saw before fainting, there was a little girl outside the window waving her hands and smiling at her. Just like Hanako, but it was Hanako san.



समयको सप्ना

कशीश खातुन

कक्षा ८

कन्या मन्दिर माध्यमिक विद्यालय

“मलाई सपना देख्न एकदमै रमाइलो लाग्छ। साँचिकै देख्न र गर्न नसक्ने कुराहरू सपना मा गर्न मिल्छ, त्यसैले मैले सपनाको बारेमा कथा लेखेको छु।”

- कशीश

एउटी करिस्मा नामकी केटी शहर्पा भन्ने गाउँमा बस्थी। करिस्मा एउटा सानो परिवारकी सबै भन्दा सानी छोरी थिई। उसको परिवारमा ऊ, उसको दीदी, र आमा बुबा थिए। करिस्मा एउटा राम्रो स्वभाव र सफा मन भएकी केटि थियी। उसलाई घुम्न एकदमै ममनपर्थ्यो। उनी १३ वर्षकी थिइन। एक दिन उसको घरमा उसको राम भन्ने साथी आयो। राम खुसी हुँदै करिस्मालाई भन्यो, “करिस्मा म त मुस्ताङ घुम्न गएको थिएँ।” अनि राम मुस्ताङको बारेमा करिस्मालाई धेरै कुराहरू भन्छ। राम करिस्मासँगै पढ्थयो। उ पनि १३ वर्षको थियो। राम पनि सफा मन भएको थियो। तर राम छिटो रिसाउने बानीको थियो। राम करिस्मासँग धेरै मिलथ्यो अरुसाथीहरू भन्दा बढी।

रामले करिस्मालाई भन्यो, “म त हिजो भखर आको होनी।” करिस्मा रामलाई भन्छिन, “राम, के तिमी मलाई मुस्ताङको बारेमा हल्का आझै भन।” रामले पनि करिस्मालाई मुस्ताङ बारेमा धेरै कुराहरू भन्यो अनि राम एकछिन पछि घर गयो। करिस्मालाई पनि मुस्ताङ जान मन लागेछ रामको कुराहरू सुनेर। करिस्मा राती आमा बुबा सङ्गै खाना खाइरहेको बेला उसले, “बुबा मलाई मुस्ताङ घुम्न मन लाग्यो। हामी जाम न दर्शाउ मुस्ताङ घुम्न” भनि। करिस्माको बुबाले करिस्मालाई भन्छ, “छोरी हामी बल्तत्त्व त जसरी त्यसरी काम गरेर तँलाई पढाइ रहेको छौं। घरको खर्च उठाइ रहेको छौं। हामी त यहाँदेखी मेलमची सम्म त जान गाहो छ। तिमी अब त्यो मुस्ताङ जाने सपना नहेरेनि हुन्छ।” करिस्मा बुबाको कुरा सुनेर निरास भइन। खाना खाइ सकेपछि घरका सब सदस्य सुल्त गए। करिस्मा पनि गई। करिस्मा सुत्दै मुस्ताङको बारेमा सोची रहेकी थिइन। करिस्मा मुस्ताङको बारेमा सोच्दा सोच्दै भुसुकै निदाइ।

त्यही बेला करिस्माले एउटा सपना देखिन्, उसले रामले भनेको अनुसार सपनामा मुस्ताङलाई कलपना गरी हेरीरहेकी थिइन। उ मुस्ताङमा हिउँ खेली रहेको देखिन्।

अनि उ मुस्ताङबाट फेरी पोखरा पुगेको र पोखरीमा पौडी खेलेको देखिन्। त्यसपछि उ एकछिन मै चितवन पुगिन्। उ यसरी नै धेरै ठाँउहरू पुगिन्। उनी सपना हेरीरहेको बेला करिस्माकी आमाले करिस्मालाई उठाइन्, “करिस्मा उठ!” भन्दै। करिस्मा उठ्ने बितिकै खुसी भइन्। करिस्माको आमाले करिस्मालाई सोधिन्, “के भयो तँलाई?” भनेर।



करिस्माले मुस्कुराउँदै भनिन् “केही होइन, बस एउटा सपना हेरिरहेको थिएँ अनि तपाईंले उठाइदिनु भयो।” करिस्मा उठेर हात-मुख धोएर चिया-सिया खाएर विद्यालय जानको लागि तयार भइन्। त्यस पछि करिस्मा विद्यालय जाँदै मनभित्र मुस्ताङ्को बारेमा सोच्दै गइरहेको बेलामा उसले बाटोमा रामलाई भेटाउन्। राम पनि विद्यालय गईरहेको थियो। अनी करिस्मा राम सँगै विद्यालय जाँदै रामलाई, “मेलै हिजो राती मुस्ताङ्को बारेमा अनि पोखरा र चितवन गएको सपना देखेकी थिएँ।” भनिन्।

अनि करिस्मा रामलाई, “म अरु ठाउँमा पनि गएको थिएँ।” भन्दै सपनामा हेरेका कुराहरू बताउँदै अनि राम चाहिँ सुन्दैथयो। करिस्माले भन्छे, “म आज त्यहि भएर अत्यन्तै खुसी छु।” रामले करिस्मालाई भन्छ, “हेर त तिम्रो सपनाको बारेमा सुन्दा सुन्दै विद्यालय पनि आइपुग्यो।” त्यस पछि राम र करिस्मा विद्यालय जान्छन्।





The Mystery Game

"I aspire to positively impact people through my story. I love trying to create things that people will find interesting. That is why I wanted to write about a mobile game because it is something many people my age can find relatable."

- Aayusha

**By Aayusha Ale Magar
Grade 8
Valley View School**

The owls were howling at night while we girls were sitting around the campfire. Cady, Monica, and I thought about a game to play. The other girls loved the idea. "So any suggestions?" Monica asked. "Let's play something scary", Cady said. All the girls agreed to it. While Lily and Eve were searching for spooky games, I heard a noise. "Did you guys hear that?" I asked. "No, Kate, stop trying to scare us ", Monica said as all the girls laughed but I had an uneasy feeling.

"Found some!", Eve yelled. "Yeah, it's really spooky," Lily said smirking. While the girls were playing the games. I had a heavy feeling which made me feel uneasy. Monica asked me to choose a game but I had such an uneasy feeling and didn't care and pointed at a random game that no one chose. "This. Let's do this." The girls looked disappointed. "It looks lame, can't you choose another one?" "Yeah, I don't think it will be even scary." the other girls said. "It's okay guys, let's just play it once," Fiona said, defending me.

While we were playing the game, the name of the game was 'You choose'. Everyone was bored while we waited for the game to load when suddenly we heard a heavy noise.

"What was that?" Cady asked. Everyone suddenly panicked hearing the noise. "It's probably just a wild animal, it's okay and look the game is already loaded," Monica said. Everyone slowly calmed down. I also calmed down hearing Monica and decided to just focus on the game and pressed play.

"Are you sure you wanna play this?" the game asked. "I already don't wanna play this, it looks boring ugh," Eve said. "Let's just give it a chance" saying that I pressed yes. Firstly, it gave us some questions where they had to pick yes or no.

"Are you alone - No"

"Are you with your friends- Yes"

"Are you scared - No"

"Do you like the forest - Yes" but the questions got weirder,

"Do you want to live... - Yes",

I suddenly had an uneasy feeling that someone was watching me. "Guys let's play something else, I don't like it."

"Told you so, Kate. " Eve told me. I tried to exit the game but, "It isn't letting me exit the game."

जादुको दुनियाँ

अरूणा राई

कक्षा ६

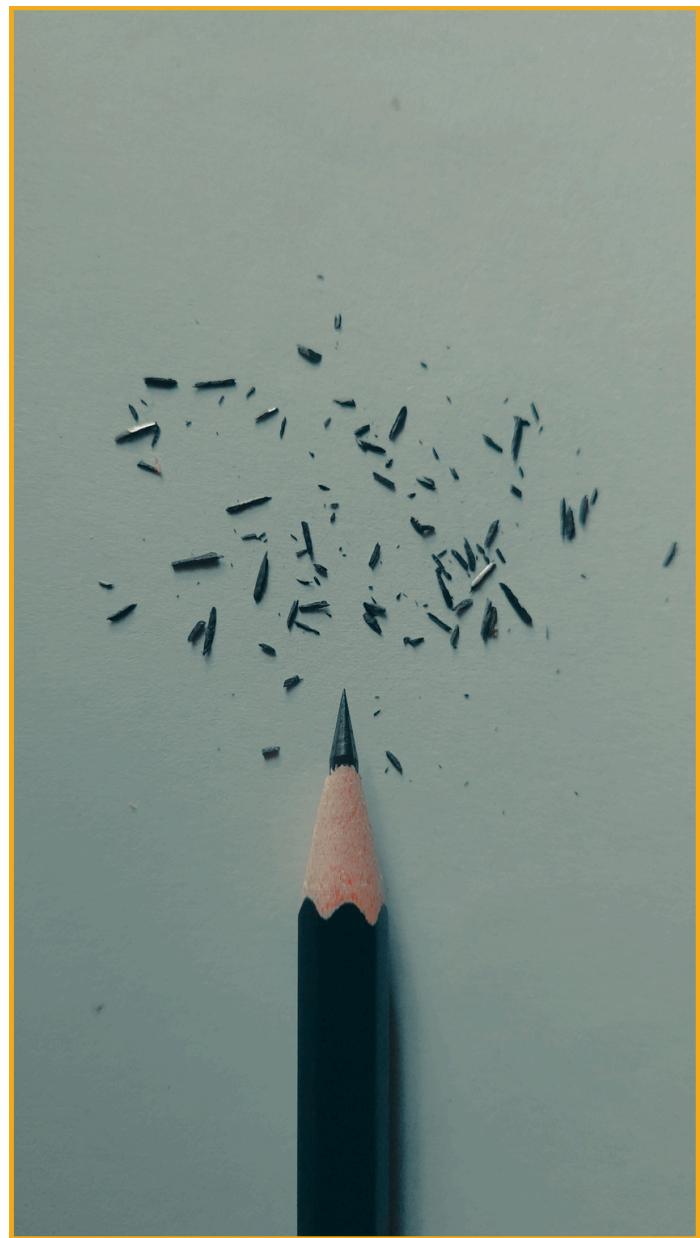
युगान्त स्कुल

“बच्चा बेलादेखि जादुको कथाहरु सुनेको र हेरेको हुनाले मलाई जादु भएको कथा लेख्न मन पर्थ्यो, त्यसैले मैले यो “कलम र बिनाको” कथा लेख्ने सोचे।”

- अरूणा

“म कहाँ छु?” भन्दै बिना तर्सि र उसले देख्छे कि त्यहाँ सबै सामानहरु हिडीरहेको हुन्छन् र कुनै त एक अर्कासँग खेलिरहेको हुन्छन्। बिना चकित हुन्छे र त्यहाँ भएको एउटा ठेबललाई सोध्छे, “यो कुन ठाउँ हो?” र ठेबलले भन्छ कि उ जदुई दुनियामा छे र ऊ फेरी छक्क पछे र आँफैसँग बोल्न थाल्छे कि जादुई दुनियाँ पनि हुन्छ र यो कसरी सम्भव छ। उस्ले देखिँचन कि त्यहाँ उ मात्र मान्छे थिई र अरु सबै सामानहरु थिए र देख्छे कि एउटा कलम रोइरहेको थियो।

बिना त्यहाँ गएर कलमलाई, “के भयो ?” भनेर सोध्छ। त्यो कलम अगाडी बिनासँग डराउन थाल्छ तर बिनाले त्यो कलमलाई सम्झाइहाल्किछे कि उ डराउनु पर्दैन र भन्छे कि उस्लाई केहि भएको थियो कि र त्यो कलम रँदै भन्छ कि उस्लाई सबैले हेप्छन र अरुभन्दा अग्लो भएको कारणले उसको कोही पनि साथी छैन। त्यो कुरा सुनेर बिना उस्लाई फकाएर भन्छे कि साथी नभए पनि आफ्नो परिवर त छ नि र कसौले हेप्यो भने नडराइकन समाधान खोज्नु पर्छ। एक्को महसुस भयो भने परिवरसँग खोलेर बोल्दा हुन्छ। त्यो कुरा सुनेर कलम उस्लाई, “धन्यवाद” भन्छ र “अब देखी म पनि त्यस्तै गर्नेछु” भन्छ र त्यसपछी कलमले पनि साथी पाउछ र बिनालाई त्यो दुनियाँको बारेमा सबै कुरा बताउन थाल्छ र बिनाले पनि उसको साथी पाउछे। कलमले एक्को महसुस गर्न छाड्यो र आफ्नो परिवरलाई पनि साथीको रूपमा सम्झन्छ। त्यस्को कुनै समय पछी बिहान बिना उसको सपनाबाट उट्छे र उसको झोलाबाट कलम निकालेर मुसुक्छ हास्छे।





Rainbow Flag Girls

By Anshu Khadka

Grade 8

Valley View School

"I wrote a story trying to inspire my community to be accepting towards LGBTQIA+ individuals after seeing my close friend struggling to express her feelings and sexuality."

- Anshu

"Will they accept me?" said Junko. Junko was a pretty girl living with her family in Canada. She was a decent student. She had long wavy black hair with blue eyes and pale skin. She had big eyes and medium lips and her behavior was nice. She was a kind and lovely girl. Her mother's name was Jady and she was a police officer with small height and silky black hair, Junko had got her hair from her mother. Junko's mother was a kind woman and her face also looked gentle. Junko's father's name was Mason and he was a doctor at Herby Hospital. He was a confident guy, his eyes were blue and his hair colour was blonde. Junko loved her parents. In school, Junko had many friends but her closest friend was Becca. Becca had a rude and arrogant personality but she cared for Junko as her sister. Becca had curly red hair a round face and grey eyes. She used to dress formally. Junko and Becca were as close as if they were related by blood.

When Junko reached 14, she was attracted to a girl named Izzy. Junko, later found out she was a lesbian. She told this to Becca and Becca said." I am gonna support you no matter what." When Junko heard that she got emotional. After that, Junko cut her hair and started to wear baggy clothes.

Her parents were confused but thought that it was better not to ask anything. In school, Junko gathered the courage and went to Izzy's home. When she got there, Junko rang the bell then Izzy opened the door. Izzy was in shorts and a long T-shirt. Izzy's blonde hair was tied up and as always she hadn't worn any makeup. Izzy told Junko to come inside. Junko's legs were shaking when she was walking inside her living room. Izzy asked if something was wrong, Junko felt as if she was taking an exam, she was nervous. Then, quickly Junko said, " I love you, Izzy."

For a moment there was complete silence, Junko's heart was racing faster, then suddenly Izzy screamed and said "What! I also love you, Oh my Gosh I am so happy". Then, Izzy hugged Junko tightly. After that Junko and Izzy were in a relationship, when they told this to Becca, she was shocked and happy at the same time, and then she said, "I am gonna treat you to an ice cream party, I am so happy today". Then they all laughed and went to school. Then, in 9th grade, when Junko's birthday was coming. Becca, Izzy and Junko decided to tell Junko's parents about Junko and Izzy's relationship.



Then, on October 19th, it was Junko's birthday party. At the start of Junko's birthday party they were enjoying themselves but in Junko's heart it was saying things like "Will they accept me?" "Are they gonna keep me in the house?" etc. Then, after the party ended Junko and Izzy were nervous but Becca was all ready. Then, Becca's phone rang, it was her parents and she had to go. Izzy and Junko were left alone.

After 6 minutes, they gathered all their courage and told everything about them to Junko's parents. Junko's parents were mad and they said "You must be joking, we can not accept you." Junko's mother said "I cannot even believe that you're my child, such a disappointment." Then, they started blaming Izzy and called her a "witch" for being in a relationship. Izzy felt so

angry that she ran off from Izzy's house and she was crossing the road very fastly. On the other hand, Junko's parents threw Junko out of their house and told her to never come there again.

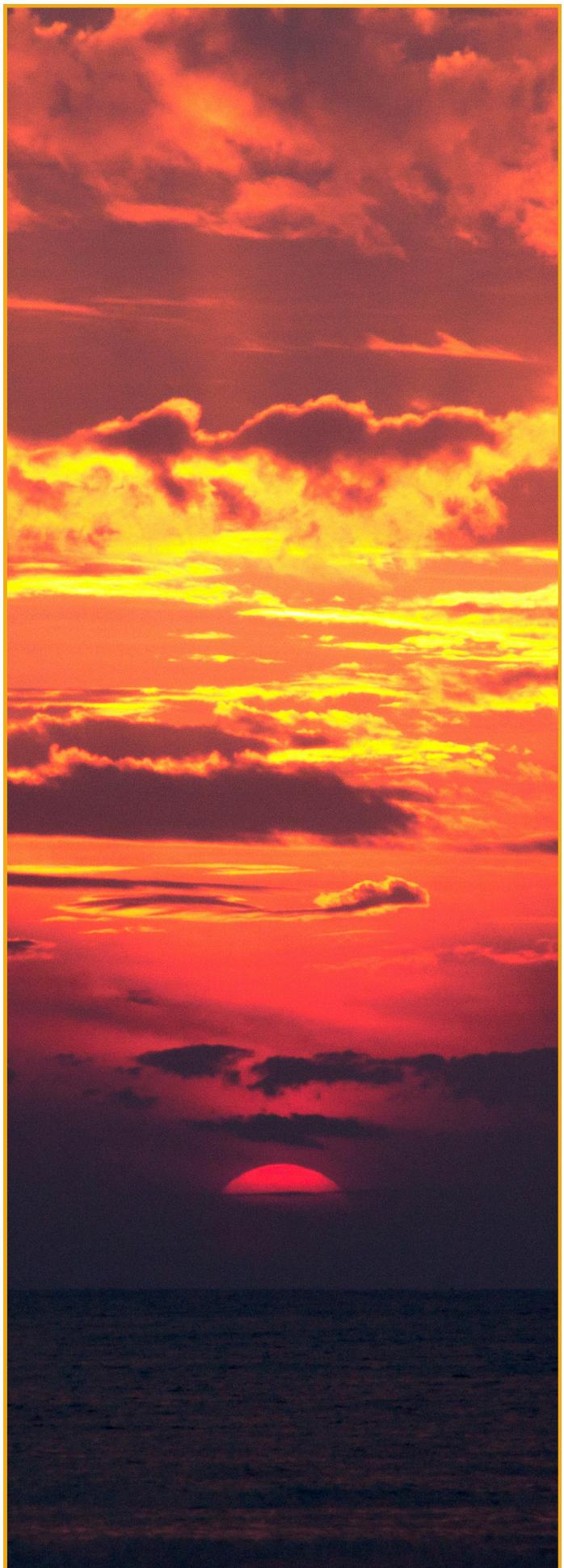
Junko was in angry tears, so she went to Becca's house. She ran as fast as she could to get into Becca's house. When she got there, she rang the bell of Becca's house. Becca's grandma opened the door and asked if something was wrong, Junko said that she wanted to meet Becca and it was urgent. Becca's grandmother said that Becca was in her room doing her vacation homework. Junko ran to Becca's room locked the door and started to cry. Becca knew what had happened and tried to control her. Finally, Junko Felt a little relief and told everything.



Then, Becca's phone rang and it was Junko's mom. When she picked up she was shocked and started to cry. Junks Lons was confused and asked what happened. Becca said, "Please try to control yourself (sob) but Izzy had an accident and she died." Junko was shocked and then she was just silent, she looked like her soul had left her body, her tears were rolling down her cheek, and then she blacked out. She was in the hospital.

Junko's parents, Becca, Izzy's parents, and other people were in a place wearing black clothes crying out loud. Becca was crying and sobbing the whole time. Junko's parents were saying "We're really sorry, please forgive us. Please?" The place was all black and there were two graves placed right next to each other. The grave was covered in roses. Becca was putting roses on it because it was the flower Junk and Izzy liked. The grave was of Izzy and Junko.

When Izzy left the Junko's house she was angry and started running in the road, then suddenly a drunk man driving a truck hit her. Then she was in the hospital lying in the bed, she was taking her last breath and her last words were "I know that I'm a lesbian.. and I'm in love with Junko but God, please make me a boy and Junko a girl, so we can live happily in the next life, I'm sorry for being a lesbian. I'm sorry". On the other hand, when Junko heard that Izzy was dead and her last wish was ashamed of being a lesbian, she felt very hurt and shocked that she blacked out and died after that.





जीवनको लक्ष्य

चन्द्रिका शाही

कक्षा ८

कन्या मन्दिर माध्यमिक विद्यालय

“मलाई मेरो कथाले समाजको बारे संदेश देओस् भन्ने आशा थियो, त्यसैले मैले यस विषयमा कथा लेखेकी छु।”

- चन्द्रिका

एउटी ८ वर्षकी बालिकाले आफ्नो बुबाको साथ गुमाउँछे। अहिले उनी १३ वर्षकी भइन्। उनको नाम रितिका हो। उनी अहिले ८ कक्षा पढ्छिन्। उनी अहिले दाढको सानो गाउँमा बस्छिन्। ऊ बस्ने गाउँ प्राकृतिक सुन्दरताले भरिएको थियो। त्यो गाउँमा बस्ने मानिस भने तेति पढेलेखेका हुदैनन्। त्यसैले त्याहाँका मानिसहरूसँग धेरै ज्ञान थिएन।

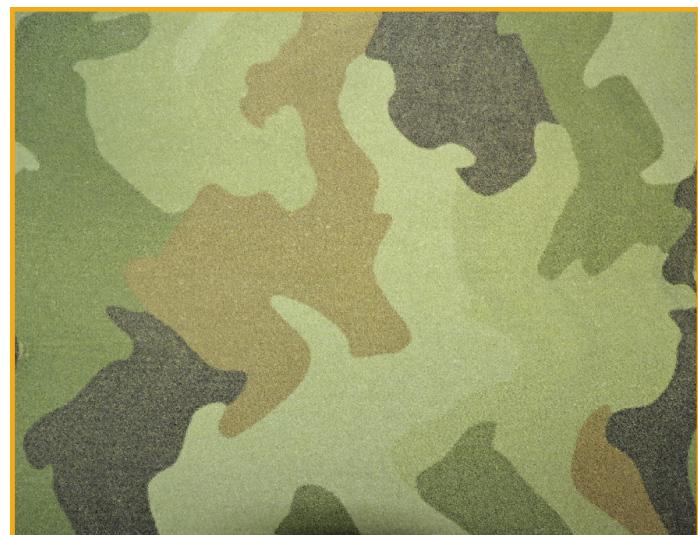
रितिका त्यही गाउँमा हुर्केकी थिइन्। उनको बुबाको नाम राम थियो। उनको आमाको नाम सारीता थियो। रितिका त्यही गाउँमा हुर्के पनि उनी त्यो समाज भन्दा फरक सोच्छिन्। रितिका असल, ज्ञानी र मायालु थिइन्, ठ्याकै उनकी आमा जस्तै थिइन्।

उनी हेर्दा सानी थिइन्। त्यसैले उनकी आमा र उनलाई माया गर्ने मानिसले सानीनानी भनेर पुकार्छन्। उनका बुबा नेपाली सेना भएकाले उनको बुबाको मृत्यु भने लडाइको समयमा भएको हो। उनका बुबासँगै दुइजना मानिसले पनि ज्यान गुमाएका थिए। उनका बुबाका मृत्यु पछी रितिका र उनकी आमालाई समाजले हेर्ने दृष्टी भने फरक थियो। त्यसैले उनी समाजले हेर्ने दृष्टी भने बदल्न चाहन्छिन्। उनको बुबाको मृत्युपछि रितिकाले धेरै जसो आफ्नो बुबाको कल्पना गर्न थालेकी छिन्।

सँधैझै एक दिन खाना खाइसकेपछी सुल्ने समयमा रितिका आखा खोल्दै कल्पना गर्न थालिछन् कल्पनामा उन्ले आफुले ८ वर्षमा गुमाएको बुबालाई नेपाली सेनामा देखिछन्। उनका बुबा नेपाली सेना भएकाले उनको बुबाको मृत्यु लडाइमा भएको हुन्छ। रितिका त्यही एकै सम्झेर रुन थालिछन्।

केही समय उनी त्यही कुरामा अड्की रहन्छन् भने उनकी आमा भने निदाइ सकेकी हुन्छन्। केही समय पछि उनी पनि उनकी आमाको खाटमा गएर सुन्छन्। निदाएको केही समय पछि नै उनले सुन्दर सपना देख्छिन्।

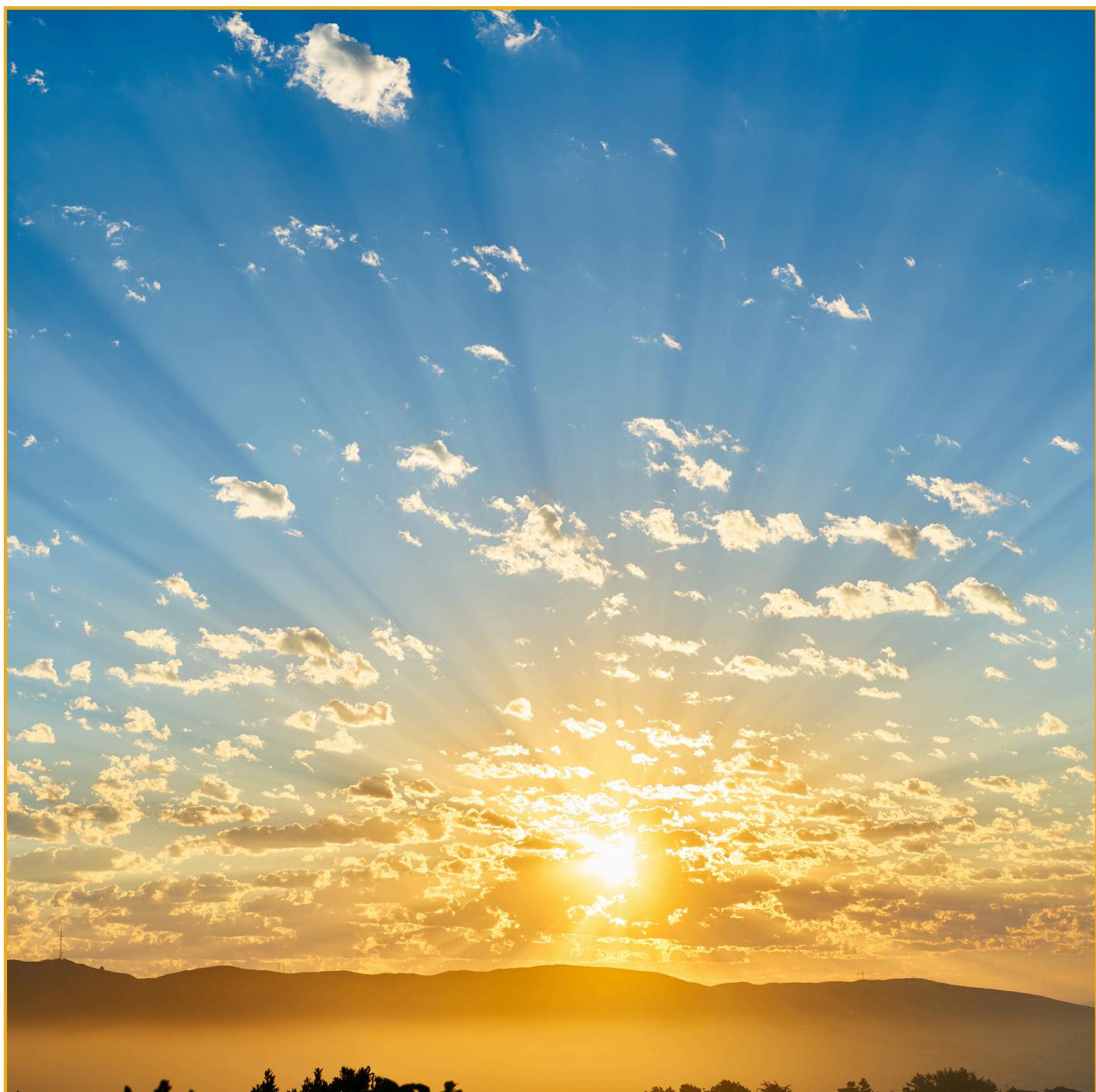
उनले सपनामा आफुले ८ वर्षमा गुमाएको बुबालाई नेपाली सेनाको लुगामा सजिएको देख्छिन्। उ, उनकी आमा र बुबालाई सपनामा सिमित देख्छिन्। उनले देखेको सपनामा उनका बुबा र आमा रमाइ रहेका हुन्छन्। त्यसैले उनि पनि केहि समय रमाउछिन्। त्रैस्पछी उनि निद्रामा झास्किन्छन् अनि उनि बिउजिन्छिन्। सपनाबाट बिउजिए पछी उनि आफै बर्बाइ रहन्छिन्। "ओहो! यो सपना पो रैछ! साचै नै बुबा हामीसँग हुनुभएको भए!" यस्ता कुरा मनमा डुलाउदै रितिका रुन थालिछन्। उनको आवजले उनकी आमा पनि निद्राबाट बिउजिन्, अनि रितिका रुँदै गरेको देखदा आतिदै रितिकासँग प्रश्न गर्न थालिछन्, "के भो छोरी? किन रोएको?"



उनले पनि न्याउरो मुख पर्दै भनिन्, "आमा, मैले सपनामा बुबालाई देखेकी थिएँ।" सरिता पनि जिज्ञासा लिँदै भन्छन्, "हो र! छोरी अनि बुबालाई केही भनेनौं त?" उनी मधुरो आवाजमा भन्छिन्, "अह केही भनिन मैले त। बुबा नेपाली सेनामा हुनुहुन्थ्यो। तपाईं र बुबा सुन्दर प्रक्रितीको प्रशंसा गर्दै रमाइरहनु भएको थियो। त्यसैले मैले केही बोल्न सकिन नि आमा!" सरिताले भन्छन्, "हो र?" रितिकाले भन्छिन्, "हो नि आमा! आमा हजुरलाई एउटा कुरा थाहाँ छ? बुबाको मृत्युपछि समाजले हामीलाई हेर्ने नजर फरक छ। पहिला हाम्रो घरमा मानिसको आवतजावतले धेरै नै उज्यालो हुन्थ्यो। तर अहिले खई कोही आउदैनन्।"

"अब हामी जस्ता आफ्नो बुबाको साथ गुमाउने मान्छेको घरमा पनि यस्तै हुन्छ होला है आमा।" सरिताको जवाफ आएन उनी अनबक परिन्। उनी न बोले पछि रितिकाले भन्छिन्, "आमा म नी, तुलो भएर एउटा संस्था खोल्ने छु। त्यो संस्था खास गरी बुबा नभएको मान्छेको लागी मात्र हुनेछ। अनि म बुबा नभएको मान्छेको साहारा बन्ने छु। यो समाझले हेर्ने दृस्टी फेर्नेछु।" उनको एस्तो कुराले आमा खुसी हुन्छन्।

रितिकाले त्यो संस्था खोल्ने भनेर लक्ष्य लिन्छिन्। उनको त्यो कुराले आमा खुसी हुन्छिन्।





"I love reading novels and watching anime. I have a strong passion for fictional stories. I felt compelled to write this story because I genuinely aspire to become a better person overall. I wish for an end to the crimes and societal injustices that continue to plague our world."

- Samana

The Price of Life

By Samana Thapa

Grade 8

Bhanubhakta Memorial School

It was a grey night, with red lights emanating from the bar, wet streets, and a serial killer on a hangover from alcohol. The killing was a part of his everyday life; a sadistic killer with no mercy for anyone; pure evil, driven by hatred for this cruel world. All of a sudden, a huge truck came in his way. Vision was all blurry and vague, he didn't see the road clearly, and for the first time in his life, he felt scared that he might die. He felt no emotions anymore; all his past trauma of abusive parents, bullies at school, and more horrible things from the past came flooding into his brain.

As the son of unemployed parents who drank to oblivion and who often tried to kill him to sell his organs to get even a small amount of money, he didn't have a fun childhood. Including the hardships at school due to his appearance, bad records, and very introverted behavior, he grew up thinking he could trust no one, and that everyone is evil in some way. That's what his past taught him. As soon as he tried to steer the car wheel, the truck hit him so badly, that blood started coming out from everywhere. And when he woke again, he found himself in a beautiful land covered in flowers; a verdant place, butterflies all around. But despite the beautiful scene and mesmerizing flowers,

he wasn't happy at all; he was scared, sad, and filled with all those grieving emotions. But then, a small dwarf appeared, calling himself the guide. "If this so-called tragedy refers to feeling such a sad emotion during this beautiful moment, then you must be delighted by even the bad things that happened in the past, he said." "Where am I? What is this?" he asked.

"It is not life nor death, it is the middle. All these flowers before you are offered to the graveyard of the people you killed. You killed thousands, and here they are; a thousand flowers, offered to the graves. And the heavy feeling in the chest is how the victims felt before getting killed by you, not a single happy emotion. No one wants to die, not even you," the dwarf replied.

Suddenly, all the bad things he had done started coming together like a puzzle. He realized what he did, the cruelest thing that could be done, killing thousands of people. All the puzzle in his mind flowed down in the form of tears; sad tears; tears of realization. Soon, he was sent for reincarnation, in the body of a baby, and this baby grew to be a very kind man, respected by everyone, a polar opposite from his past life.



दुर्व्यवहारको फल

जित बहादुर राणा
कक्षा ९
नेपाल आदर्श माध्यमिक विद्यालय

“चोरेर र लुटेर गरेको कामभन्दा मेहनतले गरेको काम राम्रो हुन्छ भन्ने विषयमा मैले कथा लेखेको थिए, जहिले पनि राम्रो काम गरेर अगाडि बढ्नुपर्छ।”

- जित

जेम्स भन्ने व्यक्ति मलको ढोकामा रिसले लातीले हानेर भित्र पस्छ। एकासी जेम्स त्यसरी भित्र पस्दा त्यो मलको व्यक्तिले आत्तिंदै भन्न थाल्छन्, "को हो तपाईं, किन यसरी आउनुभएको, मैले हजुरलाई के गरेको छु र? हजुर के चाहनुहुन्छ?" जेम्सलाई भन्छन् तर बोल्नुभन्दा अगाडि "आफ्नो मुख बन्द गरेर राख" भन्दै मलको व्यक्तिलाई बन्दुक देखाएर कुटेर त्यहिं मरिदिन्छा। मारिसकेपछि जेम्स मन पर्ने कपडा, जुत्ता, सबै लिएर ऊ त्यहाँबाट जान्छ। आफ्नो गाडी चलाएर जेम्स आफ्नो घर आउँछ। ऊ भोलिको लागि भनेर सफा सुगर भएर तयार हुन्छ।

भोलि पल्ट हुन्छ। जेम्स आफ्नो गाउँ जानुभन्दा अगाडी आफ्नो सबै साथीहरूलाई खबर गर्छ। खबर गरिसकेपछि ऊ आफ्नो गाडि चढेर जान्छ। जेम्सको गाउँ अलि टाढा हुन्छ। ऊ आफ्नो गाडीमा गीत सुन्दै गइरहेको हुन्छ। ऊ जाँदै गर्दा बाटोमा रात परिसकेको हुन्छ। जेम्स जङ्गलको बीच बाटोनिर पुगेको हुन्छ। जेम्स यताउता हेँदै मनमा कुरा खेलाउन थाल्छ। "ल रात पो परिसकेछ, अब म कहाँ बास लिने?" भनेर मनमा कुरा आउछ। उसले गाडीको इयालबाट हेँदै र उसले इयालबाट हेँदै गर्दा उसको नजरमा जङ्गलमा सेतो कपडा लगाएको व्यक्ति आउछ। जेम्स जङ्गलतिर हेर्न छोडेर गाडीको इयाल बन्द गरेर आफ्नै तालमा गीतको आवाज ठूलो बनाएर आफ्नै सुरमा जान्छ। ऊ जाँदै गर्दा उसको गाडी एकासी रोकिन्छ। जेम्सले गाडी चालु गर्न धेरै कोसिस गर्छन तर गाडी चालु हुँदैन। जेम्सले सोच्छ, "ल के भयो पेट्रोल पनि सकेको छैन त किन एकासी गाडी रोकियो?" जेम्सको मनमा अलिअलि डर भएपनि ऊ यता उता हेरेर गाडीबाट झरेर पछाडि डिक्कीमा हेर्न जान्छ।

जेम्स डिक्कीमा हेँदै हुन्छ, र उसलाई पछाडिबाट मान्छेको आवाजले यस्तो भन्छ, "ओ सर, रातिराति जङ्गलको बीचमा के गर्दै हुनुहुन्छ?" जेम्स आत्तिंदै "हजुर" भन्छन। जेम्स पहिले भन्दा झन् बढी डराएको हुन्छ। जेम्स बिस्तारै पछाडि फर्केर हेँदैन, र पछाडि फर्केर हेँदा उसले हिजो मात्र मलमा कुटेर मारेको मान्छेको अनुहार भएको व्यक्ति सेतो कपडा लगाएर हेरिरहेको देख्छ। जेम्स त्यो देखेर काज्ञ थाल्छन, र उ काप्दै गर्दा त्यो अगाडिको व्यक्ति आँफै हराउछ। त्यो व्यक्ति पनि हराउछ, र जेम्सको गाडी पनि आफै चालु हुन्छ। जेम्स गाडी चालु हुँदा छक्क पर्छ। जेम्स हतार हतार गाडीमा बसेर चलाएर जान्छ। बिहानको ६ बज्छ, र जेम्स पनि आफ्नो गाउँ तिर प्रवेश गरिरहेको हुन्छ जेम्सलाई त्यहाँ छिर्नु अघि राति जङ्गलको बीचमा सेतो मान्छेले बोलाउँदा उसले जवाफ दिँदा उसको दिमागमा त्यो व्यक्तिको आत्मा छ भनेर बिचार आउछ।

जेम्स आफ्नो घर आइपुगेको हुन्छ। ऊ आफ्नो घरमा जान्छन र आमा बुबालाई ढोण्छ। आमाबुबाले सोध्छन् "बाबु, तँलाई के भयो? किन न्याउरो अनुहार भएर आको?" जेम्सले "केही भाको छैन, बरु भोक लागेको केही लिएर आउनुसँ न आमा" भन्छ। आमा जनुहुन्छ र नास्ताहरु लिएर आउनुहुन्छ, अनि सबैजना परिवार बसेर नयाँ नौलो कुराहरु गर्छन्। कुरा गरिसकेपछि जेम्सले भन्छन् "अनि बा म अब गाउँनिर गएर आउँछ है!" ऊ जान्छ। जेम्स गाउँतिर पुगिसकेपछि सबै साथीहरूसँग भेट हुन्छ र उनीहरु सबैजना छयाड पिएर रमाउँछन्। जेम्सलाई साथीहरूसँग रमाइलो गर्दा दिन बितेको थाहा नै हुँदैन।

उसको सबै साथीहरू मत्तेर जतातै सुतिरहेका हुन्छन्। जेम्स एकै हुन्छ। जेम्सले साथीहरूलाई बोलाउँदा कोही पनि बोल्दैनन्। जेम्स चुरोट सल्काएर तान्दै गीत सुन्दै घरतिर लाग्छ। जेम्स आफ्नो घर पुग्र आदि घण्टा जति लाग्यो। ऊ जाँदै गर्दा उसले बाटोमा एउटी राम्री केटी सेतो कपडा लगाएर बसेको देख्छ र त्यो केटी जेम्सलाई हेरेर हाँसिरहेकी हुन्छे। जेम्स पनि केटीलाई हेरेर हाँस्छ। जेम्सलाई केही पनि याद छैन कि अस्ति मारेको व्यक्तिको आत्मा छ भनेर, र अहिले त्यो राम्री केटी पनि त्यही व्यक्तिको आत्मा हो भनेर थाहा छैन।

जेम्सलाई त्यो केटीले हातको इशाराले बोलाउँछिन्, र जेम्स त्यो केटीले बोलाउँदा उसको नजिक नजिक जान्छ। जेम्स जति नजिक गयो त्यो केटी त्यति नै टाढा टाढा हुँदै जान्छे। जेम्स पनि केटीको पछिपछि गर्दै त्यो केटीको नजिक जान्छ।

जेम्सलाई त्यो केटीले छल गरिरहेको छ भन्ने कुरा थाहा नै छैन। यस्तो गर्दागर्दै केटीले जेम्सलाई एउटा राम्रो घरमा पुच्याउँछे। त्यो केटी घरभित्र जान्छे र जेम्सलाई पनि हातको इशाराले बोलाउँछे। जेम्सलाई पुरै नशा लागेको हुन्छ।

उ सरासर गएर त्यो घरको खाटमा गएर उत्तानो परेर सुत्त उ सुत्ते बित्तिकै भुसुकै निदाउँछ। र भोलि बिहान हुँदा जेम्स त मसान घाटमा उत्तानो परेर मरिरहेको हुन्छ। त्यही बेला हिजो सँगै बसेर रमाइलो गरेर बसेको वीरेन्द्र त्यहाँ आइपुग्छ। वीरेन्द्रको नजर सिधै जेम्सको लाशमा पुग्छ।

ऊ लास देख्ने बित्तिकै झस्याङ्ग हुन्छ र रुँदै भन्छन् "हिजो भर्खरै सँगै बसेर रमाइलो गरेको, आज एकासी यहाँ कसरी?" वीरेन्द्रको आभास सुनेर गाउँको सबैजना त्यहाँ भेला हुन्छन्। जेम्सको लास देखेर सबै गाउँलेहरू हक्क पर्छन्। हिजोसम्म सबैसँग रमाएर हिँडेको केटो आज एकासी यहाँ कसरी भनेर सबै गाउँलेहरू ओँखामा आँसु बोकेर भन्छन्, जेम्सको यस्तो अवस्था छ भनेर। कुनै व्यक्तिले उसको माबुबालाई खबर पुच्याउँछ। केही समयपछि जेम्सको आमाबुबा रुँदै कुदेर आउछन् र आफ्नो छोराको लास हेर्दै यस्तो भन्छन्, "छोरा, तैले यस्तो के गरिस् दर्शनको बेलामा? आमाबुबालाई खुसी दिन आको होला भनेको त यही दिन देखाउनलाई आएको होस्?" भनेर धुरुधुरु रुन्छन्।

जेम्सको लासलाई बालेर सबैजना आफ्नो घरघर जान्छन्।





A

Mysterious Land

By Punam Sunar

Grade 8

Adarsha Yog Hari Secondary School

"I am very intrigued by horror-houses, magic, and fantasy, that is why I tried to write a story about those themes. Since it is my first time writing a story, I decided to make it short and sweet."

- Punam

Leena and Thomas were discussing their studies in a library. The library was very old. They heard a weird sound but they ignored it. Leena saw an old, unique door. She took a step and tried to open it. Thomas stopped her and warned her that there could be anything scary inside there. (She thought it was a joke.) She opens the door and the story starts from here!

She opened the door and went inside. Thomas also went inside there. First, it was dark, then suddenly the light came. That light hurt their eyes, it was the light of the sun. They saw a giant dinosaur and they got scared. (It was an illusion.) With fear They run, run and run. They went far from that place. Thomas understands what has happened. He told Leena that they came on past and the only way to our home was that door.

"Door?

"Yeah! That door which we came from."

They looked at each other and said, "Let's go to find our way."

Before doing anything, they realize that they have come far from that place. They need to find that place. They started walking. After walking miles, they forgot their way. They were lost in that jungle. Now, it is getting dark. They found a cave. They slept there in the morning they went to find food.

They heard some noise. They walk toward the noise. It was a noise from some animals. Animals were drinking some water. When animals finish drinking and go away, they go there and drink some water.

"The water is so tasty!" said Thomas.

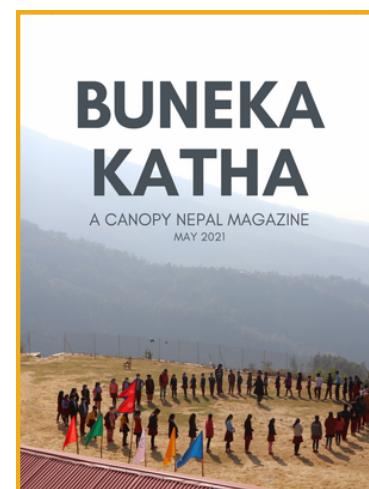
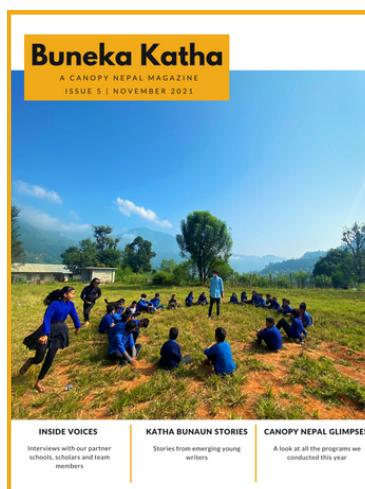
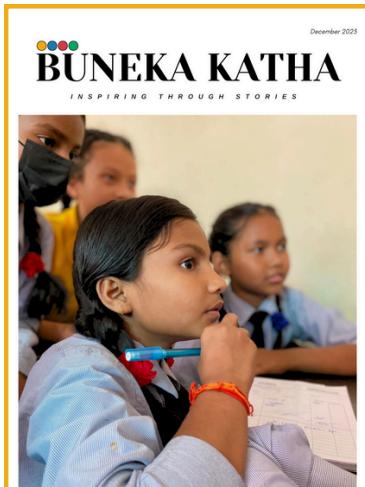
Leena started laughing.

After two days of finding their way, they saw that mysterious door. Whenever they walk toward it the door gets smaller and smaller. They couldn't find the reason. Whether it was an illusion or real! Before reaching the door, they saw a dwarf lion. Seeing that dwarf lion, they started laughing. "Why are you laughing?" said the lion. They were shocked! "You can talk? Are you a talking lion?" asked Leena. "Do you want to go home or want to die here?" said the lion. They apologize to the lion. The lion forgives them. The lion told them that they hadn't come in the past, they were in a mysterious land where they couldn't find anything else. I will give you a spell, then you need to spell it 20 times. They started to spell that word 20 times.
Expectro Petroneum × 20.

Then something magical happens. That unique door started to open. They finally went to their home. They were very happy after and this was the ending of the story.



Our Publications



Buneka Katha is Canopy's literacy magazine, a compilation of the creative, imaginative, and truly amazing stories of our young first-time storywriters from our program Katha Bunaun. This magazine is a platform where storywriters can freely express themselves. As of 2024, Canopy has launched 10 issues of Buneka Katha.

You can check out our archive by scanning the QR code below.





Our Partner Institutions



We Have Worked With



...and many more organizations and individuals.



Gunraj, one of our youngest scholars, is among the most talented students we have worked with. He came first in last year's final exams and loves spending his time singing and making art.

Support Canopy Nepal to help more students like Gunjan stay in school and excel in their passions. Donate today!





Canopy Nepal



Canopy_Nepal



www.canopynepal.com



Canopy Nepal



Canopy Nepal