

CANOPYNEPAL.COM

ISSUE NO. 3

# BUNEKA KATHA

A CANOPY NEPAL MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER, 2020

## STORYTELLING FROM HOME

CAPTURING STORIES FROM  
7 DIFFERENT SCHOOLS



# EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

As you can tell from the cover photo, this magazine is a compilation of all the stories that were written by our young learners during the lockdown. When the Nepal government announced a nationwide lockdown in March, Learners' Hub team immediately worked on digitalizing the programs to ensure learning never stopped and started conducting the online session in May. Till now, the team has conducted 42 Katha Buanun and 15 Lekhaun sessions and reached 1131 learners.



The stories these first-time writers have written range from comedy, horror to adventurous. I guarantee you, all stories will leave you in awe with its spectacular structure, details and plot. My personal favorite is 'Real Heroes Don't Wear Capes' where our brilliant learner has written a story that captures the brutal reality of health practitioners during this pandemic in Nepal. I definitely recommend you reading this.

Our facilitators are one of the biggest strengths of our programs. We had one of the most proactive and creative groups of facilitators join us in the journey of distance learning. I hope you will be delighted to read about their journey with young learners. On behalf of the Canopy Nepal Team, I would like to take this time to thank our facilitators Ms. Agrani Satyal, Ms. Ameli Dahal, Ms. Bandana Adhikary, Ms. Sampada Uperty, Ms. Shreya Koirala and Ms. Sonika Kunwar for all their efforts to ensure that the learning of these young learners never stopped. Their unstoppable and unbreakable determination to facilitate is appreciated by the learners and the team.

We would like to thank all teachers from Baba Boarding School, Mr. Ajay Shrestha from Bloom Nepal School, Mr. Hom Nath Acharya and Ms. Timila Acharya of Budhanilkantha School, Mr. Khagendra Gautam of Creative Academy, Mr. Khem Raj Ghimire and Mr. Shyam Shrestha of Himalaya Boarding High School, Ms. Pritee Rai from Kaasthamandap Vidhyalaya and Ms. Christina Tuladar from Shankari School for providing us a platform to work with their learners. This magazine is the result of your love and support for our work.

I would also like to take this time to thank all members of the editorial team. Ms. Briksha Sharma, Ms. Nitika Kharel and Ms. Smritee Neupane for being the bridge between our facilitators and schools. Mr. Keith Rajbhandari and Ms. Sharmila Tamang for their excellent selection of pictures that bring stories to life. Everyone from the editorial team ensured that the essence in these first-time writers stories remained the same. And finally our advisors, Mr. Mohit Rauniyar, Mr. Roshan Bhatta and Mr. Angirash Karki for their continuous guidance throughout the process.

We launched our first magazine in 2019 and now, we proudly present the third issue of Buneka Katha created and launched during a pandemic in 2020. This was all possible because of the love from our learners, the trust of our partner schools and immense support from you. On the behalf of Canopy Nepal Team, I would like to thank you, the reader, for your positive feedback and undying love towards our programs. I hope you enjoy this magazine as much as we did.

See you all in the fourth issue of Buneka Katha.

On Behalf of the Editorial Team,  
Ms. Monal Bhattarai

# MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM

Canopy Nepal has always been focusing on promoting interactive learning in classrooms across Nepal, and we do that through personalized interactions and immersive experiences. When most of the things were going smoothly, and our aim to reach out to as many students across Nepal was slowly materializing, the pandemic hit us.

The pandemic took away the personalized interaction component that we value so highly in our organization, but we had to look for innovative alternatives to continue our work. Ever since the beginning of the pandemic, we have put special emphasis on the availability of food and safety materials to our scholars' families, ensuring the mental health and wellbeing of all our scholars and students in partner schools; and continue to engage young learners from public and private schools in Learners' Hub digital sessions.

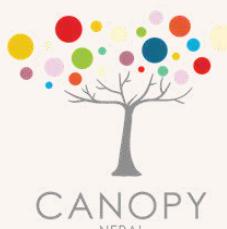


It was a big challenge that lay in front of us because digitizing all our curriculum and training would not be easy. Yet the team persevered and continued to look for innovative solutions. Eventually, we were successful in becoming one of the first organizations in Nepal to implement and run digital sessions with students, teachers, and parents. Many organizations in Nepal and from different parts of the world, and even schools, are now slowly adopting our model and frequently approaching us for ways to improve digital learning. More and more schools and students are requesting our interactive programs, and we have been trying our best to optimize the impact of our programs to the best of our capacity.

Katha Bunuan, one of the learners' favorite programs, has come a long way since its inception in 2016. The program has received lots of positive feedback from the learners and the teachers and showed a significant change in the learners' behavior of reading and writing stories. Despite going digital, we still saw similar results and got to read some of the most interesting stories written by these young learners. This magazine is more of a platform to showcase learners' passion for stories rather than merely being a collection of texts and pages.

Everyone at Canopy truly hopes that the readers enjoy and admire these outstanding pieces created by our young learners who attended Katha Bunuan. Happy Reading!

Executive Director,  
Mr. Mohit Rauniyar



# MEET OUR PARTNER SCHOOLS



## BABA BOARDING HIGH SCHOOL

Baba Boarding High School is a co-educational English medium school located at Moti Chowk, Chabahil, Kathmandu and was founded in 1980 AD with the intention of promoting the all-round development of its students. Canopy Nepal has collaborated with Baba Boarding High School to conduct 4 sessions and reach 43 learners this lockdown.

## BLOOM NEPAL SCHOOL

Bloom Nepal School is a network of schools that is working to educate kids and youths to become exceptional leaders in various frontiers and is located at Lubhu, Lalitpur. Identifying the true passion and talent of students, nurturing their potential and providing opportunities to excel in their field is how it does so. Canopy Nepal has collaborated with Bloom Nepal School through 2 sessions and reached 20 learners.



## BUDHANILKANTHA SCHOOL

Budhanilkantha School, situated in the breathtaking panorama of the capital, Kathmandu, is the government designated National School of Nepal established in 1972 with the sole aim of imparting quality education for rich and poor alike in an environment that fosters unity and equality. This lockdown, Canopy Nepal has collaborated with Budhanilkantha School for 12 sessions and reached 138 learners.





## CREATIVE ACADEMY

Creative Academy is a community based co-educational academic institution established in 2060 BS and is located in the heart of historical town, Kirtipur. It is run and managed by a group of professionals with the maxim "Seek and You Shall Find" to meet the needs of individuals and nation as a whole. During this lockdown, Canopy Nepal has collaborated with Creative Academy for 23 sessions and reached 345 learners.

## HIMALAYA BOARDING HIGH SCHOOL

Himalaya Boarding High school is a promising institute located at Budhanilkantha-3 and was found in 2062 BS. Its goal is to produce competent, dynamic and skilled manpower for any kind of managerial or financial field who devotes themselves to contribute to the all-round development of the nation. Canopy Nepal has collaborated with Himalaya Boarding High School for 7 sessions and reached 90 learners during this lockdown.



## KAASTHAMANDAP VIDHYALAYA

Kaasthamandap Vidhyalaya is located at Mandikhatar, Kathmandu and was established in May 2003. Kaasthamandap Vidhyalaya seeks to provide students with a congenial and positive, yet challenging environment that will support their all-round developmental needs and help children get in touch with their inner awareness. Canopy Nepal has collaborated with Kaasthamandap Vidhyalaya through 6 sessions and reached 71 learners during this lockdown.

## SHANKARI SCHOOL

Shankari School, located at Chhauni, aims at providing value-based learning that transforms the child into a responsible citizen with a positive attitude. The values of equity, community and democracy are tied to every aspect of the school. During this lockdown, Canopy Nepal has collaborated with Sankhari School for 6 sessions and reached 79 learners.





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# MYSTERIOUS DOOR

AABHA SHRESTHA  
SHANKARI SCHOOL

It was a cold day with no flowers and birds around, almost like a haunted day. But, I didn't care. I was day-dreaming as usual. My mom was scolding me because I was already late for school. I had been staring at the window for almost an hour.

When I reached school, I got punished for being late. I spent the entire day in school alone because I had no friends. They thought I looked like a ghost and thus stayed away. I had pale skin, dark black eyes and I was always dressed in all black.

Back home, my parents were busy with some work and it was then that I found a black cat with green eyes and glowing long-tail staring at me as if it was trying to show me something. I did not think it of as anything weird so I didn't bother about it. But the cat started making a noise that sounded like a creaking door. I went up to the cat to see if it was in pain. However, as soon as I reached near it, it started walking, as if telling me to follow it.

Naively, I followed it to the woods and there it showed me a mysterious door located in the middle of nowhere. The door was just there in the woods; it was rusty, archaic and I could not open it. It had a lock and at that very moment, I heard a weird, scary noise. I was petrified so I ran to tell my parents.

When I told them, they turned pale and asked me never to go there. But I was curious enough to give it a try one more time.

On a full moon night, when the path to the door was brightly lit, I went back there and tried opening it several times but failed. I had almost given up when suddenly, the door opened and a dark figure came out. I got terrified and hid behind the bushes. I could see blood dripping from the shadow's face as it gobbled up a deer. I was horrified by the sight of it but I tried to keep calm and go back home quietly. When I tried to run away, I stepped on a thin branch and it broke the silence of the night. The dark figure came close to me slowly but right before it came any more closer, a bright beam of light came and the dark figure ran into the darkness.

I ran home but did not tell my parents. I wanted to but I could not.

A few months later, news spread around about a dark figure killing people.

When I heard the news I got terrified and decided to tell my parents about that night but they told me to stay home and left; pale and terrified look on their faces.

Hours passed and they still had not returned. I went out to the woods because I could not contain my curiosity. What I saw shocked me! I saw my parents enter the mysterious door. They left the door unlocked and I entered as well. As soon as I entered the door, I could see that the whole world inside was completely different.

I hid in the shadows and overheard my parents talk about a dark figured demon. I realized the incident that happened to me had released the demon and all the deaths occurring was my fault.

Feeling guilty, I decided to take the matter into my own hands. I decided to destroy the demon by letting it chase me into sunlight. Although this plan took almost a week to succeed, people were now safe from the demon.

After successfully killing the demon, I decided to tell my parents the entire incident. Although angry at first, they were proud of me.

"You have proved that you have vampire blood, my sweet child. Welcome to adulthood."



# THE SCARY BLOODY NIGHT

AARYA KARKI  
BLOOM NEPAL SCHOOL

The story begins in the early 1920s of Japan. Once upon a time, in a superstitious town of Japan, there lived a 17 year old girl named Kuha Yamakazi.

When Kuha was born, half of the people of the town died suddenly at the same time. So, she was also considered to bring misfortune to the town. As Kuha grew up, her parents also mistreated her and abandoned her in a small gloomy hut. Kuha was often bullied by her classmates and the people of the town. She used to work as a servant in another town for her daily living.

One bloody red moon night, when Kuha was waiting at the subway station returning home after school, her classmates also joined her. As the subway was coming near, her classmates were rushing to get in the subway. Unfortunately, some of her classmates pushed Kuha on the subway track accidentally. The subway ran over Kuha's body and caused severe damage. There was blood all over the track.

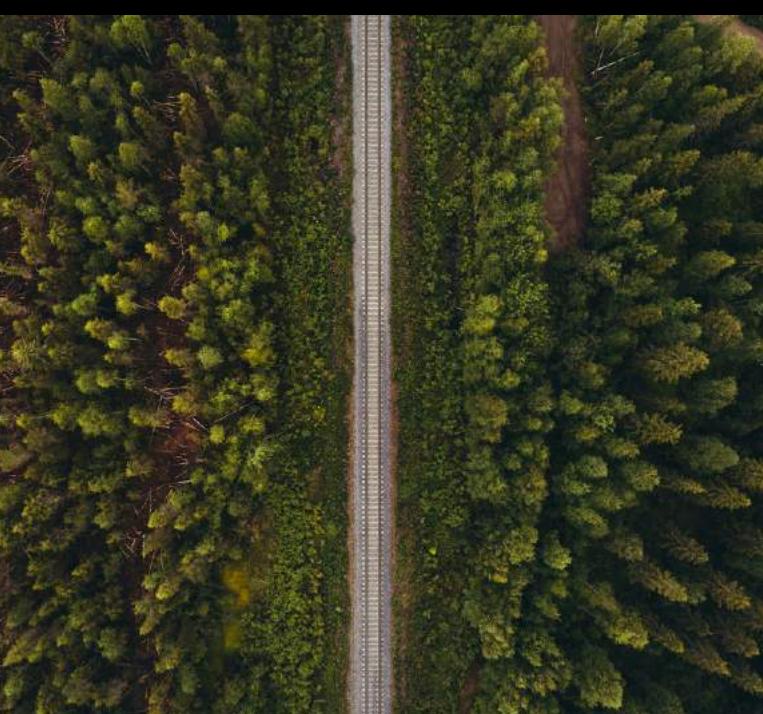
After finding her body in a very disturbing situation, Kuha spoke, "I have suffered a lot now it's your turn."

After hearing Kuha's words her classmates ran away from the station.

The next day, people found out the damaged dead body of Kuha in the subway station. Instead of mourning this accidental death, all the people in the town were happy that Kuha died because she was considered to be unlucky.

All things were normal in the village but after a month of Kuha's death, the whole town received a sentence written by blood in their home mirrors. That sentence was, "It's your turn to die". At first, people thought it was a joke and ignored it but after a few days, many people were found dead and their body was in the same condition as Kuha's was. Slowly the entire town died.

It is still believed that Kuha's spirit roams around the silent towns of Japan.



# EDUCATION FOR ALL

## BIBHUSHA BHUJEL HIMALAYA BOARDING HIGH SCHOOL

In a small and beautiful village with ample natural beauty, not a single school existed for normal people. Only the ones from the royal family were allowed to attend school.

Time passed and the villagers opened a school but only boys were allowed to attend. On a particular day, a clever little girl asked her mother, "Mother, why aren't we girls allowed to go to school? Why do boys get to go to school while we can't?"

"That's just the way it has always been."

"But why? All of us girls want to go to school too." Her mother had no answer.

After a couple of years, the little girl gave birth to a baby boy. So naturally, when he got older they sent him to school. As proud as she was, this troubled her as she was never sent to school. She asked her father, "why didn't you send me to school?"

He did not have an answer. She decided to ask the opinion of other girls in the village. They were just as clueless about the situation. She adamantly decided that girls can read too.

She asked all the girls in the village to come to school with her. They were hesitant at first so she told them that education wasn't only for them. If they go to school, they can help develop their village and the country too.

All girls marched to school one day to demand education for all genders as it was not a privilege only one gender could enjoy but a right.

Although it took time to convince everyone, those girls set an example to all little girls in the village and broke this gender stereotype.

# LIFE IN A TREEHOUSE

BIMALA DAHAL  
BLOOM NEPAL SCHOOL

"Happy birthday!" wished my mother.

My happiness knew no bounds when she wished me over the phone. Even though she was far from me, I was excited because she had gifted me a treehouse.

Suddenly, the chirping sound of birds woke me up. Although my sleep got interrupted by the bird's chirping, I would not say anything to the birds. I woke up and went outside of the treehouse to see the sun rising and felt as if my mom was wishing a happy birthday from the sky. I was also sad because I had step-mom with me and not my biological mom. My step-mom loved me like her own daughter but I was always insecure about it.

Later that day, I received a letter and gifts from my father and step-mom. One of the gifts was a princess's dress and another was that I was a big sister now. When I read this in the letter, I cried a lot and thought that my father would not love me because he has another child from step-mom. When I thought of this, I threw all the gifts into the bin. I spent all afternoon that day waiting for my mom to come but I saw no sign of her coming to me.

At night when I was about to fall asleep, I heard the voice of a leopard growling and climbing the treehouse which was gifted by my mom. When I saw this my heart started beating fast and my brain stopped thinking. I fainted there.

Early next morning, I found myself waking up from the bed and was glad to find myself alive. I saw my father carrying a baby in his arms in my room but I said nothing. I just wished him a good morning and told him that I was going in nature because that is where I feel safest. He told me to not go but I just walked ahead.

When I was walking down the stairs, I saw a woman lying on the ground. She was not breathing. I ran to my father and asked him who she was. He did not answer my question so I called step-mom from my phone to get some answers. To my astonishment, the dead woman's phone started to ring as soon as I called my stepmother.

I asked my father what had happened. At first, he was not willing to say any but I forced him, then he said that they all came to surprise me for my birthday when my stepmother saw me being attracted by a Leopard. She ran to save my life even though she knew that I didn't love her.

My dad was crying as hard as I was. I kept apologizing to her even though she could not hear me.

After some days of mourning, my mother, father, step sister and I moved to the USA because we were too sad to live in the same place. My guilt for mistreating my stepmother never went away but I didn't let that guilt change my love towards my sister.

# ANDROMEDA

DIBYANSHU CHAUDARY  
SHANKARI SCHOOL

All the way in Galactic lived a man named Andromeda. He was extremely smart and had invented many things. One of his most breakthrough inventions was his light speed engine. With this, he traveled to many galaxies far away. One day he arrived at the Milky Way and made his way to the earth but unfortunately, his engine got damaged by an asteroid and he crashed on earth and died.

Many years later, a group of explorers found his engine and they found it quite odd as they have never seen anything like that. To understand this machine better a lot of scientists came down to check but they were never able to understand it and left this mystery unsolved.

One day, Daniel who was an adventurer came down to the jungles to camp for the rest of the night but instead he found out about the engine and tried to make it work. After several failed attempts he managed to fix it. He made his way to the inside and everything was flashing red. He went towards the cabin. In the cabin, he noticed the setting was still the same way it was

many years ago. The setting was set as **"If anybody makes their way to the engine, they shall be brought back to Galactic."**

Still, Daniel was unaware of the mistake he made by stepping into the ship. The engine suddenly turned on and it left the galaxy and arrived at Galactic.

Not knowing anything about their culture and language, Daniel started exploring the engine. He had found a translator gear and he decided to wear it. Once out of the engine, he was greeted by the local tribes "the indigenous". He didn't know why they were treating him so nicely as if he was their king.

He asked, "Why are you guys treating me so nicely?"

One of them replied, "Sir, looks like you have forgotten, after all, it has been 5 years since you last visited".

He was shocked. At first, he didn't understand what was going on and after spending some time with them he found out that he looks very similar

to their leader; Andromeda. Assuming that Andromeda forgot how to live like the Indigenous, the people over there taught him how to live like one of them.

The training began with hunting. The people here used to hunt animals in the jungle and cook them. So, he was taught how to do that. After many tries of hunting the animals, he finally succeeded. This success raised suspicion among the people there. Their leader Andromeda was terrible at hunting.

The second part of his training came as performing the rituals. Even while performing the rituals he didn't have any clue. So the leader of the tribe asked him to go to his science lab and make something but since he wasn't the real Andromeda he failed. After he was unable to do what the leader said he was considered as a spy from another tribe and then the members of the tribe began to hunt him down.

Daniel ran as fast as he could to the machine and started clicking random buttons to run out of there. Just as the people there were closing in, the machine, with Daniel, sped away.

# REAL HEROES DON'T WEAR CAPES

HARDIK SHARMA  
KAASTHAMANDAP VIDHYALAYA

It was a bright Friday morning; Bivu, a doctor, was getting ready to go to the hospital. Prati, a nurse and his wife, said, "Bivu, let's leave for the hospital a little sooner. My patient Samyak is in critical condition, he has breathing problems and a fever. His PCR test is on the way! He will probably need mechanical ventilation".

"Prati take care of yourself first and do follow strict precautions. Being your husband and a doctor, I want you safe, as nurses are more exposed to the patients."

"I do my best love, for me and the patients at the hospital", Prati replied. They both leave for work from their apartment.

The couple works all day in their respective ward in the hospital. They return home late, tired and exhausted after working continuously for 8-10 hours. Prati makes a special Friday dinner. James the son and Bivu are watching the news while building a Lego tower. Bivu talks to Prati about the ongoing pandemic which has also affected their city.

Bivu said, "Look honey, over 1000 people got infected in our city today."

Prati replied, "I hope it gets better tomorrow, the hospital is so hectic."

"Yes, it is getting tiring at the hospital," Bivu added.

"That is why I made today's special dinner, Mozzarella Ravioli," Prati said.

Bivu immediately rushed to eat his favorite food followed by James. As they were eating their food, right at that moment, the landline rang. James ran to the phone and picked it up, "It's for you, mom!"

Prati went to the phone and answered. She looked scared, her face went pale and blue. Prati put the phone down and sat at the couch facing downwards.

James asked, "What happened, mom?"

Then Bivu asked, "What happened honey tell us?"

Prati says nothing and tells them to eat. Bivu puts James to sleep and goes to talk to his wife. She tells Bivu, "Samyak tested positive for the coronavirus. I have to give my PCR test tomorrow."

Bivu answered in a serious and worried tone, "I will and can take care of myself, I am concerned about James".

They looked at each other wanting to cry but couldn't. They separated the bedroom. Bivu slept on the sofa while Prati slept in her regular place. It was a long night for them.

Soon the sunrise Prati left for the hospital to take the test, she told Bivu that she won't return home that day and will call if she needed anything. Prati had also prepared and packed her essentials. Bivu was speechless and right after that Prati said, "Don't tell James about this, please take care of him." She wiped her tears and ran as soon as she said goodbye to Bivu. Bivu disinfected the room.

Bivu told James that his mom had a night duty for the next few days that she won't return home. James was sad inside but was happy as at least his father was still home. Prati was in the isolation room with the other medical personnel that took care of Samyak.

The next day was a gloomy Sunday, the sun was hiding behind the clouds. Bivu got a notification on his phone, from Prati.

I have tested positive for the coronavirus, but I don't have any symptoms. You two need to get tested, please manage any way you can.

Bivu couldn't call his wife this time, he left a message that read, "Take care, honey, and remember I and James love you very much, we will be together soon".

Bivu told James that they are going for a regular ENT and dental visit. They both did the PCR test and stayed in home quarantine. All the neighbors, friends and relatives found out about coronavirus cases in Prati and her family. Prati got the spotlight in the media for being a non-symptomatic medical personnel patient. She started an awareness campaign while staying in hospital isolation.

On a Wednesday afternoon, Bivu heard a sound. He thought it was an awareness protest or cleanliness program and looked outside from his balcony. He waved his hand as someone was calling his name. James also came outside. As he looked deeper he saw banners with his and Prati's name. The Neighborhood Committee was there

against their home quarantine stay. Bivu expected gratitude towards health personnel like them who are in the frontline for treatment of coronavirus, it was a disheartening moment to see their neighborhood commanding them to go away from their home. The landlord contacted them and said that the other tenants don't want to live near them and that they cause a risk of transmission to the whole apartment. He commands them to leave within the next 24 hours.

Bivu was shocked. James was scared and crying. Bivu cried, "I have spent half of my life in the treatment of these people. I and many of us provided service to the patients even in this pandemic. And after all this, the community is not willing to support us rather want us to leave! What can people like me expect any more? Isn't this a time where our community and the government should support us? If not that can't they motivate us?"

Bivu got a call soon after he picked it up, it was a call from the hospital telling them that both of them are negative for coronavirus. He drops tears to the white floor. He hugs his son and kisses him. James was

shocked as he had never seen his dad like that. Bivu gathers the courage to video call his wife. She picked up the call and asked him what was going on in the news. Bivu turns on the TV, sees the media broadcasting the event that is happening outside their apartment.

He said to Prati, "Don't worry I am Covid-19 negative and James too".

"I am so relieved to hear this. Also, I gave another PCR test and it might be negative".

"You still have to take care of yourself and don't worry about the condition at our house".

They both bid goodbye and hang up. James was shocked to hear that his mother was infected by the virus. He prays to god for a healthy and happy family.

Bivu not only had been worried about his family but also for his whole community and country. He thought that if he gets kicked out of this community he would lose trust in this country and would feel abandoned.

Then he thought if all people like me don't do their job, millions of people wouldn't get the health care service they need. Amazingly, while thinking the sun had already risen. He got a call from his wife early morning that her PCR test came negative and that she had recovered from Covid-19. He was very happy and thanked god. Then he thought that it must be the blessing from the needy patients that he had served for over 25 years.

Prati is going to be discharged from the hospital today. Both Bivu and James are fit and fine, their community aware of Covid-19. Prati is actively organizing campaigns against social violence to frontline healthcare workers. They got their home back, but he still gets bluff calls from people, and he is getting used to it. Bivu joined the hospital today and is serving the patients like he used to but, he heard that his ENT surgeon friend Dr. Ramesh tested positive for the coronavirus. He said to himself, "who is going to take care of the people of the society if all the healthcare workers get infected?"

This is a never-ending cycle that causes violence against healthcare workers like Bivu.



# TESTIMONIAL FROM SCHOOLS

## BLOOM NEPAL SCHOOL

Canopy Nepal has been working with young children and enhancing their learning skills in a very engaging manner. Working with Canopy Nepal, our students thoroughly enjoyed their "Katha Bunaun" sessions. At the end of the session, students were able to write amazing stories. They also sharpened their writing skills and were able to learn to express themselves through their stories. Overall, it was a very pleasant experience for our students. We hope to conduct many more sessions in Bloom Nepal School in the near future.

## BUDHANILKANTHA SCHOOL

Budhanilkantha School always wants our students to get quality education to enhance their skills. When we collaborated with Canopy Nepal to conduct Katha Bunaun sessions, we were extremely happy to see that our students were enhancing their writing, self-expression, creativity and critical thinking skills. We enjoyed reading all the stories the students wrote and we are looking forward to conducting more sessions in the future.

## CREATIVE ACADEMY

We have been collaborating with Canopy Nepal for over a year now and have always seen great results in our students. Even in the online programs, our students enjoyed thoroughly and we saw immense growth in them. Our teachers, students and parents all love and appreciate Canopy Nepal's work and we are always looking forward to more sessions with them.

## HIMALAYA BOARDING HIGH SCHOOL

Having been a partner of Canopy Nepal before the pandemic too, we knew that the learners would enjoy and learn a lot from the programs. The teachers can see students' improvement in class performances after being a part of Katha Bunaun. We are always glad and happy to engage our learners in Canopy Nepal's interactive programs.

## KAASTHAMANDAP VIDHYALAYA

Kaasthamandap Vidhyalaya collaborated with Canopy Nepal to provide an opportunity to our students to enhance their writing skills. In the two-day Katha Bunaun session, the students of grades 6-9 learned and enjoyed expressing themselves through stories. Hearing their positive feedback and reading the stories they had written was a very positive experience for all of us and we look forward to more such sessions in the future.

## SHANKARI SCHOOL

The entire team at Shankari School is extremely happy to be a partner school of Canopy Nepal. Our students have enjoyed every session and we will definitely conduct more such sessions with our learners. We have conducted 6 sessions with 79 learners and we look forward to more fruitful collaborations.

# BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

**MANISHA SINGH  
HIMALAYA BOARDING HIGH SCHOOL**

Once upon a time, there lived a boy named Konosuke Matsushita. He was born in a small farming village in Japan. His family was poor and they all lived in a small house with very little money.

When he was only 9 years old, he left school and started working in a small shop to support his family. He used to get up every day before sunrise, clean the store, run errands and then look after the children of his employer.

Some years later, destiny showed him a new path. He got a job in an electricity company. There, he got interested in light bulbs and sockets. Every night, he started learning and experimenting on his own.

One day, he made an improved version of a light socket all by himself. He got very excited and showed it to his boss. But his boss was not impressed and said such a product will never work.

Even though he was rejected, he believed in his idea. He wanted to do something on his own; start his own company. He asked his friends but they told him he cannot do it. He cannot leave his permanent job and start his own company. He has no experience, very little money and hardly any education. Still, he believed in himself.

So, when he turned 22, he took a big decision. He left his stable job and started his own manufacturing company. He and his wife started manufacturing sockets in their small house. They both went door to door selling it. But no shop owner was interested; they did not get any orders.

Months passed by and still, they were not able to sell their products. He sold his furniture and borrowed money to survive a little longer. Most days he thought of giving up and going back to his old job. But in the morning as the sun rose, he was out on the streets, looking for orders, surviving for one more day.

He was almost bankrupt and just when he was closest to giving up his dream, that's when a miracle happened in his life out of nowhere. He got his first major order of 1,000 pieces.

Now, 100 years after that first major order of 1,000 pieces, his company has over 250,000 employees with annual sales of 65 billion. All this was made possible by a man with no education and no money. All he had was a belief in himself. The company he had started in his small house is now known across the world as Panasonic.

Success is not dependent on how educated you are or how much money you have. Success is about believing in yourself so if you are also in pursuit of success just believe in yourself when one else does, survive when other people give up and just wait for that one miracle that will change your life forever.

# GIRLS & THE MYSTERIOUS STORE

MESHNA BHATTARAI  
KAASTHAMANDAP VIDHYALAYA

Aiya slowly opened her bedroom window and tried to make as little sound as possible. It was in the dead of the night and also a Wednesday, meaning it was a school night but Aiya and three of her other friends had agreed, well she hadn't really agreed to this, Aiya only obliged to sneak out with them so she wouldn't be left out.

She was never the kind of girl to do this but since everyone else had done it and most of them weren't really caught, plus, the only friends she had in school, Sophi, Aviana and Riya were doing this and she didn't want to be left out so she figured how she would go for it.

She cautiously climbed onto the roof and went to the very edge and saw the ladder that she had set up before dinner was still there and breathed a sigh of relief that no one had removed it.

Steadily she made her way down the ladder and once she reached the bottom, took it down and left in the shed to climb back up when she returned.

All of the girls lived pretty close by and had decided to meet up in the gas station of the area they lived in so she started walking. It was a pretty chilly night and Aiya was thankful she'd brought a jacket along.

After about five minutes of walking, she spotted a tall girl leaning against a wall in the gas station and figured it was probably Sophi as she was the tallest of all the girls.

"Aren't Avia and Riya here yet?", asked Aiya as soon as she reached over to the gas station.

"Aviana is in the bathroom," answered Sophi pointing to one of the stalls, "and Riya isn't here yet. She's supposed to be here by now, I think."

Just on cue, Riya slowly sneaked up behind Sophi in an attempt to scare her but failed miserably.

"That was such a pathetic attempt Ri," said Aiya, making a face.

"Like you would've done any better!"

"Actually, I would have."

"Oh, you two are already bickering?", exclaimed Aviana finally emerging from the bathroom stall.

"Took you long enough," Sophi complained. "But we should really get going, it's getting late"

All the girls nodded and took off from the gas station. They hadn't decided where they were going specifically so they agreed to walk around until they found a place to eat and then just have some fun. They walked out together as the cold air hit their faces. After about 10 minutes of walking around and not seeing a single place open, they started worrying.

"Ugh," said Sophi suddenly.

"What's wrong?", the girls asked almost in unison.

"Forgot my hoodie at home."

"Typical."

"Shut up!"

"I'm just telling the truth, Soph," joked Riya and everyone laughed.

Maybe this wasn't going to be as bad as Aliya had expected. Maybe they would have a good time and the worst case scenario she had made up in her mind that included a high speed police chase, a lifetime prison sentence and a lot of other things that she had seen in crime documentaries wouldn't come true.

"I don't think we're going to find a food place here," said Aviana, snapping Aliya out of her thoughts.

"Yeah. We should probably stick to a department store," said Riya

"Most of those are open for 24 hours anyway," Aiya agreed.

"There!" said Sophi pointing towards a light at a distance, "I'm pretty sure that sign reads Department Store."

They had been walking around for the past twenty minutes senselessly just looking for a store.

"Finally," said Aiya and added, "however, that looks kind of creepy, I'm not going in there."

"Yikes! Neither am I."

"Looks like you're on your own, Soph because I am going anywhere near that too."

"You guys are such weaklings," said Sophi clearly annoyed, "come on, give me the money, I'll be back in a second."

All the girls handed their money to Sophie and went to a nearby bench to wait as the tall girl walked over briskly towards the store.

"I don't know where she gets the courage from," said Aviana once they were all seated.

"Seriously."

"She could go missing or something by the looks of that store."

"Don't jinx it, Avi" said Riya and the group shared a laugh.

The girls cracked jokes and were having a good time but it had been five minutes already and Sophi was still not back.

"I'm starting to get a little worried guys. I reckon we should go in," said Aviana and her tone showed that she was worried.

"No wait, I'll text her," said Aiya, still not wanting to go into the spooky looking store.

**"Hey, Soph, what's taking you so long?"**

**Delivered 2 minutes ago**

"She's not replying guys," said Aiya worriedly after a few minutes.

"We should go check," said Riya as she frantically scooped up her jacket from the bench and the group started walking towards the store but after a few steps, the light went off. The store was now pitch black. Darker and creepier than before.

The girls looked at each other unsure of what to do.

"It's probably just a problem with the light," said Aiya but she couldn't shake off the feeling that something wasn't right, "let's go."

Aiya's suspicions were quickly confirmed when they reached up to the store and tried to open the door. It was locked. From the corner of her eye, she could see Aviana starting to tear up and Riya opening her phone's flashlight. Aiya did the same and pointed it towards the store but couldn't see anyone. It was pitch black in the store and there was no sign of movement.

Riya tried harder to open the door and after a few failed attempts, she kicked it as hard as she could and it finally opened up. The girls cautiously walked in and frantically started looking but there was no sign of their best friend. They looked for five more minutes but nothing.

"Thi- this cannot be happening!" said Aviana in a quaky voice.

"We need to call the cops! We need to tell them," Aiya whispered her voice breaking. She was also starting to tear up.

"No way!!" Riya practically screamed.

"What? Why?"

"Don't you understand? We will get blamed for this! We were the ones who were with her! No one is ever going to believe us. It sounds crazy! A girl just disappeared? From a department store?"

"You're being ridiculous Riya!" Aiya said in an equally loud tone.

Aviana was just stifling on the side.

"You are! Do you hear yourself?"

"Do you hear yourself?"

"If you tell anyone, I will tell them you were behind this."

"Are you seriously threatening me?"

"Looks like I am."

--

As she slowly raised the ladder up, Aiya's hand fumbled. She had been crying nonstop since they had walked away from the department store. Her best friend was missing. She was gone. Just like that, and there was nothing she could do about it. She didn't sleep a wink the whole night, but when the sun slowly rose up, tiredness took over and Aiya dozed off only to be woken the next moment, or that's what it felt like, by her mother.

"Sweetie, get up. We have really bad news."

Aiya was expecting this. She and Sophi lived close by so it was pretty obvious the news of Aiya going "missing" had already traveled around the neighborhood.

"Yeah?"

"You're not ready for this but your friend Sophi," her mother trailed off.

"What about her, Mom?"

Aiya just wanted this to be over it as she was perfectly sure what to expect.

"She was," her mother made paused, "found dead."

Aiya's heart dropped. She was certainly not expecting this. What did her mother mean?

"Mom, what are you saying?" asked Aiya in a whisper.

"Yes, they found her body on her bed."

--

"Just keep your mouth shut ok?" Riya warned Aiya and Aviana, "if we tell them now, we will be called murderers."

"Ri-

"She's dead, Aiya. You cannot change that. Now all you can do is shut up. For your own sake and ours."

The girls were in the bathroom and turns out the entire school had already found out about Sophi's death. Riya had called them here to discuss a so-called "plan" on what they would do next but Aiya couldn't do this. She couldn't live without

telling the truth and so she made a decision for herself; she would tell everyone if that meant finding out what killed her best friend.

"Okay, I understand," said Aiya.

Riya nods and looks towards Aviana, "me too."

But as soon as the two other girls walked out of the bathroom, Aiya called her mother.

"Mom, I have something to tell you," she began.

And she told her mom everything that had happened that night but as soon as she went to the part where Sophi went into a department store she heard her mom shout her Dad's

name.

"Honey, the girls, they went to the department store the night Sophi was killed."

Her Mom put so much emphasis on the word "the", it sounded like she was talking about something deadly.

"Oh no," she heard her Dad say.

"I told you we should've told her sooner," her Mom said frantically.

"She was too young, sweetie."

"Mom! Dad! What are you talking about?"

"Aiya, that department store Sophi went into, it is...," her Mom never got to complete that sentence.

# SAMMY AND TIMMY



**MIMUSA BASNET  
CREATIVE ACADEMY**

Long ago, there lived a little boy named Sammy. He was a good boy. He excelled in his academics, obeyed his parents, was more intelligent than many other boys in his class and kind to everyone. Grown-ups as well as those junior to Sammy loved him very much. But that aroused jealousy in many other boys who longed to be as loved as Sammy.

There was another boy named Timmy who studied in the same class as Sammy. Unlike Sammy, he was not good at studies and always liked to play during school hours. He misbehaved with his parents, bullied his classmates and even ill-treated Sammy. He always tried to put Sammy down and belittled him before other kids in the class. But no matter what he did, Sammy's grades kept getting better and better. Whether in studies or in sports or from his classmates, Sammy kept getting accolades from everywhere.

On his eighth birthday, Sammy got a nice pen as a gift from his parents. He brought it to school so that he could

use it to take down the notes of the lectures that the teachers gave in class. It was a very beautiful pen and it could help one write very fast. When Timmy saw it, he was very jealous of Sammy. He asked Sammy, "hey, where did you get that? Did you buy it?"

"My parents gave it as a birthday gift to me," Sammy replied.

Timmy was overwhelmed with anger and jealousy. Being the bad boy that he was, he rarely got any presents from his parents. He decided to steal Sammy's pen. During recess, when everyone had gone out of the class, Timmy opened Sammy's bag and took out his pen. Then he hid it inside his bag and went out to have his tiffin.

When Sammy came back and could not find his pen, he informed his class teacher about it. There was a hunt for the missing pen and the class teacher ordered the class monitor to search the bag of every child inside the class. The missing pen was soon found in

Timmy's bag. The furious teacher asked the guilty boy, "mow, Timmy, what do you have to say about it?"

Timmy was in tears. He had nothing to say. When Sammy saw Timmy cry, he took pity on the boy. Being the kind boy that he was, he had no ill-feeling against his classmate. He requested his class teacher not to take any action against Timmy since his stolen pen was found.

This opened Timmy's eyes. He could now see what a good boy Sammy was. He asked for forgiveness from his teacher and Sammy. From that day, he became friends with Sammy and gradually changed himself to be as good as Sammy. Everyone began to love Timmy and Sammy was proud of his new friend.

Despite being hurt by Timmy; Sammy gave only love in return. This is how we should also treat our enemies. Who knows? One day, our behavior may just change themselves for the better.

# ONE BETRAYAL: REVENGE HUNDRED FOLDS

NAYANA SAKYA  
BABA BOARDING HIGH SCHOOL

It was a crisp autumn night; the rain had just stopped and the grounds were wet and dark, frightful like the deep sea. The surroundings were so quiet that a pin drop 10 kilometers away could be heard. There was a sudden yellow light and the sound of a car on the muddy road that broke the silence.

There were two guys in the car. Derrick and Maurice; who were partners in crime. The former does the physical work and the latter brainstorms ideas behind the scenes. No one knows their actual identities. They can run away from any crime scene. Maurice has a brilliant plan in his mind, a school shooting, more so, in an infamous one. Derrick agreed to this and decided to carry it right next week.

They agreed on a plan. Maurice would shoot anyone who walked out of the school gym, and Derrick would take the gun and go into the gym. Maurice walked up to the guidance counselor and shot him. People heard screams at the gym. Derrick then ran into the gym and started firing. He hadn't harmed anyone, yet kids were scrambling and hiding. It was mayhem. Maurice ran behind and tackled Derrick. Maurice snatched the gun, pulled

the trigger and killed Derrick. Maurice was declared a hero. It was the perfect plan indeed.

Who would've known Derrick's end was so near? Derrick, who died, was full of resentment as he converted into a ghost. He wanted revenge on Maurice. As time passed, he gained supernatural powers and made Maurice's all four limbs have a mind of its own. The mind of the hand was dark and negative. It made Maurice commit various crimes.

Maurice was shocked and confused. Despite multiple medical tests, medical personnel couldn't diagnose anything and thus suggested therapy.

However, Maurice knew Derrick was back. He knew if he didn't clean this mess up there would be no other choice but to die in the name of law and justice against his crimes.

One night, Maurice drank liquor like it was his last. He drank to the point of numbness. Maurice stumbled to the kitchen and took the kitchen knife, cut one of his legs and then cut the other. He cut one of his hands, while he took the knife in his mouth and cut the other.

When people had found him, he was already a dry corpse. He had cut his hands which were next to him but everyone wondered at the mystery of where his limbs had gone missing.

The limbs that had gone missing wreaked havoc in the dark slums and turned humans into the undead. Then a new era began; The Era of Destruction. The undead hunted humans and humans strived to live. When the destruction reached a peak and when humanity was in grave danger, a Messiah appeared and cured the undead and turned them into humans.

Soon came The Era of Peace, where humans didn't commit any crimes. But the Redeemer told them that heaven has become full and incited people to commit crimes and self-harm. People began following her commands and believed whatever she said because she truly had done countless great deeds. She looked on and was pleased as mass suicides and crimes began. She returned to her home, to her throne of fire and flames, and greeted all with a nod of her wicked horns.

Everything seemed to be planned since the start. Everything seems to be fated. Why was God so cruel? Why didn't he stop the destruction of his creations? Why did the godly one allow this to happen? Has everything succumbed to evil?

# THE ADVENTURE

NIRZALA MAHARJAN  
CREATIVE ACADEMY

The ones who don't have vision want to see the world, the ones who can't hear want to hear everything, the ones who can't speak want to speak and the ones who are poor want to get rich and live life as kings and queens.

Once there lived a guy named James. He lived in an enormous and alluring house as beautiful as the king and queen's castle with his family. James's dad was a successful businessman and was known by everyone around the world. James had everything he could ask for; money, fame, video games, friends, family and more but the only thing he didn't have was his right hand.

A few months ago, he lost his right hand in a car accident while he was going out on a drive with his friends. So from that day onwards he was not allowed out of his house. James was an adventurous person who wanted to explore and visit jungles and get along with animals but his parents never allowed him to do these.

He was really depressed because he had a passion for exploring the wild and he never liked living inside.

One day, he thought, "I am unable to do most of my tasks as I have lost my right hand. But, I can still do what I want to. I yearn for adventure and I will make sure I will fulfill my desire."

He wanted to get out of his cruel life immediately. He thought of running out of his house. He packed up all the things he needed and successfully escaped from his house.

James reached a magnificent jungle. He had never seen such beauty before. As soon as he reached the jungle, all the animals were extremely friendly to him. He thought of when his friends mistreated him after he

lost his hand because they were only using him because he was rich. He realized that these animals were friendly to him even though he didn't have a hand. James had already set up his mind that he was staying in the jungle. The animals treated him as their leader. He was enjoying his life as he wanted to.

After a month his parents found him and they forced him to go back home with them but he didn't budge. He told them that he wanted to be adventurous in his life but they never allowed him to. He continued, "when I lost my hand, you never let me go out of the house. Look at these animals, they are so good to me even if I don't have both hands like most people do. I have understood what is life. I will stay here for the rest of my life. So, please go and live your life!"

His parents, although sad, reluctantly came to terms with his decision and James was free to stay with the animals as long as he wished for.

This is how the story of Tarzan came into existence.

# THE PURE SOUL

PALISTHA SHAKYA  
SHANKARI SCHOOL

Once, there used to be a small town named Irene. It contained about thirty houses. In one of them there lived a pair of grandmother and granddaughter. The granddaughter's name was Grace. Every day, Grace would greet her grandma and go to school. She was very popular in school. She was good at everything. She liked to study, she was good at sports and even had a lot of friends.

Grace and her friends Cindy, Emma, Andrew, Daniel and George used to go out every weekend to a haunted house nearby even though they didn't have much to see there. They used to go there because of a girl named Elizabeth.

Elizabeth was one of their best friends but one day she disappeared. After a week or so she was found in an old and shabby looking house.

That house had a rumor to be haunted. Since then, Elizabeth used to act very weirdly; some even said that her body was possessed by an evil spirit, the spirit who used to live was killed in that very house.

Many years ago, there used to be a family living in that house which contained a father, mother and a daughter named Diana. They also had a maid named Gabriella. She was all the way from Indonesia. She used to weep every night. At first, they thought she was missing her family in Indonesia but after a few days, the weeping turned into loud cries. Diana was the first one to notice it and told her parents that she could not sleep because of Gabriella's cries. When they asked the maid about it, she frantically denied. That night, Gabriella cried and mumbled a lot in Indonesian language. She acted like something or someone was forcing her to do what she should not do. The whole family saw it and this time it repeated for two months.

Having enough, then they consulted a psychiatrist. Even the psychiatrist didn't know what was going on so she recommended a well-known black magician. The magician didn't say anything but gave Gabriella a medicine. After taking that medicine, she acted even weirder.

The entire family was scared and tried to convince Gabriella to go back to Indonesia but she denied. This curse then moved into Diana.

After Diana was possessed she killed her parents and then killed herself. After that, the curse entered Gabriella again and she started killing people.

Legends say that the soul of Diana is still there and now has possessed Elizabeth. To save their friend Elizabeth, Grace and her friends go to that house every weekend to see if they would find something helpful.

# OUR FACILITATORS' JOURNEY

## AGRANI SATYAL

Working as a facilitator has been a remarkable experience for me. I got an opportunity to polish my leadership and social skills. The eagerness of the learners to learn new things helped the team and I overcome the barriers of online learning- slowly but surely. I met many amazing people and made various new friends. Similarly, the team members were always on board to help us in case of difficulties and that made the journey more convenient and fruitful.



## AMELIE DAHAL

When I first applied for this program, I had a vague idea about what we would be doing. I knew we would work with children in schools. But I never imagined how gratifying the experience would be. Maybe because it was my first session that I conducted as a facilitator, I felt a special connection with learners of Creative Academy. I still remember how nervous I felt. I will forever cherish this experience of working as a facilitator with Learners' Hub. I left with a happy heart and a deep appreciation for the work of Canopy Nepal.



## BANDANA ADHIKARY

Facilitating in Canopy Nepal was truly a wonderful experience as I could engage with so many learners from different schools. I had been following the work of Canopy Nepal before and as soon as I got the opportunity and time to join as a facilitator, I went for it. It was a wonderful learning experience for me because sometimes I had to challenge myself to engage and make the sessions more interactive, fun and effective. It felt really satisfying getting wonderful feedback from the learners. Knowing that young children are learning and enjoying the sessions always made me work better for my next session.





## SAMPADA UPRETY

I enjoyed every part of facilitating Learners Hub programs. Every session came with unique challenges and overcoming those was one way I could polish my skills. The learners were keen to learn and devoted themselves to all the activities throughout the sessions. Seeing the learners grow as we advanced during the program was delightful and encouraging. These sessions have helped me learn and grow as an individual. I would like to thank the team members of Learners' Hub for their constant support and for making my experience a memorable one.



## SHREYA KOIRALA

First of all, I would like to thank Canopy Nepal for providing me with the opportunity to become a facilitator and explore my level of understanding. One of the most important skills I learned here was to create a safe and supportive environment for the learners to explore themselves. When I first facilitated, I was not exactly sure what was in store for me. I was scared of whether the learners would understand what I was explaining or not. But with all the interactive content and lively activities, the learners were actively engaged and I also had a great time. I am looking forward to more such opportunities.



## SONIKA KUNWAR

I had an amazing time facilitating all the learners and enjoyed every moment of it. Honestly, I miss being around young minds and helping them grow. It feels incredible knowing you played a part in one of their best learning experience growing up. My time with Canopy Nepal definitely wouldn't have been the same without the supportive, approachable and fun team members who were always there whenever I needed any kind of help. I feel thrilled to have worked as a facilitator of Canopy Nepal and will always fondly look back at the beautiful memories I've created during my time here.

# THE LUMINIFEROUS AETHER

PRINCETON PUN  
KAASTHAMANDAP VIDHYALAYA

Alexander Verstappen was born on December 21st, 1206 in the Kingdom of Mynerut to Marco Verstappen and Ariana Verstappen. The family of 3 lived through poverty and experienced monumental hardships. Unlike his parents who had no ambition in their lives and lived for the sake of living, Alexander had huge ambitions for his future. He knew his dirt poor hands would one day be cleansed by gold and silver. He believed his destiny was already written in the stars above and was just waiting to be unlocked by him.

To become rich, he knew he had to be one step ahead of everyone in everything; so, he used to go to the library everyday and learn about everything he could find. By the time Alexander was 17, he was able to speak and write 6 languages while being able to explain almost everything relating to Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Art and Literature. He was arguably the wisest man in Mynerut. He had also made many friends through the library; Caesar, Sebastian, Leman and Schwartzman. They were all very wise and physically strong.

Mynerut lies in the fringes of the continent of Europe; partially surrounded by the Mediterranean to the south and Atlantic to the West. The Atlantic was largely unexplored due to its vastness and much of it was shrouded in mystery. Many of Mynerut's citizens had known of the Luminiferous Aether; a mystical place in the Atlantic which held vast amounts of gold,

silver and other precious metals. It was said to be on an island inhabited by the most dangerous animals known to man. A man by the name of Jan Horton claimed to have found the island with his crew but were thrown back into the ocean by Gaia, the spirit which protected the Luminiferous Aether and only allowed in a person who could answer all 3 of her riddles.

Many people thought of the Luminiferous Aether as just a myth and Jan Horton's testimony to be false. But not Alexander; when he was 16, he learned about a man named Van Nieman from a discrete book hidden behind the countless shelves of the library of Mynerut. In it, Van described the island of Niceras, which lay 1200 miles west of Mynerut. Van Nieman was the vice-admiral of the ship 'Zute' which had crashed in Niceras. He and five of his remaining crew had found shelter on the island only to be met with poisonous snakes, bats the size of a rhino and mysterious tiger like animals with large fangs. All of his crew members faced horrific deaths with Van surviving due to a rescue ship arriving in time.

Alexander wondered, could it be that Niceras be the fabled island where the Luminiferous Aether lied in all its glory. He shared the idea with Caesar, Sebastian, Leman and Schwartzman.

They nodded in unison and quickly decided to embark on a voyage to the heart of the Atlantic. They had nothing to lose, after all they believed their might and wisdom could overcome any hurdle. Caesar's dad, being a Baron, was very wealthy. This allowed the group of friends to be able to construct a fairly good and reliable ship without hassle. They proudly named their ship "The Louis Moinet". They then loaded their ship with swords, axes, shields, etc. They also kept food and water capable of satisfying them for 6 months in the storage area.

In February, they left Mynerut and sailed to the west. After a month of being in the ocean, in a spot far away from civilization; they saw a gleaming green island reminiscent of a painting a maestro would make of an island.

After descending upon Niceras, they were attacked by a tiger with large fangs as described by Van Nieman; but the four boys held their ground and decapitated the deadly animal. After that, they went ever deeper into the island, when soon enough they met a cave which gleamed metal from the inside and gave the smell of the most beautiful roses. The boys entered the cave and were met with a voice. They knew the voice was of Gaia, as she warned the boys of their impending doom if they failed to answer her riddles and that this was their last chance of escape. But the boys didn't budge and were ready to face the riddles.



Gaia's first riddle was: What has 6 faces and 21 eyes but cannot see? What is 32, 45, 60, 77?

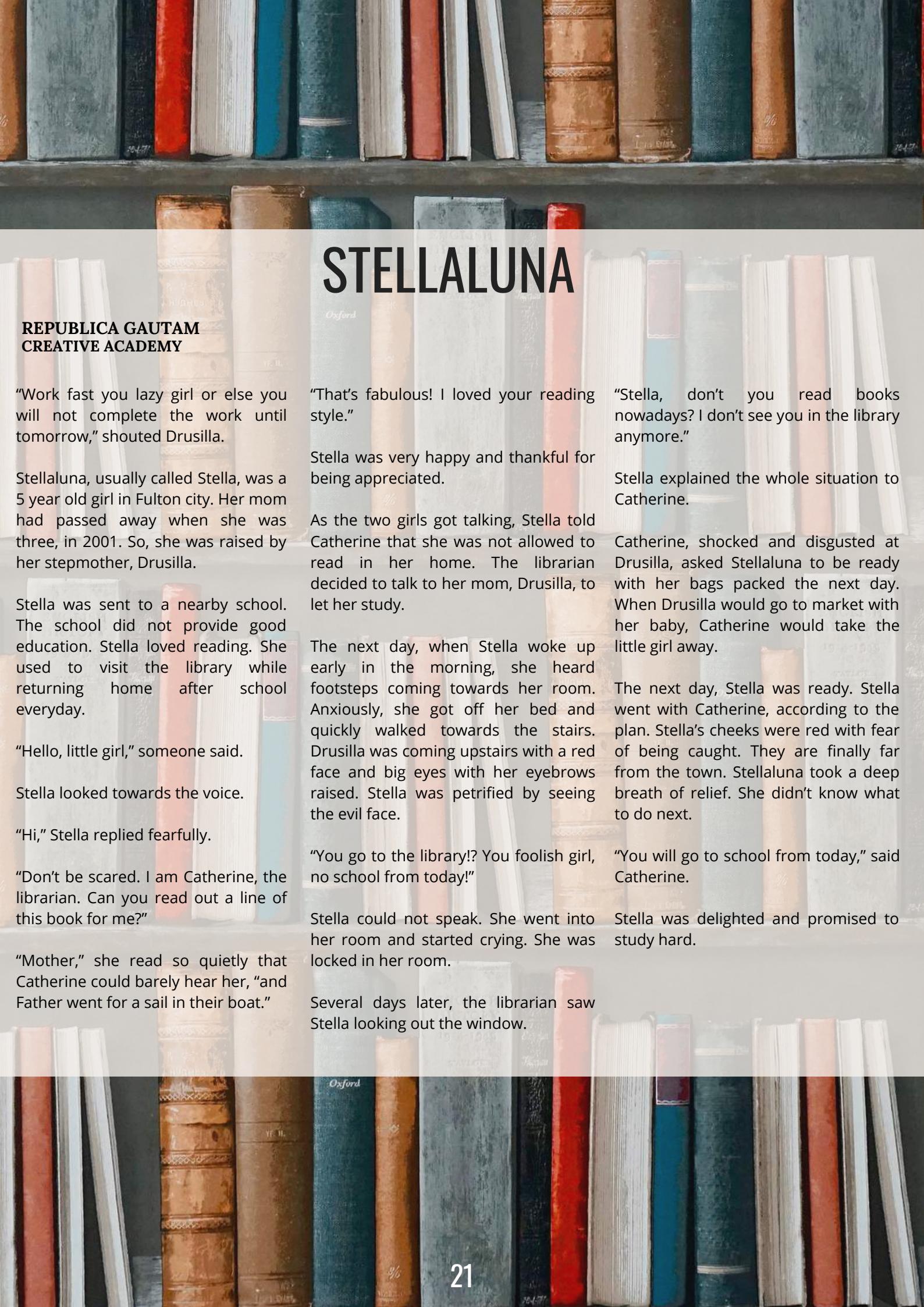
The boys knew that the answer had to be a non-living object as biology doesn't allow for 6 faces and 21 eyes let alone eyes which can't see. Caesar and Sebastian both spat out the same word; a dice. Indeed that was the correct answer and they were onto their second riddle.

What 5 letter word has 6 left when you take 2 letters away?

This was a question that stumped Caesar and Sebastian as literature was not in their realm of expertise. So they turned to Schwartzman and Leman; they thought for a while and came to the conclusion that the answer was the word sixty. Again the boys were correct and they were to the last question, the hardest one.

All four boys were hopeless and turned their hopes towards Alexander as he was a master in Mathematics. Alexander thought carefully and quickly answered 96 as the difference between 45 and 32 was 13, and the difference between 60 and 45 was 15. Which was followed by the difference of 77 and 60 being 17, which meant that the increment was by 2. Hence, 77 plus 17 plus 2 was the answer which was 96.

Gaia admitted defeat after which diamonds, gold, pearls, silver, ivory and ruby started to fall from the ceiling of the cave. The boys rejoiced in their triumph and brought their hard earned wealth to the ship. They then returned to Mynerut and to the surprise of its citizens verified the myth of the Luminiferous Aether. The boys became the richest people in the Kingdom and Alexander fulfilled his dream of cleansing his dirt poor hands with gold and silver.



# STELLALUNA

**REPUBLICA GAUTAM  
CREATIVE ACADEMY**

"Work fast you lazy girl or else you will not complete the work until tomorrow," shouted Drusilla.

Stellaluna, usually called Stella, was a 5 year old girl in Fulton city. Her mom had passed away when she was three, in 2001. So, she was raised by her stepmother, Drusilla.

Stella was sent to a nearby school. The school did not provide good education. Stella loved reading. She used to visit the library while returning home after school everyday.

"Hello, little girl," someone said.

Stella looked towards the voice.

"Hi," Stella replied fearfully.

"Don't be scared. I am Catherine, the librarian. Can you read out a line of this book for me?"

"Mother," she read so quietly that Catherine could barely hear her, "and Father went for a sail in their boat."

"That's fabulous! I loved your reading style."

Stella was very happy and thankful for being appreciated.

As the two girls got talking, Stella told Catherine that she was not allowed to read in her home. The librarian decided to talk to her mom, Drusilla, to let her study.

The next day, when Stella woke up early in the morning, she heard footsteps coming towards her room. Anxiously, she got off her bed and quickly walked towards the stairs. Drusilla was coming upstairs with a red face and big eyes with her eyebrows raised. Stella was petrified by seeing the evil face.

"You go to the library!? You foolish girl, no school from today!"

Stella could not speak. She went into her room and started crying. She was locked in her room.

Several days later, the librarian saw Stella looking out the window.

"Stella, don't you read books nowadays? I don't see you in the library anymore."

Stella explained the whole situation to Catherine.

Catherine, shocked and disgusted at Drusilla, asked Stellaluna to be ready with her bags packed the next day. When Drusilla would go to market with her baby, Catherine would take the little girl away.

The next day, Stella was ready. Stella went with Catherine, according to the plan. Stella's cheeks were red with fear of being caught. They are finally far from the town. Stellaluna took a deep breath of relief. She didn't know what to do next.

"You will go to school from today," said Catherine.

Stella was delighted and promised to study hard.

# FRIENDSHIP



## SAMIKCHYA BISTA BLOOM NEPAL SCHOOL

A voyaging ship was wrecked during a storm at sea and only two men on it were able to swim to a small, desert-like island. The two survivors were good friends, and not knowing what else to do, agreed that they had no other recourse but to pray to God. However, to find out whose prayer was more powerful, they agreed to divide the territory between them and stay on opposite sides of the island.

The first thing they prayed for was food. The next morning, the first man saw a fruit-bearing tree on his side of the land, and he was able to eat its fruit. The other man's parcel of land remained barren. After a week, the first man was lonely, and he decided to pray for a wife. The next day, another ship was wrecked, and the

only survivor was a woman who swam to his side of the land. On the other side of the island, there was nothing.

Soon the first man prayed for a house, clothes, more food. The next day, like magic, all of these were given to him. However, the second man still had nothing.

Finally, the first man prayed for a ship, so that he and his wife could leave the island. In the morning, he found a ship docked at his side of the island. The first man boarded the ship with his wife and decided to leave the second man on the island.

He considered the other man unworthy to receive God's blessings since none of his prayers had been answered.

as the ship was about to leave, the first man heard a voice from heaven booming. "Why are you leaving your companion on the island?"

"My blessings are mine alone since I was the one who prayed for them," the first man answered. "His prayers were all unanswered, and so he does not deserve anything."

"You are mistaken!" the voice rebuked him. "He had only one prayer, which I answered. If not for that, you would not have received any of my blessings."

"Tell me," the first man asked the voice, "What did he pray for that I should owe him anything?"

"He prayed that all your prayers be answered."

# THE MURDER CASE

SARTHAK BASNET  
BUDHANILKANTHA SCHOOL

It was a cold winter night. Mr. Jonathan Smith, a tall, fair man with black hair, blue eyes and a weird looking mustache had just lit his cigar when he got a phone call. It was his boss, Mr. Howard Hank. "Quit slacking and get here immediately there has been a murder," he said.

"Here we go again", sighed the detective. Smith was a man in his mid 20's and was a well-known detective. He took his coat and drove towards the crime scene as instructed by the boss.

The sight at the crime scene was horrendous. Blood everywhere, the victim's ribs and skull smashed. The mere sight of it made Jonathan almost sick.

"What do you make of this sir," questioned his assistant Casper West, a small man, with a pale ratty face.

"Well, what do I say, Casper. I haven't seen anything quite like this before," answered Smith. There were footmarks painted with blood, the prints led to the road from where the culprit supposedly had escaped.

"Look at these footprints Casper," said Smith gesturing towards the road, "what do you think?"

"From what I can see, I would guess that the culprit couldn't walk correctly and though it could have been because of the supposed fight he probably limped", said Casper with a bright face.

"Exactly," said Jonathan excitedly, "you're getting smart working with me, Casper."

"Find out who the victim is and also what he had been doing the past couple of days he lived," ordered Smith to the search team.

The victim was identified as Mathew Baker, he was a worker at the Yotuba Business Company as a CEO. According to some of his sources, the executive of his company, Mr. Henry Hick, a fat, bald and short man had a big fight with him at the former's party; death threats were made and even the police were involved.

Jonathan felt the boss had to be the killer. The investigation continued and there was a big break-through. Hair sample of the killer and some finger-prints were retrieved from the crime scene. Coincidentally enough, the samples matched exactly to that of Hick. However, the proof wasn't solid enough. So, Smith called his boss and said, "I know who the killer is but I need more solid evidence. So, I want your help. Put Hick in a situation where he has to run."

The boss seemed confused but did it anyway. He asked the special force to release a couple of his dogs towards Hick and if he cared for his life he surely would run.

The plan went exactly as planned and Hick made a run for it all this while Smith was watching with a pair of binoculars.

"Catch him!" shouted Smith to the special force.

The culprit was caught and put behind bars. The case was taken to the high court and the judge announced the verdict-guilty and was given a life sentence in prison.

The boss was still confused and asked him, "how did you know for sure that he was the guy?"

Smith replied with a smile, "at the crime scene, I noticed that the culprit had walking issues and limped. When Hick ran he did the same limp, and that got rid of all my suspicions."

"Oh, now that makes a lot of sense!" replied the boss, content.

A few months later Henry Hick, was killed in a prison feud by a couple of men in prison.

July 19, 2020

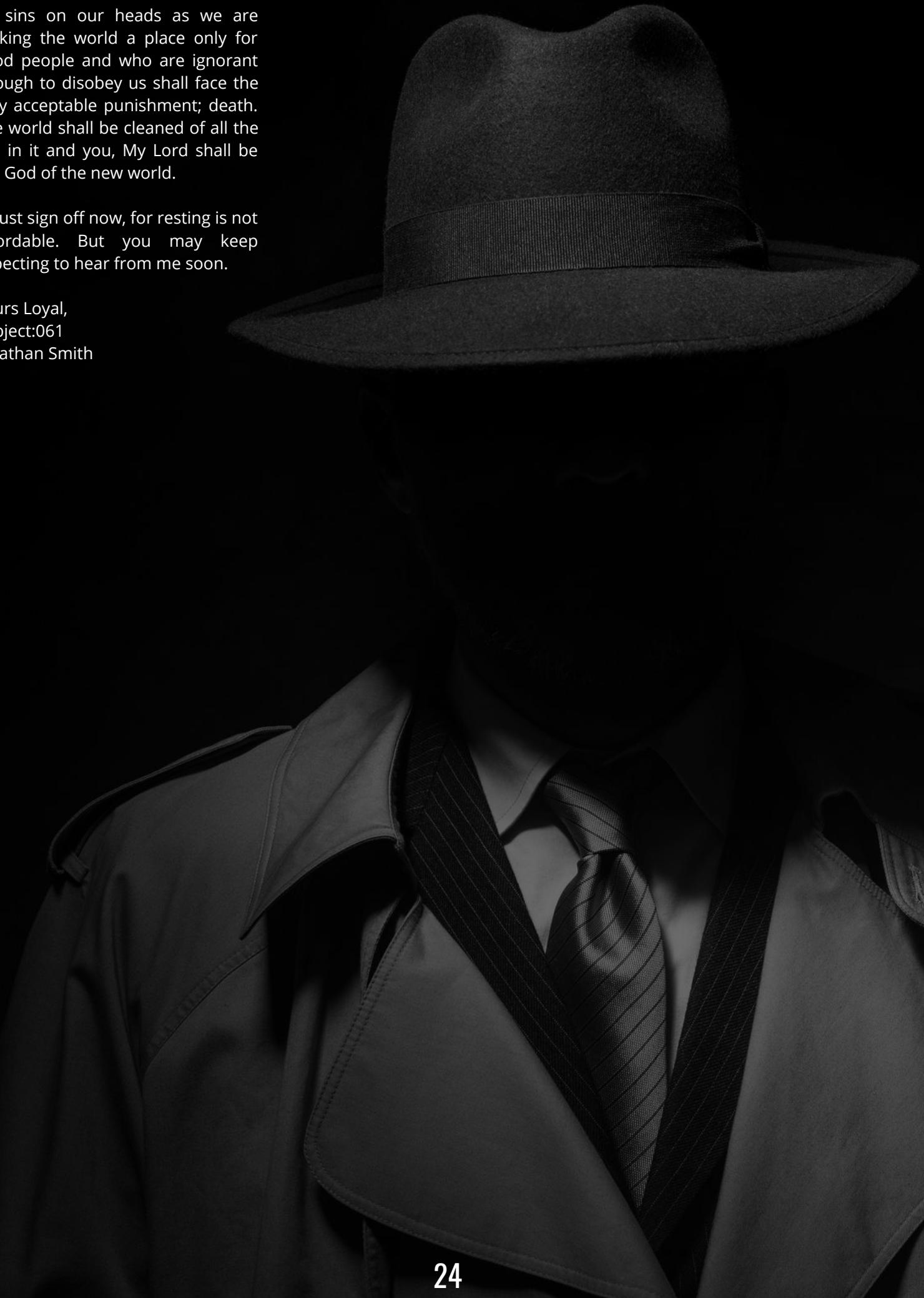
Code 101: Success

I am pleased to tell you that both the targets have been eliminated. I killed Henry also managed to frame Hick for his murder. All the detectives were easy to fool and all of them believed in the theory I made. Indeed, it was easy to fake the limping part and any fool could have done that to mislead the investigation. But, I had done it intentionally. Getting the DNA samples weren't that hard either. I also summoned my men to deal with Hick in prison. Now that those two are out of the way we can continue Mission: DEATH. Yotuba company now belongs to some of our men subject 037, 064 and 067. We shall have no regrets, and

no sins on our heads as we are making the world a place only for good people and who are ignorant enough to disobey us shall face the only acceptable punishment; death. The world shall be cleaned of all the evil in it and you, My Lord shall be the God of the new world.

I must sign off now, for resting is not affordable. But you may keep expecting to hear from me soon.

Yours Loyal,  
Subject:061  
Jonathan Smith



# PLEASE HELP!

SHRISTI GAUTAM  
BUDHANILKANTHA SCHOOL

"Waiter, please take our orders," a girl in a pizza place shouted. The waiter came & took their orders. The sister and brother both ordered a chicken pizza.

They take their food and come out of the hotel. On the way home, they talk and joke around.

When they reach home, they see their parents fighting. The brother tries to stop the father and the girl tries to stop the mother. Meanwhile, the father tries to hit his wife with a flower vase beside him. He takes it and when he tries to hit her, the girl immediately pushes her mother. She gets hit instead.

There is an eerie silence. They noticed that the girl was immediately severely injured and blood was flowing everywhere. Her father is confused and in disbelief that he hit his daughter. Her mother calls an ambulance.

The girl tries to speak, "Dad, mom, I don't know how you got into the fight. But from now on I want to see you being together from heaven. And also please, love each other. Moreover, I love you all."

Her breath trails off.



# THE CALCULATOR'S WORRIES

SURABHI KHATIWADA  
KAASTHAMANDAP VIDHYALAYA

"Should we tell her?" asked Calculator the 100th time to the Pen, who was currently in Suravi's hand. Suravi was busy doing her mathematics homework with the Pen. So the words it said were not that clear. Pen replied, "let her finish her homework first."

Calculator did not understand a word Pen had just said. At this point, it just gave up trying and decided to ask Pen during the night when Suravi would be fast asleep.

Calculator had been here with Suravi since the past year and it was thankful to be here. This was certainly better than its boring days at the stationary waiting for someone to buy it. Sometimes Calculator would be amazed by what it was before and what it is now.

It'd go back to the days inside the top shelf where so many others like it had been bought, some to good families and some to bad. It used to tell everyone that those days covered in dust were its most vulnerable moments. Just when it was about to lose all hope of being bought, a little girl aged 13 named Suravi had bought it. That had changed its life.

Here at Suravi's home, it was kept well and had many friends who it adored. One of them being Pen. Pen was its first friend here, and both of them adored each other. Without Pen, the answers calculator calculated would be useless, and the pen alone would be useless with nothing to write.

"Finally done with this! I'm going to slap this notebook on my class monitor's face tomorrow!" exclaimed Suravi with relief.

Calculator jumped in surprise, awoken by Suravi's voice. Suravi tucked Calculator in its place and wished it goodnight. Calculator smiled and wished her goodnight. Once Calculator was sure Suravi fell asleep, it went over and talked to Pen.

"What a tiring day today was, my ink is about to run out. I was full of ink just yesterday! This teacher gives her so much homework, don't you think?" said Pen, letting out a sigh.

"Yes, but it's good for her, as she's doing her work and getting practice. But I think we should really tell her."

"I agree, but let's just let the kid be for a while, she's going to be stressed if she heard this since her exams are near," said Pen.

Calculator replied, feeling a bit skeptical, "exactly if we tell her now, it'll be easier for her to handle it and prepare for her exams."

Pen thought about it for some time. Then the two decided to tell her the big thing tomorrow. Both of them had a very restless night.

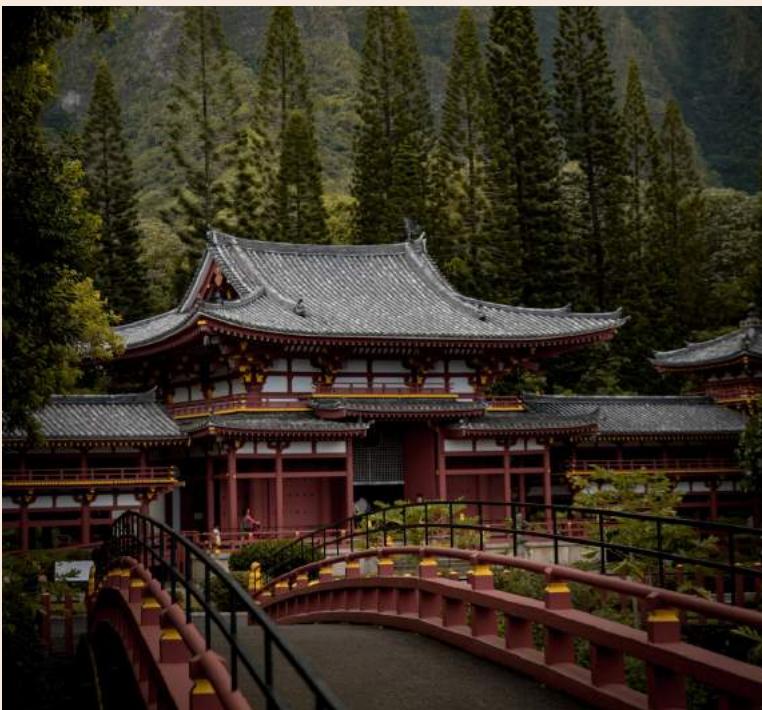
In the morning, after Suravi was awake, Pen and Calculator called her. They said that they had something very important to say. Suravi, a restless child since birth, couldn't wait to hear what Calculator and Pen had to say.

Calculator said, "we have very saddening news for you today."

"Yes, and we are very sorry for you", added Pen.

"Go ahead and just tell me, I won't mind," replied Suravi.

Calculator said, with a heavy heart, "You are not allowed to use me this year in your exams. You will have to solve all your questions by yourself."



# LEARNING TO ACT

**USHAKIRAN  
BUDHANILKANTHA SCHOOL**

There once lived a brilliant student. She was on a quest to acquire more and more knowledge. She had heard of a great Zen teacher and she traveled a long journey to meet him. On arriving at the teacher's feet, she said, "Master please teach me your skills and lessons."

The Zen master received the student with a great smile. She inquired with him all that she already knew.

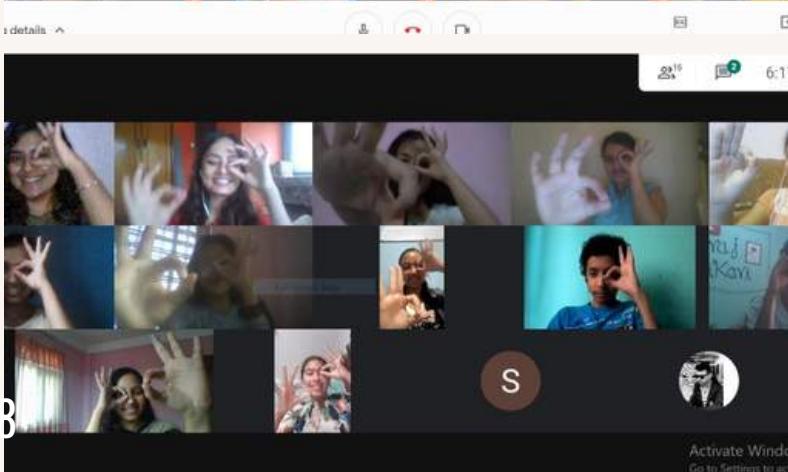
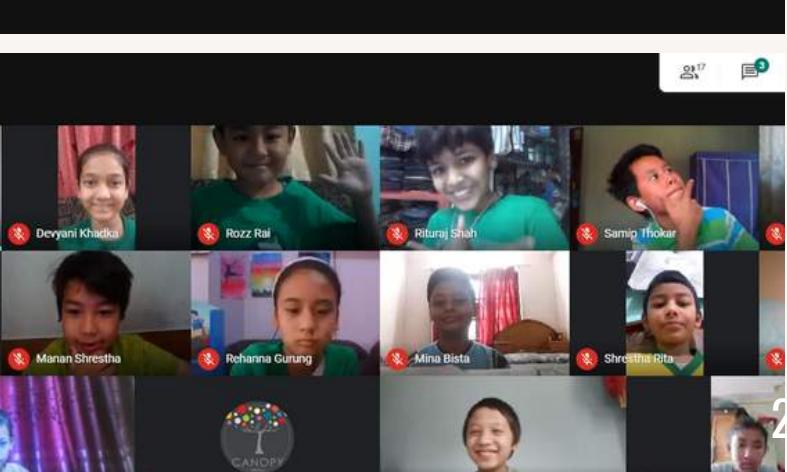
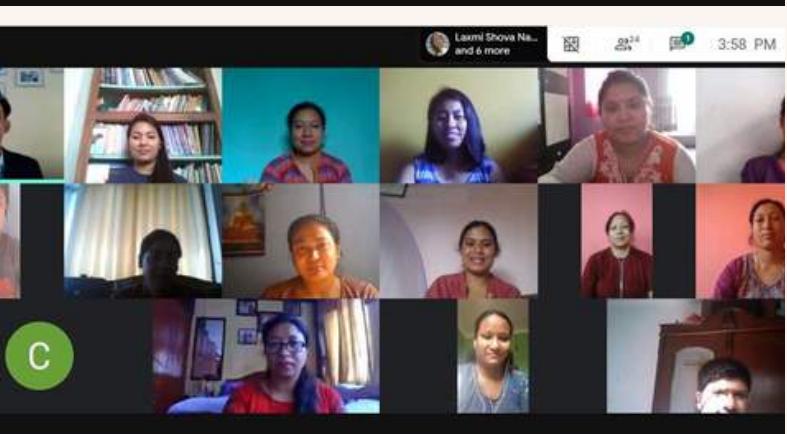
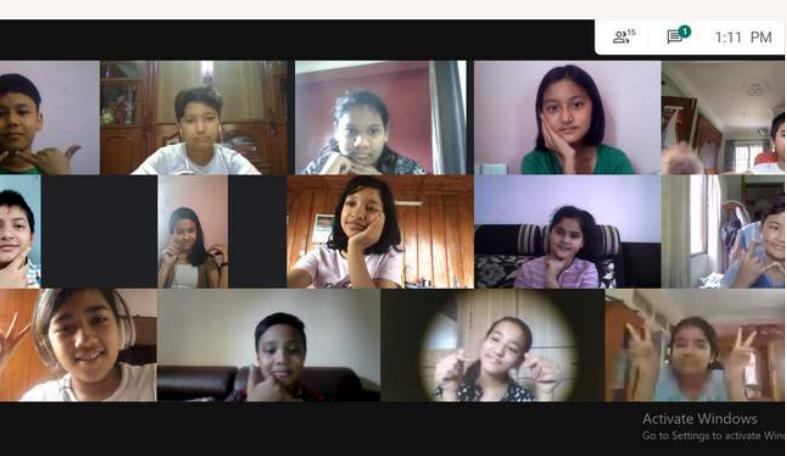
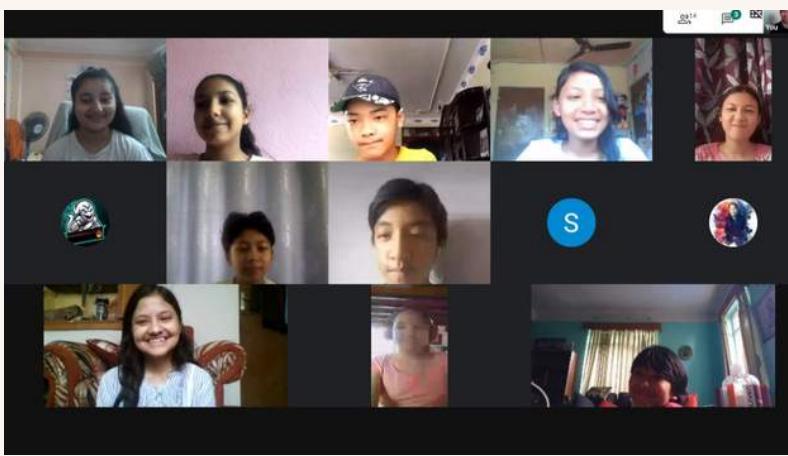
Later, she asked her assistant to get tea for two of them. A big pot of tea with two cups and saucers was brought before the master. The student volunteered to serve the tea. The master brushed aside her offer with a smile. She asked to lift up a cup and saucer so that she could serve her tea. The student lifted her cup and server. The master started pouring

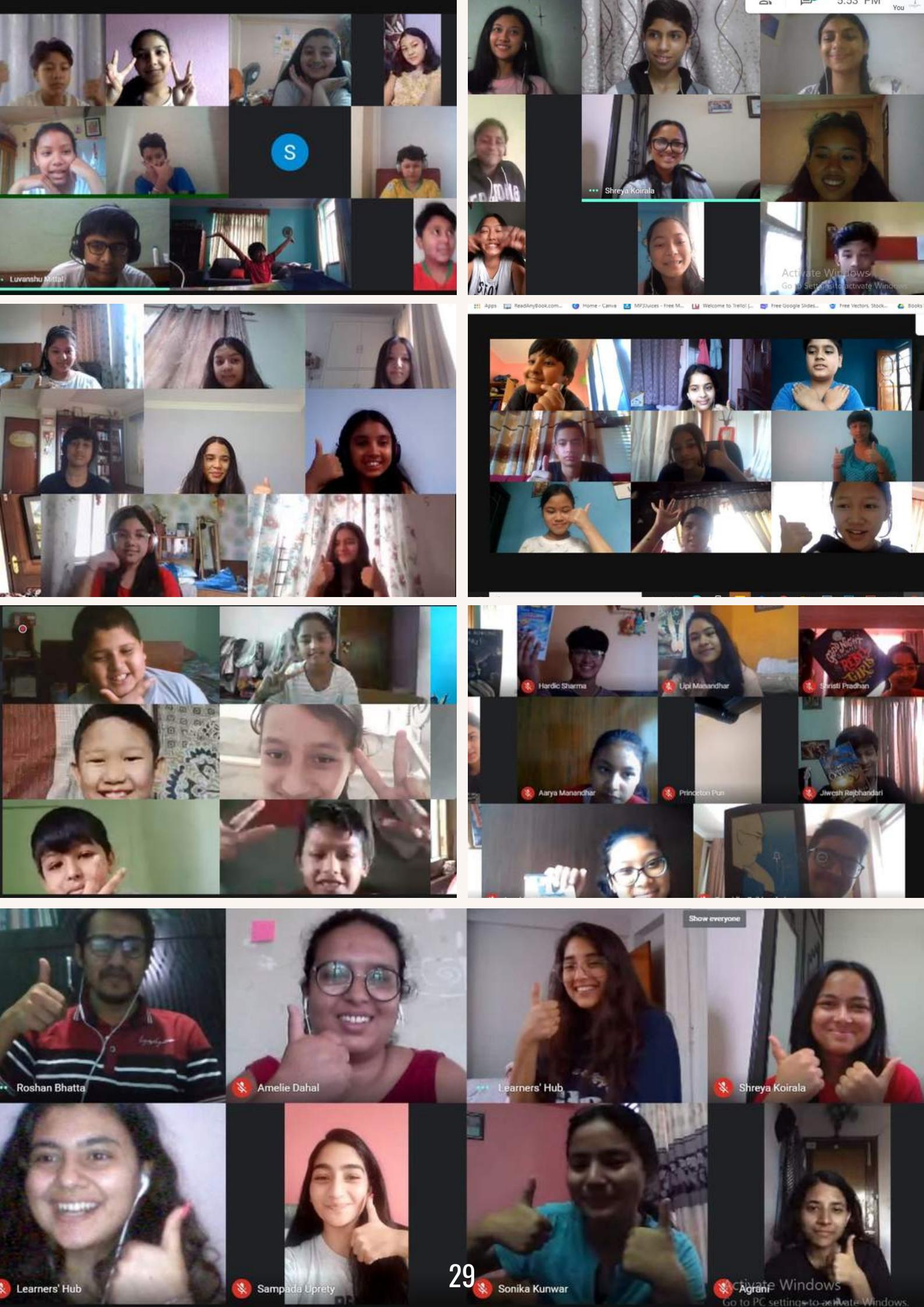
tea into her cup. The tea filled the cup. The master did not stop. She kept pouring the tea. It flowed out of the cup into the saucer. Still, the master kept on pouring the tea. The student was surprised.

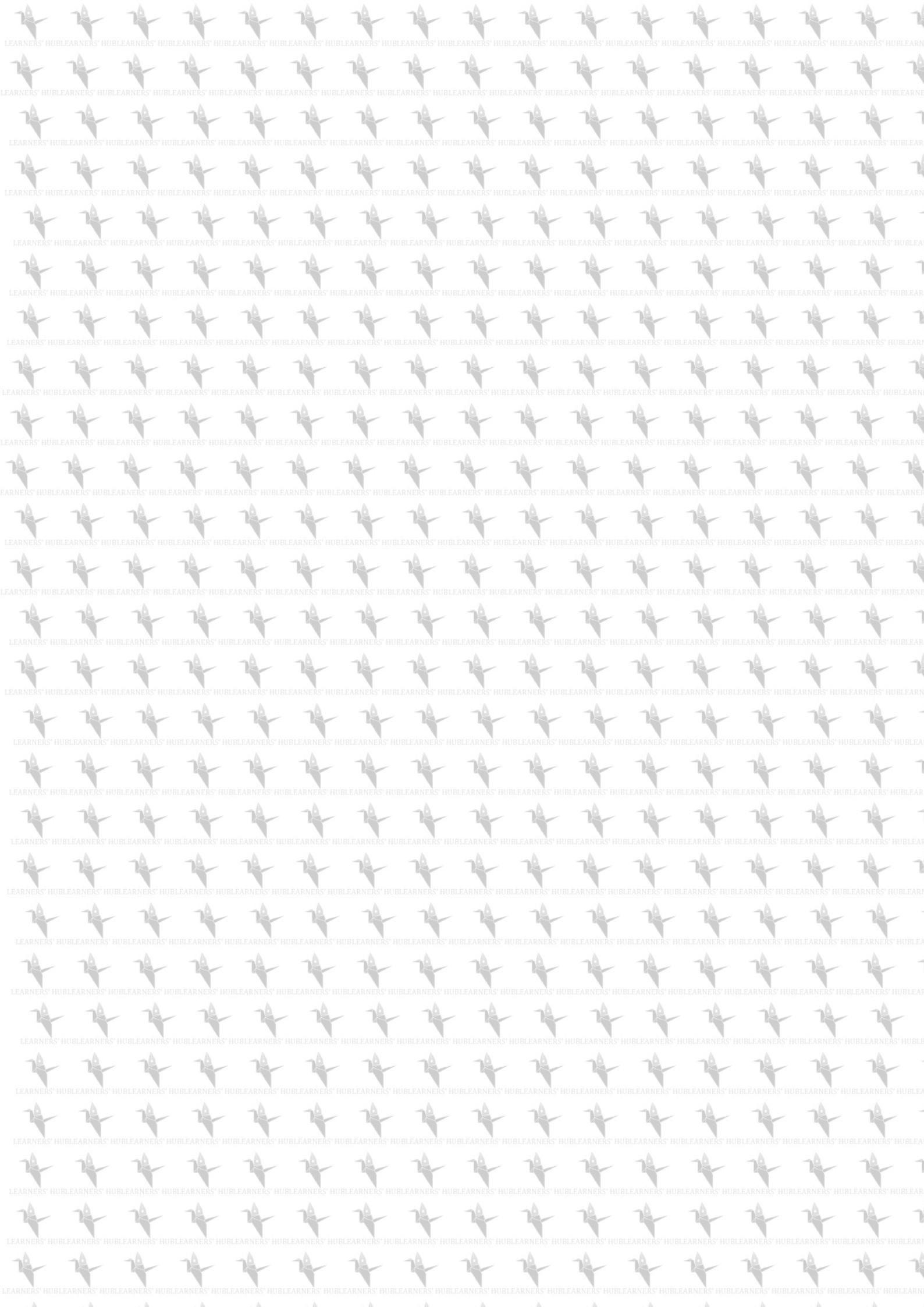
When the tea started overflowing the saucer, the startled student said, "Master you are serving more tea than the cup can hold."

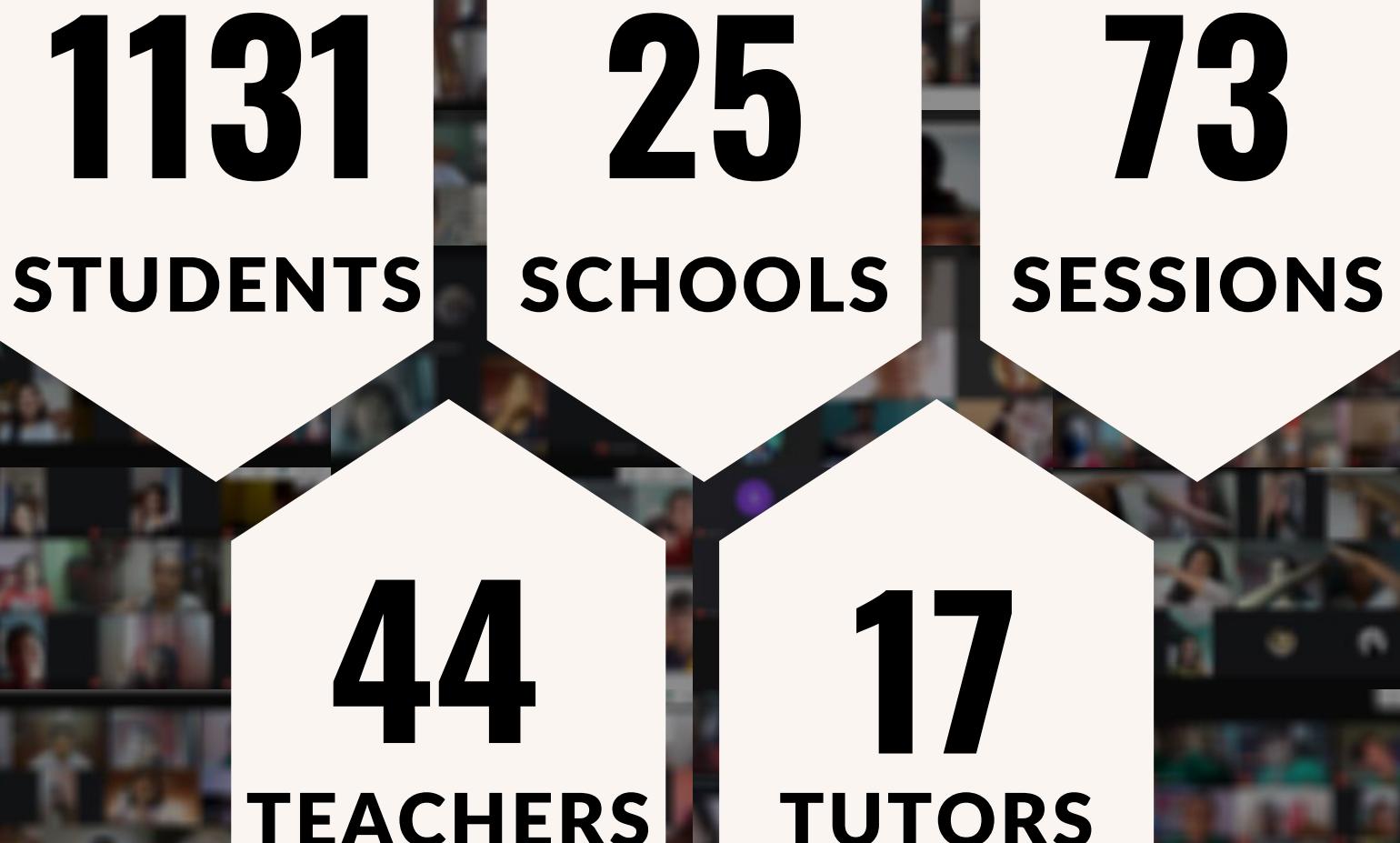
Master smiled and stopped pouring the tea. She said, "Dear student, the same is the case with you. You have learned enough. Your knowledge is overflowing. Put this into practice rather than wanting to acquire more knowledge."

The student realized the importance of practicing all she had learned.









OUR JOURNEY DURING THE PANDEMIC



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