



meraki

[pronounced mA-'rak-E] Greek

(adv.)

To do something with soul, creativity or love;
to put something of yourself into your work.

"to [act] with *meraki*"



SENIOR WING MAGAZINE
SESSION 2021-22
VOLUME 2

RAMAGYA SCHOOL
NOIDA

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LIFE IS MUCH MORE THAN GRADES

She loved to please,

The smile from her teachers when they said her work was good made her heart squeeze.

Because the smarts was all she had,

She never really noticed when it started getting really bad.

She wanted her work to be perfect,

Because otherwise, it wouldn't be worthy enough to submit.

She hated being number two so she started comparing herself with others,

And said it'd make her perform better.

She couldn't say the truth that she wanted to be liked, to be loved, to be seen, to be heard,

She pretended her eyes didn't see the videos of her friends doing everything together.

There were bags under her eyes and a dark cloud over her head,
But her grades were still perfect and that's all that mattered even if she had bled.

She formed relationships with books hoping that one day it would make her tough,

And fill this voice in her head telling her that she'll never be enough.

A year later she slowly started to give her tired brain a rest,

And realised she eventually became less stressed.

The As became Bs and she was okay with that,

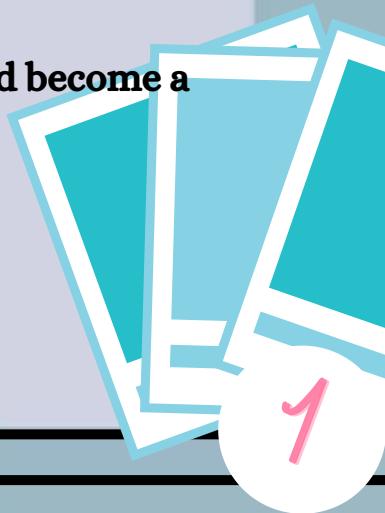
Because her smile became wider and she started spending more time with her cat.

She started reading, dancing and smiling more and did things that she loved,

She didn't care who was doing better than her for she had become a better version of her.

The dark cloud had finally faded,

and she realised that life was much more than grades.



SO WHAT IF YOU FAILED?

The smell of Earth after it rains, the open night sky with hundreds of stars, morning coffee, sunrise, sunset, long conversations while stargazing, a hot chocolate on a winter evening, sound of rain on your ceiling while you slip into sleep, a little baby smiling for the first time - things like these are what make life worth living. The smallest amount of happiness, or comfort in everyday activities is what makes life wonderful as it is. The grades on a piece of paper that you receive at the end of each year is merely...a piece of paper. It doesn't ask you to stop living life, stop making goals, or stop smiling because as grades may define your performance, they can never define your hard work, moreover your heart. It doesn't do well to dwell on your past and forget to really live.

We pay a lot of attention to what "grades", what "scores" a person gets, but the truth is nobody will remember whether you secured 96% or 83% if you cannot contribute to this world, appreciate this world, or even connect with this world. It definitely helps you feel better about yourself seeing those high numbers, but it doesn't mean that the end of the world is near for you if the result is something other than what you wanted. So what if you failed? So what if you didn't achieve the goal you set out to get and so what if you came last? Even after all the hard work? You try again, and you reward yourself for trying the very first time because you saw something you wanted to achieve, and it may have not come to you at first, but it will come to you eventually. We need to stop having our lives revolve around numbers that prove nothing but our memory during a particular span of time and need to start seeing life for what it really is. Nobody is present here today on this planet just so they can score a 100 on their math test or stay at the top of their class. The truth is, even after doing everything right, we still may not achieve our goal and that's just life. You can never predict what comes next or whether your hard work will ever be enough but what you can always do is, give your best. Believe in yourself and believe in the work you put in, it may not get reciprocated the way you ask for it, but a good deed and hard work always comes around.

Till then, go out on walks, have a cup of ice cream in chilly weather, walk on grass barefoot, tell your best friend you're happy to have them and learn to feel things that will be worth remembering because one day we will no longer be here and neither will our marks or grades from school, but what will be present are the small differences we decide to make to truly, completely live life. Just because you want to do something doesn't always mean you get to do it, life is chaos, success is completely arbitrary and confidence is everything.

आसमान में देखता हूं,
तो याद आती है बचपन जवानी ।
जिंदगी में क्यों आए परंतु किंतु,
यही है मेरी कहानी ।

आठ बरस का था मैं,
देखा था एक सप्ना ।
लेखक गायक ढूँढता था मुझमें,
पूरा करूँ यह ख्वाब यही थी कल्पना ।

चौदह का हुआ था ,
अब कुछ अंक के पीछे भागता था ।
अंक न आए, पूरे कब होंगे खाब यही थी
तलब,
अगली बार की आस्था रखता था ,पर
मन तो बच्चा था ।

बीस बरस का हो गया,
अपेक्षाएं पूरी कर समय बीत गया ।
अंक पाया न सपना पाया,
सपना छुपाया रूपयों को छाती से
लगाया ।



- Krishna Priya IX C

Tubelight

Slower than the others,
nicknamed a tubelight.

But give them some time
and they will shine bright.

Let them grow more,
they will show their might.

Give them some time,
and they will reach new heights.

- OMZA XII A



PAPYRUS

They say it takes a village to raise a child,
But what must the child do when the village judges
it off a piece of paper?
What must the child do when letters and numbers,
cause it to be reviled?
What remains is a conscience, defiled;
Words, like knives, chisel away one's spirit;
Even one's kin make them feel like a stepchild.
But, is that all life must be?
Enough about those grades;
What about ME?
There's a life to live, a world to see;
This ostracization sends me to dark and desolate
spots,
Full of blue and anxiety;
Scared about the apprehension of society,
Afraid of what the hereafter holds,
It makes me feel like one exists, maybe truly in vain.
But there's more to life than this.
Few mistakes are not a one-way ticket to a
bottomless abyss,
To live life there are many ways,
So let that apprehension and anxiety be dismissed,
Set your panic ablaze,
Life is not a track, it is a highway,
Forget about those grades,
What truly matters is one's glee and content;
There's much to look ahead for,
Someone, something to adore;
Much to yearn for, much to live for.

-Faisal
XII A

WHAT'S YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL?

The pursuit of happiness is what everyone seeks
sitting and wondering about mine, go by weeks

Is it grades? Finding connections or something else
Ambition, pressure, passion, into one goal everything melts.

As far as eye can see,
people are letting go of their demons and becoming free
what do I fear and what do I wish for
hope I could get the answers waiting beyond my door.

Thinking about the reason I smile
the list goes on for longer than mile
but what gives me greatest joy
to determine our future, this question we mustn't avoid.

Here's a thought, isn't the ultimate goal
being the one in control,
taking your merriment in your hand
not letting anyone tell you where you stand.
I think that's what satisfies me
wholly being just me gives me glee
apart from that, at the moment what makes me happy
are my friends, hobbies, endeavours and family.

- Aleena
IX A

WHY WERE MY MARKS NOT TOLERABLE?

Always been taught to get good grades,

Apparently been compared to dames,

They were good in academic,

My dreams were "systemic",

Maybe that's why I was judged,

But life is much more than grades, I learnt.

Being perplexed at moments but was not heard,

My dilemma became a word of laughter,

Though I am a great son or a daughter,

Then why were my marks not tolerable,

I was considered not honourable,

But life is much more than grades, I learnt.

Later, I ascertained,

My mentors always supported me,

Trying to help me through the society norms,

That's when I grew stronger,

And that's when I learnt,

My life is not absurd,

My life is not lame,

Instead, my life is much more than my grade.

- Anushka Goel IX A

POSITIVITY IS A CHOICE



Well, we all know about human nature that they are always after material things. Their desire to achieve more and more never ends. Some people are satisfied with what they have and some are constantly demanding. Well, these changes of demands too have their pros and cons, like the desire of Einstein of knowing more & more about science proved to be very helpful to the world in giving some brilliant theories in the field of science to mankind, whereas the desires of Hitler of conquering the world led to wars which ultimately caused several deaths and chaos worldwide. Whether we are going to be an asset or a liability to our surroundings depends on what we crave for. Now-a-days, people are so busy in running after things that they are lacking peace of mind and inner happiness. They think achieving more and more would satisfy their thirst of having a happy life, but as a matter of fact, this desire will never end and once they achieve it, they will have another milestone to achieve in the search of more happiness. That's why it is very important for all the people to start loving what they have and cherish small things around them. By this, they will start being happy & satisfied with what God has provided them with and believe me a satisfied life is better than a successful life. Because our success is measured by others, but our satisfaction is measured by our own soul, mind and heart.

“Do not set aside your happiness. Do not wait to be happy in the future. The best time to be happy is always now”

- Roy T. Bennett

This quote defines perfectly my view point on happiness. It definitely doesn't mean that we should stop working on ourselves and just be happy with whatever life we are living, instead we should persistently work on our flaws, try to be a better person every day and find happiness by not focusing on the negative things, but the positive things that we are already blessed with. Once you replace negative thoughts with positive ones, you'll start having positive results. The people with a positive outlook also have negative thoughts, they just don't let those thoughts grow and destroy them. Train your mind to see the good in everything. Positivity is a choice. The happiness in your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.

GRADES DON'T MANIFEST YOUR QUALITIES

"What makes a child gifted and talented may not always be good grades in school, but a different way of looking at the world and learning."

The world is progressing by leaps and bounds . But there is a corner which is still left un-catered to, the educations system. Even now, students are judged on their grades rather than their knowledge.

Grades are a composite measurement of student performance and can also be a better predictor of success than other narrow measures such as IQ. A research paper co-authored by Nobel Prize-winning economist James Heckman found that personality is one of the most important predictors of success. Grades capture personality traits like perseverance, diligence, and self-discipline, three helpful traits that can lead to success. Moreover, they also matter in high school, in the college research and the life after college. But students should not take grades for granted and overvalue them. There are still many noticeable gaps between success and academic success. For instance, grades don't measure leadership or comfort with risk, two traits which are highly essential for business success. Many leaders like Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam were not the toppers of their class and he even failed to become a pilot.

But he never lost hope and later became the President of the country and was also called as the 'Missile Man of India'. Even the great scientist Albert Einstein, who was expelled from the school by his head teacher gave special emphasis on knowledge and learning. Though he didn't get good marks in school, he is one of the greatest scientists known till date and will be praised by generations for his theories and inventions.

In a nutshell, it can be said that although grades do have a value, but they do not assure success to the hilt. Those grades are just numbers on the forehead, and it needs to be comprehended that the life of one is of much greater significance. They do not manifest the amazing qualities of one and aren't so important that we need to pull all-nighters until we collapse. One should always try to find a key to maintain a healthy balance between the various elements of life. This will consequently lead an individual to the path of success and blossom with exuberance...

- Aditya Gupta XI B

ARE GRADES EVERYTHING?



Grades don't define intelligence. Only practice makes a man perfect and intelligent. This quote is true for every person's life as everyone wants to achieve something in his/her life whether it is in the form of wealth, health, personality, prestige, social attention etc. But I would like to say that this is not where our life ends. Happiness is the true virtue that one can get by doing any activity that gives them happiness.

However, there is one constraint that people attach this to - Grades or their marks or scores!!!

They want to know how high they are in their lives by tending to more focus on grades and comparing them to others. It is good to be competitive. However, by thinking only about grades, people think with bliss that they have reached the top of their lives and there is nothing more to attain. They don't know that it's downgrading them.

Happiness is the best approach in such situations. It is important to look how much your head is above the waters. It is not about sinking into more and more grief; if you are not able to do it for the first time, there will be many more chances offered to you.

The contentment that you get while doing such jobs is much more than anything. Often people commit suicides or get into depression if they do not achieve what they had expected in the first go, in such circumstances people only regret what they have chosen. Try to accept what you have done, then you will understand your capabilities which will give you the pleasure to do other activities and achieve goals with amusement.

This is why it is said that SKY IS THE ONLY LIMIT! No one is incapable. It's about how you take the challenges of life upon yourself.

YOU ARE MORE THAN YOUR GRADES!



"THE VALUE OF YOUR LIFE IS NOT MEASURED FROM YOUR GRADES". GRADES ARE NOT THE ONLY THING IN YOUR LIFE TO ACHIEVE OR TO SCORE.

EVERYONE NOW A DAYS JUST CLASSIFIES EACH AND EVERY STUDENT DEPENDING ON THEIR GRADES. BUT EVERY CHILD IS UNIQUE. EVERYONE IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM ONE ANOTHER. IF A RANDOM STUDENT SCORES A+ GRADE EVERY TIME IT NEITHER MEANS THAT EVERYONE SHOULD BE LIKE HIM/HER NOR IT MEANS THAT NO ONE CAN EVER COMPETE WITH HIM/HER. MOST OF THE PEOPLE INCLUDING STUDENTS AND EVEN PARENTS THINK THAT IF YOU SCORE GOOD GRADES, YOU HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE BUT IF YOU SCORE AVERAGE OR LESS THAN AVERAGE SCORES YOU ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE AND YOU WILL FACE LOT OF HURDLES. GRADES CAN'T ALWAYS DECIDE YOUR FUTURE. IT JUST DEPENDS ON YOUR EFFORTS, TIME MANAGEMENT, AMBITION, YOUR VALUE TOWARDS YOURSELVES, GUIDANCE. THAT'S ALL YOU NEED. WHEN YOU START REALIZING YOUR IMPORTANCE YOU WILL NEVER FEEL INSECURE OR EMBARRASSED. IT'S NOT AT ALL LIKE ALL SUCCESSFUL PERSONALITIES MUST HAVE BEEN THE FIRST RANKERS IN THEIR ELEMENTARY TO HIGH SCHOOL TO UNIVERSITY TIME. JUST TO GIVE AN EXAMPLE # ONCE MR. SUNDAR PICHAI (CEO OF GOOGLE) WAS ASKED HOW MUCH HE SCORED IN CLASS XIIITH. HE SMILED AND REPLIED "NOT ENOUGH TO GET INTO SRCC (SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE). PEOPLE ALSO THAT THINK THAT IIT IS THE ONLY SECRET TO GET SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR LIFE BUT "NO". AGAIN AN EXAMPLE: MR. SATYA NADELLA(CEO OF MICROSOFT) IS NOT AN IITIAN IN FACT HE HAS HE IS AN MITIAN(ALUMNI OF MANIPAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY).

AS A STUDENT ALWAYS REMEMBER LIFE IS MUCH MORE THAN GRADES. YOU ARE MORE THAN A GRADE.

- AKANKSHA VERMA IX A

GRADES ARE JUST NUMBERS REQUIRED TO PROVE TO THE WORLD HOW STUDIOUS AND INTELLIGENT YOU ARE. IN TODAY'S TIME RATHER THAN FOCUSING ON WHAT THE TEXT MEANS, WE MUG IT UP, AND FOR WHAT? WHY ARE GRADES SO IMPORTANT TO US? IN MY OPINION WE TEND TO FOCUS ON GRADES EITHER TO IMPRESS THE SOCIETY OR TO GET INTO A PRESTIGIOUS COLLEGE. BUT HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT THAT GRADES PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN RUINING YOUR MENTAL HEALTH? RATHER THAN GAINING KNOWLEDGE WE ALL END UP GULPING IT, NOTHING MATTERS MORE THAN YOUR CUP OF CONFIDENCE. WE DON'T NEED GRADES TO BE HAPPY, WHAT WE REALLY NEED IS TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE REAL WORLD WHICH WE HAVE TO SURVIVE WITH A BAG FULL OF CONFIDENCE. RELYING ON GRADES HAS TO CHANGE FOR THE SAKE OF OUR HAPPINESS. WE HAVE TO STOP PUTTING PRESSURE ON OURSELVES JUST TO IMPRESS A BUNCH OF PEOPLE. HAVING A HEALTHY MIND GIVES YOU HOPE BUT HAVING AN UNHEALTHY MIND PAVES THE WAY FOR LOW SELF ESTEEM. LAST BUT NOT THE LEAST STOP FOCUSING ON GRADES AND START FOCUSING ON YOUR HAPPINESS.



**WE DON'T
NEED GOOD**

GRADES

TO BE HAPPY!

- Bhoomi Bajpai XI C

LIFE: A PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS



WHEN WE THINK ABOUT GRADES, THE FIRST THING WHICH POPS UP ARE THE LEVELS OF DEFINING HAPPINESS WITH GRADES. LETS MAKE THIS EASY WITH AN EXAMPLE, IMAGINE YOU STUDIED DAY AND NIGHT FOR AN EXAM, YOU POSTPONED EVERY EVENT, FAMILY TIME, TAKING BREAKS OR MAYBE EVEN A SMALL WALK? YOU HAD A MINDSET THAT IF YOU KEEP ON STUDYING LIKE THIS THE OUTCOME WILL BE 'HIGH GRADES', FINALLY REACHING YOUR PARENTS' EXPECTATION, EVERYONE WILL RELATE YOUR INTELLIGENCE WITH THE GRADES YOU GOT. SO YOU DID EVERYTHING TO DO SO AND LACKED THE SELF-CARE TIME AND PRIORITIZED THE UPCOMING EXAM MORE THAN YOUR MENTAL HEALTH. NOW THE RESULT COMES AND YOU DO NOT GET WHAT YOU HAD EXPECTED. IN THOSE FEW SECONDS YOU WILL QUESTION EVERYTHING YOU DID TO ACHIEVE GREAT MARKS BUT YOU COULDN'T GET THEM SO NOW YOU THINK YOU'RE A 'FAILURE'.

THE THING THAT YOU CROSSED WAS THE THIN LINE BETWEEN STUDYING AND DESTROYING SELF-WORTH AND MENTAL PEACE JUST TO RELY YOUR HAPPINESS ON THE GRADES YOU GET, WHICH, AS A MATTER OF FACT IS PAINFUL AND DAMAGING.

THE CONCLUSION THAT I WANTED TO PROJECT WAS TRYING TOO HARD TO GET SOMETHING WHICH AFFECTS YOUR PEACE WILL LEAD TO A SORROWFUL LIFE. IN THE END, IT'S TIME WE PRIORITIZE HUMANISTIC APTITUDE OVER ANALYTIC IN DEFINING HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS.

- ARZU XI C

WAS THE PREVIOUS DAY KIND?

Falling asleep

Falling asleep at night is normal,
With your face looking abnormal.

Thinking about the things
which happened in the day,

But why did they happen this way?

As I slipped through the hallway,
Before I knew they spread the floor spray.

My face was looking like an emoticon,
When they were putting the bandage on.

Night passed morning came,
I woke up with God's name.

A thought came in my mind
Was the previous day kind?

- Leisha Bhatia

IX D

EMPATHY

I want someone to listen
Though, I know there's no one to.
There's still a hope that lies,
But how to remove the thought they lied.

I was there to listen to them every time,
Like a God's ideal in a shrine.
What happened to them when I was lonely
But yes, they were there to act coldly.

Friendly was the way I acted,
Unkindly was the way they reacted.
Thinking I wanted some sympathy,
All I wanted some empathy.

The mind was full of uneasy thoughts
What I wanted was some motivation my mind spots.

They are there when the mind is like a baby
But they vanish when its an aged man.
Their talk is like a knife,
Stabbing the mind with full might.

I was not gaining sympathy,
I was only waiting for some empathy.

- Twisha Mehrish
X D

Another dream of me

The sky takes a snap of me,
thinks I'm beautiful
The rain splatters on my face
eager to feel my touch
What beauty does nature see
that I can't
'cause all I see in the mirror
is a girl who is so lonely
that she can no longer breathe
So many scars
yet, so beautiful
Oh, how do the heavens
see things I can't
It makes me want to see
myself from up there
Am I indeed beautiful
Or is it just another dream of me



Where I dwell...

The words resonate
through the woods
On the hurt is where I dwell
Happy, I may seem, but after all
The sun shines alone as well.

- Manasa

XIA

Like a squirrel

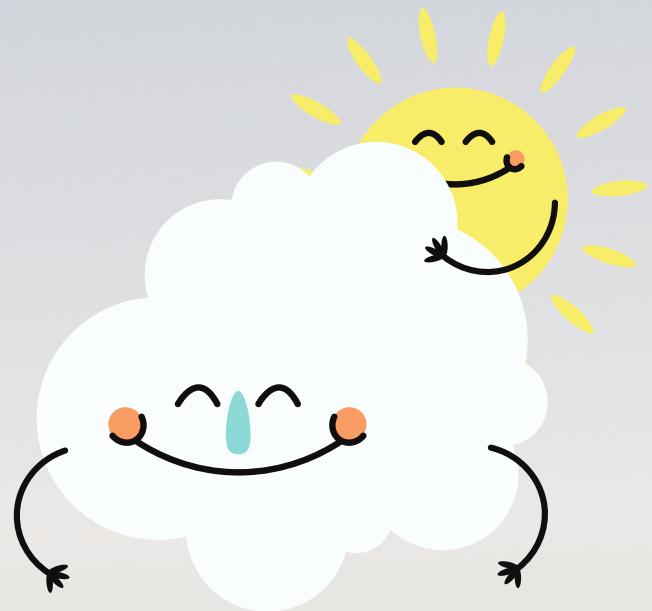
- Ms. Gunjan
(TGT English)



Coming back from school
She saw his bike parked in front of the house..
Perplexed
She tried to Swiftly sleek inside the glass door
as if she was a squirrel!
Excitedly..she peeped inside the living room
to check
if he was actually there
on leave or a half day...probably!!
Oh no!! He wasn't found in there
She turned around
And headed towards her room..
Devastated!!
She switch on the lights
And..Booooo...
Jump Scares-Of course!!
Her dad was on there on a weekday!!
As she ran towards him
to give a hug,
her hands swinging
widely in the air...
All of a sudden
the alarm bell rings.
And woosh.. Everything vanishes!!!!

To Smile,
To apologise,
To be selfless,
To admit mistakes,
To enjoy your work,
To laugh at yourself,
To think and then act,
To forgive and forget,
To control bad temper,
To make someone happy,
To learn from mistakes,
To respond and not react,
To be honest and truthful,
To refrain from criticising,
To shoulder the deserved blame,
To keep cool when provoked,
To listen without interrupting,
To respect others point of view,
To do a little more than expected,
To be well mannered to all,
But it is worth doing.

**IT IS NOT
DIFFICULT!**



-Ms. Ritika Kumar
(TGT English)

RECIPES

CHOCO LAVA CAKE

Sieve and mix the following to make a lump free batter:

4 tablespoon cocoa

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup flour

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup powdered sugar

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking powder

3 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup milk

Take 2 teaspoon butter and 2 packets (104g) dairy milk chocolate and melt them together. Mix them with the batter.

Preheat oven at 185oc for 10 minutes.

Bake the batter in the preheated oven for 10 to 12 minutes.

*Check the cake after 5-7 minutes

SUGAR COOKIES

Mix 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of vanilla extract + 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup all purpose flour + 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt and make a dough.

Keep the dough in the refrigerator for 2hours.

Preheat an oven at 175oC for 10 minutes.

Bake the cookies at 175oC for 10 to 15 minutes.

- Aanya Dhall X D

ARTWORK



Sidak Singh XD



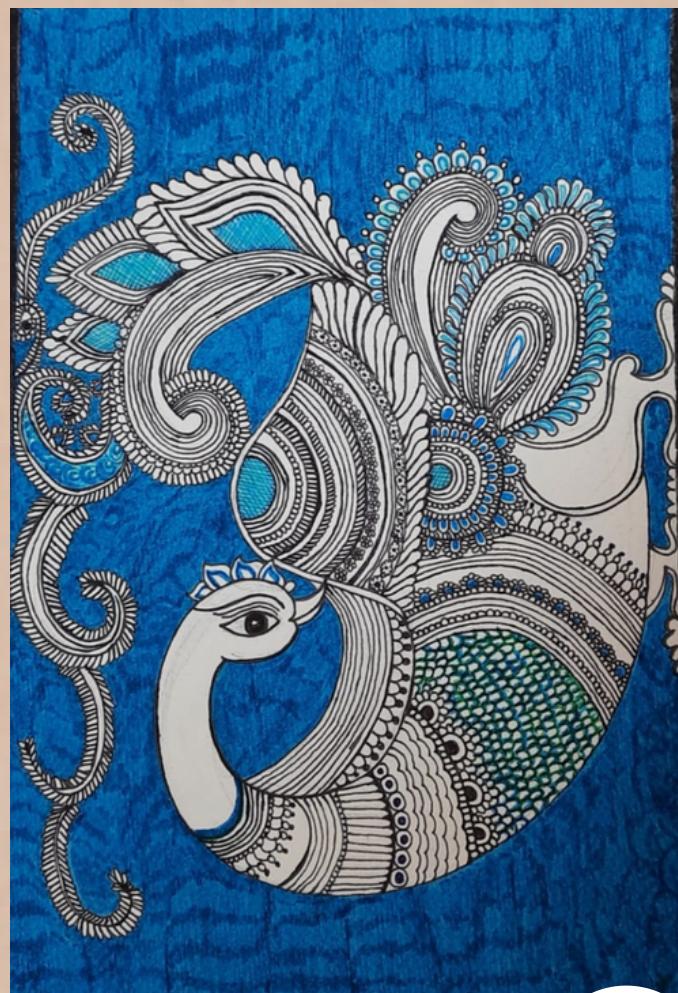
Hiya Kasturia IX A



Akanksha Verma IX-A

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Akanksha Verma IX A





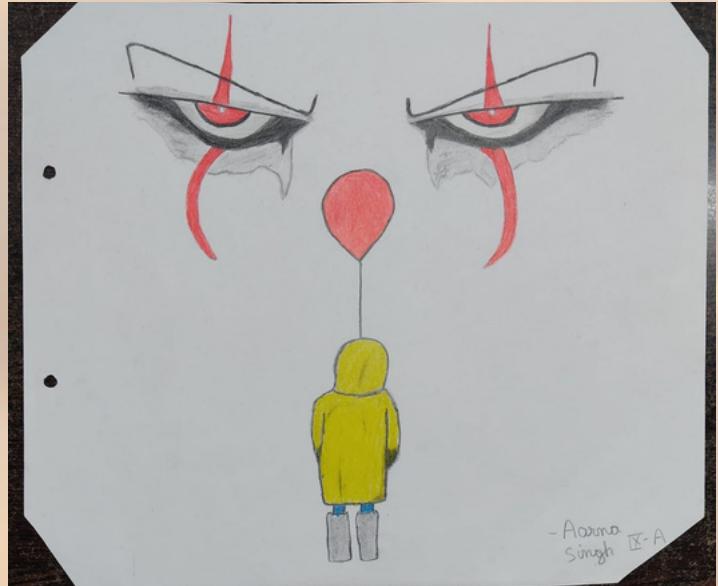
Hiya Kasturia IX A

Palak Gupta XB

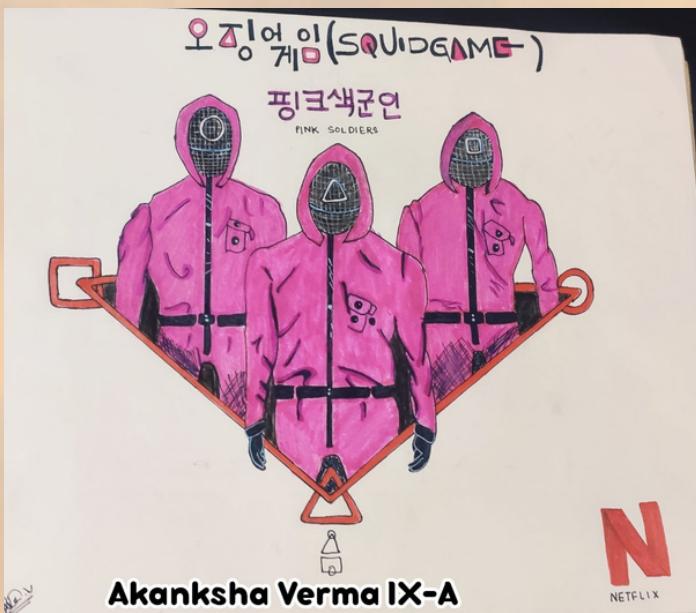


Akanksha Verma IX A

Aarna Singh IX A



-Aarna Singh IX-A



Akanksha Verma IX A

Sidak Singh XD





Preeti Banerjee XII C



Arya Thakur XII C



Arya Thakur XII C



Astha Singh IX C

DID YOU KNOW?

1. A snail can sleep for three years.
2. Butterflies taste with their feet.
3. On an average, people fear spiders more than they do death.
4. $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$
5. The Guinness Book of Records holds the record for being the book most often stolen from Public Libraries.
6. The name of all the continents end with the same letter that they start with.
7. If you sneeze too hard, you can fracture a rib. If you try to suppress a sneeze, you can rupture a blood vessel in your head or neck and die.
8. Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different.

-ASHMIT VERMA

XI B



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