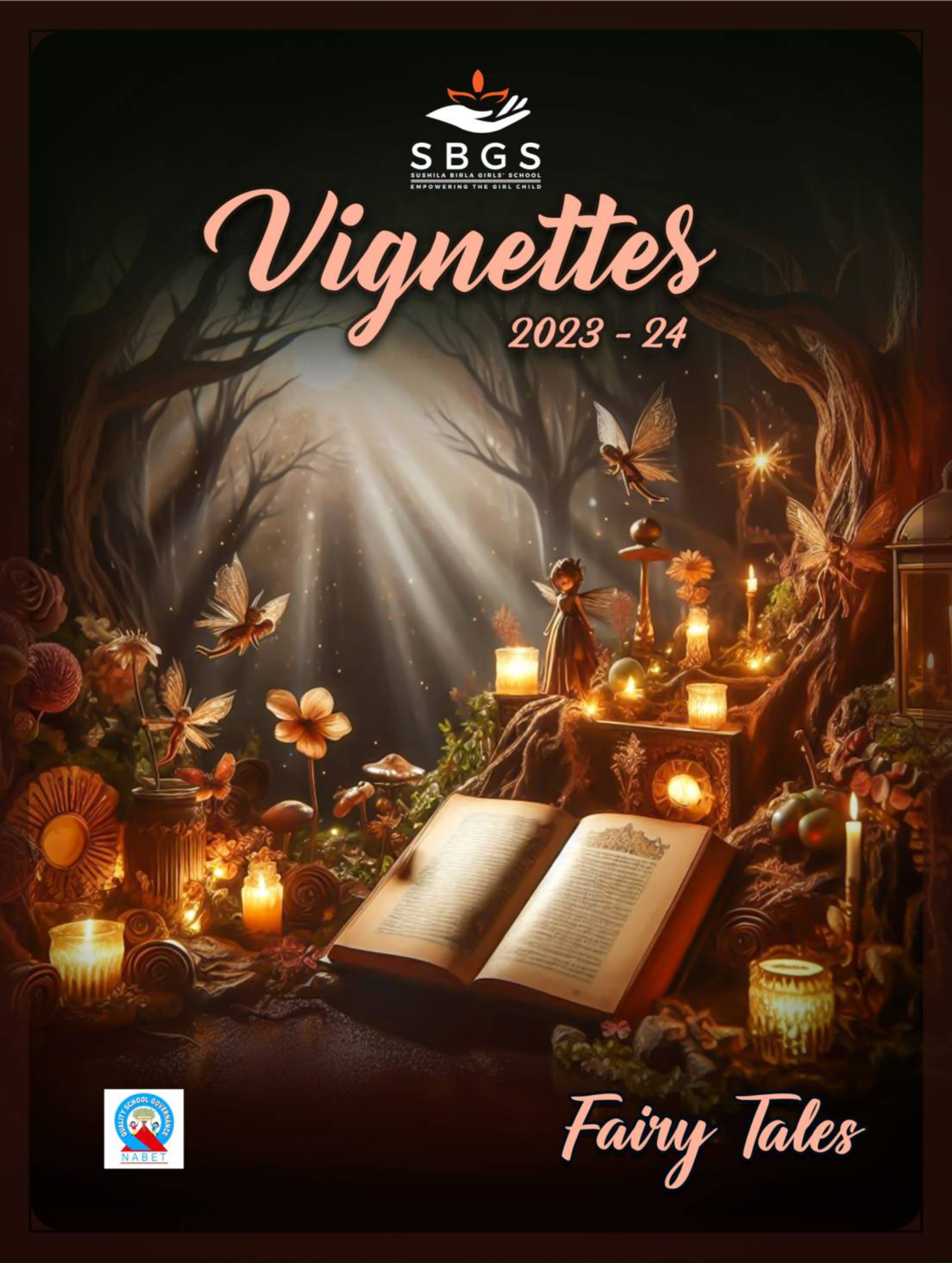


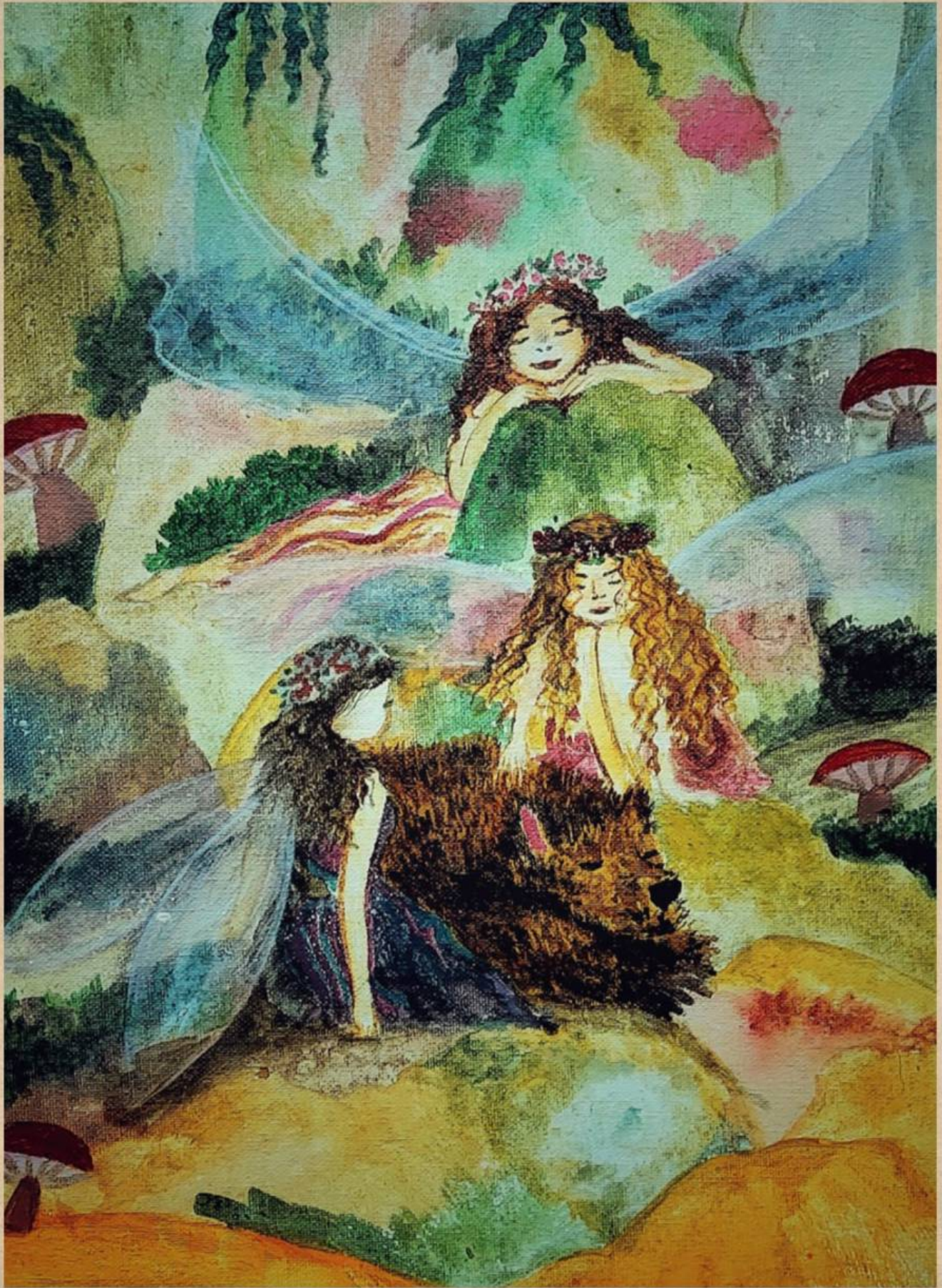


Vignettes

2023 - 24



Fairy Tales



Aishee Majumder (XI H)

Front Cover - Riddhi Basu (XI S2)

Our Mission

To motivate and empower students so that they can become ethical and responsible leaders who contribute productively to society.

Our Vision

To engineer social change through empowerment of the girl child.

Messages from
Dignitaries



CHAIRMAN **VIDYA MANDIR SOCIETY**

Mr. S. K. Birla

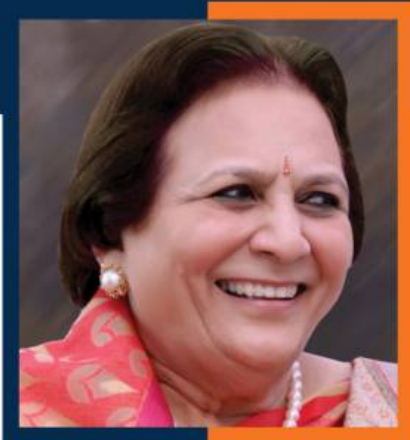
Education is the cornerstone of personal growth, societal progress and global prosperity. It empowers individuals with knowledge, skills and critical thinking abilities, enabling them to navigate life's challenges, make informed decisions and pursue their aspirations. Besides imparting academic knowledge, education instils values such as empathy, respect and tolerance, fostering inclusive communities and promoting social cohesion. Moreover, education equips individuals with the tools to adapt to an ever-changing world, driving innovation, economic development and sustainable practices. By unlocking human potential and breaking down barriers to opportunity, education holds the key to unlocking a brighter future for individuals and societies alike. Now with the introduction of technology in the school curriculum by the government, schools will prepare the students to navigate and contribute meaningfully to the modern tech-driven world.

Fairytales serve as invaluable educational tools for children, offering more than just entertainment. They play a pivotal role in educating children by fostering moral development, nurturing creativity and stimulating intellectual growth.

I congratulate the editorial board for crafting a captivating magazine dedicated to an enchanting theme. Through their creative expressions, insightful analyses and beautiful artwork, they have succeeded in creating a magical experience for the readers, both young and old.

Sd. S. K. Birla





PRESIDENT
VIDYA MANDIR SOCIETY

Mrs. Sumangala Birla

Holistic development for children encompasses nurturing their physical, emotional, cognitive, social and spiritual well-being, aiming for a balanced growth across all aspects of their lives. It emphasizes creating an environment that supports exploration, imagination and critical thinking, fostering emotional intelligence and resilience. Holistic development recognizes the interconnectedness of different facets of a child's life, understanding that growth in one area can positively influence progress in others. It underscores the importance of providing diverse experiences and opportunities for learning and self-discovery, ultimately empowering children to reach their full potential and thrive in all aspects of their lives.

Storytelling is a powerful tool that contributes significantly to holistic development. Children relate to the world through stories. Bedtime tales narrated by parents help children to conjure magic in their minds. Fairy tales blend reality with fantasy and create a vivid tapestry of images and emotions thereby engaging them in a multifaceted learning experience.

My best wishes are with the students, teachers and staff of Sushila Birla Girls' School. I hope each one of them will get an opportunity to live their own version of fairytales in their lives, conforming to this year's theme for the magazine.

Sd. S. Birla





SECRETARY GENERAL VIDYA MANDIR SOCIETY

Major General V N Chaturvedi (Retd.)

Imagination is the compass that guides children through the vast landscapes of creativity fostering innovation, inculcating life skills and promoting a boundless sense of wonder.

One can use one's imagination to create the life one desires. So, the greatest gift we can ever give our students is the gift of imagination as it is a powerful tool that allows students to consider different possibilities and address problems innovatively. Creativity and imagination are essential for success in all areas of life as they allow students to think outside the box, come up with new ideas and explore innumerable possibilities that life has to offer. While it is safe to say that no one knows what will happen tomorrow, having access to education will open the door to limitless approaches and opportunities. Education, therefore, is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.

The preparation for the future begins in the lap of every grandparent who is the repository of wisdom and common sense. Regaling every child with stories and fairy tales replete with morals which unleash their imagination, the grandparents are the first teachers in a child's life. Besides the entertainment that is provided, fairy tales use symbolic representation to facilitate the mental processing of life events which forms the basis of development of creative thinking and emotional intelligence in children.

My best wishes are with the Principal, her team of dedicated staff and students for pursuing their goal of enhancing creativity through fairy tales in this edition of Vignettes.

Sd. Major General V N Chaturvedi (Retd.)





DIRECTOR
SUSHILA BIRLA GIRLS' SCHOOL

Ms. Sharmila Bose

It is with pride that we present our school magazine, Vignettes for the session 2023-24. This publication is a testament to our unwavering commitment to nurturing the young minds entrusted to our care. Beyond simply documenting events, Vignettes showcases our dedication towards imparting a well-rounded education that cultivates character, critical thinking and creativity.

The theme for this year's edition is 'Fairy Tales'. These timeless narratives transcend generations, offering valuable lessons in courage, kindness and resilience. They serve as mirrors reflecting the universal human experience. The enduring lessons each tale offers provide invaluable guidance for navigating the complexities of life.

Vignettes, in its exploration of fairy tales, endeavours to illuminate the simple moments that weave magic into our lives where every revelation, victory and delightful turn of events captivates the senses.

These stories create those epiphanic moments in life of every reader that fortifies them for a future where they reject the glass slipper and choose the lance instead. They are a reminder that enchantment can be found not only in mythical kingdoms and mystical woods but also in the seemingly everyday moments of our ordinary lives.

Sd. Sharmila Bose





PRINCIPAL **SUSHILA BIRLA GIRLS' SCHOOL**

Ms. Koeli Dey

Welcome to another edition of our school magazine Vignettes, a platform where we celebrate the richness of our academic journey and the vibrant tapestry of experiences that shape our community. This year as we delve into the enchanting world of fairy tales, we are reminded of the enduring values embedded within these narratives.

In this school, we believe that mental strength and ingenuity go a long way in creating a confident individual. Fairy tales teach us much more than fantasy and imagination. As we groom the citizens of the future, it is always our aim to foster creativity, individuality and mental tenacity. For that reason, our effort is to make every girl child understand her inherent strength. Looking at fairy tales from a new perspective helps students explore new ideas that boost their confidence and give them the opportunity of feeling special and blessed even in the face of adversities. It is our firm belief that while success, be it in academics or co-curricular activities, is important, values are indispensable in ensuring success and securing happiness in life. Strength of character and a firm moral edifice create a positive approach in life and help in forging lasting relationships. The school is the place to learn such skills and values that build character which in turn shape society. Our school takes pride in providing holistic education and we wish to create confident, creative young women who face the challenges of life. The articles, artworks and other creative representations in this year's edition of Vignettes are various interpretations of age-old fairy tales.

Empowering the girl child entails understanding life from her perspective and there cannot be a better way to gain a fresh viewpoint than through the stories of our own Cinderellas and Rapunzels. Echoing the words of Hans Christian Andersen, we too believe that every woman's life is a fairy tale drafted by God's fingers.

Sd. Koeli Dey





HEADMISTRESS **SUSHILA BIRLA GIRLS' SCHOOL**

Ms. Vidisha Panja

An educational institution is one that builds global citizens. Its duty is to impart knowledge and instill values. In Sushila Birla Girls' School, we work towards the holistic development of our students. We believe that, 'The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be ignited.' Our curriculum is so designed that it is inclined towards building character. Instead of focussing on grades, our students are trained to follow a strong code of ethics. Our effort is to inculcate in them the values of honesty, respect, empathy and discipline. Their participation in various inter school events is not only to taste success, but also to learn about healthy competition. The school provides a curriculum that is a perfect blend of academic and co-curricular activities. Accepting the demands of the 21 st century, we prepare the young and inquisitive minds with life skills like problem-solving, critical thinking, decision-making and effective communication. Regular use of AI tools in the classroom also makes them tech savvy.

For us, a teacher is ideally a mentor, a facilitator who adopts diverse teaching methods, following the individual needs of the students. Being an inclusive school, we impart a student-centric education where every child is encouraged to think and express her thoughts with conviction.

I congratulate the entire team of 'Vignettes' for choosing 'Fairy Tales' as the theme this year. Fairy tales give children an opportunity to imagine and fosters creativity. As our mission points out, our students are empowered to differentiate between right and wrong, understand the moral lessons in the fairy tales, connect them to real-life events and differentiate between good and evil. I wish all our students a wonderful future, as bright and magical as a fairy tale!

Sd. Vidisha Panja



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(from left to right)

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Mauryas:

Prefect- Pranavi Agarwal (VA)
Representative- Sara Molla (VC)

Pallavas:

Prefect- Atika Khan (VD)
Representative- Hrutvi Goyal (VA)

Chalukyas:

Prefect- Maanya Agarwal (VB)
Representative- Jenika Gupta (VA)

SENIOR COUNCIL



(from left to right)

First row (sitting):

Juhi Bansal (Chalukya house captain), Vidya Bhartia (Maurya house captain),
Vidisha Jagnani (Deputy head girl), Saanvi Jain (Head girl),
Pritha Bhojnagarwala (School Captain),
Sanskriti Agarwal (Kushan house captain), Sharon Liz Thomas (Pallava house captain)

Middle row: (standing)

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Mauryas- Krishika P Bhambani (vice captain), Pragya Charia (prefect)
Kushans- Ashvika Jain (vice captain), Medhaavee Agarwal (prefect)
Pallavas- Aanya Batavia (vice captain), Rishika Agarwal (prefect)

Last row: (standing)

Class Prefects- Arshiya Akram (XII H), Umm Kulsoom Bint Waqee (XII S1),
Saman Quasim (XII C1), Vedisha Goyal (XII C2), Rhea Ann Thomas (XII S2)

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Some of the most cherished memories of my childhood are of my grandmother reading me bedtime stories. Every night, my dreams took on a different shape- one night, I was a warrior fighting to save my kingdom, while on some other night, I was a princess locked up in my castle. These fairy tales, often brushed off as mere bedtime stories, were the unsung architects of my imagination and character. In the enchanted realms of friendship, love and betrayal, I took my first steps into a world where the possibilities were limitless and adventures unfolded with each turn of the page.

We, as children, discover diverse human experiences and aspirations through these narratives that serve as portals to innumerable landscapes. Some of us grow up dreaming of finding a Prince Charming like Cinderella, some grow up wanting to go on adventures to unknown lands like Moana, some of us dream of going down a rabbit hole like Alice, some grow up longing to be as brave as Mulan and some others grow up wanting to be as kind as Belle.

Fairy tales also teach us empathy. In Maleficent, the protagonist out of vengeance, cursed a child to die as soon as she turned 18. However, as the child grew old, she realised the error in her ways and tried everything in her power to break the curse. Stories like this help children understand that not everything is black and white and it encourages them to look at things from different perspectives. Fairy tales help us experience life as another. They bind people across all cultures, weaving a common language of hope and resilience. Whether Cinderella dons glass slippers or embroidered sandals, the underlying theme of triumphing over adversity binds humanity in a shared narrative.

Yet, fairy tales are not without their twists and turns- they also prepare us for the realities of the world. The protagonists, resilient in the face of adversity, become an inspiration, teaching young minds that storms may come but one's strength lies in persevering through them. Everything ranging from Hansel and Gretel's escape from the evil witch to Peter Pan's constant fights with Captain Hook, reflects the various obstacles that one faces in life. Fairy tales are a reflection of our own lives, dreams and anxieties, and they help us consider what we possibly could have done had we been in the fairy tale character's shoes.

Critics argue that fairy tales cultivate unrealistic expectations but in truth, they instil hope. The pursuit of a happily ever after, while not always attainable, becomes a beacon guiding children to aspire for more, to dream beyond the ordinary. It is not about the perfect ending but rather about the journey, the pursuit and the belief that life holds treasures waiting to be discovered. Fairy tales are not architects of fantasy; they are builders of hope. In a world where reality often feels mundane and daunting, these stories remind us to aim for the extraordinary, to never settle for less and to keep the flame of hope ablaze. What is life without the sparkle of optimism, without the anticipation of a better tomorrow? In the enchanting tapestry of fairytales, we find not just tales for children but timeless lessons that shape the very fabric of our being, reminding us that, even in the darkest of nights, the promise of a new dawn is always within reach.



Ceyona Agarwal
Editor-in-Chief



*Awards
&
Accolades*

Award by IESA- Great Global Cleanup Heroes' Competition



Sushila Birla Girls' School was declared the winner in the IESA Great Global Cleanup Heroes' Competition. The school was awarded with a trophy in the 'Consistency & Petitions' category by Earth Day Network India which aimed at making our planet a cleaner and a better place to live. The dedicated team of students and teachers, 'Champions of Change', contributed towards this noble drive by taking up the challenge of reducing waste generation by recycling and repurposing usable items. Ms. Poonam Dhawan accepted the award on behalf of the school at the ceremony held on 3rd May 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

Pratibha Samman and Guru Samman 2023



On 1st July 2023, Ms. K. Dey, Principal, Sushila Birla Girls' School and the meritorious students of the institution were felicitated by Prabhat Khabar. The felicitation ceremony was held at the National Library where four students from Class X (AISSE) and nine students from Class XII (AISSCE) were awarded the Pratibha Samman while Ms. K. Dey was conferred with Guru Samman.

National School Awards



Sushila Birla Girls' School was awarded the 'Best School for Co-curricular Activities' from West Bengal at the National School Award 2023. Vidya Mandir Society was awarded the 'Best Chain of Schools Award' by the same. Ms. V. Panja, Headmistress SBGS, accepted the award on behalf of the school at the ceremony held in New Delhi on 20th August 2023.

IIHM Teachers' Day Awards



On 2nd September 2023, Ms. Madhupriya Das, Coordinator of Examinations and Ms K. Dey, Principal, Sushila Birla Girls' School were felicitated by IIHM with the 'Teachers' Day Award' for their unwavering commitment to the field of education for over two decades.

The Times School Survey



On 22 September 2023, Sushila Birla Girls' School achieved a remarkable milestone by securing the coveted first rank among CBSE schools in Central Kolkata, as evidenced by its outstanding performance in 'The Times School Survey.' This prestigious recognition, awarded at ITC Sonar Bangla, is a testament to the school's unwavering commitment to academic excellence and overall development. Notably, the accolades did not stop there, as Sushila Birla Girls' School also secured an impressive ninth rank in the entire state of West Bengal. This accomplishment further underscores the institution's dedication to providing top-tier education and nurturing the talent and potential of its students.

Asia Education Conclave Network



Sushila Birla Girls' School achieved a distinctive milestone by winning the prestigious title of the 'Best CBSE School in India' and was also conferred with the 'Excellence in Co-curricular Activities Award' at the esteemed Asia Education Conclave Network, a renowned platform that brings together educational institutions from across the continent to celebrate and acknowledge outstanding contributions in the field of education. The award function was held in Bangkok on 3rd December 2023. The awards were received by Senior School Coordinators, Ms. R. Chatterjee and Ms. S. Sanyal.

STTAR Teachers' Olympiad



Teachers from Sushila Birla Girls' School participated in the STTAR Teacher's Olympiad on 9th and 10th of December 2023 where they were assessed on Child Development, Inclusive Education, Learning and Pedagogy, Kinds of Assessment and Current Affairs in Education.

Literacy Planet Educator Wall of Fame

On 13th December 2023, Ms. Poonam Dhawan was declared a 'Champion Teacher' amongst innumerable nominations from across the globe at the Literacy Planet Educator Wall Of Fame 2023. With her unflinching dedication and collaborations with SwitchON Foundation, Earth Day Network India and Bengal CAN, she has outshone nominations from all over the world and has emerged as one of the two educators from India to have won this annual competition.



Lions Gurukul Award for Principal of the Year



On 16th December 2023, Ms. K. Dey was felicitated with the prestigious 'Lions Gurukul Award for the Principal of the Year.' The award ceremony took place at Lions Children Corner, Deshapriya Park, where Ms. K. Dey was honoured for her outstanding leadership and contributions to education. Nitya Mall, a student of the 2022-2023 batch, was also lauded for scoring the highest marks amongst all students from the Commerce stream in AISSCE 2023.

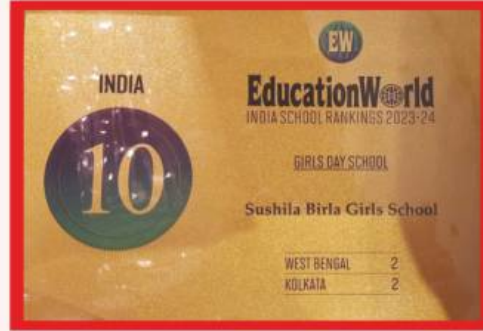
Eldrok India K-12 Summit Empowering India Awards 2024



On 10th January 2024, Ms. K. Dey, Principal, Sushila Birla Girls' School was felicitated by Eldrok India K-12 Summit for excellence in 'Promoting 21st Century Skills among Students'. The programme was held at Taj City Centre, New Town, Kolkata and was also attended by Headmistress, Ms. V. Panja.

Sushila Birla Girls' School was awarded with the prestigious 'Education Excellence - Empowering India Awards 2024' by Dr. Subhas Sarkar, Honourable Minister of State for Education, Government of India on 8th February 2024 at The Claridges, New Delhi. The school has been recognized as the winner in the state of West Bengal in the category of Private School.

Education World India School Rankings



Sushila Birla Girls' School has achieved remarkable success in the EducationWorld India School Rankings 2023-24. Being ranked 10th in all of India and 2nd in West Bengal and Kolkata in the category of Girls' Day Schools is a significant recognition of the school's commitment to providing quality education and a nurturing environment for its students. This accomplishment reflects the hard work and dedication of the school's staff, students and the entire school community.



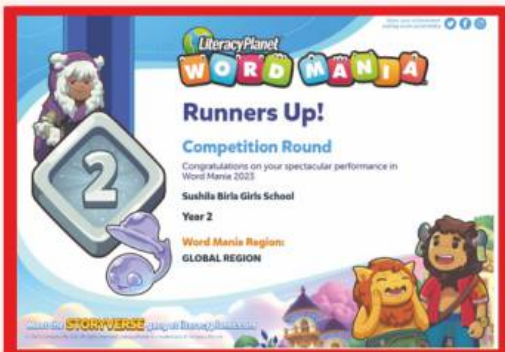
Career Guidance Excellence Award

Sushila Birla Girls' School 2024 has been recognised for its commitment to imparting appropriate career guidance to the students. The school has been accredited with the prestigious Career Guidance Excellence Award under the aegis of Eastern K-12 Excellence Awards. This award recognizes school counsellors and career development professionals who have demonstrated commitment to connecting students with opportunities for success, shown innovation in career exploration and development.



Word Mania 2023

Students from the Primary and Middle School participated in Word Mania 2023, a global online competition organised by Literacy Planet, where they showed their impressive vocabulary skills through word building games. Their collective effort led to commendable rankings on the global leaderboard. Students from Class III secured the 2nd position, winning a six month subscription of Literacy Planet worth £750 while students from Class V secured the 3rd position, winning a three month subscription of the same worth £375.



Ram Avtar Gupta Hindi Protsahan 2023



Ram Avtar Gupta Hindi Protsahan 2023 - On 16th July 2023, 3 students from Class XII and 4 from Class X were awarded the Ram Avtar Gupta Hindi Protsahan 2023 by Sanmarg Hindi daily newspaper. These students were the top scorers of AISSCE and AISSE 2023. The felicitation ceremony was held at the Science City auditorium. Vaanya Bagla from Class XII was gifted Rupees 12000 as prize money for her stellar performance in the examination.

Young Entrepreneur of the Year



Classes XI and XII of Sushila Birla Girls' School qualified for the Young Entrepreneur of the Year Challenge 2023, held at Invictus International School in Amritsar on 10th and 11th August, 2023. Riddhima Kuthari, Sachi Saraf, Navya Dalmia and Pragati Agarwal from Team DATCO secured the second position and the title of 'Young Entrepreneur of the Year' while Nidhi Khaitan from team SISE and Vanya Agarwal from team IntroExtro were recognised as Silver Finalists for their exceptional performance.

Words on Wings Competition

Debangi Chakraborty of Class XI secured the second position in the creative writing competition 'Words on Wings (Group C)' organised by Shri Shikshayatan School in September 2023.



Bengal School Debating Star of the Year

Narayana Group of Schools hosted the Bengal School Debating Star of the Year in collaboration with The Telegraph Young Metro, Calcutta Debating Circle (CDC) and MCKV Institute of Engineering. From over 500 video entries, a panel of judges selected 12 semi-finalists each from Calcutta, Siliguri and South Bengal zones. The Narayana School hosted the preliminary round for Calcutta on 5th December 2023. Sixteen of the 36 speakers from across the state locked horns in the grand finale, held at Vidya Mandir Auditorium in Calcutta on 8th December 2023. Aishee Majumder of Class XI bagged the third rank in the state. She received a trophy, medal, certificates and a cheque for Rs 2,000.



CBSE Cluster-II



CBSE Cluster-II Basketball Tournament was held from 11th October to 14th October 2023 at St. Xavier's High School, Cuttack. The 3 states that took part in the cluster meet were, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and West Bengal. 12 girls of Sushila Birla Girls' School from Classes IX to XII participated in the tournament.

CBSE Far East Zone Inter -School Skating tournament



Sushila Birla Girls' School team participated in the CBSE Far East Zone Inter -School Skating tournament held at Krishna Public School, Raipur from 27th October to 29th October 2023. Seven students from classes IV to XI took part in the competition in different age groups viz. U- 10, U-12, U-14, U-16, U-19.

Devyanshi Lakani (Class VI B) won Silver medal in 500m and 1000m Quad category

Chahek Malpani (Class VII C) won Silver medal in 300m and 500m Quad category

Trisha Agarwal (Class IX C) won Silver medal in 300m inline category

Drishti Malpani(Class X B) won Gold medal in 300m and 500m Quad category

Naina Varandani (Class XI S1) won Gold medal in 300m and 500m Quad category

The five winners qualified for CBSE National Skating championship 2023.

Inter School Basketball Tournament organized by La Martiniere for Boys

Reverend James Rowe Basketball Competition, an Inter-School Basketball Tournament organised by La Martiniere for Boys School, held from 4th November - 8th November 2023 was a thrilling showcase of skill, teamwork and sportsmanship. Schools from Kolkata, Mumbai and Dehradun gathered to compete in an intense series of basketball matches, creating an atmosphere filled with energy and excitement.

After qualifying in the group level, our students played against La Martiniere for Girls'. They won the match and made it to the finals. The students gave their best in the final match but lost against the Cathedral and John Connon School, Mumbai.

Ipshita Pugalia was declared most valuable player of the tournament.



CBSE National Tournament



CBSE National Tournament was held from 23rd November to 26th November 2023 at Global Heights School, Haryana. 4 girls of Sushila Birla Girls' School, from Classes VI to XI participated in the tournament.

Sahodaya Athletics Meet

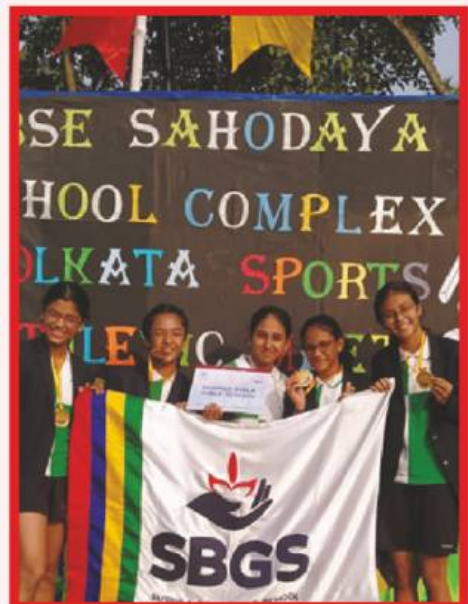
Inter CBSE School Sahodaya Sports Meet organised by Asian International School.

Participants were-

1. Dhriti Gupta VI C
2. Maanya Desai VII C
3. Rahini Patwari VII C
4. Devanshi Das VIII C
5. Pragya Chharia IX A

1st position- 4X100m relay race

2nd position- 100m hurdle race (Devanshi Das)





HALL
OF
FAME

AISSE (CLASS X) RESULTS 2022-2023



Aishee Majumder
97.80%



Sudiksha Chakraborty
97.20%



Priyanka Gupta
97%



Manvi Jain
97%

School Mean: 86.95%

Salient Features:

- One student scored 100% in French in 2023.
- One student scored 100% in Hindi in 2023.
- The highest score of one of our students is 97.80% in 2023.

AISSE (CLASS XII) RESULTS 2022-2023



Nitya Mall
98.80%



Chahna Agarwal
98%



Madhunisha Majumder
98%



Palak Agarwal
97.60%

School Mean: 85%

Salient Features:

- Four students scored 100% in Psychology in 2023.
- Three students scored 100% in Entrepreneurship in 2023.
- Two students scored 100% in Home Science in 2023.
- One student scored 100% in English in 2023.
- One student scored 100% in Accountancy in 2023.
- One student scored 100% in Fashion Studies in 2023.
- The highest score of one of our students is 98.80% in 2023.

PRIMARY SCHOOL INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Sushila Birla Girls' School awarded badges to the members of the Junior Council. The occasion instilled a sense of achievement and inspired a feeling of commitment in the future leaders of our country. It was a moment of great pride for the parents to witness the school place its faith and confidence in the young students.



SENIOR SCHOOL INVESTITURE CEREMONY

The investiture ceremony for the newly elected Senior School Student Council was held on 9th February 2024. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Ms. Anjana Saha, Principal, Mahadevi Birla World Academy.



PRIMARY SCHOOL ANNUAL PRIZE DAY 2023-2024

The Primary Section of SBGS celebrated its Annual Prize Day on 22.3.2024 to recognize the diligence of students who have striven for excellence in the session 2023-24. The programme started with a musical retelling of the story of 'Cinderella' which ended with the actors strongly voicing their views about the 'dream gap' that is an impediment to the aspirations and empowerment of the girl child. After the cultural programme, Ms. V. Panja, Headmistress, read out the Annual Report and this was followed by the prize distribution ceremony.



SENIOR SCHOOL ANNUAL PRIZE DAY 2023-2024

The school celebrated its Senior Annual Prize Day on 16th April 2024, felicitating the students' endeavour to strive for excellence in the session 2023-24. The occasion was graced by the Chief Guest, Dr. Anuradha Das, Director of Garden High International School and Garden High School, Sonarpur. Ms. Breea Gould, Vice Consul, US Consulate, graced the occasion. A warm welcome was accorded to the Chief Guest and Ms Gould. A cultural programme preceded the prize distribution ceremony. Various categories of prizes were awarded to deserving students who had worked hard to earn them by performing consistently throughout the year. The prizes were handed over to the students by the Chief Guest, Dr. Das along with parents of students.



EXCHANGE AND OUTREACH PROGRAMMES



PILANI, RAJASTHAN

On 8th October 2023, 16 students from Class VI and two teachers travelled to Pilani, Rajasthan, to engage in a week-long exchange programme with Birla Balika Vidyapeeth, Pilani to work together on a common project titled 'Know Your State'. Jointly, the students from both schools worked on scrapbooks on the flora and fauna as well as the demographic distribution in both states. The reciprocal visit by the delegation from Pilani took place in January 2024 and was marked by numerous collaborative activities and visits to places of cultural and historical interest.

EXCHANGE PROGRAMME WITH SCHOOLS IN LAMBALLE, FRANCE

Thirty-nine students from Classes VIII to XII, along with three teachers, travelled to Lamballe Brittany in France on 20th May 2023 to participate in an in-person exchange with Collège Sacré Coeur and Lycée Saint Joseph, Lamballe. The trip was marked by a few in-class activities and several outdoor activities that included visits to places of historical and cultural interest. Both students and teachers stayed in the homes of their French counterparts which enabled them to immerse themselves in the local culture. Students of SBGS performed Odissi and Garba and also sang songs in Hindi and Bengali to present their culture to the French audience at the Breizh-India night organized by the host schools on 27th May. On 30th May, the trip ended with a half day city tour of Paris. The reciprocal visit by the French delegation took place in December 2023 and was marked by numerous collaborative activities and visits to places of cultural and historical interest.



ENGLISH CREATIVE SECTION

The Grim Reality

In fairy tales, a world so bright,
Shadows lurk in the moon's soft light,
Beneath the magic, they often hide,
The darker truths that dwell inside.

In Snow White's tale, a beauty fair,
But racism taints, an ugliness there.
The mirror's judgment, skin so white,
Does it reflect bias in plain sight?

What of the prince, with a kiss so chaste,
Was his love the answer, or another layer in haste?
In the dark of night, did his motives lie,
To awaken Beauty's heart, or just to satisfy?

Little Red Riding Hood, so sweet,
A wolf disguised, her doom did meet.
Predators lurk in a friendly guise,
A warning to head, with open eyes.

A tale of a mermaid who yearned to be free,
Ariel's voice stolen, silenced was she.
She traded her voice for love's sweet embrace,
But what price was she paid for a different face?

In Cinderella's tale of rags to wealth,
A beauty ensnared in her stepmother's stealth.
Her heart, a sanctuary, resists the painful dart,
Yet can cruelty's grip tear her apart?

Hansel and Gretel, lost in the wood,
A wicked witch, they misunderstood.
A cautionary tale of greed and fear,
The darkness of hunger, oh so near.

The Pied Piper's tune, so enticing,
A town's children, it was not surprising,
The price of deceit, a haunting song,
Innocence lost, forever gone.

Through these stories, we're compelled to ask,
What defines us, our moral task?
In the labyrinth of choices, we find our way,
Seeking answers in each tale's display.

-Arushi Bothra, XII S



Lakshita Pipara, VII D



Adrija Roy, VI A



Unmasking Fairy Tales

Fairy tales, with their enchanting narratives and magical worlds have always been a cherished part of our childhood. However, beneath the surface of these charming stories, lies a dark side, perpetuating harmful stereotypes and social norms. A dark side which we have innocently read and watched, while losing ourselves in the magical realms of these timeless stories.

Classic fairy tales often portray the female characters as passive, helpless individuals who cannot live without their 'prince charming' and are in dire need of help. Stories like 'Cinderella', 'Snow White' and 'Sleeping Beauty' portray misogyny where the heroines are powerless without a man, reinforcing the notion that women need rescuing. In 'Sleeping Beauty (1959)' produced by Walt Disney, the kiss that awakens Aurora towards the end of the film was done without any consent from the sleeping princess. In 'Snow White (1937)' too, non consensual acts were committed by the hero while she was supposedly lying dead after having taken a bite from the poisoned apple, romanticizing such advances. Characters like 'Snow White' are valued primarily for their looks, fostering the idea that a woman's worth is tied to her physical appearance. This promotes the idea that women are worth nothing unless they meet certain beauty standards.

While fairy tales continue to enchant us with their golden and timeless narratives, they are not exempted from discriminatory themes. To address this dark side, we must acknowledge this issue and actively work towards a more inclusive, diverse and equitable storytelling landscape. Fairy tales can still be magical, when they are not tainted with themes of misogyny, non-consensual acts, unrealistic beauty standards, and so on.

-Subhangi Bhattacharyya, XI H

Captain Hook

A wise man stated "Every villain is a hero in his own mind." We have never heard the crook's side of the story, so can we blame them? Society rejected them, people hated them, yet they had the courage to fight. One such misunderstood character is the feared Captain Hook.

Captain Hook is my favourite character because he is fearless and shows great courage. He is very skilled and is a strong swordsman. He is also stealthy and light on his feet. Peter Pan is supposed to be a hero. But, the true hero is Captain Hook, the one who fed his own hand to a crocodile for a mere fight? Captain Hook had to replace his hand with a hook ever since, giving him his name. It is not just his bravery that I admire. His dressing style is really eye-catching. His red cloak gives him a dangerous look. His eyes are as blue as the sky and his hair as black as coal. His outstretched moustache and deep pink hat give him a royal look. With a shining sword in one hand, and a hook for the other, he is ready to fight. His trusted companion Smee and the pet parrot Skully are always by his side.

He is an incredible person, though misunderstood and shamed by the people. He says, "I am not scared of danger, I am danger."

-Aadya Chamaria, VI D



-Aayushi Das, VIII A



The Seven Deadly Sins

Pure like heaven,
Sweet as honey,
Fair as snow,
Snow White
Took refuge
With the seven
Sleepy, Grumpy, Doc and Happy
Bashful, Sneezy and Dopey.

Quite harmless they seem,
Quite simple they are,
Dilly dallying amongst themselves
Until they decided to shelter a wanderer.

Seven is the perfect number they say,
Seven is the number of the deadly sins,
Seven are the ones that welcome White
Into a world where she keeps their inn.

Sleepy is sloth, grumpy is wrath
Doc is pride, Happy is lust,
Bashful is gluttony, Sneezy is envy
Dopey is greed

But together they work in harmony
So one doesn't overpower the other,
They're intertwined inside a jewel mine
Involved in a subtle smother.

-Laksshha Khanna, XI C2

My Life as a Fairy

If I were a character in a fairy tale, I would like to be a fairy. This is because fairies are the most beautiful creatures with fluttering wings who spread happiness with their magical wands. I would like to fly towards the earth and help the earthlings in their work. I would help the poor have a comfortable life and ensure that the stray animals be provided with homes. If there would be any soul in distress, I would immediately reach there and offer help. On the other hand, life is not only fun and cheerful but also sad and as a fairy, I would have to be careful of demons and dragons and fight them to protect my kingdom and my home.

-Piushi Kamdar, III D



Nysa Shah, XI C1



Aishee Majumder XI H





Fairy Tales Revised

“If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales,” said Albert Einstein.

Fairy tales are children’s first glimpse of real life outside the safe bubble of home. They play an important role in shaping their perspective of the world and instill important moral values in children. Let’s take a walk down memory lane and recall some timeless fairy tales which have been a part of every child’s life growing up.

How often we have wished that with a wave of the Fairy Godmother’s wand and the magic words “Bibbidi bobbidi boo”, all our pending work would be completed instantly! Cinderella teaches us to never give up on our dreams, no matter how impossible they may seem.

‘The Ugly Duckling’ is a Danish fairy tale which speaks a universal truth: ‘Always be true to yourself’. Nowadays, with the increasing influence of social media, many people are being bullied because of their physical appearance or cultural background. It is important to understand that not everyone looks the same and it is this diversity that makes the world such an interesting place to live in.

In the fairy tale ‘Beauty and the Beast’, the moral “Don’t judge a book by its cover” has been beautifully portrayed as Belle fell in love with the Beast because of his inner qualities. True beauty comes from within.

Our social landscape is dynamic and ever changing as a result of the radical changes taking place with the progress of time. Upon reading these fairy tales today, it is apparent that in most of them, the handsome prince always has to come to the rescue of the beautiful damsel-in-distress. Today, women are stepping forward to take the reins into their own hands and becoming an example for millions across the globe. So, it’s time we write a new story- how the phoenix rose from the ashes and soared higher than ever before, and this time, it will be more than just a fairy tale.

-Dia Bothra, VIII B

Effect of Fairy Tales on Today’s Children

What are fairy tales? Fairy tales are stories about supernatural beings crafted for children to entertain them, most of which end on a happy note. But, I wonder if children are aware of the impact these have on them.

The fairy tales with their fantastical themes have built a utopian world where everything appears to be hunky-dory. They weave stories that give children the wrong ideas about the world. Moreover, they create a variety of stereotypes that become normalised as a child grows.

In most fairy tales, there are damsels who wait for their princes to come and rescue them. Taking this in the context of the contemporary world, women are constantly battling patriarchy to make a place for themselves in all fields.

Let me cite an example. Rapunzel, Cinderella, all these fairy tales reflect the idea that women can only be saved by men and are seen as objects that appeal to men. The protagonist, if she is a princess, has fair skin, long shiny hair and a thin figure. Portraying such body images as the ideal standard has been known to affect young girls’ self esteem. They constantly compare themselves with what they see on the screen or read about in colourful books. The children are made to believe that beauty is all about physical appearance.

These tales cast villains as tall, sturdy and unappealing, thereby establishing stereotypes. Fairy tales give children rose coloured lenses through which they perceive the world around them. This eventually leads to prejudice which is not always easy to change

-Krishika P Bhambani, X B



Echoes of Resilience

The darkest of shadows were conspiring against her.
She heard it all and chose to self deceive.
For she believes,
God has not promised sunlight without rain
And peace without pain.

Ella was not always like that.
She became stronger with each and every suffering
For she heard someone saying,
Pain is real,
But so is hope.

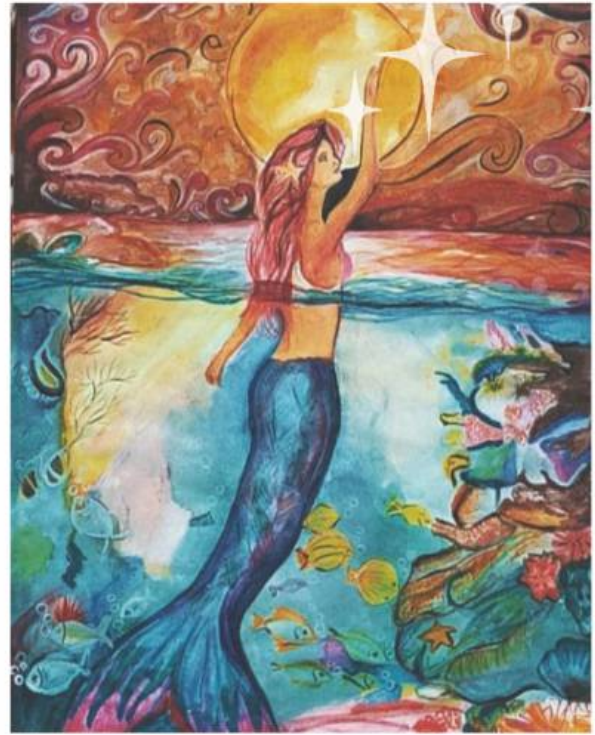
And as the story goes-
Once upon a time
Prince Charming of the Palace of Neuschwanstein,
Met the most beautiful, alluring girl Cinderella
And fell in love with her.

As some feelings cannot be expressed,
Some words cannot be said
And some people fail to comprehend.
What is beyond the smile?
What is behind the superficiality?

They were married,
But did they live happily ever after?
The best part is
Ella and her step mother
Were just the two different faces of a single coin.

The darkest of shadows were now conspiring against him.
But they did fail
Because God has promised
What you do
Comes back to you.

-Krisha A. Khiani, XI B



Vidhi Bhatler, XI C2



Archisha Mandal, VIII A



Secrets to a Happy Ending

Welcome to the world of little princesses with tiaras and dainty fairies with the quintessential magic wands. The land of the mischievous elves and the dwarfs! Fairy tales are timeless. All generations, young and old, enjoy reading books and watching movies based on fairy tales.

Fairy tales have always captivated young minds with interesting characters like Rumpelstiltskin and diverse plots so interesting, that children cannot forget them. As we grow into mature individuals, we find that these tales and the values they promote have a deep relevance in our lives. They have unique characters who are similar to us in various aspects. Cinderella, a classic character, did all the work for her sisters and stepmother without complaint. She teaches us to be kind as kindness begets kindness. Little Red Riding Hood displays the terrible consequence of talking to strangers and mistaking a wolf for her grandmother. 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs', another old tale, conveys a very important lesson that beauty is not just about physical appearance. 'Little Mermaid' showcases the harsh realities of the world that not everyone can find their prince charming! The world of magic uses creative props to demonstrate unconventional situations to captivate the imagination of the readers. A dainty pumpkin carriage with a fashionable mouse coach! A green beanstalk soaring high in the sky way beyond approach!

Characters in fairy tales have a unique way of forming a bond with the readers and you will find yourself deeply immersed in their ways. Various characters like Puss in boots, Pinocchio, Peter Pan have caught the hearts of young and old alike with their entertaining personas. Who wouldn't like a trip to the fairyland? Travel on minty dewdrops and create beautiful strokes of rainbow in the sky? The most important message that we get across all fairy-tales is that through trials and tribulations, it is possible to discover happiness. All is well that ends well, and one can eventually live happily ever after. These fascinating stories really restore our faith and build hope in miracles of life. A ride on a glistening flying carpet! A taste of a house made of all kinds of chocolate!

-Aadyashakti Dalima, VIII B



Saanvi Jalan, VII B

Snow White

Her skin is white as snow .

Her personality is something to show.

How her beautiful eyes sparkle in the night.

And her wonderful prince charming helped her survive.

She is the prettiest of all without any doubt.

Because the mirror doesn't lie what it thinks about.

Her best friend is a bird , I know its hard to believe.

But her story is something which everyone should read.

The evil queen can cry as much as she wants

But snow white will still be the prettiest of all.

-Tvisha Daga, VI D



Mother Gothel: Good or Evil

Dame Gothel, the witch from the classic fairy tale 'Rapunzel' is not evil from my perspective. My interpretation is that she locked Rapunzel, a young beautiful girl with long, blonde hair in a tall tower with no doors for eighteen years because she was overprotective and concerned about her. She never harmed Rapunzel, instead feared losing her. Unfortunately, she was considered to be a villain due to the shades of grey in her character. She was a complex person whose actions were misunderstood. She was driven by a desire to protect Rapunzel rather than having any malicious intent. She felt Rapunzel was ungrateful as she thought of betraying her and galloping away with the handsome prince. We need to empathize with her for being a victim of circumstances rather than an outright villain.

-Vihana Mehta, IV A



Riddhi Basu XII S

A Whimsical Journey

In a world where ordinary meets extraordinary, the captivating concept of blending reality with fairytales has taken flight. This magical trend has woven its way into our everyday lives bringing a touch of wonder to the mundane.

From magical weddings in enchanted forests to whimsical birthday parties adorned with fairy wings and pixie dust, the allure of fairytales continue to captivate the new generation. Even in the world of fashion, we witness designers drawing inspiration from classic tales, crafting dresses reminiscent of Cinderella's ball gown or incorporating fairytale motifs into their designs.

In literature and cinema, this enchanting fusion is thriving. Best-selling novels and blockbuster movies have reimagined beloved fairytales, breathing a new life into the timeless stories. The readers and audience are transported to far-off lands where dragons roam and true love conquers all. However, the blending of reality with fairytales extends beyond mere entertainment. It sparks creativity, fosters imagination and reminds us that there is still magic in the world. It teaches us that even in our everyday lives, we can find moments of enchantment and wonder. In a world that often seems to be filled with chaos and uncertainty, fairy tales offer a much needed escape route. So let us embrace this trend, for in it, we rediscover the beauty of dreams and the power of belief. In the words of Walt Disney, "All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them." Perhaps, by blending reality with fairytales, we can keep those dreams alive.

-Ritika Kothari, V B



Khushi Shah, VII D





Malachi

Once upon a time, in a faraway land, there lived a young prince by the name of Malachi. He was the younger of the two brothers. He was the spare son, in case the eldest was unfit for ruling. His entire life he had lived in the shadow of his brother, Tamlin.

Tamlin was the 'Golden Child'. All Malachi ever longed for was to get the same attention and affection that his brother received, not just from their parents, but the people of the Kingdom as well. Unfortunately, nothing he ever did seemed enough compared to his brother. Their parents noticed Tamlin's strengths and highlighted Malachi's weaknesses. Everything Tamlin did, Malachi did better. However, Tamlin was the one who was always in the spotlight due to his charm and charisma. Nobody saw Malachi for who he really was. On more than a few occasions, Tamlin had stolen Malachi's ideas and presented them as his own, to the Council. However, when Malachi tried to speak against this, their parents assumed he was simply jealous of his brother and disregarded his claims.

Driven to madness by a constant feeling of worthlessness, his resentment towards his brother grew. His previous desire to never rule turned into a relentless obsession of becoming the King. In reality, his true desire was leaving behind this perpetual state of invisibility of being the second choice.

Malachi's need for power consumed him. He spent countless hours devising plans to overthrow his brother, but none seemed feasible. Finally, he decided to poison him using herbs which were untraceable. Despite feeling immense pain and guilt at the thought of his brother dying, his thirst for power was far greater than his love for Tamlin, so he went ahead with his plan.

Maybe this was fate's way of punishing Malachi for his sins, for he was caught red-handed by his parents who then met with the same fate as his brother.

As he sat all alone in his castle, he realised that his desire for power and validation had led him down a dark path.

Malachi, like most others, was not born wicked but moulded into the villain of his story. He was no longer the innocent young prince he once was. Instead, he was a monster who had destroyed everything he held dear. Yet, he was also a fractured soul, yearning for redemption, seeking a flicker of light amidst the perpetual darkness.

-Ceyona Agarwal, XII C2

'Genie'- My Father

Just like every child, I also cherish and find pleasure in reading fairy tales. I am sure that every child must have their favourite fairy tale character which he or she wishes to find in the family. Such a character for me is the Genie, a Disney character from the famous tale, "Aladdin" and I would love to have him in my family. Having a Genie in my family would not only benefit me, but also turn out to be a boon for all my family members. For me, Genie would help me complete all the difficult tasks and homework. He would prepare me for my examinations or even help me get dressed neatly in the blink of an eye, especially during the busy early morning school hours. He would help me polish my shoes, pack my bag, read me new bed time stories and much more, throughout the day. He would drop me to school on his magical flying carpet. Apart from pampering and fulfilling my demands, he would even help my mother in performing her household tasks like cooking delicious food for us. As every coin has two sides with advantages and disadvantages, in the same way a Genie could also have some disadvantages. He might go out of my control and harm my family. I must thank God for being very kind to me. He has already fulfilled my dream by giving me my father, who is a Genie in disguise, for me. He fulfills all my demands and is there whenever I need him.

-Shyna Bajoria, IV B

The Twelve Dancing Princesses

Twelve princesses dancing
Enveloped in their vanity's trance,
Bounded in the verdant expanse
In harmony they prance.

One by one
Drawn to the seas,
Enchanted by illusions
They will be soon gone.

Midnight blue waters
Hide siren clad storms,
Laced with longing
For blood they call.

Lullabies of the night,
Sweet fatal serenity
Whispers beneath the waves
Secrets of uncertain finality.

One by one
Ballet slippers leave the shore,
Stepping into the glimmer
Of destiny unknown.

Eyes closed
As if twirling in a waltz,
One by one
To death, they fall.

-Saanvi Jain, XII S2



Riddhi Basu, XI S2

If I Were a Fairy

If I were a fairy, I would be holding a magic wand along with white warm wings over my shoulder. I would be a messenger of God. I would make the world shine and look bright. Everything would look divine. I would fill the world with beautiful lands and seas. I would wave my magic wand to take away all the suffering and heal everyone's pain. I would love to be a humanitarian. My prime aim would be to save the world from all kinds of evils. Fairies are the ones who are fair to all. I would be fair to everyone and not show any discrimination. I would help the poor lead a comfortable life. I would help any soul in distress. Last but not the least; I would try my best to make this world a happy place for all.



Rajvi Das, VI B

-Ridhima Parekh, III C



Dame Gothel : The True Hero

Mother Dame Gothel in the fairy tale Rapunzel is not a villain in my eyes. The character's name itself announces the verdict. Rapunzel's father had stolen lettuce from her garden and she had asked for the child in return because she knew very well that she could never be a mother unless someone gifted her child. She took good care of Rapunzel and protected her from the outside world. Why do all fairy tales always present females as villains and males as heroes or saviors? We need to break the stereotypes promoted in these tales where a woman of authority is viewed as evil. Why does the face of evil usually belong to a woman? Instead, Mother Gothel should have been portrayed as a brave woman with a mind of her own. I feel fairy tales have not been kind to strong, courageous and independent women. They have always focused on women's appearances and external beauty. So, let's move forward and create narratives where valiant female characters break these stereotypes and project Mother Gothel as true hero and a caring mother to Rapunzel.



Lavanya Shivdasani, X D

-Vaneeshtha Agarwal, IV C

Ariel



Meher Sathwani, II D

She would never leave us alone. She would guide me and help me to achieve my goals and fulfill my dreams. Also, I have always wished for an elder sister to cheer me up during tough times. Being with her would help me succeed in my endeavours. From the story, I figured out what a good friend she was as her friends never left her alone and supported her till the end. She was also very creative, so I would try out crazy experiments with her. I always wanted a courageous, thoughtful, creative, and friendly member in my family. I would really like to have Ariel in my family.

-Navya Choudhary, IV D



Moral Lessons

Fairy tales both entertain children and instill moral values in them. Even in the simplest of these tales, beautiful values are presented for children to embrace and emulate.

Each fairy tale has something to teach us. From the popular story of 'Cinderella', we learn that patience is always rewarded. In this tale, we see that Cinderella was patient, calm, dutiful and a diligent girl. Even after suffering under the cruel dominance of her stepmother and step sisters, she never complained. Eventually, all her patience and sufferings paid off. "True love transcends beyond the physical appearance of a person." This quote is beautifully depicted in the tale named 'The Beauty and the Beast.' Through this story, the author has shown that beauty is not skin deep and is beyond what can meet our eyes. 'Rapunzel' is another popular tale which teaches us that it is one's curiosity that motivates one to achieve even the hardest of goals. Every fairy tale is replete with moral lessons that help to build the character of a child and it is these values that make a tale cherished and evergreen.

-Shanaya Somani, VIII A



Bhavya Khinwasara, IX B

A Character I Want in My Family: Luna

In a quiet town where everyday life seemed ordinary, I had a remarkable secret: a mysterious friend named Luna with incredible superpowers. Luna was my family's well kept secret. Luna was always invisible to the world. Our family had a secret code word, 'Jujutsu', to summon Luna. Luna was blessed with magical powers with which one could do anything instantly.

Luna could do amazing things with just a thought. Objects would float in the air at her command and doors would swing with the flick of her fingers. Together, we embarked on thrilling adventures and discovered a hidden world far beyond our wildest dreams.

This taught us to find beauty and meaning in the most ordinary moments of our life and inspired us to appreciate our surroundings.



Saanvi Poddar, II D

-Pavika Dalmia, III D



The Enchanted World of Alice

In the realm of imaginative stories and timeless fairy tales, one character reigns supreme: Alice the fearless protagonist of Lewis Carroll's 'Alice's Adventure in Wonderland' and 'Through the Looking-Glass'. With her unyielding curiosity and spirit, Alice takes readers on a fantastic journey through a world where nothing is quite as it seems. Alice's charming and prying nature makes her endearing. Despite facing numerous bewildering challenges in Wonderland, she never loses her determination to seek answers. From the moment she tumbles down the rabbit hole, Alice encounters a whimsical cast of characters, from the enigmatic Cheshire Cat to the unpredictable Mad Hatter. Through these encounters, Alice teaches us the importance of embracing curiosity and exploring the unknown. Alice's character exhibits her inquisitiveness, bravery and profound personal growth. Her story reminds us to navigate through the complexities of life and discover our true selves. Through Alice's captivating journey, we are inspired to embark on our own extraordinary adventures of self-discovery.



Deekshita Ghoshal, VII D

Kavya Dalmia, VI D

Why I Like the Ugly Duckling

My favourite fairy tale is The Ugly Duckling. The part I like the most and think is the best is the part where the duckling finds out that she is a baby swan. This has made me realize that God has made everyone unique and different and that we should not make fun of anybody for being different. 'The Ugly Duckling' taught me that we should be happy with how God has made us. If we keep comparing ourselves with others, we can never be happy.



Pahel Lodha, IA

Irshita Choudhary, II B



Fairy Tales – Magical Endings Successfully Concealing the Darkness

Fairy tales promise a ‘happily ever after.’ These stories always have a prince who rescues the princess. Have a magical twist and also romanticize our world. However, is that all? Unfortunately, no! Fairy tales have not always been the ones we know today. They have been adapted over the years so that we find them pleasant and enchanting. Sadly, the reality is that fairy tales have a dark origin.

For instance, Sleeping Beauty is quite a popular fairytale. It is about an extremely beautiful princess who was cursed to fall asleep after having pricked her finger on a spindle. As a result, she remained unconscious for one hundred years only to be woken up by the kiss of a prince. Eventually, they got married and lived ‘happily ever after’. However, in the original version published by the Grimm Brothers, the young princess was put to sleep because of a prophecy rather than a curse. Also it wasn’t the kiss of a prince that woke her, but the truth is that a king got mesmerized by the sleeping maiden’s beauty and molested her. After

nine months, she gave birth to two children and the excruciating pain faced by her during labor is what woke up the poor princess. Imagine a woman waking up only to find she was raped and is the mother of two children.

Snow White is another such tale. We all know the part in which the Evil Queen asked the huntsman to kill Snow White and bring her heart back as a proof of her death, and the huntsman failed to accomplish such a brutal task so, he brought the heart of a boar back. Well, that is not the truth after all! In the original version, the Queen had asked the huntsman to bring the liver and lungs of Snow White after she was killed. The Queen would then devour them for sadistic pleasure. Alongside, it was not the kiss of a prince that cured the princess from the side effects of eating the poisoned apple. The truth is that the prince assumed Snow White to be dead but, he found her to be extremely attractive. Thus, he decided to take her body with him. Fortunately, the princess was not dead and opened her eyes as soon as she was about to reach the prince’s castle. The prince then decided to have her cured and eventually married her.

Many fairy tales have been successfully manipulated over the years. However, it’s high time we uncover the reality hidden from us all this long. It is important to know that sometimes all that glitters is not gold. Things that appear endearing, may have a dark and disturbing origin.

-Yashvi Jalan, XI S2

The Thankful Old Shoemaker

In the story ‘Shoemaker and the Elves’, the old shoemaker was helped by three elves. Every night, the elves would make shoes for the shoemaker. The shoemaker made enough money to live happily from the shoes that he sold. When the shoemaker saw the elves making the shoes, he gave them a feast to thank them. I learnt from the story that we should always be grateful to people who help us and help everyone in need.

-Toishani Das, I D



Ceyona Agarwal, XII C2

Blue Fairy



Vany Ajmera, VI A

If I were a character from a fairy tale, I would be the “fairy with turquoise hair”. She is a fictional character known as Turquina or the ‘Blue fairy’ from the Italian book, “The Adventures of Pinocchio” by Carlo Collodi. She embodies kindness and possesses a heart overflowing with purity and gentleness. She has been introduced as the kindest fairy in the literary works despite enduring significant struggles in her life. In the tale, the Blue Fairy serves as a maternal figure to Pinocchio, but her significance transcends mere guardianship. To Pinocchio, she was a friend, philosopher, guide and a mother whose love knew no bound. She had the power to transform into various forms, such as a white dove or a radiant star in the sky. Moreover, she was the catalyst for bringing Pinocchio to life. Throughout the story, the Blue Fairy

emerged at crucial junctures to help Pinocchio in moments of challenge. Her helpful nature is one of the qualities that I absolutely love and admire. She is a symbol of virtue and good ideals. These exceptional traits deeply resonate with me, making the Blue Fairy a character I aspire to become.

-Kritimedha Dey, VII C

The Fairy Tale of Fairy Tales

Quite recently my favourite fairytale hit the bookshelves. A tale of wonder, it was fresh off the quill and swiftly captured my heart as I gazed upon its pages. It was love at first sight like the ending of all the famous Disney stories and it surely did live happily ever after in my heart. This tale goes by the name ‘Coco’. A young Mexican boy at the tender age of twelve called Miguel fancied music. He wanted to become a musician and cherished his guitar which he kept with great care. However, his family’s generation-old ban on music became an obstacle on his path of becoming like his great –great grandfather Ernesto De La Cruz. Discouraged, Miguel left his home only to discover the colourful Land of the Dead. He reunited with his ancestors and was extremely keen to meet Ernesto. On the way to a music competition in the Land of the Dead, where he was supposed to meet his idol he stumbled upon a trickster named Hector. The two new friends embarked on an adventurous journey to find his deceased great-great grandfather and reverse the family’s ban on music. This story teaches us that despite death, family history can transcend the years and continue to shape our families for the coming generations and as the years go by we all leave a mark in our wake, making our family traditions and history more diverse and unique.

-Srinithi Chatterjee, VI B



Debangi Chakraborty, XI S2

The Lost Princess



Anshika Gupta, VIII C

Once upon a time, there was a princess born with skin as white as snow, eyes as blue as the sky and hair as black as ebony. Her mother, The Queen, named her Ella. From the moment she was born she was the sweetest child on Earth. Unfortunately Ella's mother passed away when she was still a baby. Her father, the King, remarried but the new Queen, Maria, hated Ella. She was afraid that Ella would take the throne instead of her own new born son, Prince William. She devised a cunning plan to get rid of Ella. When Ella turned two, Queen Maria abandoned in the streets of the capital city. A kind merchant adopted her. He did not know her identity. The merchant had a wife and two daughters who grew jealous of Ella as she outshone them in every aspect. They treated her like servant while the merchant was away. Poor Ella had to

do all the chores, much like a slave. Despite this she still managed to find some happiness. As time passed, William grew up. Even after having access to everything, he was still unhappy because all his friends judged him, solely for being a prince. Not for who he really was. He longed for a sibling who could be a true friend to him.

One day, Queen Maria saw him looking unhappy. She asked him about his troubles. He replied that he yearned for a sibling. On hearing this, Queen Maria was overwhelmed with guilt. She confessed about Ella. William immediately sent out a message requesting that every girl who, looked like Ella, had to report to the palace. In the end, five girls arrived. When asked who was an orphan, two remained. One was dressed elegantly while the other was dirty and wore a torn dress. Queen Maria spotted a birth mark on the arm of one who was the dirty and ordered her to be cleaned. There was no doubt that she was the lost princess. Thus Ella, who had endured a life of servitude, was finally recognized as a Princess and all of them lived happily ever after.

-Anusha Jain, V A

Alice

Have you ever heard of Alice in Wonderland? I am sure you have. The story revolves around my favourite character Alice who dreams of falling down a rabbit hole into a world full of strange creatures. She has many wondrous and bizarre adventures in this magical wonderland. Alice is a young and beautiful girl who is dreamy and adventurous (just like me!). She teaches us to "Embrace curiosity and adventure". Alice's curiosity leads her on a path of growth and self-discovery. Her process of self-discovery is a symbol of the power of curiosity, creativity and imagination, not only in childhood, but also in her adulthood. She encourages young girls like me to show willingness to explore new ideas which will let us break free from the monotony of everyday life and discover a wonderful and enchanting world full of possibilities.

-Saanvi Jalan, VI A



Saranya Chandra, VIII B



False Truth

Fate whispered to her, "set sail!",
In search of what the wise men hailed
As "magic"- yes, search for it, maiden,
In woodlands and valleys and glens,
Seek it and ye shall keep it.

One she was, and one she stayed-
Ravaged sails and a bloodied deck
Drenched in stormy seas, bleak and dark
Orpheus sighs in the murky depths, mourning
A fresh love rotting in hell.

Time coaxed the Reaper- "Come, beloved
I bide and bide, and you shall scythe her soul."
Looking out at sea, the Reaper sighs,
Forlorn, wistful, waiting-
The scythe softened by those ravaged sails,
As the winds lowered the dark hood.

Seven seas, seven virtues, seven dreams
Weren't enough to atone for those seven sins
She sailed and she sailed, across
The universe, the stars implored,
Cried out to her, "Stop! Stop, maiden-
You know not your destination."

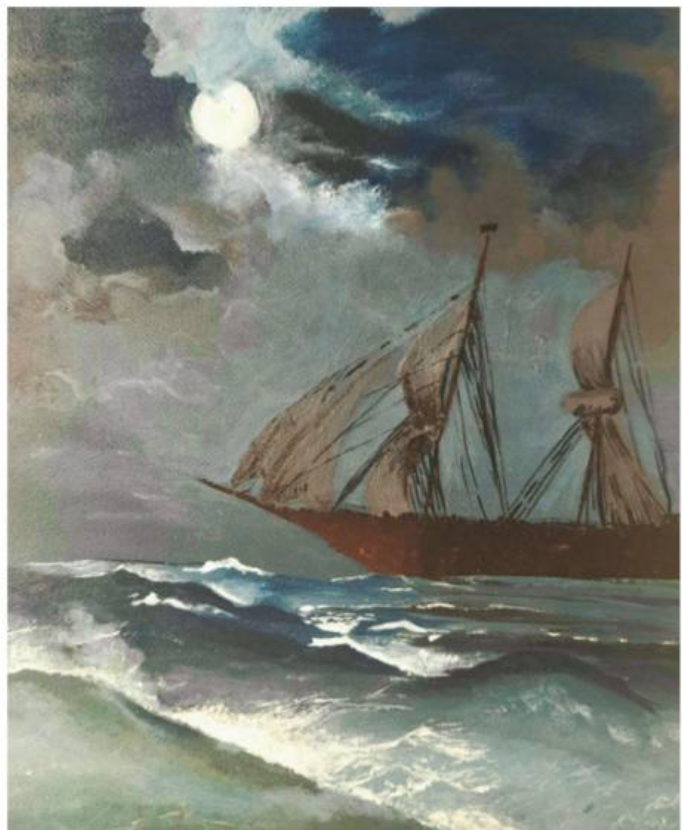
Aeons later, her ship washed ashore,
Sails mended, gilded, good as new,
Deck scrubbed clean, no broken glass
The flag flying proud, a dazzling crimson
Anxious, shivering, she no longer was
The Juliet, the maiden, pure and sweet
Carmen she was; bohemian, rugged.

Carmen she was born, and Carmen she died
Rose between her lips as she smiled,
Childish in a deathlike sleep, the edifice
Of "magic"- always lost and found.

Grief moved the King, and his cursed hand
Freed Eurydice, homeward bound to Orpheus
The young gull fished in the sea- nearly drowned,
And nested warm in his home at dusk-
For all that is pain, and all that is sorrow,
False sweetness in the story of 'morrow,
'Tis all true, maiden, all true,
You were one, and now you're many
Reflect the beauty that blesses you.

The wise men hailed "magic"- true,
To find the lie was to find the truth,
Traucherous triumph of humankind
Here one day, and gone the next-
But somewhere in the seas, in the depths of hell
Orpheus cries for his Eurydice, his magic.
Lies in the prophecy, for we write our own,
We cry and cry, maiden, in hope of a smile-
Seek it, fair maiden, and you shall keep it.

-Aishee Majumder, XI-H



Bhavya Khinwasara, IX B

Morals in Fairy Tales



Rayna Choudhuri, IX C



Bhavya Khinwasara, IX B

In realms of tales both near and far,
Where dreams and wonders are our guiding stars.
The morals of fairy tales, they brightly shine,
In verses woven with wisdom so divine.

Jack's Beanstalk warns of greed's deceitful snare,
Ambition unchecked, a path we must beware.
In humility true wealth we shall accrue,
With gratitude in our hearts our dreams renew.

Pinochio, the wooden lad who lied,
Shows the cost of truth forever denied.
In honesty's embrace we find our way,
For trust and integrity we must display.

Heroes in tales like Alladin and more,
With courage they face their darkest lore.
The light of goods in their hearts does dwell,
Their stories remind us all is well.

Their morals timeless, their lessons clear,
In the world of fairy tales we find what we hold dear.

-Sonakshi Goenka, VIII C

Blending Fantasy with Reality

Fairy tales have enchanted and captivated the hearts and minds of readers for centuries. These seemingly simple stories often hold deep meanings, teaching us the moral ethics of our life. They instill values in a child and give them insight into human nature.

These stories often emphasize on the importance of a kind and sweet nature like we see in the story of 'Cinderella'. They try to put the protagonist in challenging situations, motivating us to be fearless like the siblings, Hansel and Gretel. Fairy tales help us understand the importance of friendship and the value of family bond.

These stories often challenge the rigid thoughts of the society. The story, 'The Beauty and the Beast' taught us never to discriminate or judge people based on their looks. Remember the story of 'the Three Little Pigs'? The guiding theme of this tale is that if one is patient and works hard, his efforts shall be rewarded. Another important lesson we get from tales like 'the Jack and the Beanstalk' is that we should never be greedy or jealous. So, the next time when you see a child reading a vibrantly coloured book filled with fascinating images, remember that somewhere between the lines, 'once upon a time' and 'they lived happily ever after', they manage to convey innumerable lessons to the young readers.

-Harshika Nahar, VIII B



The Reunion

Once upon a time hidden underneath the depths of a dense forest was a tall tower with one small window and a hidden door. There lived a beautiful girl with cherry red lips and raven black hair. Her name was Rapunzel and she was going to turn eighteen in a week. She had never once left the tower since her mother named Gothel, thought that she was not ready to face the challenges of the outside world. However, Rapunzel never lost hope. She knew about the hidden door and that it was supposed to be used only in case of an emergency. One day she decided to trick her mother.

“Mother, my birthday is in a week. Could you please get me the new paints that I wanted?”, she said.

“Rapunzel, the paint can only be found in a market kilometres away from here. It will take three days... okay, I will get them. Promise me you will be a good girl and not leave the tower,” her mother said.

Rapunzel promised but as soon as her mother left, Rapunzel packed a few important things and left the tower. She was mesmerized to see the trees, plants, shrubs, lakes and streams on her way. Rapunzel started singing her favourite song. It always made her hair glow. Suddenly, she heard a gasp. She was ready to hit the person with a pan that she had brought from the tower along with her. A boy her age stepped out.

“Hello, I am Eugene. Sorry for scaring you, it is just that your hair was glowing. Sorry if I seemed rude. What is your name?” Eugene asked, stunned.

“Woah, you talk a lot. Hi, I am Rapunzel. And I have no idea why my hair glows when I sing.”

Rapunzel and Eugene talked for an hour or so, when they suddenly realised it was getting late and they required a place to stay. When they both had decided that the other seemed trustworthy, Eugene took her to an inn and they spent the night there. In the morning for breakfast they went to the Ugly Duckling Restaurant, which was in the middle of nowhere. The people although, were kind and made them feel comfortable.

Suddenly, a few soldiers entered the restaurant and Eugene hid under the table. The owners showed him a hidden way out. Rapunzel was very confused by the act. Eugene explained, “I am the prince of Kingdom Corona. They are looking for me because I left home. My parents were trying to get me married off, so I ran away.”

Rapunzel was shocked to hear that. After walking for a mile or so they could see a clearing again. They reached a kingdom which according to Eugene was a rival nation so soldiers from his kingdom would not be there. They enjoyed themselves all day. They danced, sang and explored. It was the first time Rapunzel was enjoying life. Although, she was feeling guilty for having lied to her mother. That night they lit a fire and decided to sleep under the trees.

While eating, Eugene said “You might not know but I had a sister who was kidnapped because she had healing power.” Rapunzel made an expression that meant she needed more information.

“When my mother was pregnant, she got seriously ill. The only thing that could stop her from dying was magic. The soldiers found a black tulip that was glowing. My mother drank the paste of the flower and soon a healthy girl was born. The city was full of joy. One night a witch came and kidnapped the baby. Legend’s say that my sister’s hair has some kind of power which helps to heal but if someone touches it without permission then they will fall dead,” said Eugene.

Rapunzel after listening to this was stunned. They lay down and instantly fell asleep as they were tired. The next morning, Rapunzel woke up to the sound of horses. What she saw next was hard to believe. Eugene was surrounded by his kingdom’s soldiers on horseback and he was shouting at them to leave him alone. However no one cared to listen. Eugene ran towards her and took her along with him to his castle. The castle was the biggest place Rapunzel had ever seen. Eugene introduced her to the King and Queen. The Queen could not stop staring at her. Rapunzel changed into fresh clothes. It was a sleeveless gown. She went down for breakfast and the Queen said something that shocked her.

“You keep reminding me of my long lost daughter. I remember my daughter had exactly these eyes, lips and hair. She also had a birthmark just below her elbow like the one that you have, Rapunzel. I think you are my daughter,” said the Queen. Rapunzel was elated that she had found her real family. That day she was declared the Princess of Corona. Eugene was overjoyed to have found his sister.

Oh no, the story does not end just yet. Rapunzel still had to deal with Gothel. After being crowned Princess, she went back to the tower and heard the truth from Gothel. Since Gothel touched Rapunzel’s hair without her permission, she fell dead instantly. Rapunzel, with her family, lived happily ever after.

-Tanvi Joshi, IX B



The Dream Weaver

In a land beyond the clouds,
Where dreams dance among the stars,
A whimsical tale unfolds,
And magic knows no bars.

If I were a fairy tale character,
I'd be the dream weaver,
With a flowing gown of moonlight,
And laughter as my revealer.

I'd sprinkle stardust in the air,
Creating galaxies with every flick,
Granting wishes with a smile so fair,
In this enchanted world, so quick.

My heart brimming with joy and delight,
As I skip through the meadows green,
Greeting woodland creatures in twilight,
The most fantastical sight ever seen.

In my realm of endless reverie,
Where imagination takes flight,
I'd embrace all that is wild and free,
And weave dreams with pure delight.

Dreams of castles high in the sky,
Where tinkling laughter fills each room
Of princesses, knights, and dragons' nigh
A world where love forever blooms.

-Kaavya Pachisia, VII A



Ayushi Das, VIII A



Lavishka Shrivastava VIII D

Behind the Storybook's Veil

In fairy tales, so bright and cool,
Hide shadows where the villains rule,
With wicked tricks and secrets too,
Innocence lost, that is oh so true.

Behind the fun and happy face,
Sometimes there's a spooky place,
In spells and mirrors, secrets are told,
Life's lessons, young and old.

So, listen to these tales today,
Life's a mix of fun and gray,
On the hidden side of stories, you'll find,
Wisdom and courage for your bright young mind.

-Kavya Gattani, XI C2



Darker Realities



Aritri Nandi, VIII B

In a realm where magic, gypsies, and fairy godmothers existed, there were perfect lives with happy endings in a universe called *fairy tales*. But under that veil of perfection lay the dark truths which were overlooked.

To start with, the Evil Queen from ‘Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs,’ was one such character who many people would consider to be the arrogant and selfish antagonist. We fail to understand that the Evil Queen was a woman consumed with the fear of losing her power and beauty. She turned towards the mirror on the wall seeking its validation, having been trapped in a world that valued her appearance and youth more than her nature. It shaped her into an insecure person which explains in her villainous actions.

One character who taught many moral lessons was Pinnochio. The wooden toy that turned into a real boy had gone through several ups and downs along the course of the story. We often fail to consider that Pinnochio could have a dark side too. He was a boy desperate for immediate gratification, often taking recourse to lies due to his impulsiveness. Although the story promotes several values, one has to read inbetween the lines to understand its true essence.

No fairytale lover can forget Hansel and Gretel. The two children were abandoned by their parents, multiple times and at last were left on their own to go through a dark dewy forest. They landed at the doorstep of a witch who wanted to eat them. This age old tale of bravery and wit of the two children seem to fascinate young minds but the darker side of this story should also be taken into consideration. It is a world where children are abandoned by their parents and forced to confront innumerable dangers, This story unveils the stark realities of neglect, abuse and the necessity of resilience to survive in a heartless world.

These are some of the perspectives which we overlook in fairytales. These tales remind us that behind the enchanting facades of ‘Happily Ever After’s lie complex emotions, moral dilemmas and the eternal struggle between light and darkness. By peering into the abyss of these stories, we gain a deeper understanding of the human condition where the line between good and evil is often blurred, and even the most villainous characters have their own stories to tell.

-Bhavya Mimani, XI C2



Maleficent – The Misconceived Evil

“Mistress of evil” you commonly hear,
Yet the truth is barely near.

Stripped of her magic was she,
Shunned into the shadows.

Cursing out of her agony,
Her selfish flagitious foes.

But, in the cursed beauty,
She saw her missing juvenility.

“Revoke the curse” she cried,
To save the sleeping girl she died.

Concealing pure white serenity,
Under those jet black hues.

-Saman Quasim, XII C1



Navika Agarwal, VIII D

Mirabel- Create Your Own Magic



Khushboo Dalmia, X A

If I were a fairytale character, I would be Mirabel from Encanto. Her characteristics are ideal and should be instilled in every child today. Mirabel is open-minded, optimistic and young spirited. All her siblings and cousins had powers but she did not. However, her true power was to unite people. She noticed the small things which often went unnoticed and always tried to find the good in people. She was empathetic and analyzed everything from a different perspective. She was insecure about her lack of magical powers, but she was able to overcome it. In the story, she is the one who ‘saved the magic’. She was someone who could be trusted and would stick with everyone through thick and thin. She was jolly and always supported others. She was an eccentric but friendly person. She was not afraid to stand

out. I think she is a great inspiration for people who think that they always have to fit in. Mirabel inspires people to embrace their differences and make use of it rather than hide it. Mirabel shows us that we can all create our own magic. I like her because she has a dynamic personality and does not let anyone push her down with their pessimistic opinions. She inspires me to not give up, understand people better and have an optimistic outlook in life and carve my own path in life despite the hardships I face.

-Saanvi Gupta, VII D





Mirror, Mirror on the Wall, Who is the Most Stereotypical of Them All?

While growing up, all of us loved fairy tales- the pretty princesses, the dashing princes on majestic white horses and mesmerizing mythical creatures. When we grew up, this illusion of the 'perfect' was shattered and we saw the true stories. A damsel in distress waiting to be rescued by a prince, evil stepmothers and wicked queens, a royal wedding followed by, "they lived happily ever after" have showcased age old prejudices and stereotypes, be it the need for princesses to be beautiful, fair skinned or blonde or stepmothers always being cruel to their stepchildren.

Fairy tales like 'Snow White', 'Cinderella', 'Beauty and the Beast' mainly focus on the aspect of the princess being beautiful with fair skin and rosy, red lips and overshadow other remarkable qualities like Cinderella's kind heart, Snow White's helpful nature and Belle's courage that defied all odds. These stereotypical portrayal of beauty standards drills into the minds of young girls that they need to be beautiful rather than intelligent or skilled in order to be accepted by society. 'The Ugly Duckling' promotes the horrific idea that a person will be excluded or ostracized if he does not meet society's unrealistic expectations about beauty.

Perhaps, the most common stereotypical characters in fairytales are stepmothers who are evil and do not mean well for their stepchildren. Cinderella's stepmother, the Evil Queen in 'Snow White' and Aurora's godmother, Maleficent were all cruel beyond measure. Fairy tales have always promoted the perception that the relationship between stepmothers and their stepchildren can never be normal or one filled with love. Stepmothers can never be kind or have a beautiful relationship with their stepchildren. The reasons behind the anger and bitterness of these stepmothers lack adequate representation.

Villains are always shown to be ugly such as Ursula, The Hag and Gaston in 'Beauty and the Beast'. Even villains were once people who had been broken inside. More light needs to be shed on the backstories of these villains. It is high time villains have a better representation in the stories and various shades of their characters are better expressed.

Since the beginning of time, princesses and other ladies have always depended on a prince to come and save them. This completely shatters the ideologies of women empowerment, independence and self-reliance. All the princesses are rescued by princes at the end, however in real life, all women should be able to fight their own battles. They should also be held accountable for their actions.

Other stereotypical characters include the witch in 'Hansel and Gretel', who preferred to keep Hansel since he was a boy and forced Gretel to work in her house. Her preference for a boy is similar to the preference people have for a male child. In 'The Little Mermaid', Ariel decides to change her appearance radically to impress the prince. She promotes the idea of changing one's appearance and nature in order to be liked by someone. Why should one not be comfortable of one's own looks? No one should have to change his appearance to gain attention or impress others.

It is time fairy tales are rewritten.

-Debangi Chakraborty, XI S2



Whispers of Regret

In the confines of the 1860s, society held firm beliefs about the role of women and their external appearance. Lady Tremaine found herself widowed twice and a single mother to three young daughters in a society which placed heavy emphasis on traditional family structure. Marriage was considered the ultimate goal for most women, who were expected to meet the harsh beauty standards. Despite Lady Tremaine's striking beauty, her daughters, Drizella and Anastasia, were unsightly and spent hours in front of the mirror, obsessing over their appearance. Her stepdaughter Cinderella, on the other hand, possessed timeless and enchanting beauty. She feared for her daughters, she knew they would have to struggle to make a place for themselves in the male dominated society they lived in. Perhaps she dug a deeper hole for them, as they seemed to have inherited her cruel nature. Her innocent stepdaughter bore the brunt of all her frustrations towards the unjust world. Her stepdaughter, who was gifted with natural beauty and charm, was certain to marry into a good family and lead a comfortable life. Gradually, she started seeing Cinderella as her daughters' competitor in a race they had already lost. She mistreated Cinderella, kept her busy with chores and did not allow her to dress up or go to balls. She did not want her daughters to live in Cinderella's shadow, face comparison and experience the cruelty of the world so early in life. She unleashed frustrations and malice on Cinderella. At the end, love prevailed. Cinderella found her prince charming and left them alone, unpunished. Lady Tremaine realised the gravity of her own actions, how she too had judged her own daughters for their appearance and how she had harmed a pure, innocent soul to ease her turmoil. Cinderella gave her a second chance, a chance to live a peaceful life with her daughters and she chose to make the most of it.

-Avni Mittal, XII C1

The Realms of Fabled Dreams

Once upon a time, in lands afar
Where castles stood and dragons breathed fire.
The relevance persists
Within these tales, wisdom turns the pages over.

Though castles may fall and dragons may fade,
Their essence still stands tall
Their relevance exists in the world we spin
As an eternal dance where dreams begin.

-Muskan Singhania, X D

But to let down your golden hair
And travel to a faraway land,
Is it considered too good to be true?
Or should it really be at all?

You may possibly be stuck
With a witch on a tall tower,
Or you may possibly
Have met the seven dwarfs.

From Cinderella's resilience and hope's embrace
To tales of courage in a magical place,
Fairy tales whisper in our modern ear
Lessons we learn are crystal clear.



Anushka Sinha, VII B



Are Fairy Tales Still Relevant?

Do fairy tales still stick? Some believe, they have the power to allure and pique our imagination! In fact, *fairytales* are a distortion of realism, ones that create a *make – believe universe of pseudo – perfection* – a world of “*happily ever – after*”. For centuries fairytales have been told and retold to children (and even some indulgent adults) to imbibe the so – called values of being chaste, righteous and authentic, so much so that their characters are either black or white, dark or divine, malevolent or saintly. *Cinderella*, for instance; symbolizes the spirit of the unstinted aspiration and consistent faith – a desire to be devout and dedicated with a pure heart! The bone of contention however is, can we afford to simply ignore the misogyny? Female characters have often been depicted as picture – perfect in many ways setting unrealistic expectations of how a woman ought to look or act. This often leads some women to believe that they are undeserving of a companion/partner, since they apparently do not fit the *cookie – cutter* outline of a fairytale princess. *Fairytales*, often have an impact on how women are perceived, also emphasizing on stereotypical gender roles.



Manvi Bajaj, XII C2

Heading onto, ‘The Little Mermaid’, Ursula offers Ariel an opportunity of transforming into a human in exchange of her melodious eloquence to win over the prince. Ursula reminds Ariel of how a woman’s physical appearance is often considered more significant than her personality or opinions. Eric was a prince with a shallow persona, unobservant of how distraught Ariel is. The prince’s ignorance turns Ariel to foam. A depiction which insinuates that women are often seen as beings prone to devote their lives for ignorant princes! A common sexist trope in fairytales is the evil stepmother as in Snow White, Rapunzel, Sleeping Beauty and more. The existence of such tropes, project women and most female protagonists overtly reliant on men for their happiness and fulfilment. These depictions often connect ageism with sexism, suggestive of older women as hideous and lonely ‘creatures’ – who are deathly jealous of vibrant, beautiful younger women.

Fairy–tales often romanticize the objectification of women. In both Snow White and Sleeping Beauty, the princess had to be ‘kissed back to life’ out of their slumber. Depicted as the ‘kiss of life’ from their apparent death these acts where the female protagonists were unconscious are suggestive of a lack of consent. Acts of manly valour and chivalry, rob women of their identity of natural self – expressions or opinions. Fairytales, though seemingly meant to inculcate values and ethics in children (especially impressionable minds) have often strayed away into patriarchal depictions of chivalry and power where women are objects of ‘beauty’ and ‘perfection’ creating surrealistic impressions. Often such pompous and macho display clouds the imagination of children to having unrealistic expectations from life – blatantly removed from reality. Creators and writers as responsible and answerable adults would do well to consider these fundamental aspects, while creating a world of fantasy ‘make – believe’, they would be sensitized to the aspects of the depiction of women. Fairytales could serve as an instrument – nurturing generations through the depiction of the empowered women capable of expressing their opinions with conviction and finding happiness in their free will and emancipation.

-Mekhla Sengupta, XI C2

Majestic Morals

Oh, the lovely and pretty Snow White,
Do you think what she did was right?
Oh yes, be nice but you musn't forget to be wise,
Before making a blunder, better think twice.

The pure hearted Little Red Riding Hood,
Who knew what danger awaited her in the wood?
So no matter what, always be strong,
Beware! Because things might just go wrong.

Elsa and Anna, the two lovely sisters,
Anna was sweet and Elsa was fierce.
When the world was against them, they fought all alone,
Elsa's true love turned Anna back from stone.

Poor Cinderella and her miserable life,
So much torture, how did she thrive?
She never lost hope and continued to be nice,
Her reward came soon, a Fairy Godmother, her saviour
in disguise.

Fairy Tales might all be fictional,
But they give us solace and alleviation.



Rayna Choudhuri, IX C

- Swastika Chattopadhyay, VIII-A

The Villian's Tale

Fairy tales have been an integral part of our childhood. As children, we all considered fairy tales as merely a source of amusement and pleasure. However, these timeless stories, often featuring magical elements and whimsical characters, not only gave us an insight to the mystical phenomena beyond life, but also carried with them certain important lessons that resonate across generations. Let us look back and reflect upon those dreamy stories, to gather a bunch of moral values hidden in them. One of the most significant moral lessons learnt through fairytales is the importance of kindness and empathy. The way Cinderella always remained kind and compassionate towards her bullying stepmother and sisters, teaches us that no matter how evil a person maybe we should always remain kind towards them. One day, we will surely get out of our sufferings, just the way Cinderella did. Another example of a marvelous fairy tale with a splendid moral is 'Beauty and The Beast'. Having much relevance to today's life, it teaches us the extraordinary value of judging a person by his inward characteristics such as kindness over other superficial qualities like appearance. It teaches us how to behave with empathy in our hearts for others. In this modern era, things are not the same, one cannot trust anybody. As we could see in the story 'Hansel and Gretel', how the witch had lured Hansel and Gretel for food and they had also followed her. Such incidents happen even today. In order to combat them, we need to know whom to open our hearts out to. We should never trust strangers, even if they treat us well. In conclusion, fairy tales are not merely fanciful narratives but are profound tools for imparting moral lessons. Through these stories, we learn about the virtues of goodness, compassion, empathy, generosity and vigilance. These moral lessons, wrapped in enchanting tales, serve as guiding lights throughout our lives, inspiring us to be better individuals and fostering timeless values, throughout the journey of life.

-Vaibhavii Mishra VII-A



Truths and Lies

Smell .The first of my senses to tickle in. It can only be described as the stretch of evil incarnate. Then, my sixth sense seeps in, whispering notes of warning and urgency. I hear an euphoric voice say, “She’s up for 15 million gold coins!” An equally jolly voice says, “Ohh! We will be rich.” I am in danger. I slowly open my crusty eyes and I am greeted with darkness. I realize there’s a blindfold around my head and my hands and legs are tied to a chair. Adrenaline and panic swirl in my stomach. I am kidnapped. I force myself to stay calm and think what could’ve brought me to this situation. I was in my castle, passing through the hallway when I heard my step mother ask her magic mirror, “Mirror Mirror on the wall. Who’s the fairest of them all?” “Snow White is the fairest of them all.” The mirror replied. Seeing the disgust, anger and jealousy in my step mother’s eyes, I could say that she was not accustomed to this answer. I decided to leave but by mistake I dropped my step mother’s favourite vase. Her eyes snapped towards me. “Snow White! You fool! I’ll kill you!”She advanced towards me, rage glowing in her eyes.

I ran. I heard her say, “Catch her!” to the soldiers but I was far into the forest. In a while, I met the most handsome man-prince. He was over 6 feet tall, had black messy hair and his eyes were as blue as the ocean. It was like his face was sculpted by God himself – more than perfect. He gave me a lustful smile and withdrew his hand for me to shake. “Hello miss! I am Prince Charming.” I smiled, “Charmed I am sure.” Taking his hand, I said, “Snow White”. He respectfully gave me a peck on my hand before I hastily pulled it away. My face flushed crimson. He chuckled, “If I may ask, what is such a beautiful girl doing in the forest all alone?”

“Oh! I know the woods, I was brought up here.” Yes, I lied but I did not want to be a damsel in distress by telling him my sob story. “That’s nice! I am sorry but I have to go now. Will you be ok?” His eyes gloomed with concern. I liked him. “Yes I will be ok. You must go. It was wonderful meeting you.” Then, we parted our ways and I was left alone. A tear slipped past my eyelids. I decided not to lose hope and find some place to spend the night. To my delight, I found a little house. I went up to the door and knocked. A dwarf opened the door. His face was red and so was his cap. He had a crooked nose and a long beard. He had a grumpy expression but after seeing me he grinned like a Cheshire cat. “What can I do for you love?” He asked.

“I need a place to spend my night. Would you m-” “Yes yes! Of course! Come on in.” he interrupted me.

“Isn’t she the girl the prince talked about?” another dwarf with a blue cap asked aloud to no one in personal.

Prince? Are they talking about- “NOO!” The one with red cap shouted and I snapped out of my dangerous thoughts. He apologized straight away and led me to my room giving me an apple to eat. I hesitated at first but I was starving so I ate it though I had a bad feeling about it. Now I am here, kidnapped and about to be sold! I think it was the apple that drugged me into deep sleep. I fight against my will to cry and started to fidget with my ropes hoping it would loosen. “Quit it!” a grumpy voice says. “What do you want from me? Please – let me go!” I beg “Too late someone’s here to buy you already! He is very rich. You will live a lavish life!”

LAVISH LIFE!! I would rather burn in hell!! They take my blindfold off. I squint to adjust to the light. I am timid yet angry, I want to die and want to kill the same time. I do as they say. They take me to the living room and I see – PRINCE CHARMING! He smirks when our eyes meet and starts walking closer to me. He winked at me and held my wrists tightly. “He is the one who is going to buy me.” My sixth sense speaks. Adrenaline spikes new levels in me. I am doing my very best not to cry or show any form of weakness outside though my inside is slowly being devoured by his presence. “Don’t be afraid of me, princess. I won’t eat you.” He chuckled darkly. I despise him so much. His eyes miss the deepness he had before. I trusted him then.

“Please” I choke out a maudlin plea, as hot tears gushed past my fair skin, not being able to hold on any longer. The dwarfs and the ‘prince’ start laughing . Just then the door swings open and a hooded figure appears. Everyone is startled and the prince’s hand loosen around my wrist. I take advantage of it and run towards the gates of my freedom but a hand grasps my wrist again. That touch was oddly familiar. I look up and see



my step mother's brown beautiful eyes scanning my body for injuries. Her eyes were said to be evil but today they weren't, they instead bloomed with love, concern and regret. "I will not let you run away again, dear." I never heard her speak to me so politely. My step mother eyes the prince and the dwarfs angrily. She clicks her staff, chants a spell and they are all gone. They just vanish into thin air. "You are safe now dear. They won't harm you or any other girl again." I wanted to thank her but my tears said more than that. I was too quick to make decisions. My mother saved my life when I thought she would take it. I realized that the prince and the dwarfs were the ugly truth behind the beautiful lie and my step mother well she was the beautiful truth behind an ugly lie.

-Mehak Baid, IX B

My Journey towards Freedom

Mirror, mirror on the wall!
Who is the fairest of them all?
Well, you surely stand out from the rest,
But Snow White? She is the best.

Well then so it be,
Let her be dead and deceased.
Bring forth the hunter, let the journey start.
All I want now is her heart.

Mirror mirror on the wall!
Where is the hunter's stall?
Despite his life being at stake,
Did he not have what it would take?

Mist curls through the forest and trees,
Her steps hushed by the falling leaves.
In the haunted woods, fear draws near.
This is not what I expected, oh dear !

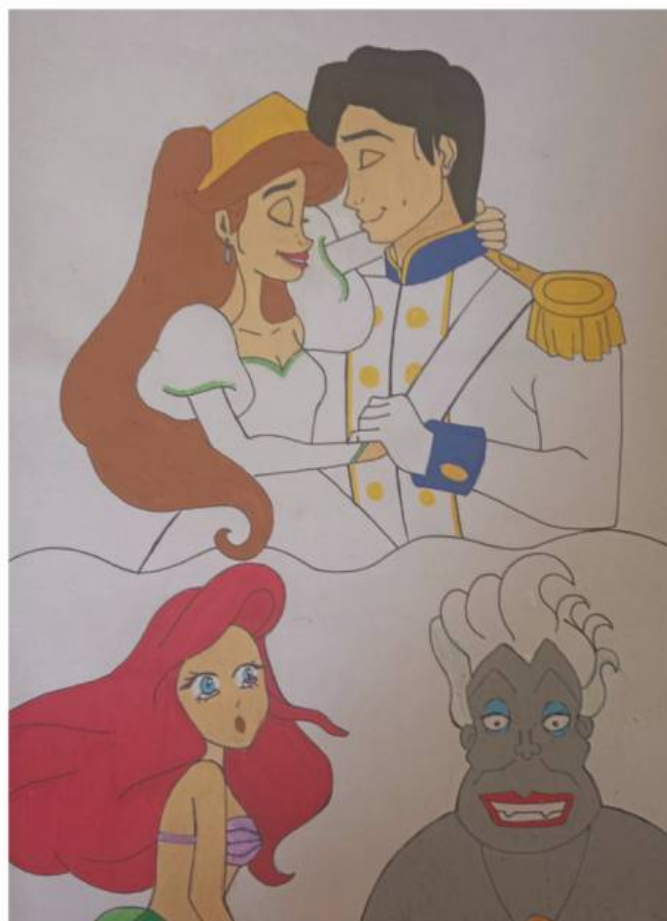
Mirror mirror on the wall !
Where is the girl now ?
Oh ! her naivety has gotten the best of her.
For now she has trusted seven little figures.

She ask for a place to stay.
She begs for food and water.
Her stature is that of a maid.
Sweeping the house all day.

Mirror mirror on the wall !
I was drenched in hatred I admit.
But the thought of her suffering?
My motherhood does not permit.

Saved my child from the sadists,
Escaped the forest and the sea.
No longer trapped in jealousy, the light of love,
Has now set me free.

-Avni Bhojnagarwala, IX A



Anshika Gupta, VIII C



Bows, Belts and Bravery



Chahal Bhadani, VIII D

When her mother, Queen Elinor, falls victim to a curse and turns into a bear, Merida looks within herself and finds the key to save the kingdom. She was the first Disney princess who did not need a prince to save her. One of the most admirable qualities of Merida was her unwavering determination as she stood her ground and refused to let societal norms dictate her choices. On her birthday, the gift that delighted Merida was not a doll or a toy but a bow. She along with her father happily shot arrows into the woods, though her mother was not too pleased. Just like Merida, karate is not just a hobby for me but a passion that allows me to express my freedom. I am dedicated to and sincere about karate. Merida's strong bond with her mother is similar to the bond between me and my mother. This has taught me the importance of relationships and how we should bridge the generation gap with our loved ones.

-Anushka Sinha, VII A

Bloom Like a Fairy

If I could be a fairy, I would choose to be Bloom Peters, the protagonist and central character of "Fate: The Winx Saga". Bloom, portrayed by Abigail Cowen, possesses the ability to channel her feelings, to generate and manipulate fire. She can even isolate heat.

Bloom is a sixteen-year-old fairy from Earth who arrives in a new world to learn more about her magical powers and master them. She was born a thousand years ago to a mother who had the Dragon Flame. Bloom's mother lost her power and unfortunately, passed away. When Bloom was born, her mother put herself in the Realm of Darkness to protect Bloom from going down the same path. As an orphan, Bloom continued to study to turn herself into the most powerful girl. She inspires me with her devotion to her work, standing alone even when she needed someone to rely, with her beauty, kindness, and elegance.

Bloom Peters inherited her mother's power to end dominion wars, and her heroic and independent nature inspires me to navigate through life's hardships with the utmost courage. **-Riddhi Agarwal, VII B**



Sejal Gupta, IX D

The Queen

The girl was pretty. There is an open space in front of their one-storey yellow house, a garden filled with beautiful flowers where she played all day long. Our houses are separated by a road in-between. I used to sit and watch from the window of my house. Whenever I saw her, my heart lit up with joy and happiness. With the rhythm of changing seasons, the style and colour of her clothes would change.

Many days passed in this manner but I could not step outside the house. Despite consulting many doctors, I did not heal. On the contrary, day by day, I became more ill, and I was completely trapped in the stagnant enclosure of the second floor. Her bright face illuminated my eyes with the last rays of hope. The days passed by, weaving a web of illusory dreams.

A few more fruitless days passed by. How times have changed since then. One day a great magician came to our neighborhood. In a very short time, all the boys and girls of the neighbourhood became his subjects, even Aurora. I felt great pain in my mind that day as the afternoon sun faded.



Divya Tibrewala, VIII B

On one such day, at noon, Aurora was dancing in the middle of their garden full of flowers, dressed in clothes as colourful as spring. Joy was in the air like colourful butterflies flying around. No one else was around. She was dancing, lost in her own world. Her body moved and swayed with the rhythm of her performance filling the air with ecstasy. I sat on the window ledge, mesmerized.

A crow flew very close to my window with a screeching call. I was startled and spotted the wizard coming out from behind the bushes. Today it was completely different outfit. He wore a large gold lace work, a canvas bag on his shoulders, a cane stick in his hand, and a brown cap with feathers on his head. Aurora laughed out loud at the magician's oddness. The velvet veil fell off her shoulders. The wizard stared blankly.

My chest trembled. An unknown fear engulfed my fragile body. Still, clutching the bed with all my might, I cried out—"Run away, run away, Aurora, he's a devil in disguise!"

My sick voice was drowned out by the howling of the spring wind. No, she could not hear my call. But where is her fault? Her simple mind was engrossed in all the wonderful games that the magician played.

At one end of the garden, the magician stood in a strange posture on an altar. His golden dress glistened in the early afternoon sun. The magician twirled his wand, and began to play. Aurora stood there as if enchanted. Then suddenly the magician took out a purple vial from his bag and covered Aurora's face with a black cloth. She stood still. I felt breathless. Then the sorcerer went round her and reciting some incantation, and sprinkled a handful of water that looked like dew.

In a moment, the surroundings came to a halt. In front of my eyes, the girl became a small rosebud. The magician carefully picked up the bud and placed it on the branch of a rose tree in the garden. I stared blankly. My heart wanted to collapse. Was 'happily ever after' not in the cards for me? The grass was covered in darkness.

Today, twelve years later, the disease has taken a deeper toll on my body. Even today, every spring I drag this paralyzed body to the south window. Then I look at the familiar tree in the garden, where my childhood friend still sways in the wind like a queen in the crowd of roses!

-Zenia Chatterjee, XI S1



BENGALI CREATIVE SECTION

স্বপ্নে দেখা

সেদিন রাতে ঘুমের ঘোরে
দেখছি মোদের ছোট্ট ঘরে
মিষ্টি এক পরী এসে
দাঁড়িয়ে আমার মাথার পাশে
শুধায় মোরে, “যাবি নাকি মোদের দেশে
কি হতে চাস বড় হয়ে?”
‘ভালো মানুষ’ বললেম ভয়ে!

ভোর না হতেই চক্ষু মেলে দেখি -
ডানা মেলে উধাও পরী সে কী!

- ভাবন্যা ঘোষ, পঞ্চম শ্রেণি, বিভাগ খ



কাব্য দেবরা, দশম শ্রেণি, বিভাগ ঘ



লবিষ্কা শ্রীবাস্তব, অষ্টম শ্রেণি, বিভাগ ঘ

রূপকথার বার্তা

ছোটবেলায় মা-ঠাকুমার মুখে রূপকথার গল্প শোনা-
কিরণমালা, বুদ্ধ-ভুতুম স্বপ্নে করত আনাগোনা।

রাক্ষসদের অশুভ শক্তিকে পরাজিত করে রাজকুমার
সাহস আর বুদ্ধির দ্বারা করতে হয় যুদ্ধ পার-

তার সাথে মানবিক গুণের পরিচয়ও দিতে হয়
তাহলেই জগৎ হয়ে ওঠে নতুন করে মঙ্গলময়।

দুর্ভাগ্য ও দারিদ্র্যের কালো মেঘ যদি বা ছায়
আপন চেষ্টায় তাকেও দেখি অতিক্রম করাই যায়।

কল্পনার উড়ান নিয়ে শৈশবের সব গল্প- গাথা
জীবনশৈলী আর নৈতিকতার পরিপূর্ণ অমূল্য বার্তা।

-ঈশিকা দাস, অষ্টম শ্রেণি, বিভাগ গ



রূপকথার প্রিয় চরিত্র

রূপকথার গল্প আমাদের প্রত্যেকের কাছেই খুব প্রিয়। এই ধরনের গল্পের মধ্যে মূলত লোককথা, কাহিনিক চরিত্রের উপস্থিতি লক্ষ করা যায়। রূপকথার গল্প পড়তে পড়তে হারিয়ে যাই এক কল্পনার রাজ্যে যেখানে বামন, ড্রাগন, পক্ষীরাজ, মৎস্যকন্যা, রাক্ষসীর মতো চরিত্র অনায়াসে ঘোরাফেরা করে। লেখক উপেন্দ্রকিশোর রায়চৌধুরীর কলমের জাদুতে গুপি গাইন, বাঘা বাইন চরিত্রটি হয়ে উঠেছে অনবদ্য। এটি একটা রূপকথার গল্প। দুটি অজ্ঞাতপরিচয় যুবক তাদের বাসস্থান হারিয়ে উপস্থিত হয় এক ঘন জঙ্গলে; যেখানে হিংস্র প্রাণীর উপস্থিতি থেকেও ভূতের উপস্থিতি



সাইশা আগরওয়াল, অষ্টম শ্রেণি, বিভাগ ক

তাদের মনে ভয়ের উদ্বেক করে। মজার ব্যাপার হল, এই ভূতের রাজা তাদের বর প্রদান করলে তারা বিশেষ ক্ষমতার অধিকারী হয়। এই দুই যুবকের সহজ সরল বুদ্ধি, বিশ্বাস পাঠক মনকে ছুঁয়ে যায়। তারা ভূতের রাজার দেওয়া বরে ভাল পোষাক, খাওয়া, ভ্রমণ সবই করতে সক্ষম হয়। এমনকি তাদের গানের গলা ও বাজনা, বাজাবার ক্ষমতাও বেড়ে যায়। তারা রাজার আসরে গান গাওয়ার ও রাজকন্যাকে বিবাহ করার সুযোগ পায় পরবর্তীকালে। দুইজনের সাধারণ জীবন যাপন, অতি সহজ কথোপকথন, আচার, আচরণের যে বিবরণ পাওয়া যায় তা আমার অতি প্রিয়। এই চরিত্রগুলির মাঝে আমি নিজেও হারিয়ে যাই যখন পড়ি। গুপি ও বাঘার মধ্যে অটুট বন্ধুত্বের সম্পর্ক ও পারস্পরিক বিশ্বাস দেখে আমি মুগ্ধ হয়ে যাই। শ্রদ্ধা জন্মায় বন্ধুত্বের সম্পর্কের প্রতি। রূপকথার চরিত্রেরা কত কিছুই করতে পারে যা বাস্তবে হয় না। সহজ, সরল, গ্রাম্য সাধারণ গুপি গাইন ও বাঘা বাইন তাদের চরিত্রগুণে আমার কাছে হয়ে উঠেছে অসাধারণ প্রিয় চরিত্র।

-রূপকথা চ্যাটার্জি, ষষ্ঠ শ্রেণি, বিভাগ ঘ

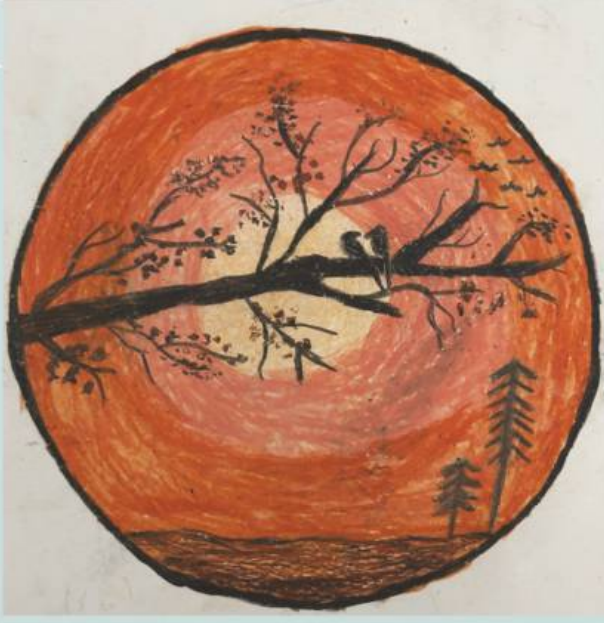
ডিজনি পরীকথার অন্ধকার: লুকানো সত্য কী ?

ডিজনি পরীকথা সাধারণত আমাদের মনের চিরকালের স্নেহে ভরা। পরীরা, জাদুঘর, রাজা-রানী এবং সোনালী সুস্থির জীবনের চমকের চুল। তবে, এই পরীকথার আঁধারে আমরা একটি বিষয় ভুলে যাচ্ছি - ডিজনি পরীকথার অন্ধকার। আমরা ডিজনি পরীকথার আদিবাসী সমাজের অনেক পক্ষগুলিতে মিটিয়ে যাই। প্রথমত, পরীদের দুর্দশার প্রতি আমরা অনেকটা অসহায় হয়ে উঠি। পরীদের সত্যিকার মহত্ত্ব ও প্রকৃত ক্ষমতা মুখোমুখি দেখতে পাচ্ছি না। তারা সমস্যা হয়ে গেছে এমন সমাজের অসহায় সদস্য, যারা নিজেদের কাছে বিশেষ ক্ষমতা প্রকাশ করতে পারে না। দ্বিতীয়ত, পরীদের দৃশ্যমান পরিবার জীবন আমাদের অন্ধকার দিকে টেকে যাচ্ছে। সোনার প্রদর্শনী সমাজে স্বচ্ছতা, প্রেম এবং একটি আনন্দময় জীবনের উপর একটি অসহায় ছায়া ছড়াচ্ছে। তবে, পরীদের কাছে এই প্রকৃত আদর্শ জীবন সম্ভব না। তারা প্রাকৃতিক সময়ের জন্য অন্য পরিবার জীবনে চলে গেছে। ডিজনি পরীকথার অন্ধকারের আদ্যশ পর্যায়ে আমাদের এই অবলম্বনা সম্পর্কে চিন্তা করা জরুরি। এটি নিজেদের মতামত ও প্রকৃতির সাথে মিল খুঁজে বারণ করা উচিত। পরীকথা অন্ধকার না হয়ে সাক্ষাত্কার করে প্রকৃত সোনালী জীবনের আলোকিত দিক। এটি শিশুদের বৃহত্তর ধারণা ও চিন্তামূলক বিকাশে সাহায্য করবে। শেষে, আমরা মনে রাখতে পারি - পরীকথার অন্ধকারে মুক্তি পাওয়া সম্ভব। আমাদের সাহিত্যিক সমাজে পরীদের সত্যিকার ক্ষমতা, সমস্যা সমাধানের ক্ষমতা এবং নিজস্ব আলোকিত মানসিকতা উজ্জীবিত করা উচিত।

-ঐশী মজুমদার, একাদশ শ্রেণি, বিভাগ কলা



আমার ইচ্ছে করে...



রবলীন কর , ষষ্ঠম শ্রেণি ,বিভাগ ক

আমি যদি রূপকথার একটি চরিত্র হতাম, তাহলে আমি লেখক উপেন্দ্রকিশোর রায়চৌধুরির লেখা 'টুনটুনি গল্প' থেকে ওই টুনটুনিটা হতাম। টুনটুনিটাও ঠিক আমারই মতন দুষ্ট প্রকৃতির। ও স্বাধীন হয়ে উড়ে বেড়ায়, কেউ ওকে আটকায় না। এরকম স্বাধীনতাই তো চাই! ও সারাদিন খেলে বেড়ায়, যেখানে চায় সেখানে যেতে পারে, কাউকে জবাবদিহি ও করতে হয় না। দুষ্ট বুদ্ধির সঙ্গে সঙ্গে ভাল বুদ্ধিও প্রচুর! মহারাজকে কী সুন্দর ব্যাঙ ভাজা খাইয়ে দিয়েছিল। নিজেও বেঁচে গেল আর রাজাকেও সায়েস্তা করল। তার একটাই ভুল- রাজার ভাণ্ডার থেকে রাজার অনুমতি ছাড়া সোনার মুদ্রা নেওয়া। যদি ওর জায়গায় আমি হতাম, আমি অন্তত কারুর অনুমতি নিতাম, সে যত দীনই আমি হই না কেন। যদি ওর মত হতে পারতাম, তাহলে আমি দেশ- দেশান্তর ঘুরে বেড়াইতাম আর নিজের সব সখ পূরণ করতাম। এরকম একটা সুযোগেরই অপেক্ষায় আছি। যদি একদিনের জন্যেও আমাকে এই সুযোগ দেওয়া হয়, আমি সানন্দে সেই সুযোগ গ্রহণ করব।

-অঞ্জিকা সাহা, সপ্তম শ্রেণি ,বিভাগ ঘ

আমি যদি রূপকথার চরিত্র হতাম...

রূপকথার জন্মই তো কল্পনার জগৎ থেকে। আমি ছোট থেকেই রূপকথার প্রতি খুব আকৃষ্ট। মনে মনে রূপকথার গল্প পড়তে পড়তে আমিও অনেক অশুভ শক্তি, দুষ্ট চরিত্রদের সংশোধন করতে চেয়েছি। কখনও পরী, কখনও রাজকন্যা সুন্দরীদের জায়গায় নিজেকে বসিয়েছি মনে মনে। তবে আমার চোখে রূপকথার চরিত্র বলতে সিন্ডেরেলার চরিত্র খুবই আকর্ষণীয় এবং যদি কোনো অলৌকিক ক্ষমতায় নিজেকে বদলে ফেলা যেত, আমি তবে সিন্ডেরেলাই হতে চাইতাম। আমি সিন্ডেরেলার মতই সুন্দরী, সৎ ও পরিশ্রমী হতাম। আমার মন ও অমন ফুলের মত সুন্দর, নরম হত আর পরের প্রতি দরদী হত। আমার বন্ধু হত পরিবেশের গাছপালা, পশু- পাখি। তবে গল্পটা রূপকথার সিন্ডেরেলার মত হুবহু হত না। আমি আমার রূপ ও ব্যবহার দিয়ে সবার মন জয় করতাম। দুষ্টকেও বোঝাতাম অন্যায় করলে, অপরের ক্ষতি করলে, তার ফল নিজেকেই পেতে হয়। এরপর সমাজের সব ভেদাভেদ ঘুচিয়ে দিতাম। জাদুবলে সব হিংসা ও লোভ মানুষের মন থেকে মুছে ফেলতাম এবং পৃথিবীর সব মানুষকে বোঝাতাম যে, আমরা একে অপরের পরম আত্মীয় - আমরা একই ঈশ্বরের সন্তান। তারপর একসাথে পরিবেশকে প্রাণপণে আরো সুন্দর করে তুলতাম। গাছপালা, পাখি, পশু, মানুষ সবাইকে ভালো রাখতে নিজের জীবন উৎসর্গ করতাম।

-রোশনী ঘোষ, সপ্তম শ্রেণি, বিভাগ খ



রূপকথার জগৎ



লিখিতা জৈন , প্রথম শ্রেণি, বিভাগ গ জগতে চলে গেছি।

রূপকথার এই ছেলে-ভুলানো ক্ষমতাকে বাবা-মায়েরা অনেকভাবে ব্যবহার করে-বাচ্চাকে খুশি রাখতে, বা বাচ্চাকে ভয় দেখাতে। সারা পৃথিবীর সব দেশের রূপকথা শুনতে শুনতে সত্যিই সব ভুলে যেতে হয়। কিছু কিছু সময় মনে হয় যে, সব কাজ ছেড়ে শুধু রূপকথার গল্প শুনেই দিন কাটিয়ে দি। কিন্তু তা যে চলে না কাজ তো আছেই, কাজ করতে হবে।

বোধহয় এর জন্যে রূপকথা মানুষের এত প্রিয়। রোজকার জীবন থেকে রেহাই পাওয়ার জন্য, দিনের শেষে সব ভুলে গিয়ে যাতে অন্য কোনো এক জগতে চলে যাওয়া যায়, রূপকথার জগতে।

-দেবাঞ্জনা রায়, সপ্তম শ্রেণি , বিভাগ খ

রূপকথা আসলে সুস্বপ্ন নয়

রূপকথা- যে কথায় আছে রূপ , অপরূপ , স্বপ্ন , কল্পনা – বাস্তব নয় অবাস্তবের কথা। এখানে মেয়েরা বিপদে পড়লে রক্ষা করে পুরুষেরা যারা সকলেই বীর বা যোদ্ধা , রাজা বা ব্যবসায়ী- মূলত অর্থবান। এখানে সবাই সুন্দর ও ফর্সা, কারোর মধ্যে কোন ত্রুটি নেই। কাহিনী অবাস্তবে শুরু হয় , আবার এই অবাস্তবেই শেষ হয় । এই গল্প সব সময় রাজকন্যার জীবনের কোন দুর্ঘটনা দিয়ে শুরু হয় এবং রাজকুমার তাকে এই দুর্ঘটনা থেকে নানা কৌশলে উদ্ধার করে । শেষপর্যন্ত , এই রাজকুমার ও রাজকন্যার বিয়ে হয়ে যায় ও তারা তারপর সুখে জীবন কাটায়। এমনকি তাদের পরবর্তীকালের জীবনের কথা এমন ভাবে প্রকাশ করা হয় যেন তাদের জীবনে আর কোন সমস্যাই দেখা দেয় না । কিন্তু, বাস্তবে এরকমভাবে জীবন কাটানো অসম্ভব- জীবনে অশান্তি , কষ্ট , যন্ত্রনা থাকবেই। তাই এই গল্পগুলি যখন শিশুরা পরে তখন তারা এই অবাস্তবের দুনিয়াকে বিশ্বাস করতে আরম্ভ করে । এর ফলে পরবর্তীকালে বাস্তবের দুনিয়ার অনেক সমস্যার সমাধান তারা করতে পারে না। এই গল্প মেয়েদের পুরুষের ওপর নির্ভরশীল হতে শেখায় এবং পুরুষদের সব সময় বীর ও শক্তিশালী হতে শেখায়। কিন্তু, বাস্তব ও রূপকথার মধ্যে এত পার্থক্য থাকা সত্ত্বেও, এই দুটো জগতের মধ্যে কয়েকটা মিল আছে । দুটো দুনিয়াতেই মেয়েদের উপর চলতে থাকে অত্যাচার । অবাস্তবের দুনিয়ায় এই অত্যাচারীর দল হল – রাক্ষস ও বাস্তবের দুনিয়ায় এই অত্যাচারীর দল হল – রাক্ষসসম মানুষ । তবে একটি অতীব সত্য এই যে -বাস্তবের ক্ষেত্রে রাজকুমার ও বাস্তবের ক্ষেত্রে পুরুষ চরিত্র তাদের সুকোমল প্রবৃত্তিগুলি কখনই প্রকাশ করতে পারে না । তাদেরও মনে দুখ-আনন্দ-কান্না-হাসি বর্তমান কিন্তু অসতর্ক মুহূর্তে প্রকাশ হয়ে পড়লে তাদের নারী চরিত্রের সঙ্গে তুলনা করা হয়। এর ফলে তারা নিজেদের প্রকাশ করতে পারেনা – চোখের জল ফেলা তাদের কাছে মারাত্মক অপরাধ । আজও সমাজে এই পরিস্থিতি বর্তমান । রূপকথার এই গল্পগুলি যে কুসংস্কার প্রচার করে সর্বপ্রথম সেগুলো আমাদের মন থেকে মুছে ফেলতে হবে । আমাদের বুঝে নিতে হবে যে রূপকথার মতো সুন্দর এবং কষ্টহীন জীবন আমরা বাস্তব জগতে লাভ করতে পারব না।

-ইন্দুপ্রভা ঘোষ , একাদশ শ্রেণি , বিভাগ কলা



রূপকথার বিরুদ্ধে-খল নায়কের দৃষ্টিভঙ্গি থেকে

রূপকথা' বলতে বুঝি একটা রহস্যঘন মাধুর্য যা ঐন্দ্রজালিক মায়াঘরে বেষ্টিত। অর্থাৎ, রূপকথা মানে এক অলৌকিক অবাস্তব জগৎ। শিশুরা বাস্তব জগতের চাওয়া-পাওয়া, বিভেদ, সংকীর্ণতার দোষে দুষ্ট নয় বলেই রূপকথার গল্পগুলি শিশুমনে এক অদ্ভুত মায়াজাল বিস্তার করে। এই কারণেই তারা অবাধ কাল্পনিক জগতে বাস করতে পছন্দ করে। সুতরাং, বলা যায় যে রূপকথার সৌন্দর্য তাদের জন্যই যারা পৃথিবীর ছোট বেঁটনের মধ্যে নিজেদের কল্পনা ও আশাকে বেঁধে রাখেনি। কিন্তু রূপকথার বিরুদ্ধাচারী যারা, তারা কখনোই রূপকথার জগতকে পছন্দ করে না। তাদের জীবন পৃথিবীর সংকীর্ণতায় সীমাবদ্ধ বলেই রূপকথার- কল্পনার জগতের রস তারা সম্পূর্ণ উপলব্ধি করতে পারেনা। তাই তাদের দাবি বাস্তবতা। কিন্তু রূপকথা তো বাস্তবকে উজ্জ্বল করে তুলে ধরে না। রূপকথায় যেমন শান্তিপূর্ণ সমাধান থাকে বাস্তব জীবনে তা দুর্লভ। তাই তারা রূপকথার অলীক অবাস্তব জগতের কঠোর সমালোচক।



প্রাণসী পসারী, সপ্তম শ্রেণি, বিভাগ গ

কারণ তাদের মধ্যে রূপকথার মাধুর্য বা সৌন্দর্যকে উপলব্ধি করার জন্য যে কল্পনাশক্তির প্রয়োজন তা নেই। কঠোর জীবন সংগ্রামে সামিল হতে গিয়ে সেই কল্পনা বিলাসিতা তারা হারিয়ে ফেলেছে। তারা একবারও ভেবে দেখে না যে সংসারে যেমন বাস্তবের প্রয়োজন আছে তেমনি অবাস্তবের প্রয়োজনকেও অস্বীকার করা যায় না।

নীল আকাশে সাদা মেঘের অবয়ব দেখে আমরা কল্পনা বিলাসিতায় ডুবে যাই, অশান্ত মন শান্ত হয়ে ওঠে। এই কল্পনাবিলাসিতা মানবজীবনে যেমন প্রয়োজন আছে তেমনি মানুষের জীবনে রূপকথারও প্রয়োজন আছে; কিন্তু রূপকথার বিরুদ্ধাচারীরা তা বুঝতে চায় না বলেই রূপকথার জগৎ অলৌকিক, অবাস্তব বলে সমালোচনা করে।

-রূপকথা বোস, দ্বাদশ শ্রেণি, বিভাগ কলা



HINDI CREATIVE SECTION

परी कथाओं की सीख

रात में मेरे सपनों में आई,
परी सुनहरे पंखों वाली।
हाथ प्यार से फेरा सिर पर,
दी किताब फिर एक निराली।
कथा कहानी गीत थे उसमें,
सुंदर सुंदर से संदेश।

रंग बिरंगे चित्र बने थे,
इंद्रधनुष जैसा परिवेश।
प्यार लुटाते रहना सब पर,
कुछ ऐसी थी प्यारी सीख,
पेड़, नदी, पर्वत, पशु, पक्षी,
इन्हें समझना अपना मीत।

ध्यान पढ़ाई पर तुम देना,
बड़ों का करना आदर खूब,
टीचर की बात मानना,
साफ़ सफ़ाई रखना खूब।
अगला पन्ना खुलता जब तक,
टूट गए सपने मेरे।
जितने पन्ने पढ़ पाए थे,
काम बहुत आए मेरे।

मायरा अग्रवाल

II B



ओइशी मजुमदार

XI-H



थोड़ा जादू थोड़ा भ्रम

क्या सच में होती है परियों की दुनिया?
क्या सच में है कोई जादुई दुनिया?
एक परी की छड़ी थी उनके पास,
ऐसा नानी बताती थीं।
सारे शहर को परी ने खुशियों से भर दिया,
एक दिन घोड़े पर सवार,
उसे उसका राजकुमार भी मिल गया।
क्या सच में होती है परियों की दुनिया?
क्या सच में है कोई जादुई दुनिया?
एक बार देखनी है मुझे भी,
यही परियों की दुनिया।
पंख लगाकर मुझे भी करनी है,
आसमान की सैर।
शायद धरती से बाहर हो,
परियों की दुनिया।
कोई तो बताए आखिर कहाँ है ये जादुई दुनिया?
किताबों में मैंने कई परियों की कहानियाँ पढ़ी हैं,
न जाने ये जादू है या भ्रम,
क्या सच में होती है परियों की दुनिया?
इस कश्मकश में व्याकुल है मेरा मन।

खुशनीत कौर चट्टा

III B

मेरी सहेली एक सुनहरी परी

बीच रात सोते-सोते
जब मेरी आँखें खुली ,
देखी मैंने एक छोटी
चमकती सुनहरी परी।



मान्यता काबरा

VI B

इधर उड़ती , उधर उड़ती
वह आई मेरे करीब ,
और प्यार से मुझे बोली ,
“डरो मत मैं हूँ तुम्हारी सखी ”।

पलके बंद कर
खो गई मैं उसके सपनों में,
सवेरे आँख खुली तो मैंने देखा
वह और कोई नहीं सिर्फ जुगनू था
जो रात और मेरे कमरे में
आ गया था।

ख्याति बैद

III C

वह चमचमाती परी

वह चमचमाती परी
वह परी लोक से आई,
है वह छोटी बच्ची
पर है दिल की सच्ची ।



वह चमचमाती परी
छोटी सी, प्यारी सी ,
अपनी जादुई छड़ी घुमाती
इधर से उधर उछलती
सबके दुख दूर करती ।

वह चमचमाती परी,
उसके चमचमाते पंख ।
सबके जीवन का महत्वपूर्ण अंग,
वह उड़ती है तितलियों के संग ।

वह चमचमाती परी
सबकी मदद करती दुनिया में सुख फैलाती,
और सब की मनोकामनाएँ पूरी करती।

वह चमचमाती परी।
वह चमचमाती परी।

यशवी आंचलिया
IV D



अंशिका जैन
II D



मेरी परी कथा

परी कथाएँ और परियाँ,
किसको न पसंद सुर - सुदरियाँ?
हम चलते नहीं दुनिया में उसके साथ,
पकड़ कर प्यारी परियों का हाथ।
वे मुझे देती लिखने को सहारा
अब आप जानेंगे मेरी परीकथा
इस कविता के द्वारा।

यह कविता बताती है हमें कहानी एक लड़की की,
जिसका नाम था सुप्रिया
और उसे खेल था अति प्रिय।
एक दिन खेलते समय,
वह भटक गई किसी झाड़ी में।
डरी हुई सुप्रिया थी बिल्कुल अकेली, घर ना जा सकी किसी
गाड़ी में।
पर डरते-डरते बढ़ी आगे,
पहुँच गई परी लोक में।
वहाँ की सुंदरता देख वह जाने लगी
चाहती थी कि कोई उसे वापस जाने से रोक ले।
परीलोक में पहुँचकर उसे आया खूब आनंद,
उसने कर दिया घबराना बंद।

उधर आकर सुप्रिया तो थी बहुत खुश,
परंतु बाकी परियों के चेहरे पर दिखता दुख ही दुख।
उनके चेहरे देख, उसने तय किया उनसे उनके दुख का कारण
पूछना,
ताकि उसे भी मिल सके परीलोक के बारे में और सूचना।
“यहाँ एक डायन रहती है जो कर देगी बड़े लोग को नष्ट,
अगर हम उसे हराने के लिए नहीं करेंगे कुछ कष्ट”,
एक परी ने कहा
उनकी आँखों से एक आँसू बहा।

उनके आँसू देख सुप्रिया रुक ना सकी,
उसने डायन को ढूँढने के लिए लगा दी एक दौड़।
उसे मिला एक गिरा आईना जाते-जाते डायन के पास।
जब उसने आईना उठाया,
तब उसे पता चला कि वह था खास।
वह पहुँचा गई गुफा के अंदर, चलते-चलते।
उस डायन को देख सुप्रिया को पता चला
कि लाल उससे इतना क्यों डरा करते।

उन दोनों के बीच बहुत समय तक युद्ध चला,
फिर सुप्रिया को लगा कि उस डायन
के सामने कोई कैसे हो सकता है खड़ा?
अंत में डायन ने उसे गिराया,
सुप्रिया की जेब से वह आइना बाहर आया।
उस आईने को देखकर डायन चिल्लाने लगी,
“बचाओ !बचाओ !
कोई मुझे इस आईने से दूर हटाओ!”

सुप्रिया जान चुकी थी कि
उसे आईने की मदद से ही वह
हरा सकती है उस डायन को।
वह डायन गई थी हार,
और वह चली गई थी गुफा के बाहर।
सुप्रिया चली गई परियों के पास,
अब परियाँ नहीं थी उदास,
परी लोक में सुप्रिया को आया इतना आनंद,
कि उसने कर दिया घबराना बंद।

खनक मित्तल

IV D



दिव्या टिबरेवाला

VIII B

प्रेम और दिव्यता का अनुभव

कल रात जब सभी सो गए थे, मैं अपने कमरे की खिड़की से मनभावन नीले आसमान को एक टक निहार रही थी। पूनम का चाँद अपनी चाँदनी चारों ओर बिखेर रहा था।

अचानक एक दिव्य सफेद घोड़े का रथ चंद्रमा से निकलकर मेरे कमरे की खिड़की की ओर अग्रसर हुआ। मैं अचंभित होकर देख ही रही थी कि वह रथ मेरी खिड़की पर आ रुका। उस पर रानी परी बैठी थी। उनकी आँखों की चमक और उनके रूप का वर्णन शब्दों में नहीं किया जा सकता। उन्होंने अपना हाथ मेरी ओर बढ़ाया और मैं बिना सोचे और बिना सकुचाय उनका हाथ थाम कर रथ में बैठ गई। उन्होंने कहा कि आज वह मेरी सालों पुरानी दिल की तमन्ना पूरी करेंगी। मुझे कुछ समझ नहीं आ रहा था पर बड़ा ही अद्भुत महसूस हो रहा था। पलक झपकते ही रथ आसमान की गहराइयों को नापने लगा। फिर हमारा रथ ऐसे दिव्य स्थान पर पहुँचा जिनका वर्णन बड़ी से बड़ी लोककथा में नहीं किया गया। वहाँ विचित्र फूल और अद्भुत सुगंध चारों ओर फैली हुई थी। सभी प्राणी, पशु-पक्षी और अप्सराएं अति खुश और उत्साहित थीं। एक विशाल महलके सामने रथ रुका। परी ने कहा कि हम अपने गंतव्य पर पहुँच गए हैं। मैं रथ से उतरी और फिर मैंने जो देखा वह शायद मैं लिखने में असमर्थ हूँ। मेरे राधा कृष्ण कदम के वृक्ष में एक विशाल फूलों के झूले में झूल रहे थे। उनका ओजपूर्ण चेहरा और अद्भुत तेज मेरी कल्पना से कहीं ज्यादा था। कुछ ही क्षणों में मैं उनके साथ झूला झूल रही थी। कई घंटे कुछ क्षणों के समान व्यतीत हो गए। मेरा धरती पर वापस आने का समय आ गया था। मेरे आराध्य ने मेरे सिर पर हाथ रखा और आशीर्वाद दिया कि मैं सदा खुश रहूँ और चारों ओर खुशी फैलाऊँ।

परीमाता ने मुझे मेरे कमरे में छोड़ दिया और मैंने उनको धन्यवाद दिया। उनके चरण छुए। यह अद्भुत अनुभव मैं सदा ही अपने हृदय की गहराइयों में रखूँगी और श्री कृष्ण के दिखाए हुए पथ पर सदैव अग्रसर रहूँगी।

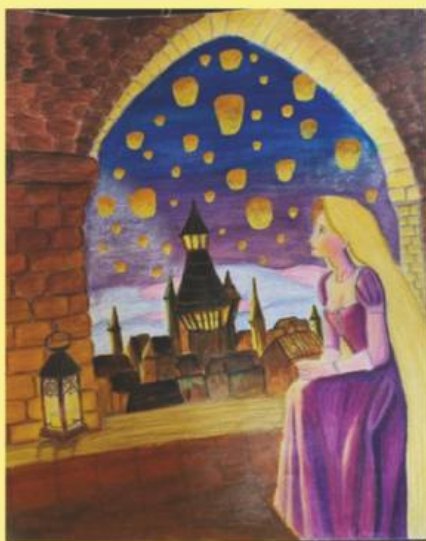
वनीष्टा अगरवाल

IV C



परियों की काल्पनिक कथा और नैतिक मूल्य

परियों की कहानियाँ कल्पना को जगाती हैं और हमें कल्पना की दुनिया में ले जाती हैं जो हमें अपने विचारों को विकसित करने में मदद करती हैं। काल्पनिक कहानियाँ और परिकथाएँ अच्छाई और बुराई के बीच संघर्ष के ज्वलंत चित्रण के माध्यम से नैतिकता के अर्थ को पकड़ती हैं। इन कहानियों में नैतिकता, ज्ञान और जीवन के सबक प्रचुर मात्रा में हैं। “जादू का तत्व” परिकथाओं को विशेष बनाता है। इन कहानियों में कल्पित बौने, चुड़ैलों और परियों जैसे पौराणिक और जादुई पात्रों को दिखाया गया है। सौंदर्य, वीरता और सदाचार जैसे विषयों में आदर्श चरित्र शामिल हैं। ‘सिंड्रेला’ एक उत्कृष्ट कथा है जो चालाकी और स्वार्थ पर प्रेम, सहानुभूति, दयालुता और सादगी की सर्वोच्चता स्थापित करती है। परिकथा इस तथ्य के इर्द-गिर्द घूमती है कि सिंड्रेला के साथ उसकी सौतेली माँ और सौतेली बहनों ने दुर्व्यवहार किया था, लेकिन फिर भी वह अटल रही और कठिनाइयों के बावजूद उनके प्रति विनम्र और दयालु रही। इसलिए, अंत में वह प्रशंसा और प्यार से भरे जीवन की हकदार थी। यह इस नैतिकता को दर्शाता है कि “दया को पुरस्कृत किया जाता है, जबकि स्वार्थ को नहीं”, और “किसी को उसके बाहरी स्वरूप से नहीं आंकना चाहिए।” ‘सो व्हाइट एंड द सेवन ड्वापर्स’ एक परिकथा है जो इस नैतिकता को प्रस्तुत करती है कि “घमंड हमें दूर तक नहीं ले जाएगा, लेकिन दयालुता ले जाएगी।” यह मनमोहक कहानी घमंड, सुंदरता, बहादुरी, ईर्ष्या और दोस्ती का प्रतीक है। “असली सुंदरता की अवधारणा” एक नैतिक अभिव्यक्ति है जहाँ रानी बाहर से सुंदर हो सकती है, लेकिन वह अंदर से दुष्ट और बदसूरत है। इसके विपरीत, सो व्हाइट दोनों अंदर और बाहर से सुंदर थी। दर्पण उसे सो व्हाइट (सबसे गोरी) नाम देता है, उसकी शारीरिक सुंदरता के कारण नहीं, बल्कि इस वास्तविक सुंदरता के कारण। रानी कभी भी सो व्हाइट जैसी खूबसूरत नहीं हो सकती, क्योंकि उसका दिल शुद्ध नहीं है। यह घमंड है जो अंत में उसे नष्ट कर देता है। रानी घमंड में लीन थी, जिससे उसका दिमाग खराब हो गया था। लेकिन, दयालु सो व्हाइट को दोस्त मिले और उसकी मुलाकात एक राजकुमार से हुई जो उससे प्यार करता था और उसके साथ खड़ा रहा। ‘लिटिल रेड राइडिंग हुड’ जैसी कहानियाँ इस विचार का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं कि “किसी को कभी भी अजनबियों पर भरोसा नहीं करना चाहिए।” प्यारी लड़की खुद को खतरे में पाती है क्योंकि वह धूर्त भेड़िए से बात करती है और भोलेपन से अपनी दादी के घर की दिशा बताती है। वह उसके बुरे इरादों पर संदेह करने में विफल रहती है क्योंकि वह निर्दोष लगता है और यहाँ तक कि उससे दोस्ती करने का इंतज़ार भी करता है। इसलिए, कोई अजनबी कितना भी मिलनसार क्यों न हो, फिर भी वह बहुत खतरनाक और बुरे इरादे वाला हो सकता है।



दृश्या यादुका
X B

परिकथा ‘ब्यूटी एंड द बीस्ट’ इस नैतिक शिक्षा को दर्शाती है कि “व्यक्ति को अन्य सतही गुणों, जैसे बुद्धि और दिखावे की तुलना में दयालुता जैसी आंतरिक विशेषताओं को महत्व देना चाहिए। एक बार जब ब्यूटी को जानवर की आंतरिक सुंदरता का एहसास हुआ, तो जानवर का बाहरी रूप उसके लिए कोई मायने नहीं रखता था। कहानी का सुखद अंत होता है क्योंकि ब्यूटी और जानवर के बीच का प्यार जानवर के प्रति उसके प्यार की घोषणा करता है, और वह एक सुंदर राजकुमार में बदल जाता है। इसलिए, किसी को उसकी बाहरी सुंदरता के आधार पर आंकना नहीं चाहिए।

सभी परिकथाएँ लोगों की मदद करने, अच्छे इंसान बनने का तरीका बताने का प्रयास करती हैं। ये कहानियाँ नैतिक मूल्य सिखाती हैं और हमें एक आदर्श जीवन जीने के तरीके का संदेश देती हैं। यह लोगों को उनके बचपन की मधुर यादों की ओर ले जाती हैं।

“जादू, ड्रैगन और दुष्ट रानी पराजय की यादें हमारे चेहरे पर मुस्कान लाने में कभी असफल नहीं होतीं।”

वाणी गोएंका
VIII C

मनमोहक कहानियों की पारदर्शक सच्चाई

बचपन वह समय था जब हम परियों की कहानियों की करिश्माई दुनिया में खोए रहते थे। डिज्नी फिल्मों ने छुट्टियों के शेड्यूल पर कब्जा कर लिया था। स्कूल के लाइब्रेरियन अक्सर हमें जादूई परियों की कहानियों की तलाश में पाते थे। हालांकि, जैसे जैसे समय बीतता गया, इन कहानियों से सच का पर्दा उठता गया।



परियों की कहानियों से जुड़े विभिन्न काले तत्वों में से कुछ प्रमुख तत्व जो देखे जाते हैं वे लिंग, रंग रूप, आदि विभिन्न आधारों पर भेदभाव हैं।

राहिणी पटवारी VIII D

परी कथाएँ महिला पात्रों को निष्क्रिय, असहाय व्यक्तिगत रूप में चित्रित करती हैं। वे अपने-अपने 'सपनों के राजकुमार' के बिना कुछ नहीं कर सकती हैं, अबला बन जाती है। वे हमलावर से अपनी जान बचाने के लिए सदा अपने 'सपनों के राजकुमार' पर ही निर्भर रहती हैं। कथाओं का यह तत्व समाज में स्त्रियों की निर्बल छवि प्रस्तुत करता है। प्रायः कथाएँ परियों को 'रूप की रानी' के पर्यायवाची के तौर पर प्रस्तुत करती है। 'सुनो व्हाइट' और 'सिंड्रेला' जैसे पात्र अपनी सुंदरता के लिए जानी जाती है। कथाओं में यह दिखाया जाता है कि स्त्री का अस्तित्व उसके रूप के बिना नहीं है। इसके विपरीत मेरा मानना है कि समाज में सम्मानित रूप से जीने के लिए एक स्त्री को रूप की नहीं ज्ञान की जरूरत होती है। कई परी कथाओं में 'पहली नजर में प्यार' के तत्व को अधिक उभारा जाता है। लेकिन क्या इसका वास्तविक दुनिया से कोई मेल है? पहली नजर में व्यक्ति सिर्फ सामने वाले के शारीरिक सौंदर्य से ही प्रभावित होता है, जो अस्थायी होता है। बच्चों को यह समझना जरूरी होता है कि प्रेम शारीरिक सुंदरता से नहीं बल्कि आत्मा के सौंदर्य से होता है।

अतः हम इस निष्कर्ष पर पहुँचते हैं की परियों की जादुई दुनिया उतनी भी मनमोहक नहीं है, जितनी वह दिखती है। इस दुनिया में कई नकारात्मक पहलू भी हैं। दुख की बात यह है कि ऐसे तत्वों के प्रति बच्चों की आँखों पर पट्टी बंधी हुई है। समय के साथ इनमें से कई तत्व हमारी दृष्टि में आते हैं। इसलिए यह आवश्यक है कि परी कथाओं को चुटकी भर नमक के साथ प्रस्तुत किया जाए।

प्राची शाह
XI C1



कहानियों की अंधेरी पहल

परियों की कहानियाँ राक्षस, परियों, वीर राजकुमारों और सुंदर राजकुमारियों के बारे में उत्कृष्ट घटनाओं का एक क्रम है जो आकर्षक लगती हैं। पर क्या आपने कभी सोचा है कि क्या ये सभी कहानियाँ वास्तविकता से परिपूर्ण होती हैं? ये कहानियाँ समाज पर पितृंत्र की पकड़ को और गहरा करती जा रही हैं और हमें इसका एहसास भी नहीं है।

यह मेरा विश्वास है कि, परी कथाओं के पारंपरिक लेखक समाज के शिकार थे। 'सिंड्रेला', 'रॅपन्ज़ेल' और 'द स्लीपिंग ब्यूटी' जैसी कहानियों में एक सामान्य चीज़ देखने को मिलता है जो है दुष्ट सौतेली माँ या कोई डायन। इसका तात्पर्य यह है कि महिलाएँ एक-दूसरे के लिए खतरा होती हैं और किसी भी सकारात्मक रिश्ते के लिए उन्हें पुरुषों पर निर्भर रहने की जरूरत है। ऐसा दिखाया गया है कि बड़ी उम्र की महिलाएँ युवा महिलाओं से ईर्ष्या करती हैं और अंततः अकेली हो जाती हैं। सामान्य तौर पर राजकुमारियों या महिलाओं को एक पीड़ित के रूप में चित्रित किया जाता है जिसे बचाव की आवश्यकता है।



विवाह के उत्सव को इतना प्रकाशित किया जाता है और यह दिखाया जाता है कि अविवाहित महिलाएँ दुखी और अकेली होती हैं। खुशी का एकमात्र रास्ता उच्च स्तर के राजकुमार को ढूँढकर उससे शादी करना दिखाया जाता है। सुंदरता को एक महिला के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण गुण के रूप में चित्रित किया गया है जिसे विनम्र होने की आवश्यकता है। खलनायकों को 'बदसूरत', 'बुरा' और 'बेरहम' कहकर सबसे खराब तरीके से कमतर आंका जाता है।

अतः परियों की कहानियाँ बच्चे के जीवन का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा हैं। यह सुनिश्चित करना हमारा कर्तव्य है कि बच्चों महिलाओं को सम्मान करें। अब समय आ गया है कि हम यथार्थवादी बनें और अपने प्रिय परियों की कहानियों को आदर्श न मानें।

शांभवी मजूमदार

XI H

तनीषा ठाकुर IX A

मेरी परी- काली या गोरी?

तू है मेरी जन्नत ,तू ही है मेरी परी
तुझसी सुंदर नहीं है कोई !
तू ही तो है मेरी परी
तू सबकी इच्छाओं की है पूर्ति
तू धरा की है राजकुमारी
तू ही तो है अंबर की रानी
तू असंभव को भी संभव कर देती
तेरी जादुई छड़ी का यह जादू
हर एक पर है लागू
इसलिए तो तू है मेरी परी
ख्वाबों में खोई ,कल्पनाओं में पिरोई तेरी कहानियाँ,
बच्चों ने है संजोई
तू बड़ी हुई ,
बदला तेरा रूप ,बदली तेरी सारी चाहतें
बदला तेरी जादुई छड़ी का जादू
कल तक जो थी सुंदरता की मूरत!
वही परी आज पुरानी और काली हो गई ?
कल्पना के राजकुमार ने किया
तेरे सौंदर्य का अपहरण ,
कल तक उड़ती थी अंबर में
आज धरा ने भी नकार दिया !
कल तक किसी प्रतिबिंब में तू थी
आज तेरा बिंब चकनाचूर हो गया।
आज मन को किसी ने समझा दिया
परियों की दुनिया है केवल कल्पना की,
रूप तेरा था सुनहरा ,उन कल्पनाओं में
तुझे तो हम इंसानों ने ही काला घोषित कर दिया!
तू ही है मेरी जन्नत ,तू ही है मेरी परी
तुझसी सुंदर नहीं है कोई
चाहे तू हो काली या गोरी |



तनिष्का चैटर्जी

VIII B

सिद्धि दोषी

XI C1



FRENCH CREATIVE SECTION

LES CONTES DE FÉES



Aradhya Jain, VII D

Les contes de fées sont les plaisirs de l'enfance. Un conte de fées est un histoire fantastique qui a des humains, animaux, magiciens et princes. Mon conte de fées préféré, histoire, c'est le lion et la souris.

Ça montre que les plus petits animaux peuvent être d'une grande utilité. Mes autres contes de fées préférés sont Blanche-Neige et Cendrillon.

Diti Begwani, VI C

RÊVES DE CONTES DE FÉES

Rêves de Contes de Fées

Dans le monde des contes de fées si beaux,
Les rêves deviennent réalité, c'est le plus beaucoup cadeaux
Les princesses, les dragons, les histoires enchantées,
Nous transportons dans un univers de magie et de beauté.
Sous un ciel étoilé, des histoires prennent vie,
Les fées et les sorciers dansent à l'infini
Les héros courageux triomphent du mal,
Et chaque conte de fées a sa propre morale.
Alors, ferme les yeux et rêve un peu plus fort,
Laisse ton imagination t'emporter très fort.
Car dans l'univers des contes, tout est possible,
Et chaque histoire nous rend plus invincible.

Yuvika Khemka, VIII-C



Akshita Shaw, XII C1

CÔTÉ OBSCUR DES CONTES DE FÉES

Au royaume des contes de fées,
Où tout semble si parfait,
Des secrets, des ombres cruelles sont cachées,
Des vérités sombres, des histoires vraies.

La belle princesse dans sa tour d'ivoire,
Se cache des maux, des peurs noires,
Son sourire cache un cœur brisé,
Dans le noir, elle est prisonnière, enchaînée.

Prince Charmant, si noble et fier,
Porte des cicatrices et des blessures non cicatrisées,
Sous son armure brillante se cache la douleur.
Des regrets profonds, des larmes colorées.

Dans les forêts profondes, où dansent les fées,
Les elfes et les gnomes, les mauvais esprits,
Les larmes coulent en silence
Des vérités sombres, cachées dans leurs limites.

Alors que les contes de fées semblent si beaux,
Rappelez-vous toujours, dans les coins les plus sombres,
Il y a des vérités cachées, des réalités cachées,
Dans le monde des histoires, où la lumière est volée.



Chahek Bhadani, VIII D

Ashmi Saraf & Manvi Jain
XI S2 & XI C1





LA GRANDE AVENTURE DE LYRA

Dans un royaume remplissait de soleil et de verdure, il y avait murmure du glen, un lieu magique où les oiseaux chantaient des mélodies qui enchantaient tous ceux qui l'entendaient. Parmi ces oiseaux se trouvait Lyra, un jeune oiseau chanteur aux plumes dorées et à la voix pétillante de joie. Un jour, se sentant aventureuse, Lyra a décidé d'explorer plus du vallon. elle a invité son ami Finn, un courageux écureuil, à la rejoindre. Ensemble, ils sont allés voir ce qu'il y avait au-delà. Leur voyage les a conduit à travers de forêts et des montagnes, où ils sont recontre ds animaux sympathiques et des défis passionnants. Malgré les dangers. Lyra et Finn sont restés courageux et déterminés, se encourageant mutuellement à chaque étape. Au cours de leur voyage, la curiosité de Lyra les conduisit à une grotte cachée. À l'intérieur, ils découvrirent une harpe magique entourée de cristaux brillants. Lorsque Lyra jouait un accord sur la harpe, cela remplissait la grotte d'une belle musique pour apporter la paix à leurs cœurs. Réalisant le pouvoir de la musique pour apporter joie et harmonie, Lyra et Finn retournèrent à murmure du glen. ils étaient impatients de partager leur découverte avec leurs amis. À partir de ce jour, ils chantèrent ensemble, répandant le bonheur partout où ils allaient. L'aventure leur a appris que la véritable amitié et la magie de la musique peuvent surmonter n'importe quel obstacle. Et ainsi, dans la lumière éclatante du murmure du glen, Lyra et Finn voguèrent vers un avenir empreint de bonheur infini.

Divyanshi Saraf, XII C1

LYSANDRA

Dans le royaume d'Eldoria, vivait une princesse guerrière nommée Lysandra, dont le courage et la détermination étaient inégalés. Alors que son royaume s'attendait à ce qu'elle se marie et règne aux côtés d'un roi, Lysandra avait d'autres projets.

S'aventurant dans la forêt enchantée, Lysandra chercha les conseils de l'ancienne sage femme, Seraphina. Sous la tutelle de Seraphina, Lysandra perfectionna ses compétences en combat, stratégie et magie. Elle forgea son propre destin, refusant d'être limitée par les attentes liées à son genre.

Quand un royaume voisin menaça la guerre, Lysandra n'attendit pas les conseils des hommes. En menant son armée au combat, elle se battit avec férocité aux côtés de ses soldats, prouvant que la force ne connaît pas de genre.

Grâce à son leadership, Eldoria émergea victorieux, et la bravoure de Lysandra devint légendaire. Au lieu d'une couronne, elle portait les lauriers de l'indépendance et de l'émancipation féminine, inspirant des générations de jeunes femmes à défier les conventions et à tracer leur propre chemin.

Alors que le soleil se couchait sur le royaume, Lysandra se tenait au sommet des murs du château, symbole de résilience et de détermination. Avec le vent à ses côtés et les étoiles comme témoins, elle savait que le véritable pouvoir ne résidait pas dans les titres ou les attentes, mais dans le courage d'être soi-même.

Vidushi Agarwal, XII H



UN RÊVE À RAPPELER

Je veux fuir pour vivre
Dans un conte de fées
Avec les dragons et les elfes
Les chats et les balais.

Qui est cette belle dame
Avec les pantoufles de verre?
Oh! C'est Cendrillon qui court
Car l'horloge a sonné à minuit.

Fais attention, Petit Chaperon Rouge!
Le grand méchant loup t'attend
À la maison de ta grand-mère malade
Parce qu'il veut vous manger bientôt!

La belle au bois dormant, n'oubliez pas
Inviter toutes les fées à votre fête!
La malédiction va devenir réalité
Et vous dormirez jusqu'à le prince arrive.

Le Chat Botté, vous êtes très intelligent!
Vous avez créé une fortune dans un jour
Pour le Marquis de Carabas
Avec seulement vos bottes et votre habileté.

Je veux fuir pour vivre
Dans un conte de fées
Avec les dragons et les elfes
Les chats et les balais.

Mais ma mère m'a réveillée trop tôt
Quand j'ai été en train de danser avec le prince Et
elle m'a dit: "Tu seras en retard pour l'école!"
J'ai pensé, avec un soupir: "Les rêves sont bien,
Mais se réveiller est mieux!"

Dia Bothra, VIII B



Devanshi Agarwala, VIII D



Avni Modi, VIII A



LA VÉRITÉ DES CONTES DE FÉES

Je suis sûr que presque tous (moi y compris) les avons lus, regardés et avons eu une obsession insensée pour eux quand nous étions plus jeunes, nous les avons souvent considérés comme des histoires légères et joyeuses pour enfants, où l'antagoniste était toujours puni et le protagoniste gagnait toujours, alors que beaucoup d'entre nous ont réussi à voir la fin heureuse, les contes de fées sont-ils vraiment ce que nous pensons qu'ils sont ?

Les princesses comme Cendrillon, Blanche-Neige, Raiponce avaient toutes une chose en commun: elles étaient indéniablement jolies, tous les méchants comme Lady Tremaine, La méchante reine et Mère Gothel étaient, en fait, extrêmement peu attrayants cela donne une image négative dans l'esprit de toutes les jeunes filles: elles croient qu'elles doivent être suffisamment jolies (avoir la peau blanche, être minces, etc., tout comme les princesses) pour qu'elles soient aimées, ce qui n'est pas une mauvaise chose, état d'esprit sain à avoir en grandissant, une autre chose que j'ai remarquée, c'est que toutes ces princesses ont toutes été sauvées par des princes. pourquoi, puis-je demander. Ces soi-disant <<princesses>> n'étaient-elles pas assez capables de se sauver elles-mêmes?

Pourquoi, Pourquoi Cendrillon a-t-elle dû travailler comme une servante dans sa propre maison, simplement parce qu'elle aimait sa belle-mère et ses demi-sœurs toxiques? Pourquoi le prince charmant a-t-il dû partir à sa recherche alors qu'elle aurait pu révéler les conditions dans lesquelles elle vivait lors du bal royal. Pourquoi Blanche-Neige a-t-elle dû aller vivre dans une forêt, où elle a été secourue par un prince tombé amoureux de sa beauté pendant qu'elle dormait? Pourquoi Flynn Rider a-t-il dû retourner à la tour de Raiponce et la sauver après avoir appris les véritables intentions de Mère Gothel ? Cendrillon n'a-t-elle pas eu la chance de s'éloigner de sa maison abusive sans l'aide d'un prince ? Blanche-Neige n'a-t-elle pas eu une chance d'expulser sa méchante belle-mère de son propre royaume ? Raiponce ne pourrait-elle pas retourner chez ses parents biologiques pendant que Mère Gothel était partie faire certains de ses voyages? Tous ces contes de fées dépeignent l'image d'un prince imaginaire dans l'esprit des jeunes filles elles viendront à cheval et les emmèneront dans une vie et une maison riches, ce qui n'arrive pas dans la vraie vie. Maintenant se pose la vraie question: faut-il encore montrer les contes de fées au jeune public ?

Yashvi Bajoria, VIII-D

SI J'ÉTAIS UN PERSONNAGE DE CONTE DE FÉES, JE SERAIS...

Si j'étais un personnage de conte de fées, je serais Ariel, la petite sirène.

Son personnage me parle vivant car j'ai aussi une ambition d'exploration comme elle. Je pense qu'être une sirène rend les choses bien meilleures car je peux maintenant expérimenter quelque chose que les humains ne peuvent pas, imaginer simplement ce que cela ferait de nager, dans l'océan sans aucun souci est si merveilleux. C'est une princesse après tout, elle n'a par vraiment de soucis ni d'énormes responsabilités. Bien sûr une fois grand elle sura plus de responsabilités reine mais être la princesse d'un royaume sous-marin vaut mieux que la vie d'un humain adulte. J'aurai encore des responsabilités mais elles seront plus intéressantes, plus dure mais incontestablement plus intéressantes. La vie aventureuse d'une sirène m'excite vraiment.

Chahek Gupta, VII-A

SI J'ETAIS UN PERSONNAGE DE CONTE DE FÉES, JE VOUDRAIS DEVENIR....

Si j'étais un personnage de conte de fées, je serais Jasmine.

Jasmine est la fille du sultan d'Agrabah.

Jasmine est une princesse indépendante et courageuse.

Elle n'a jamais peur d'exprimer ses pensées
de défendre ce qui est juste et n'hésite jamais à se battre.

Elle est très attachée envers sa famille,
son royaume et ses amis.

Etant inspiré par ses qualités, j'ai écrit un poème.

Si j'étais un personnage de conte de fées, je serais Jasmine,

Une princesse aux pétales doux comme la soie et à la peau si fine.

Mes cheveux tomberaient en vagues de teinte dorée.

Et mes yeux brilleraient comme des diamants, purs et vrais.

Dans la forêt enchantée, je danserais et jouerais,

Avec des papillons et des fleurs, dans un monde de délices.

Ma voix serait aussi douce que la mélodie d'un oiseau chantant,

Et mon rire résonnerait à travers les arbres, si lumineux et librement.

Je vivrais dans un château fait de cristal et d'or,

Avec un jardin rempli de magie, où l'amour se dévoilerait.

Mon prince serait beau et gentil, avec un cœur si vrai,

Et ensemble nous danserions, dans un monde nouveau.

Jeevika Agarwal, VII-A



Navika Agarwal VIII-D

LA PERTINENCE DES CONTES DE FÉES

Les contes de fées ont le pouvoir de nous transporter dans le monde de la fantaisie et de l'éthéré imagination où tout est surréaliste et charmant. La fin heureuse où un prince sauve une demoiselle en détresse apporte de la joie au visage de tout le monde. Cependant, les contes de fées sont illusoire. Ils donnent un faux sens de la réalité. En réalité, aucun prince charmant ne vient nous sauver. Plutôt que d'attendre de venir avec les chaussures et de choisir Cendrillon, Cendrillon aurait dû utiliser les mêmes chaussures pour sortir du monde et transformer son destin. Rapunzel aurait dû trouver une clé et ne pas s'asseoir en confinement en attendant d'être sauvée. Les femmes ont autant d'esprit et d'intelligence que leur homologue masculin. Snow White aurait dû résister à la tentation de croire qu'une pomme pourrait changer son destin. La représentation des femmes a été faible et dépendante, ce qui influence l'esprit impressionnable des jeunes filles. Ils sont obsolètes et ne sont plus pertinents.

Geet Bagri, X-C



REDÉCOUVRIR LA MAGIE INTÉRIEURE

Chaque fois que je lis un conte de fées,
C'est une princesse et d'un prince avec un long nez.
Mais est-ce applicable dans la réalité ?
Est-il vrai que les auteurs écrivent des choses répétitives à cause
de leurs stupidités?

Je pense que nous avons perdu notre foi dans les rêves,
Des rêves, où l'on peut monter à cheval ou jouer avec des
glaives.
Nous ne devrions jamais perdre l'enfant qui est en nous,
Commencez à croire aux fées et annulez tous vos rendez-vous.

Alors laissez-vous emporter par les mots,
Dans ce monde où tout est beau,
Parce que dans chaque page, dans chaque histoire,
L'amour, la paix et la gloire règnent.

Khushi Seth, IX-C



Tvisha Bahety, I B



Adrija Roy, VI A

LE RÊVE D'AVENTURE

Je me suis réveillé avec un gros mal à la tête.
Dans une étrange petite maison si grande.
Les Sept Nains ont apporté un gâteau.
Nous avons ri et nous avons fait une belle fête.

Puis je suis parti pour ma maison
J'ai recontre Raiponce avec et les Sept Nains.
Il avait une etriente sauvage
coulant librement dans l'air.

Le Petit Chaperon Rouge est passé
Avec un panier et une robe rouge pour s'adapter ?
Nous avons cueilli des fleurs
Je me suis bein amusé lors d'un petit voyage.

J'ai recontré <<Humpty Dumpty>> en chemin.
Avec une fissure sur la tête.
Nous l'avons réparé immédiatement.
Puis je suis passé a autre chose, me sentent arzez heureux.

De -retour à la maison, sain et sauf.
La nuit est tombée, et j'ai bien dormi
Ce rêve d'aventure s'est avéré très joyeux.

Kashvie Saraogi, IX-C

GERMAN CREATIVE SECTION



Aishee Majumder, XI-H

Wichtigkeit des Märchens

Märchen sind auch heute wichtig, weil sie uns gute Lektionen beibringen. Sie handeln nicht nur von Magie; sie zeigen uns, wie man mutig und freundlich sein kann. In unserer Welt mit vielen verschiedenen Menschen helfen uns Märchen, einander zu verstehen. Sie sind wie Geschichten, die jeder genießen kann, egal woher er kommt. Märchen regen auch unser Gehirn zum Nachdenken und zur Kreativität an. Einige alte Geschichten haben vielleicht alte Ideen, aber neue Versionen versuchen, das zu ändern. Märchen sind also wie Anleitungen dafür, wie man in unserer sich ständig verändernden Welt gut und klug sein kann. Sie sind wie freundliche Helfer, die uns Geschichten erzählen, die bei uns bleiben.

Devangi Agarwal
X C

Eine neue Perspektive auf Märchen

Cinderella entkam schließlich ihrer bösen Stiefmutter, als sie ihren Märchenprinzen entdeckte. Red riding hood musste von einem Jäger gerettet werden. Belle verliebte sich in das Biest, das sie gefangen hatte. Dies sind nur einige der Märchen, mit denen wir aufgewachsen sind. Auch wenn sie älter werden, können wir dennoch von ihnen lernen. Von Cinderella 1 lernen wir, immer hoffnungsvoll zu bleiben. Von Belle lernen wir, uns nicht nur auf das Aussehen zu konzentrieren. Von Red riding hood haben wir gelernt, Fremden nicht zu vertrauen. Daher sollten wir weiterhin Märchen feiern, nur aus einer neuen Perspektive.

Samaira Vaid
X D



Saranya Chandra, VIII B



Hässliche Wahrheiten über Märchen

Arme kleine Meerjungfrau
Sehnsucht nach Stehen
Der Zauber einer Hexe kann ihr Beine verleihen
An Land kann sie immer noch nicht atmen

Arme Verlust Alice
Gefangen im Wunderland
Noch immer schützt ihr Wahnsinn sie
Aus den kalten Händen der Realität

Prinzessin im Turm
Ich habe es satt, auf einen Prinzen zu warten
Macht aus Haaren eine Schlinge
Hat seitdem nicht mehr gesprochen

Aufgeräumte Geschichten
Mit nettem Happy End
Ist mir egal
Das Blut, das sie vergießen.

Ritika Bardia

XI H



Die Wirkung von Märchen



Lakshita Daga, VIII B

Heute können Märchen Lesern eine neue Perspektive auf Leben, Liebe und mehr bieten. In klassischen Geschichten wie 'Little Red Riding Hood', lernen wir, vorsichtig zu sein, wem wir vertrauen. In Geschichten wie 'Cindrella', werden wir daran erinnert, in jeder Situation freundlich zu sein.

Kinder lernen aus den Fehlern der Charaktere in diesen Geschichten, was ihnen mit ihren kritischen Denkfähigkeiten hilft. Märchen modellieren auch das Verhalten von Kindern und bieten einen Kontext, in dem Kinder ihre eigenen Emotionen.

Was kann man vom Märchen lernen? Man kann vom Märchen lernen das Leben ist ein Abenteuer. Märchen unterhalten uns und lehren uns über menschliches Verhalten.

Kanisha Poddar
VIII A

Rapunzel im Turm

Sie kannte weder ihre Vergangenheit noch wusste sie, wie sie in den Turm kam. Sie wusste nur, dass sie Rapunzel hieß. Alles, was sie sah, waren die grauen Steinmauern und die Dunkelheit, und so drängte sie sich um die kleine und schwindende Wärme einer einzelnen Kerze. Rapunzel wusste nicht, wie andere Menschen aussahen, sie wusste nicht, wie sie sprachen oder was sie aßen. Sie hat auch nie gefragt. Der Schlag einer Handfläche gegen ihre Wange war so scharf wie ein Diamant, wann immer sie es versuchte.

Rashi Bardia
VIII A



Der Tapfere Geist von Merida

Stellen Sie sich vor, Sie schlüpfen in die Rolle von Merida, der lockigen, feurigen, tapferen und mutigen Prinzessin aus Disneys „Brave“. Sie ist die bewundernswerte und ikonische schottische Prinzessin von DunBroch, die sich von den traditionellen Geschlechterrollen ihrer Familie löste und sich den Erwartungen ihrer Mutter widersetzte. Ich schätze ihre abenteuerlustige und rebellische Art und bin entschlossen, meinen eigenen Lebensweg zu beschreiten, anstatt den Geschlechtertraditionen der alten Schule zu folgen.

Meine Persönlichkeit passt zu ihr, da sie neben einem wilden Charakter auch ein kontrastierendes Maß an Weiblichkeit an den Tag legt. Obwohl sie äußerlich hart und rebellisch wirkt, ist sie dennoch eine verspielte, jugendliche und mitfühlende Hauptdarstellerin, die auch meinen Charakter widerspiegelt.

Als ihre Mutter, Königin Elinor, einem schrecklichen Fluch zum Opfer fällt und sich in einen Bären verwandelt, blickt Merida in sich hinein und findet den Schlüssel zur Rettung des Königreichs. Sie ist die erste Disney-Prinzessin, die keinen Prinzen brauchte, um sie zu retten. Eine der bewundernswertesten Eigenschaften von Merida war ihre feste Entschlossenheit, mit der sie standhaft blieb und sich weigerte, sich von gesellschaftlichen Normen ihre Entscheidungen diktieren zu lassen. An ihrem Geburtstag war das Geschenk, das Merida erfreute, keine Puppe oder ein Spielzeug, sondern eine Schleife. Sie und ihr Vater schossen fröhlich Pfeile in den Wald, obwohl ihre Mutter nicht allzu erfreut war. Da Bogenschießen wie Merida kein Hobby, sondern eine Leidenschaft zum Ausdruck der Freiheit war, möchte ich meiner Leidenschaft und meinen Träumen im Karate mit unerschütterlicher Hingabe nachgehen.

Meridas starke Bindung zu ihrer Mutter, die der Bindung zwischen mir und meiner Mutter ähnelt, hat mich gelehrt, wie wichtig eine Beziehung ist und dass wir alle die Kluft zwischen den Generationen mit unseren Lieben überbrücken sollten.

Anushka Sinha

VII A

Moralische Lehren aus Märchen

Märchen erzählen uns oft Geschichten über gute und böse Charaktere. Aus diesen Geschichten können wir viele moralische Lektionen lernen. Lernt uns das Märchen von "Rotkäppchen" vorsichtig zu sein und nicht mit Fremden zu sprechen. Märchen erinnern uns daran, immer freundlich und mutig zu sein und das Richtige zutun, selbst wenn es schwer ist.

Mihika Das

VIII A



Schneewitchen



Kavya Dalmia, VII A

Wenn ich eine Figur in einem Märchen wäre, wäre ich Schneewitchen. Aber meine Eltern waren ganz normale Leute, die eine kleine Bäckerei besaßen. Bis zu dem Tag, an dem der Bote des Königs zu mir nach Hause kam, wäre alles normal gewesen. Er sagte, ich sei die Tochter des Königs. Ich habe ihm zunächst nicht geglaubt. Aber meine Eltern haben ihn nicht korrigiert. Ich war schockiert. 13 Jahre meines Lebens waren eine Lüge. Aber ich musste die Wahrheit akzeptieren und mein königliches Leben begann. Wie Schneewitchen würde ich durch den Schlossgarten streifen und der Natur und den Tieren nahe sein. Ich habe meine Eltern vermisst, aber ich habe mein neues Leben geliebt. Ich kann eine gute Schule besuchen und gutes Essen essen. Ich werde in ein paar Wochen gekrönt. Aber eines bin ich nicht wie Schneewitchen: Ich bin nicht zu vertrauensselig und immer auf der Hut, vor allem, weil ich 13 Jahre lang belogen wurde. Ich bräuchte keine Rettung wie sie und wäre meine eigene Person. Und so bin ich wie Schneewitchen und nicht wie Schneewitchen.

Drisana Ray
VII C

Die Prinzessin auf der Erbse

Es war einmal, in einem fernen Land, ein Prinz, der nach einer Prinzessin suchte, um zu heiraten. Er finde so viele Prinzessinnen, aber denkt nicht, dass sie richtige Prinzessinnen waren. Der Prinz müde und traurig von der fruchtlosen Reise nach Hause zurück. Er fragt um eine Tasse heißen Tee und gehe in ein Bad, um sich besser zu fühlen. Plötzlich klopfte es an der Tür. Als die Mutter des Prinzen die Tür öffnete, sieht sie ein Mädchen. Das Mädchen war nass und kalt. Sie sagt, eine Prinzessin zu sein. Sie fragt um Unterkunft und Essen. Der Prinz kommt nach seiner Dusche herunter. Er finde das Mädchen sehr schön, aber er dachte, sie war keine Prinzessin. Die Königin beschlossen, das Mädchen zu testen. Sie füttern das Mädchen gut und lernen sie besser kennen. Sie geben ihr Unterkunft und Kleidung. Sie machen ein Bett mit zwanzig Matratzen und einer Erbse unter der ersten Matratze. Sie sagen dem Mädchen gute Nacht, bevor Sie schlafen gehen. Am nächsten Morgen sieht das Mädchen sehr müde aus. Sie sagt, dass etwas hart auf dem Boden der Matratze war und sie konnte nicht schlafen. Die Königin wissen sofort, dass sie gelogen hat, eine Prinzessin zu sein. Eine Prinzessin waren genug Manieren haben, um sich nicht zu beschweren. Das Mädchen wurde aus dem Palast geholt, und der Prinz hatte keine Braut mehr.

Asmi Banerjee
IX A



EX-STUDENTS' SECTION

Hallowed Halls

In the halls where echoes linger soft and low,
Where memories dance in the golden glow,
I roam the corridors of yesteryears,
Lost in the labyrinth of hopes and fears.

Each brick a story, each window a tale,
Of laughter shared and dreams set to sail,
In the library's hush, I hear whispers old,
Of friendships forged in tales untold.

Along the marbled stairways where many young minds,
Left their etchings for younger yetts to find,
A sanctuary where time stands still,
In the heart of the past, I find my fill.

Dear home, dear alma mater, fair and true,
A meeting with you has been long due,
For though I've journeyed far and wide,
Your memory's the one that the brightest shines.

Like a character in a fairy tale book,
With pages turned, yet still I look,
Back to the chapters of my youth,
Where innocence reigned and love was all we knew.

In the tapestry of time, where dreams unfurl,
In your embrace, I find my all,
For in your walls, I found my worth,
And in your halls, I found my birth.



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Fairy Tales and Feminism

My first interaction with fairy tales, like every five-year old was simple, magical, the princess was a princess, she would fall in love and everything would end ‘Happily Ever After’. It seemed quite harmless at the time, but quickly became too boring for my seven-year-old sensibilities. Fairy tales were relegated to a corner of a bookshelf as I embraced the worlds of Enid Blyton and Roald Dahl, barely noticing any aspects of gender in these new adventures. Subconsciously I was entering my “I hate pink”, “I am not like other girls”, and “I am too old for Barbie” phase, not knowing that I would wrestle with these ideas once again when the internet told me they stemmed from internalised misogyny. To me, empowerment felt like a double-edged sword. In order to be the hero in my own narrative, I could not possibly be the passive princess in the fairy tales I had grown up with. I had to renounce all that I saw as ‘girlish’ and thus, weak.

My heroes were now exclusively Marvel’s Female Avengers and I saw them as definitive proof that women could save the world too. I needed my heroes to be heroes and for that they had to be tough, invincible, and able to beat a villain to a pulp. There could be no space for vulnerability, fear or emotions. It would still take some time for the internet to tell me that this was ‘toxic masculinity’. I wondered why they went to battle with open hair and spandex suits. I raged at women heroes being written in ways to make them appear frivolous.

Even as I rejected “femininity” I could not resist the allure of a good romantic comedy. The numerous retellings of Cinderella became a staple even as I began to see questionable patterns in these tales. The traditional Cinderella was a damsel through and through, ambition was ugly and undesirable. The new age Cinderella sang or danced and most importantly dreamed. Yet even her story was tied to the attentions of a Prince Charming and it took her as long as 2021 to take centre stage in her own story. The disillusionment of knowing that these tales were actually true to the world I lived in was harsh. This time, my rejection of fairy tales was my rejection of patriarchy, not my rejection of femininity itself. With time, I have learnt to embrace ‘pink’, and redefine it for myself.

A fairy tale can just be a fairy tale, or it can open eyes to the dark side of these stories and of the world. A fairy tale can also be the proof that things can change, that Elsa and Anna can both be heroes in their own narrative and in their own rights and their shared love can be their superpower.



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Fairy Tales or Facade

Life, often likened to a fairy tale, requires an open-eyed perspective to discern its true essence. The enchanting narratives and magical realms presented in fairy tales can captivate human minds, leading them to be mesmerized by dreamy scenarios and idyllic endings. However, beneath the glittering surface, a dark and whimsical façade often unfolds.

Fairy tales, while offering readers a reason to dream, simultaneously construct perspectives that may not align with reality. Many fairytales propagate stereotypical gender roles, reinforcing patriarchal norms. The portrayal of women as fragile, dependent and incapable individuals contributes to discriminatory beliefs. The recurring theme of a heroic, masculine prince rescuing damsels perpetuates an unrealistic ideal that does not reflect the complexities of life. Life, in contrast, is a canvas painted with a myriad of chaotic emotions, abominable mistakes and remarkable victories. Rather than forming opinions and expectations from fantastical narratives, we should embrace the unpredictable nature of our existence. Life is not a mere escape but an extraordinary creation that demands resilience and acceptance of its uncertainties. It is essential to recognize that real-life heroes are not always perfect and the journey is marked by imperfections, growth and the ability to navigate storms without the aid of fairy tale illusions. In essence, life surpasses the boundaries of imagination found in fairy tales, making it a unique and unpredictable adventure.



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College is Not the Quintessential Land of Fairy Tales

We all daydream about that one pivotal moment in our lives, the day we bid adieu to our parents and fly away from our nest. In our mind, we visualise standing in front of the door with suitcases in our hands, bags on our shoulders and a beacon of liberation in our hearts. Our minds deceive us into thinking that life away from home is what fairy tales are made of. We stubbornly believe that college is the land of rainbows and butterflies. We actively look at what college life has to offer and blissfully turn a blind eye to what it takes away.

Beneath the veneer of opportunity and excitement lies a darker reality. The transition to college unveils the harsh truths of adulthood, shattering the illusion of a fairy tale existence. After the initial euphoria of independence wears down, it gives way to the unpleasant realization that adult life is fraught with challenges and responsibilities. The real truth dawns upon us. We are no longer living in the warm cocoon of our homes but in the relentless outside world. We no longer get a space to make mistakes. The absence of a safety net amplifies this vulnerability. Therefore, the mirage of college as a land of opportunity is fraught with the continuous struggle for survival and self-discovery.



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JUNIOR SCHOOL CLUBS

Kinderuni

The Kinderuni Club initiated in 2021, has successfully completed two years. The club introduces students of Classes IV and V to the beauty of the German language. The members follow the curriculum of The German Children's Online University, which is an educational platform of the Goethe-Institute. The club offers a variety of activities and lessons, through which the students learn the language. They cover various modules like beat boxing, gummy bears, light elephant and firecrackers. The members are engaged in different offline and online activities. They also enjoy German films shown to them.

Scrabble

The Junior Scrabble Club comprises students from Classes IV and V. They engage in playing Scrabble and other kinds of offline and online word games. Different activities related to word building enable them to enhance their vocabulary. It also helps them develop interest in the subject. It provides the students an opportunity to prepare for different inter school competitions. The club instills in its members, the spirit of healthy competition. Activities are planned, keeping in mind the ethos of discipline and teamwork.



Bulbuls

The Bulbul Club emphasises on character development, teamwork and community services. The activities lead to the holistic development of these young minds. The Day Camp organised for them, helped them enhance various skills like decision-making, communication and other social skills. They were a part of the All Faiths' Prayer Meet, the purpose of which was to focus on shared beliefs, gratitude, compassion and forgiveness. The Waste Management initiative by the Bulbuls demonstrated their commitment towards the environment. Through the Independence Day Celebration, they reminded every individual of their responsibility to uphold the values and dreams of today's independent India.



Skating

The Skating Club of the Primary Section involves students of Classes III to V. Mr. Ajay Bera, an expert in the field, trains the students. Skating is an excellent form of exercise as well as a recreational activity. The club has produced a number of skating champions who have participated in various competitions throughout the country, making the school proud.



Cookery

The purpose of The Cookery Club for Classes IV and V is to introduce the students to basic cooking skills, encourage healthy eating habits, foster teamwork and creativity. The club provides training to its students in different areas like introduction to kitchen safety, hands-on cooking sessions and presentation skills. The students enhance their cooking skills keeping in mind the nutritional value of different ingredients and discover new ways to make simple dishes which are also visually appealing. The members engage in activities where they prepare a wide variety of tasty dishes. The young chefs have made the school proud by winning laurels at several inter school competitions.



Music

The Music Club consists of students from Classes IV and V. This club provides vocal training to students who have an inclination towards music. The club engages its students in practising various permutations and combinations with 7 notes and has introduced 'homonising' and 'acapella'. They are taught songs in different languages. The members of the club have performed on several occasions. They are also a part the school choir. The members of the club have participated in various inter school competitions and have earned accolades for the school.

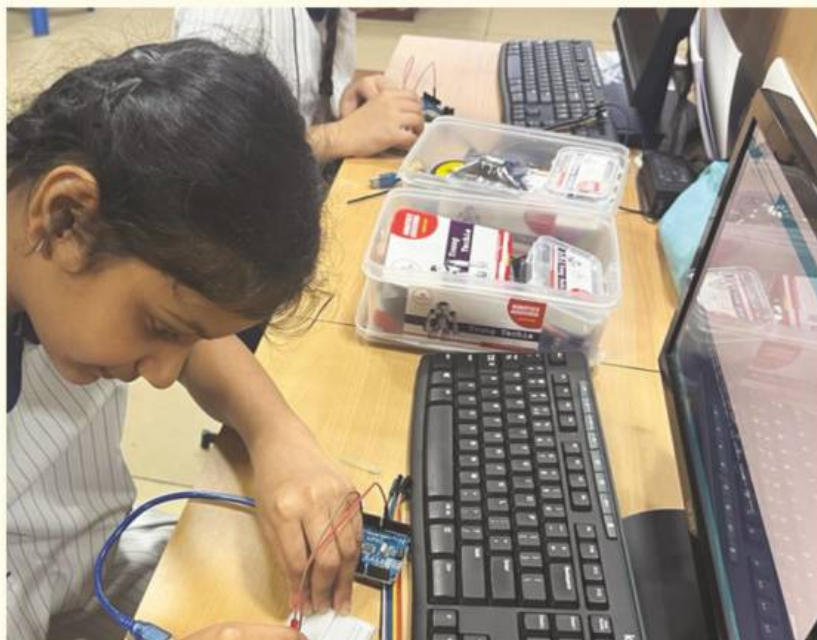
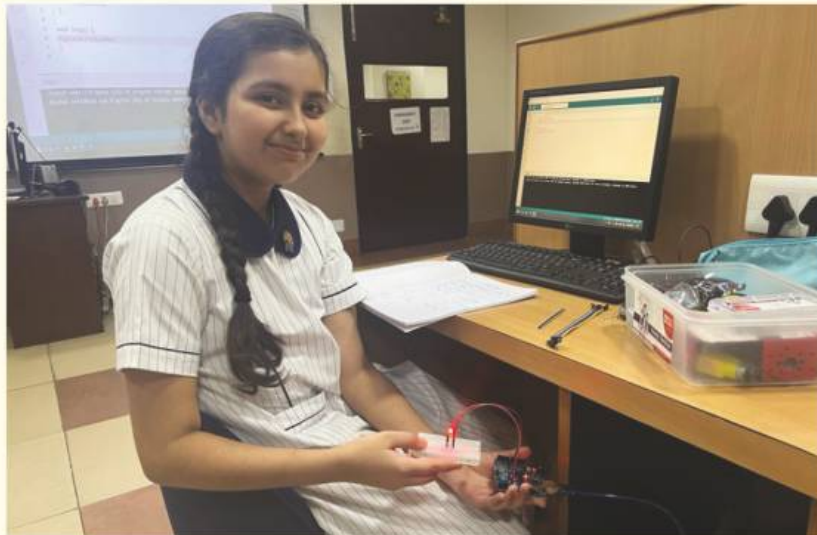
Chess



In The Chess Club, the students of Classes IV and V are given a basic idea about the origin of chess in India. Apart from the movement of the pieces, they are also taught about the significance of each piece. They learn different tactics of the game. The students are shown matches of the past and present-day grandmasters. Inter-house chess tournaments are arranged which help the students sharpen their gaming skills. The members are trained to participate in different competitions. It is a useful educational tool which helps the students in developing the important life skill of problem solving, increases concentration, fosters creativity and builds confidence.

Robotics

The Robotics Club engages the students of Classes IV and V in several dynamic activities. Along with the main project of building a Line Follower Robot, students also delve into the fundamentals of a comprehensive robotics curriculum. Guided by experienced mentors, they explore programming, circuit design and sensor integration. Hands-on learning and collaborative problem-solving help the students not only sharpen their skills but also cultivate a passion for innovation. In the fascinating world of robotics, their dedication and achievements exemplify the spirit of exploration and discovery.



Yoga

The Yoga Club of the Primary Section aims at overall development of the students.

The different yoga postures and breathing exercises help the students improve their flexibility and strengthen the power of concentration. It helps them gain energy and manage stress. The club ensures physical and mental well-being of its members. It offers opportunities to the students to prepare for competitions both in and outside the school. Emphasizing on the importance of self-care, this club instills the value of discipline in its members.



Table Tennis



The Table tennis Club has students from Classes III to V. The members of the club are trained by an expert in the field. Students are made to exercise to help them strengthen their muscles, mobilise the different joints of the body, improve hand-eye coordination and sharpen their reflex action. The members of the club have made the school proud by winning prizes in various competitions.

Drama



In The Drama Club, an array of activities is planned and executed throughout the year, aimed at enhancing the theatrical skills of its members. The sessions include acting, script reading and analysis, costume and prop creation, games, exercises and stage performances. These activities are focussed on honing their acting skills.

The members of the club are often engaged in performing monologues or short plays. The club promotes a dynamic and inclusive environment for its members to explore and develop their passion for theatre.



Calligraphy



The main goal of The Calligraphy Club is to make the students aware of Calligraphy and the 'Art of Lettering'. It imparts the skills and techniques of developing beautiful handwriting and inspires them to learn about this ancient art.

In this club, students of Classes IV and V participate enthusiastically in activities such as making book marks, designing book covers, posters and cards with calligraphy strokes and letters of different fonts and styles.

Archery

The Archery Club comprises dedicated students from Class III to VIII who are guided by a professional expert. The budding archers are taught the basic archery skills. This club infuses in its students confidence, teaches them different strategies, helps them build their concentration, makes them more focussed and prepares them for various competitions. The club emphasises on precision and the spirit of sportsmanship.



Basketball

The Basketball Club of the Primary Section comprises students from Classes III to V. The club emphasizes on teaching fundamental skills such as dribbling, shooting, passing and other defensive techniques. The exercises done regularly focus on developing agility, coordination and overall physical fitness. The club helps in holistic development of the students. Members of the club learn the importance of time management, teamwork, communication and fair play through skill- building drills and strategic planning. It helps the budding athletes prepare for competitions.



Dance

The Dance Club was introduced in the session 2022-23. Students from Classes IV and V were part of it. The girls were taught different dance forms like Kathak, contemporary, fusion dance and other western forms like Hiphop. Apart from giving the girls training to improve their dance moves, they were also made to exercise regularly which helped them remain fit and flexible. The members of the club have made the school proud by winning a number of inter school dance competitions throughout the year.



Science & Innovation

“Everything is theoretically impossible, until it is done.” Thus, the primary goal of The Science Club for students of Classes IV and V is to cultivate curiosity, foster a love for science and engage the students in hands-on learning experiences. In this club, students actively participate in simple yet engaging experiments. The Science Club successfully instills a sense of curiosity and engagement among its members. The emphasis on hands-on experiments and activities help students develop a practical understanding of scientific principles, going beyond the textbooks. Collaborative projects provide opportunities to develop teamwork and presentation skills. By fostering a love for science through the real-world applications, this club lays the foundation for the young, inquisitive minds capable of appreciating the wonders of the scientific world.



SENIOR SCHOOL CLUBS

Photography

Photography is an essential tool and skill for creating memories to last a lifetime. A lesson in photography helps students to expand their creativity and imagination. A good picture tells a thousand words. Through regular activities during the club period, students are given opportunities to brush up and sharpen their skills. Help is provided to the students by a highly skilled resource person, Ms. Aungshita Sarkar, who is a photographer by profession. The students of this club have been assigned to cover major school events like the Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony, school concerts and various exchange programmes. In collaboration with the Computer Club, the students have learned how to edit photographs. They also go for field trips around the neighbourhood, especially to the parks, for taking outdoor photographs.



Debate

The four “Cs” of 21st century skills are—critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity and also a fifth, civic awareness. The Debate Club has been an integral part of our school, fostering communication and oratorical skills and self-confidence among its members. These weekly meetings served as platforms for members to practice and refine their oratorical and debating skills.

The activities of the club this session included:

1. Ice breaking activities – Regular practice of speaking activities in form of JAM and HAM done as warm- up activity in class. A collaboration with scrabble club of the school was also done this session where the students cultivated their general knowledge, quick thinking skills and ability to use the most appropriate vocabulary.
2. Debate practice: Students learnt experientially the nitty-gritties of the format and how to conduct themselves during a debate. Regular debates on various relevant topics were conducted throughout the session. Sessions of knowledge sharing on current affairs were conducted regularly in the Debate club.
3. Video clippings from several movies, series and speeches in history were shown to the students and discussed. They learnt what makes a speech effective enough to be able to hold the attention of the audience. Based on these, students learnt to examine and imitate the skills learnt in their own speeches.



Scrabble

This session, the Scrabble Club came up with unorthodox strategies for the students who wanted to learn vocabulary in a fun way. It involved a departure from conventional scrabble. Students were introduced to old movies, music and sports videos. Not only did they acquire a rich vocabulary but also became capable of relating to the videos and music presented, as well as the topics discussed. This made learning enjoyable for them. For example, there was a discussion about grandfathers after the animated film ‘Nepo’ was shown to them. Through this activity, the students were not only introduced to new words but also were able to connect emotionally with the other members of the club. In addition to these, JAM sessions were conducted in class where students picked any one SDG Goal and expressed their opinions. The Scrabble Club aims to facilitate all- round development of the students.



Drama

The Drama Club comprises 51 students from Classes VI to VIII who are truly passionate about acting. Some children are new to the drama club and are excited to be part of it. Guided by the teachers, students participated in group activities covering scriptwriting, directing, acting, choreography and miming. Their performances, whether solo paired or group acts, were assessed by both teachers and peers. They were evaluated based on aspects like clarity and audibility, expression, retention, time management and concept. The Drama Club also conducted a collaborative session with the Elocution Club to enable interchange of ideas and methodology. Alongside these regular sessions, the students attended special sessions conducted by Ms Reshmi Bose, a guest facilitator, once or twice every month. Ms. Reshmi Bose facilitated mini theatre workshops, featuring creative ice-breakers and physical acting exercises, fostering ensemble building and vocal development among participating students. Following these sessions, auditions were taken for the play staged on Senior School Prize Day. These sessions have given the children an opportunity to express themselves without being inhibited by the fear of performing in public.



Adventure and Tourism

The Adventure Club of SBGS aims at inculcating the values of leadership, unity and outdoor survival skills among the students. Students are chosen as the leaders of four different ropes and they plan various activities to boost team building. The teachers in charge of the club work hand in hand with the students to instill the skills of adjusting and living in harmony with nature. Various team building games are organized along with IAYP certified exercises that equip the students with the ability to survive in unprecedented natural challenges and unknown terrains.

ACTIVITIES DONE:

- Team building games - Kho-Kho, Relay, Basketball dribble and throw, Blind Man's Buff, Sent a letter to my mother, Tug of war, dodgeball, Learning various knots and their usage.
- Following partner blindfolded which increases trust and bonding, balloon games, relay games, team building exercises.
- A session on mountaineering was conducted by Ms. Vijeta Abhani, primary school teacher. She shared her experience on her recent trek to the Everest Base Camp.
- Students planned the itinerary of a rope tour to four offbeat destinations in India.
- Rope Knot and Tent Pitching session were conducted.
- Presentation given on marketing various commodities.
- Rope wise non flame cooking competition organised.



Computer

The activities of the computer club started with the creation of blogs, incorporating photo editing using Pixlr - an online photo editor, followed by animation using Flash, game development using Scratch and mini projects on Microbit platform using Microbit device. Interactive and engaging programming experiences were conducted for those new to programming. Students were enlightened about latest cyber security issues through videos and discussions. In addition to this, a collaborative session with the Photography club took place where students from both the clubs jointly edited photographs using Pixlr. It was an enriching experience for the students as it gave them scope to explore their creativity.

Science and Nature

The Science and Nature Club in school contributes significantly to the holistic development of students, instilling a love for science, nature and a sense of responsibility towards the planet. This club plays a pivotal role in shaping environmentally conscious and scientifically literate individuals. Club activities often involve teamwork and collaboration. The club consists of 34 students from Classes VI to VIII. The club meets every Friday and students engage in various scientific activities related to Physics and Chemistry in everyday life, Mathematics in nature, etc. The club students are actively involved in organizing awareness campaigns about reducing the use of single-use plastics, segregation of dry waste and wet waste and installing bird houses and feeders to attract more birds to the campus. The club observes important days such as International Day for Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystem, World Nature Conservation Day, Wildlife Conservation Day and World Soil Day. Sessions were conducted where students were addressed by Mr. N. Ramesh Chandran, founder and secretary of Vinisha and Ms. Roshni Rai, a Certified Ecobricker from Global Ecobrick Alliance. The club looks forward to future projects and activities that continue to ignite scientific curiosity and foster a love for nature among its members.

Ted Ed

The Ted Ed Club was initially formed with twelve students from Classes IX and XI who embarked on a curated learning journey. They began by familiarising themselves with the programme, reviewing materials and preparing for sessions where ideas were presented. The process involved leader-student interactions, talk development and concluded with the presentation of topics in the academic session 2023-24. The Ted Ed Club members explored captivating topics and presented diverse perspectives. While Yashwini Nandy elaborated on 'Inclusion in the Modern World,' highlighting the significance of embracing diversity, Aashi Bansal delved into the enduring debate of 'Nature Vs Nurture,' sparking thoughtful discussions on the impact of genetics and environment. Oishi Ray offered a unique take on the 'Benefits of Being Lazy,' challenging societal norms and emphasising the value of rest.

Aarni Banerjee shed light on the sensitive issue of 'Eating Disorders,' raising awareness and advocating support and understanding. Vani Gupta expressed her opinions on 'Lack of Morals and Ethics in the Present Generation,' prompting introspection on societal values. Saanvi Jain discussed 'Success and its Impact on the Young,' delving into the pressures and consequences of early success. Ceyona Agarwal's exploration of the manipulation of lie detectors was thought-provoking. She delved into the intricacies of these devices, discussing their limitations and potential vulnerabilities to manipulation. Her talk sparked discussions about the reliability of such technology and the complexities involved. Medha Shah's discussion on the changing dynamics in relationship resonated with many. In today's evolving world, relationships undergo constant shifts influenced by technology, societal changes and personal values. These topics provided insightful perspectives, encouraging club members to ponder, discuss and broaden their viewpoints.



Sneh

Sneh, the social service unit of the school has undertaken various activities this session. The Sneh Committee in collaboration with the Bengali Department, organized a plantation drive where the students planted saplings. An adult literacy programme in collaboration with Rotary club was also organised. On 10th October, 2023, the World Mental Health Day was observed in Sushila Birla Girls' School. The theme was 'My Mind, My Right'. On 11th October 2023, Dr. Sohini Chakrabati and Mr. Vishal Pai from Art Of Living were invited to speak about Mind Management. The event was organised by the Sneh committee in Vidya Mandir. Classes VIII, IX and XI and a few faculty members were present as audience.



On 18th October 2023, 8 students from Class X and 10 students from Class XII went to Purba Medinipur Thakurnagar Nanda Mahila Vidyapith. They were accompanied by 2 teachers – Mrs. Ranjana Roy and Mrs. Rita Saha. 105 umbrellas, inverter with battery, lawn mower, 24 rods with accessories to keep clothes, 20 bookshelves and 5 ceiling fans were given for the girls living in the hostel. Some savouries were also distributed by the students. On 31st October 2023, a programme called walk for dyslexia was organized by Manochetna Academic and Research Centre, Manovikas Kendra. One student of class V and four teachers of SBGS participated in the event.



On the 21st of November 2023, Sneh organized its annual blood donation camp. The theme this year was 'Blood Her'. This was in association with Project Life Force. The chief guest was Mr. Miraj. D. Shah. There were 90 donors in total, including teachers and students. On the 2nd and 5th of December 2023, Sneh organized the Smayan fest. The theme this year was 'Inclusion'. Specially abled students from nine different schools were present and were a part of this memorable day.

Off stage events included non-flame cooking, rangoli, clay modelling and art competition. On stage events at Vidya Mandir included dance competition, elocution and fashion show.

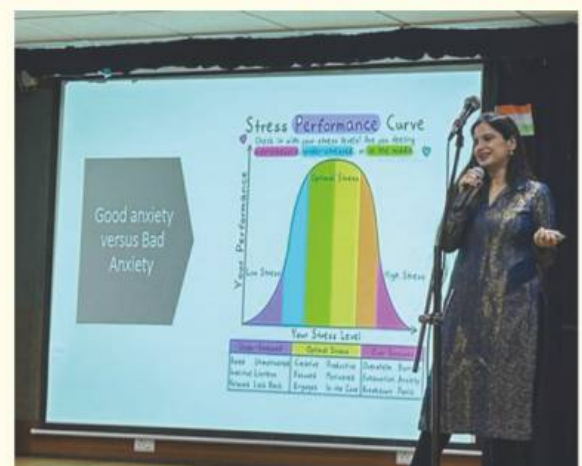
On 6th December 2023, 4 students and 3 teachers from Sushila Birla Girls' School embarked on a mission to Jiling Sereng, a village in Purulia. The primary aim of the visit was to distribute warm clothes and blankets among the 100 underprivileged families residing in the village. This initiative was a part of a larger effort by the school to support those in need and contribute to enhancing the quality of their life thereby fostering a culture of philanthropy and team work in the students. On the Annual Sports Day of Sushila Birla Girls' School, 10 students from IICP and 8 students from Noble Mission participated in a relay race and a novelty race.



On 12th January 2024, 31 students along with 4 teachers and 2 parents embarked on a mission to spread joy in Sidhu Kanho, an orphanage in Purulia. Books, stationery, school bags, food, play items, medical kits and sanitary napkins were distributed among the 50 odd children of the orphanage. The following day witnessed a journey to the village of where they distributed clothes and food items to each family. This initiative was to support those in need, thereby fostering a culture of philanthropy and team work in the students.

Aavishkar

The Aavishkar club caters to the wellness of the students of Classes IX-XII. It aims to spread awareness about mental health. Sessions are conducted twice a month generally on how students can take care of their emotional, psychological and social well-being. Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Social Workers and experts on mental health care share their expertise and inputs on sensitive issues like bullying behavior, cyber bullying, exam stress, dance, music, art therapy, body shaming, teenage diet and lifestyle, graphology handwriting analysis, career options and opportunities. Sometimes students too interact and make relevant presentations for their buddies on how to destigmatize mental health issues. Students at times choose various topics like, 'Perfectionism is an Undue Habit', 'Handling Peer Pressure', 'Internet Trolling' and other relevant issues. This club comprises approximately 50 members. Students pay an annual fee of Rs 250/- for being registered at the beginning of the year. The overall purpose of the club is to help students heal if required, feel safe in school and understand that mental health is as important as physical health. The motto of the club is "Catharsis is a journey not a destination"




Swabhimaan

The Social Entrepreneurship Club of Sushila Birla Girls' School, since its inception in 2017, has been providing opportunities to its member students to hone their entrepreneurial and marketing skills. The Club comprises four major departments-Production, Public Relations, Finance and Marketing. The Production Team of the Club produces handmade items like envelopes, jewellery, jars, keyrings and planters by recycling waste and using other raw materials.

On 19th and 20th July, 2023, the club organised Craftastic-2023 in collaboration with the Rural Craft and Cultural Hubs of West Bengal. Various handicrafts like Sabai, Dokra, Kantha and Madur, prepared by the rural artisans from different parts of West Bengal, were on display in the fair. The students helped the cause of artisans by interacting with prospective customers, promoting their products and providing them a platform to sell the same. Committed to sustainability, the students also put up a stall of upcycled bags made by them. On the day of Blood Donation Drive, the club put up a stall for selling handmade products like recycled jeans bags, envelopes, key rings, fridge magnets.





HOUSE REPORTS

KUSHAN HOUSE



The Kushans were known for their ability to bridge cultural difference and foster cultural exchange. They served as a crucial link between India, Persia and the Hellenistic world, promoting trade, artistic collaboration and religious syncretism. They played an important role as cultural intermediaries and facilitators of cross-cultural understanding.

The Kushan house is represented by the colour red which holds deep symbolic significance across cultures and contexts. It is often associated with passion, love and energy. The vibrant hue can also represent power, strength and courage. It also symbolizes intensity, desire and vitality.

Mentored by the House Mistress Ms Chandrima Ghosh, the Kushans have actively participated in various inter house competitions showcasing exceptional talent and sportsmanship. In the primary section, the house bagged the second position in the inter house dance competition for Class V. It came 1st in the English, Bengali and Hindi elocution of Class VI. The house stood first in the inter house quiz competition for Class VI, VII, VIII and IX. The Kushans also achieved first position in the music competition for Classes VII, VIII and IX. In the science fiesta, the house came 1st in the street play and secured the 2nd position in debate.

The Kushan house maintained a strong sense of spirit and unity throughout the academic year. Leadership within the Kushan house remained strong with the House Captain, Sanskriti Agarwal along with Vice Captain Aashvika Jain and Prefect Medhaavee Agarwal taking on responsibilities with enthusiasm and dedication. Under the guidance of the house mistress and the commitment of each Kushan member, the house was able to function smoothly and excel in various competitions and activities conducted throughout the academic session 2023-24. The Sushila Birla Memorial Trophy for the best overall performance in academics and co- curricular activities was bagged by the Kushan House. Lastly, ending it with the one thing close to the heart of each Kushan:

“GO KUSHANS KNOCK THEM DEAD, GET THE CROWN ON YOUR HEAD!”

PALLAVA HOUSE



The Yellow house acquired its name from the Pallava Dynasty.

Throughout the course of the year, the members of the Pallava house have shown tremendous determination, perseverance and confidence which helped them achieve incredible feats this year.

Yellow is a joyous and radiant colour which exudes warmth and vitality. Like the sun's bright yellow beams which promise a positive future, the beams of the Pallava house shine brightly guiding its members forward.

The house members enthusiastically participated in various competitions held this year. Under the guidance of the House Mistress Ms. Julie De and the efforts of the Captain Sharon Liz Thomas, Vice Captain Aanya Batavia and Prefect Rishika Agarwal, the house has achieved the milestone of winning the trophy for Best Athletic Performance by a House in the school Annual Sports 2023 after a gap of 14 years. It clearly shows the house spirit and excellent performance by the students.

The members have also exhibited great teamwork by winning various positions in different competitions like creative writing, music, dance, quiz and also various events during the science fiesta. The house has secured the 1st position in the music competition for Classes I, II, VI, VII and VIII. The motto of the Pallava House is:

Sky is the limit
Hopes are high
We are the Pallavas
Touching the sky!

CHALUKYA HOUSE



The Blue House draws inspiration from the mighty Chalukya dynasty. The colour blue represents both the ocean and the sky, standing for stability, freedom, wisdom, confidence and imagination. The House Mistress, Ms. Mamata Goswami, motivated the students of the house to participate enthusiastically in multiple fests and events, encouraging healthy competition and sportsmanship. These events include debate, creative writing, table tennis, dance, music and many more.

The stellar performance of the house in the Inter-House Debate Competition conducted for Classes VIII-X and the Inter-House Table Tennis Competition were greatly appreciated. The house acquired first position in both the above mentioned events. By achieving the second position in the Inter-House Music competition for Classes VI, VIII and IX and securing two division trophies on Sports Day, the Chalukyas have proven their mettle yet again. All of this would not have been possible without the zealous efforts of the House Captain Juhi Bansal, Vice Captain Nishika Singhvi and Prefect, Laavya Lohia.

Indeed, “WE ARE THE CHALUKYAS, WE BLEED BLUE, WE ARE BETTER THAN ALL OF YOU!”

MAURYA HOUSE



The colour green stands for rebirth, hope and freshness. It also symbolises the balance which exists in nature. Inspired by the valiant first pan-Indian empire, its magnanimity and the principles of Ahimsa propagated by its legendary ruler Ashoka, the Maurya house upholds the spirit of hard-work, determination and the will to achieve heights of success.

The house achieved the first position in the Hindi Diwas competitions demonstrating the zeal and determination of its members who also participated in other competition with similar enthusiasm.

The brilliant team effort helped the house secure the March-past trophy in the Annual Sports Day, 2023. Under the able guidance of the Housemistress Ms. Shibangee Paul and the spirited endeavour of the students steered by Captain Vidya Bhartia, Vice Captain Krishika P. Bhambani and Prefect Pragya Chharia, the house earned several laurels in various competitions.

Standing by the motto “Trees are green , green is our land . Mauryas, Mauryas on the victory stand”, the Maurya House once again has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to sports and a relentless pursuit of excellence thereby making their way to the victory stand!

Congratulations on your well-deserved victory ! Keep up the great work !

SIGNATURE EVENTS

CAREER FAIR

On 4th August 2023, Sushila Birla Girls' School organised the second edition of Career Fair for the students of Classes XI and XII. 73 universities from India and abroad participated in this fair. As a prelude to the event, Abhishek Gupta, the founder of High School Moms - Asia's leading parent community, counselled students on choosing a rewarding career. The fair was also attended by students from other reputed schools of the city.



ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK UP



A NABET accredited institution, Sushila Birla Girls' School focusses on providing an NEP-compliant environment that caters to various aspects of students' development. The school believes that a healthy child is an asset to the nation. The annual health check-up was organised by the school, in collaboration with AMRI Hospital, Mukundapur, for all the students from Classes Nursery to XII. A comprehensive dental, eye, general health examination, as well as blood pressure and blood sugar tests for higher classes, were conducted to ensure the well-being of the students.

SCHOOL CONCERTS

On 4th October 2023, Sushila Birla Memorial Day was celebrated with a magnificent production, 'The Roll of the Dice' –the Mahabharata from the perspective of the women characters. With a cast comprising 305 students, the audience witnessed a series of captivating dramatic performances, melodious songs, mesmerizing dance sequences and key episodes from the Mahabharata like the Bhagavad Gita dialogue between Lord Krishna and Arjuna, the Swayamvar of Draupadi and the Kurukshetra war.



The KG concert 'One World, One Family', a delightful celebration of unity and diversity, took place on 18th October 2023. The KG concert was followed by the Nursery concert, 'The Elves and the Shoemaker' on 14th December 2023. The youngest performers of the school captivated the audience with their adorable smiles, vibrant costumes and most importantly, their budding artistic abilities.

SPORTS DAY

The much anticipated Annual Sports Day of Sushila Birla Girls' School unfolded on 22nd December 2023 at Gitanjali Stadium, bringing everyone together to celebrate athleticism and team spirit. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Dr. P. B. Salim, Secretary (CMO and Department of Co-operation and Programme Monitoring). The day's programme was flagged off by the four Houses – Kushan, Chalukya, Maurya and Pallava marching proudly to the rolling drumbeats, displaying precision and synchronicity. The audience were enthralled by the march past, drills, Karate display and races. The Alumni Trophy for the Best Athlete (2023-24) was shared by Ipshita Pugalia (Maurya House) and Devanshi Das (Pallava House) while the Championship Trophy for the Best Athletic Performance was conferred on the Pallava House. The Maurya House lifted the Best March Past trophy.



On 6th February 2024, the little athletes of Nursery and Kindergarten enjoyed a day of fun and games at the Annual Sports Day. Colourful costumes and lively music created a kaleidoscope of dexterity and creativity, as the charm of their happy feet and busy hands made it one of the most delightful days in the school calendar.

SMAYAN

SNEH, the Social Service Unit of the school organised Smayan 2023, a fest for children with special needs on the 2nd and 5th of December 2023. The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Sumit Agarwal, an entrepreneur who inspired the audience with his anecdotes. Mr. Pawan Patodia, businessman and philanthropist, was the Guest of Honour. The off-stage events like rangoli, clay modelling and non-flame cooking competitions were conducted in the school premises on 2nd December while the on-stage events like fashion show, Bengali elocution and dance were organised at the Vidya Mandir Auditorium on 5th December. All participants were given participation certificates and medals along with refreshments and goodie bags.



DAAN UTSAV

On 18th October 2023, a few students went to Nanda Mahila Vidyapith, Purba Medinipur to donate an inverter, a lawn mower, umbrellas, rods, bookshelves and ceiling fans to the girls living in the hostel while others distributed warm clothes and blankets among 100 underprivileged families in the village of Jiling Sereng, Purulia on 6th December 2023.

MAGICAL MARCH 4.0

Magical March 4.0, held on 18th and 19th March 2024, offered a plethora of workshops and activities for the students of Classes VI to VIII. The sessions included workshops on 24 musical instruments, Cajon, public speaking in Bengali, Sholapith, Eco Printing, Tie & Dye and Pottery. The choreography session on Hip-Hop and Bharatanatyam culturally enriched the young minds. Also, the workshops on Kalaripayattu and Archery were designed to improve physical fitness. The various inter house competitions fostered a spirit of healthy competition among the students. Magical March 4.0 left an indelible impression on the minds of all students who participated in it.



MERAKI

Meraki'24 held on 19th January 2024 was the 1st edition of the Primary Inter School Fest. Based on the wondrous world of Walt Disney, it proved to be a fascinating discovery of the creativity and passion in children. The enthusiastic participation of 9 schools in Kolkata made it the happiest place on Earth in no time. The chief guest for the event was Mrs. Minnie Sengupta, Principal of an NGO-run Learning Centre. The children savoured the challenges with a spectacular array of events which were Bibbidi Bobbidi Boo, Tick Talking with Disney, Disney Club House, Fantasy Footwork, Mirror Mirror on the Wall, Glide in Wonderland, Ratatouille and Tech Enchant. The winners were awarded medals and certificates, recognising their talent and hard work. Upholding the true spirit of sportsmanship, Sushila Birla Girls' School, the overall winner passed the trophy to the 1st Runner Up, Birla High School.

BLOOD DONATION CAMP

On 21st November 2023, Sushila Birla Girls' School, in collaboration with Project Life Force, hosted a blood donation camp to create awareness about the importance of voluntary blood donation and contribute to the noble cause of saving lives by collecting blood from willing donors. The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Miraj D. Shah, a prominent tax litigation expert. The event was meticulously organised by a dedicated team of students, teachers and representatives from Project Life Force.



SESSIONS CONDUCTED FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

TRAINING SESSION BY MS. GAGANDEEP KAUR

On 9th May 2023, Sushila Birla Girls' School hosted a training session on 'Special Needs of Children'. The event was led by Ms. Gagandeep Kaur, the Founder and Director of Unique Psychological Services and attended by the teachers of the Primary Section. With emphasis on intervention techniques for ADHD, dyslexia and other similar conditions, the training encouraged active participation from educators. Through role plays, group discussions and various activities, teachers acquired valuable knowledge on addressing the special needs of children.



ORIENTATION SESSIONS FOR PARENTS



Like every year, this year too orientation sessions were conducted for the parents of the students of Classes Nursery to XI. These interactive sessions focussed on the vision and mission of the school, rules and regulations, curriculum, teaching methodologies and the co-curricular activities planned for the new academic session.

CO-CURRICULAR EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY AND WORLD MUSIC DAY

On 21st June 2023, both International Yoga Day and World Music Day were celebrated in school. The corridors of the school reverberated with positive energy as all the students synchronised asanas with the melody of the 'tarana' sung by the music enthusiasts. While International Yoga Day was celebrated through demonstrations of various yoga asanas by parents and teachers, the celebration of World Music Day was given a new spin by creating musical instruments out of recycled materials. Various games such as 'Guess the Musical Instruments' and 'Follow the Leader' kept the enthusiasm high.



HEALTHY FOOD MENU CURATED BY STUDENTS OF CLASS V



In a unique initiative to empower young individuals, from now on the students of Class V will curate the menu for the Primary Section of our school. After much research, planning and discussion with the teachers, the young learners have, for the first time, chalked out a menu for the month of December. 2023 has been identified as the 'International Year of Millets'. Each month the menu will showcase a mouth-watering recipe of millets which is considered to be a powerhouse of nourishment. Since the month of November, the Junior Student Council members have been spreading awareness about wholesome diet and healthy eating habits.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Financial Literacy Session was organised for the students of Classes VI to IX on 19th December 2023 by the Commerce Department of Sushila Birla Girls' School. The following topics were covered:

1. Needs and Wants
2. Barter System of Exchange
3. Evolution of Money
4. Budgeting
5. Inflation
6. Investment Avenues

It was an interactive and informative session which was thoroughly enjoyed by the students.



SDG EXHIBITION

On 8th March 2024, Sushila Birla Girls' School organised an exhibition in which students of Classes III, IV and V showcased their year-long activities based on raising awareness about the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Providing an insight into crucial issues of protecting the planet, students exhibited fascinating and informative artwork, models and innovative experiments in the day-long event. Creative projects on rainwater harvesting, life on land and below water, clean water and sanitation and responsible consumption and production were displayed. An innovative role play highlighted the duties of every citizen and instilled in the viewers an urge to initiate a change to restore the well-being of Mother Earth. Students pinned specially designed hand-made badges on all those present at the event to mark International Women's Day which coincided with the SDG exhibition.



FINANCIAL LITERACY- PRIMARY SCHOOL

Financial literacy is a core life skill that emphasizes the knowledge, behaviour and attitude required to make responsible money management decisions. Keeping the vision to empower the girl child in mind, the students of classes IV and V started their Financial Literacy Sessions in the year 2023 on a monthly basis. These enriching sessions are conducted by Dr. Vijay Chandrasekaran and Sivaram Arunachalam from IFEA India, based out of Chennai. Since the understanding of financial management should start early, the young minds are taught about the basics of budgeting, investments and other important financial skills & concepts. The students are assessed and awarded certificate at the end of the term.



FIELD TRIPS

SHANTINIKETAN

114 students from Class V travelled to Shantiniketan from 30th November to 2nd December 2023 and visited the Vishwabharati campus, Amkhoi Fossil Park and Sonajhuri Haat. The trip helped the students imbibe important life skills through craft sessions conducted by talented artisans, taught them how to manage their own finances and instilled the values of generosity and sharing through the donation of paper bags to handicraft sellers.



LATAGURI, MURTI AND GORUMARA



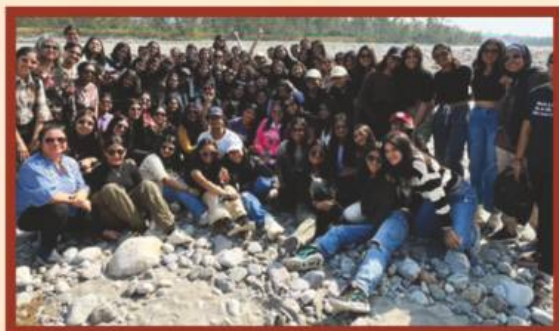
A five-day trip to Lataguri, Murti and Gorumara National Park with Juniper Wings was organised for the students of Classes VI-VIII during the puja vacation. A Group of six teachers accompanied the students. In Lataguri, the group went for morning safari, experienced the bullock cart ride to Medla watch tower and enjoyed jungle safari in a jeep. The day concluded with shopping and tribal dance around a bonfire. The following day, in addition to sightseeing, the students and teachers went for a short trek around the Murti river. The trip equipped the students with invaluable life-skills necessary for holistic development.

RANTHAMBORE, FATEHPUR SIKRI, AGRA AND ATTARU BORDER

The students of Classes IX and X went on a trip to Ranthambore, Fatehpur Sikri, Agra and Attari Border from 2nd November to 10th November 2023. It was an enriching experience for the students as they were exposed to the rich cultural history of the nation.



CHANDIGARH, DELHI AND JIM CORBETT NATIONAL PARK



Eighty-seven students from Classes XI and XII accompanied by six teachers were taken to Chandigarh, Delhi and Jim Corbett National Park for a trip during the puja vacation. Visiting the historical monuments and thoroughfares in Delhi, witnessing the magic of recycling at the famous Rock Garden in Chandigarh and exploring the flora and fauna in Jim Corbett National Park enriched the students and helped them develop a deep sense of pride and appreciation for the country.

LAUNCH OF CHANDRAYAAN 3 AT SRI HARIKOTA

Forty-nine students and four teachers from Sushila Birla Girls' School travelled to Sriharikota to witness the historic launch of Chandrayaan-3. The third lunar exploration mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation, Chandrayaan-3 was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 2.35 pm on Thursday, 14th July 2023.



BERMIOK, SIKKIM



On 16 May 2023, twenty students from Classes VII, VIII and IX along with two teachers and two trainers travelled to Bermiok, West Sikkim by the Vande Bharat Express. The students learnt different survival skills and also trekked to various places including a monastery at Upper Bermiok. The trip culminated with a cultural presentation, showcasing values imbibed during the trip.

CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY

Magic in the Mundane



Dainya Jha, IX-A



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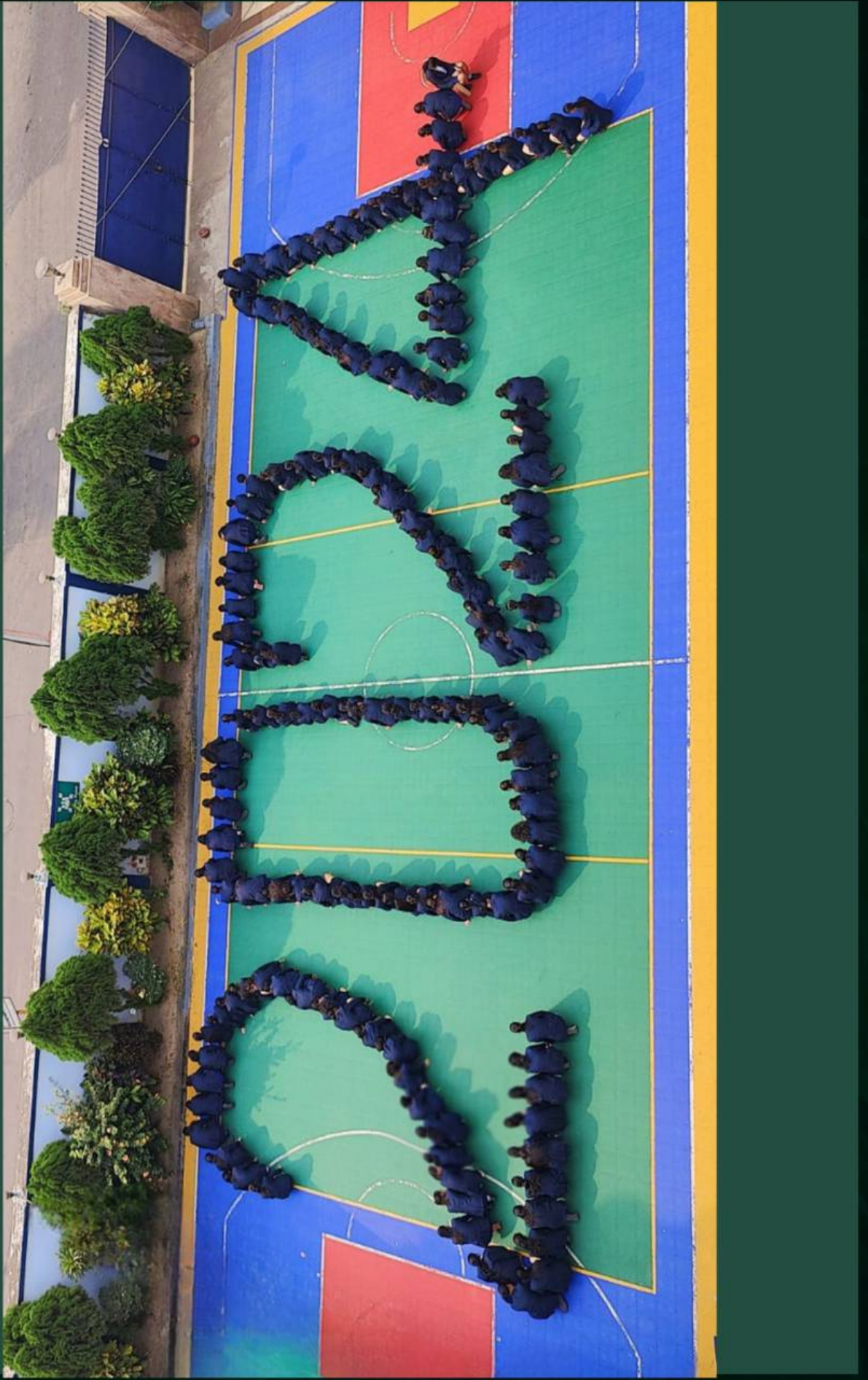
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