



Siblingship



Upasana Mishra, Class IX

Our mother is fed up!
 And dad is tired of explaining!
 Due to our constant bickering,
 Our parents say their ears are paining.

We would shout and shriek,
 And mom would have her hands up in the air.
 So, dad would try to intervene, but he,
 Comes out of the room shaking his head in despair.

"Ouch", I yelp when my brother hits me,
 "Aaaahh", he screams when I kick him.
 And that's how our war starts,
 Leaving our parents with their faces so grim.

Just a small word ignites the fire,
 And it keeps burning till an hour or so.
 When finally we are exhausted and dead-beaten,
 I become his best friend and he's no longer my foe!

Despite all the rows we've had,
 Despite all the hurtful things we've said,
 At the end of the day it is always okay,
 Because without compromising, we don't go to bed!

But some of these tiffs are just so fun,
 And we wrestle like it is WWE!
 But the funniest thing is later we can't recall the reasons,
 So we shrug and say, "Oh, what fools we used to be!"

I am quite sure that many can relate to this,
 This wonderful sort of a relationship.
 Troublesome and irritating yet loving and caring,
 That is how I see this 'siblingship'.

Test



Ritam Mishra, Class IV

Tests, tests, tests and tests
 All of them coming up and I only rest.
 Thought that I'll do my best
 But all that went into waste.

Teachers said that, there is
 Not much to gain
 Or you will be in pain
 And your eyes will rain.

If you will not study well
 Only mockery around you will dwell
 Again due to crying, your eyes will swell.

All these words do not enter my head
 All they told and said
 Only watched T.V and played games on my PSP.

Although The Shows I watch on TV.
 Give information
 And not only show motion
 But I get all my inspiration
 From my parents by their speeches of motivation

SST in the beginning so no more worries
 I can start my studies
 I realized how tough it is
 So I better not bluff that about the test I forgot.

Now I should go and study
 Oh God, hear my request
 Please let me complete my quest
 To study day and night and do my best.

So I better do well this year
 And study hard and face my fear
 I will try to ace all my tests
 So wish me all the best.



An Interesting Joke



Krishnangshu Talukdar, Class-III

Hi, I am Krishnangshu. Let me tell you an interesting joke.

Once upon a time, there was a boy who did not know the English language. However, he learnt few English words without knowing the meaning and appropriate use.



One day, the boy went for shopping. The shopkeeper asked the boy, "Do you want vegetables"? The boy said, "Yes".

On the second day, the boy went to a boxing school and met the boxer there. The boxer asked the boy, "Do you want a punch"? The boy answered, "Yes". Then the boxer gave a punch to the boy. The boy was wounded & went home with tears.

On the third day also, the boy went to the boxing school and met the boxer again. The boxer was very sad on that day and said to the boy, "My mother has died today". The

boy said to the boxer, "Congratulations"!

Then the boxer became very angry & gave five punches on the boy's face. The boy was badly wounded & went home with a big swollen face. He told his parents about the incident. The parents did not feel sorry for their son. Instead, they also gave him a slap for his foolishness.

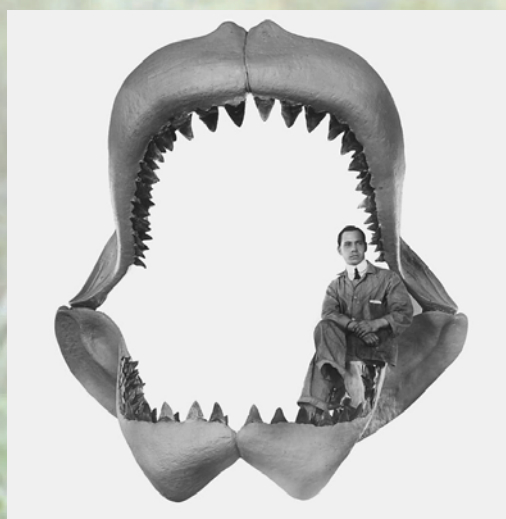
The lesson learnt from this joke is "Little knowledge is a dangerous thing".

Megalodon



Adit Kashyap, Class-III

Do you know what is a Megalodon? Megalodon is an extinct species of sharks which lived approximately 28 to 1.5 million years ago. Megalodon means big tooth (from ancient



Greek). We come to know from its fossil remains that this giant shark reached a maximum length of 14-18 metres (46-59 ft) and weighed in the range of 48 -103 Metric Tons (which is equivalent to

6-12 numbers of full grown African male elephant). Also, it is confirmed that it ruled virtually throughout the earth. C. megalodon is regarded as one of the largest and most powerful predators in the history of vertebrates, and

likely had a remarkable impact on the structure of marine communities. Its bite force is believed

to be in the range of 24,000 - 41,000 lbf - such a huge bite! Scientists suggest that C. megalodon looked like a stockier version of the great white shark. C. megalodon fossils have been excavated from many parts of the world, including Europe, Africa and both North and South America, as well as Puerto Rico, Cuba, Jamaica, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Malta, Grenadines and India. Megalodon teeth have been excavated from regions far away from continental lands, such as the Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean. Extinction: The weather pattern change was responsible for extinction of this giant. The world went through ice age and its main prey i.e. the sperm whales, dolphins, blue whales and hump back whales went to the colder places. Consequently Megalodon's access to its most abundant feeding zones got inaccessible for it and it could not survive this. Reconstruction by Bashford Dean in 1909, with fossil teeth assembled from various localities.



My Amazing Times Spent In India



Shubhankar Sharma, Class:V

I was just three years old when I came from Assam to Kuwait. But I go to Assam to visit my relatives and friends every year. My birth place in Assam is a town called Duliajan. I don't remember so much about the place but I remember a little about the house I lived in before I came to Kuwait. My father's birth place is also in Duliajan and my mother's birth place is in Jorhat. In my mother's birth place, Jorhat, my grandparents have a house and behind that house there's a small muddy road leading to a



small house. In that house live a brother and a sister with their parents. Though their house is small and the road to their house is muddy, me and my sister often go to their house to play. We mostly play carrom. The boy who is the elder one, I call him "Dada" and the girl who is a year younger than me I call her "Barbie". Dada is awesome at playing carrom!! He always wins! Dada and Barbie are very loving and caring. Their whole family takes care of us. Sometimes we call them to have lunch with us and they feel very happy eating the food!

They also invite us to their home to eat. In their backyard they have a little pond and some ducks swim around in that. So one day they called us to have lunch and they had prepared Duck Egg Curry for us. Since I never had duck egg curry before, it was a tasty experience for me. We even saw them bringing the fresh eggs that were laid by the ducks in their garden!

Me and Dada sometimes go outside on his bicycle to a shop nearby to buy some small things. That is also an amazing experience for me, riding on a cycle on the roads of Assam! Whenever we go to India we take some gifts for them and they really feel very happy seeing their gifts. We generally go to Assam in the hot season and when we are in Jorhat, we spend a lot of time in their house. Even though their house has only one ceiling fan and mostly made of bamboo and thatch, surprisingly we don't feel uncomfortable or feel hot. We have an AC in our grandparents' home yet we like to stay and play in their house only.

Dada is very brave too. One evening when I was in our grandparents' home he called me wanted to show me something. When I went through that small muddy small road and came to him I saw many fireflies behind him! So many that they could light up the sky! I had never seen so many of them before and so I was really excited. But for Dada it was very natural. He caught one of the fireflies and put it in a glass jar for me. I will never forget this experience for the rest of my life!

These small incidents make a great time for me in Jorhat.

In Guwahati, where our own house is, my Father's uncle and aunt stays, whom I call 'Khura Koka' and 'Khuri Aita'.



'Khuri Aita' is a very funny person and is very loving to me and my sister. They live in our house with their daughter, Mampi, whom we call 'Pehi'. She also waits eagerly for us and she is also very kind and caring. 'Khura Koka' brings

our favourite Assamese foods, especially fish like 'Puthi' and 'Magur' and a lot more! 'Khuri Aita' takes us for rides in Rickshaw to some shops. It is an awesome experience going on the Rickshaw on the streets there!

I don't like going shopping much. So when Mom and Dad are outside shopping with my sister, I stay with my 'Khuri Aita' having a lot of fun. She cracks very funny jokes and we laugh a lot together! 'Khura Koka' takes me and my sister for rides on his old scooter. Though he has a car now, it is great going out with him on his old scooter! Mampi 'Pehi' also plays games with us when we get bored. Now she is studying in an engineering college. So, it is always great fun staying with them in Guwahati.

My own Uncle and Aunt from my Father's side live in Bengaluru and they have a little son (our cousin). We always eagerly wait to visit them. Our little cousin loves our company a lot and is very funny and naughty! Sometimes our Uncle Rinku 'Khura' downloads some movies for us on his computer and me, my sister and my cousin watch the movies together and have a lot of fun. We also sometimes teach him A-B-C and 1-2-3. It is a lot of fun teaching and playing with him. My Aunt Vidhya 'Khuri' takes us to a park that they have under their flat and we play on the slides and swings there. And while playing we also need to keep an eye on our little cousin as he may be upto some mischief and hurt himself! And when it is time to go home our little cousin refuses to go and cries a lot!

These people will always be memorable and loving for me. It is always amazing visiting all of them and I and my sister always look forward to go to India to be with them again and again.



Unforgettable People



Shubhangi Sharma, Class V



It's been many years since I came to Kuwait from my birthplace Duliajan in Assam. I was only three years old when I left Duliajan. I don't remember everything about those three years. But, I still remember some small things about the place and out of those small things I remember three people who were very much involved in the lives of my twin brother, Nupur and me. Those three people are Arjun Mama, Anita Ba and Pinky Ba. They all used to fight for us about whom we love more. As Arjun Mama used to take care of our garden, he used to come to our house in the evening and he used to have dinner in our house only. So after he finishes his work he used to play with us till the dinner was ready. Sometimes Anita Ba and Pinky Ba used to fight with Arjun Mama. Arjun Mama used to tease them by saying 'Look Runjun and Nupur stay more nicely with me'. Then they become angry and would say 'You get them only for a little time but we take care of them for the whole day and they stay more nicely with us'. Arjun Mama used to take us for cycle rides turn by turn and sometimes he would bring chocolates for us by hiding it from our parents. Arjun Mama used to teach us 'ABC' in the evening. At that time we did not like to

study.

So, when we don't listen to him he would complain to our mother. We also used to wait for these things eagerly in the evenings. Anita Ba and Pinky Ba never got tired of us. They used to take us to the park to play.

Pinky Ba used to sing and dance with us all day. When Arjun Mama, Anita Ba and Pinky Ba had to go to their houses for short breaks they used to cry and at the same time we also cried. When we come back to Duliajan after a long break they used to come running to take us into their arms, but most of the times when we went out of Duliajan Anita Ba and Pinky Ba accompanied us. We can never forget these three people in our lives, though we don't meet them every time we go to India. Now Arjun Mama is married and has a four year old son who is studying in the Tiny Tots School in Duliajan. My grandma helped him to get admitted in the school. For about four years from when we came to Kuwait we used to meet Anita Ba whenever we visited Assam, but unfortunately after that we have not heard anything from her. Anita Ba is a Christian. We heard from her parents that she went with a father of a church to Delhi to serve in a church. We shall always be looking forward to meeting them once again. Pinky Ba got married and we lost contact with her from then onwards. We shall always be looking forward to meeting them once again

A Fabulous Trip to Europe



Anoushka Das, Class: III

It was in the month of February 2013 when one day, while coming back home after playing with my friends, I heard my dear mama and papa discussing about a trip during the coming summer holidays. I felt excited and immediately rushed to ask them what they were talking about. They told me that they were planning to go on a trip to Europe during our school holidays. I felt very excited and eagerly waited for that day.



Tickets, hotels and tours were booked and all details were worked out. Finally, in the month of June, the most awaited day arrived. We started our journey along with two of our family friends Tanma Ba and Rounak. Our first destination

was London. When we reached London it was freezing cold outside. In London, we visited Buckingham Palace, London Eye, Madam Tussauds wax museum and many other places. London Bridge, which I learnt in rhymes, became a reality for me. I also saw the Kohinoor diamond about which I had heard so much. Then we went to Paris where we visited Louvre museum to see the Leonardo da Vinci's great painting "Mona Lisa". I saw the Palace of Versailles and the House of Mirrors. A visit to Paris is not complete without the experience of Disneyland. I enjoyed two full days in

Disneyland with my friends. I also saw the Eiffel Tower, one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

After Paris, we moved to Switzerland by a Scenic Train. When we reached Switzerland we had to wear such big jackets! We went to Mt. Titlis in cable car & enjoyed the

height. We even visited the Bernese Alps Jungfrauoch, the top of Europe. We played so much with the snow! Tanma Ba and Rounak's company made my trip more exciting. There, while going up by cogwheel train, papa met his college friend Tridip uncle after nearly 20 years who came on vacation from the US with his family. It was really exciting to meet an Assamese family on the top of Europe.

Our next destination was Austria. In Innsbruck we visited Golden Roof and the great Crystal Museum Swarovski. Austria is a scenic beauty.

After that, we reached our last destination Italy, a place of art & culture. The climate of Italy was comparatively hot. In Italy we visited the Leaning Tower of Pisa and the massive Colosseum which was an amphitheatre of the Roman Emperors. We took Gondola ride in Venice. We even went to Vatican City, the smallest country in the world. The paintings and sculptures by Michael Angelo, kept inside St. Peter's Basilica and Museums in Rome, are really very amazing. I saw Michael Angelo's famous creation "David".

Nineteen days zipped by and I came back to Kuwait with lots of knowledge about different countries with historical importance and sweet memories of a fabulous trip.

Flower



Anushka Dutta, Class-I

Flower, you are so beautiful,
I want to be like you.

Your colours are like a rainbow,
Your colours are red, pink and yellow.

You grow in the garden;
Sunflower, you shine facing the sun,
Lotus, you float on the water,
And, Kopou, you bring Bihu.

Assam



Devanshi Dutta, Class-V

Assam is the best place ever,
And will remain the best forever.

Going there is my pleasure,
Assam is just like treasure.

I love speaking in Assamese,
LARU, PITHA are yummies!

Assam is filled with beauty everywhere,
You'll not find a better place anywhere.

Assam has a lot of scenery,
And is full of amazing greenery.

Brahmaputra is a wonderful river I've seen,
Assam is the nicest place I've ever been.

Assam has a great festival too,
And it is known as Bihu.

Why is Assam famous for do you know?
It is popular for its one horned rhino.

Assam is also famous for its tea,
As Assam tea is very tasty.

Assamese people have their own specialty,
Every one there lives in peace and harmony.



I Love You Rainbow



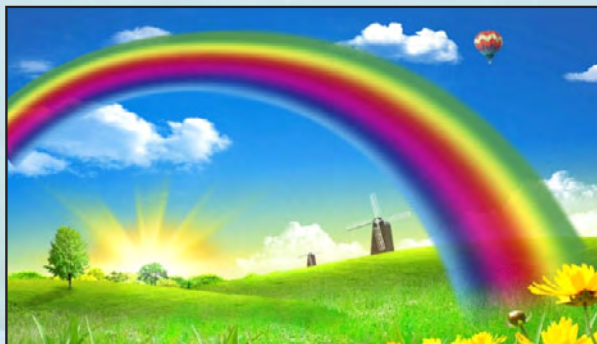
Ameesha Talukdar, Class-III

Rainbow, rainbow,
So beautiful is the rainbow;
It comes to the sky,
When the clouds fly.

Rain brings you,
Sun colours you.
You are so colourful,
So you look wonderful.

Orange, red, green, yellow,
Blue, violet, indigo;
With these colours so bright
You are a beautiful sight.

My dear rainbow,
Lend me some colour
So I can make a picture of you.





SACHIN THE LEGEND



Compiled by Antarip Kashyap - Class – VI

Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar is truly a legend of the game of cricket and undoubtedly one of the best cricketers that India has ever produced. Sachin was born on 24th April, 1973 in Mumbai. Born in a middle class family, his father Ramesh Tendulkar was a well-known Marathi novelist. In his early years he showed interest in tennis, and even started idolising John McEnroe the American Tennis great. As a young boy, Sachin was considered a bully, and often used to pick up fights with his playmates in society and school. In fact, to curb his mischievous and bullying tendencies, his elder half-brother Ajit introduced him to cricket in 1984 and introduced him to the then famous cricket coach Ramakant Achrekar. In his first meeting Sachin was rejected



by Ramakant Achrekar and only after repeated requests from his elder brother the coach agreed to have a second look at Sachin and finally admitted him to his academy. This ultimately proved to be the turning point of Sachin's life.

Sachin first came into prominence with an unbroken 664-run world record partnership in a Lord Harris Shield inter-school game against St. Xavier's High School in 1988 with his friend and team-mate Vinod Kambli. Although Sachin was included in the Mumbai Ranji team in the year 1987 itself, but he made his Ranji debut only in the subsequent



year when he played his first game on 11th December, 1988 at the age of 15 years and 232 days, against Gujarat and scored 100 not out in that game making him

the youngest Indian to score a century on First-class debut. On the strength of a very successful year in Indian domestic cricket, Sachin was selected in the Indian Team to tour Pakistan in the year 1989. In the first test in Karachi he made his international debut on 15th November, 1989 at the age of 16 years and 205 days. From then on it was Sachin the great all the way.

On 24 May 1995, at the age of 22, Tendulkar married Anjali,



a paediatrician and daughter of a Gujarati industrialist Anand Mehta and British social worker Annabel Mehta. Even through his busy cricketing life Sachin remained a true family man and his family comprises of his wife, daughter Sara and son Arjun. It is reported that he has been very close to his family.

Since starting international cricket career Sachin has hardly looked back and continued a very hectic playing career until he decided to retire from all forms of cricket on 16th November, 2013 after playing his 200th Test match against West Indies in Mumbai.

Following are some of the records held by Sachin in cricket:

- In six World Cup appearances (1992 to 2011), Tendulkar has amassed 2,560 runs at an average of 56.95 – the most by any player in the history of the event.

- Sachin has played with and against 989 international cricketers. That includes 141 Indian cricketers and 848 opponents.





- With 62 Man of the Match awards Sachin leads the list in ODI cricket. Sanath Jayasuriya with 48 is second. The third on the list is South Africa's Jacques Kallis with 32 awards.

- Sachin also has the maximum no. of Man of the Series Awards in ODIs with 15 awards.

- Sachin has scored 51 Test centuries in his 24-year Test career. He hit his first century against England at Manchester in August 1990 and his last century was against South Africa at Cape Town in January 2011.

- Sachin took five years to score his first ODI - hundred. The moment he got his first ton against Australia at Colombo in 1994, the little master's career took off and he never looked back. His last ODI ton was his hundredth international hundred scored against Bangladesh at Dhaka in 2012.

- Sachin remains the only cricketer to take more than 150 wickets (154) and score more than 15,000 runs (18,426) in ODIs.



- Sachin comfortably heads the list of Test match appearances with 200 matches. Ricky Ponting and Steve Waugh being the joint-second having played 168 matches each.

- Tendulkar's 23-year ODI career comprised 463 ODI games. Sanath Jayasuriya with 445 ODIs is second in the list.

- Sachin has scored 18,426 ODI runs which is 4,722 runs clear of Ricky Ponting who is second in the list.

- Sachin needed 153 runs in the final innings to score 16,000 Test runs but he missed the mark by 79 runs. Tendulkar has ended up scoring 15,921 runs in Tests.

- Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid hold the world record for the highest partnership in ODI matches when they scored 331 runs against New Zealand in 1999 at the LBS, Hyderabad

- Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid put on 20 hundred-plus stands in Test cricket. This is a world record for the most number of century partnerships by a single pair in Test cricket

- On November 14, 1992, playing against South Africa at Kingsmead in Durban, Sachin became the first batsman to have been declared run out by a third umpire

So much so about records. Following are some of the lesser known facts about Sachin:

- Praveen Amre bought Sachin Tendulkar his first pair of

international quality cricket shoes.

- Sachin wanted to be a fast bowler but was rejected by Australian great Dennis Lillee at Chennai in 1987 and it was only Lillee who advised him to concentrate on his batting.

- Sachin was a ball boy during the 1987 World Cup semi-final between India and England at Wankhede Stadium.

- Sachin was returning from England's tour in 1990 when he met his future wife, Anjali, for the first time at Mumbai airport.

- In the team bus, Sachin Tendulkar always takes the left window seat of the front row.

- He fielded for Pakistan as a substitute during a one-day practice match against India at Mumbai's Brabourne Stadium in 1988.

- In the dressing room, he chooses his spot first. Sachin always occupies a corner. Once he has exercised his choice, others rush to take their places.

- The team has a system of monetary fines for players coming late (to the bus or a meeting or a function) and for flouting the dress code. But Tendulkar has never had to pay up in 23 years.

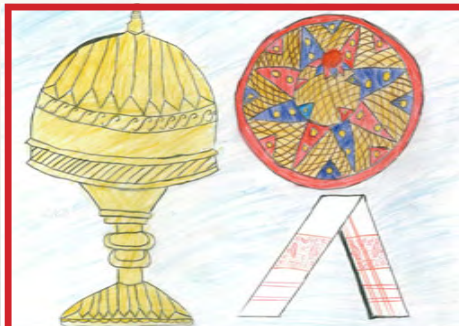
- Sachin bats right-handed, bowls and throws with his right-arm, but writes with his left hand.

- Sachin has never batted at number three in his entire Test career. He has opened once, batted 273 times at number 4, 29 times at number 5, 20 times at number 6 and 4 times at number 7.





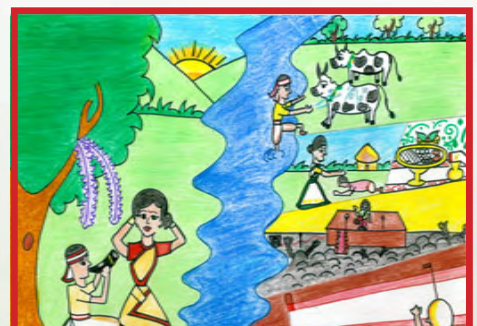
CHILDREN ART COMPETITION & MEMBERS CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION



Krishnangshu Talukdar
Class-III



Ameesha Talukdar - Class-III



Shreya Kashyap - Class-VII



Akshata Sharma - Class-V



Anouska Das - Class-III



Anchita Rajkhowa - Class-VII



Arhant Saikia - Class-II



Anushka Thakur - Class-VI



Debangnan Mishra - Class-IV



Devanshi Dutta - Class-V



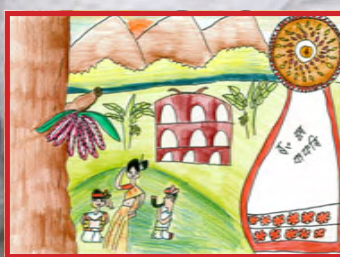
Jigyasa Bardalaye - Class-V



Adit Kashyap - Class-III



Meghna Dutta - Class-V



Rudrakshi Goswami - Class-III



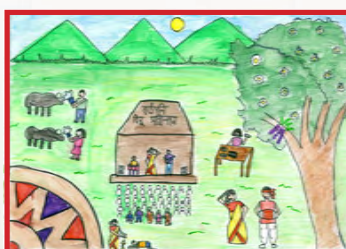
Anushka Dutta - Class-I



CHILDREN ART COMPETITION & MEMBERS CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION



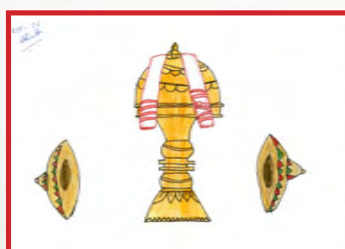
Shreya Nath - Class-IV



Subhangi Sharma - Class-V



Subhankar Sharma - Class-V



Tonmoy Hazarika - Class-I

Prize Winners

Children's Art Competition Group: KOPOU (Class I to III)



Krishnagshu Talukdar

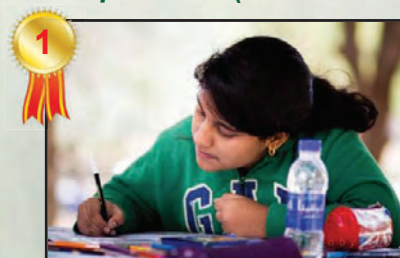


Ameesha Talukdar



Anoushka Das

Children's Art Competition Group: TOGOR (Class IV to VII)



Shreya Kashayap

Creative Writing Competition – Assamese



Debahuti
Kakati Das



Rubi Dutta Bordoloi

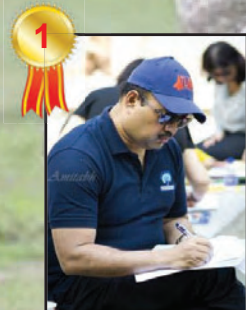


Mousumi Talukdar



Shubhangi Sharma

Creative Writing Competition – English



Iqbal Hussain



Dr. Anjol Saikia



Anjan Tamuli



Jigyasa Bardalaye



Akshata Sharma



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An 'Ace' Day



Sanjukta Hazarika, Class-XI

“Stars will collide – Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships” – This was one of the first things I saw as soon as we arrived at Dubai Airport. The huge banner plastered with some of the greatest tennis players' faces had me surprised at first, as I was completely unaware of this event taking place at that time. I quickly turned to my parents and pointing at it, said “Oh my God! Look! We have to go! It's going to take place while we're here. What luck!”

“Don't make plans so quickly. We're going to be in Abu Dhabi and may have other plans. Even tickets may not be available. I'd love to take you, but right now my concern is getting a taxi going to Abu Dhabi so late in the night.” said my father.

Although I was slightly disappointed, I was definitely hopeful. On the road to Abu Dhabi my mind had been occupied by this news. My parents had been giving me slight warnings not to get my hopes set too high. Chances of getting tickets seemed quite slim. And as I thought, they really were. When we reached, I quickly checked the availability and tickets were all sold out, or so it said on the official website.

A few days had passed and we headed over to Dubai to meet up with some old family friends. As I was chatting to one of my best friends, Asmita, I came to know that she had recently been to watch Serena Williams playing against Jelena Janković! I was so excited for her and told her how lucky she was. She then told me “My dad is going to watch the second round tomorrow.”

“Wow! He's so lucky to have gotten the tickets!”

“Dad got them at the last minute! On the website it says it's sold out, but he went to the counter at the stadium and they still had tickets. Weird!”

“I know! Do you think by any chance they still have tickets?”

By now her father had joined into the conversation too. “I'm sure there are! You all should really come. We can go over to the counter tomorrow and check.”

I anxiously waited all morning until we got the news that we did, in fact, got the tickets! I was so excited!

My father, my sister Esha, and I got ready and headed over to Dubai. We met up with my friend's father and proceeded to the Tennis Stadium.

Everything about the atmosphere was so lively! We rushed over to the centre court, got our wristbands, waited to get in during a changeover and took our seats to watch Tomáš Berdych (ATP RANK – 5) play against Sergiy Stakhovsky (ATP RANK – 83). Although we came in halfway, the match was an exciting one. Berdych won that round in straight sets of 6-2; 6-1. (He advanced onto the finals and currently holds the title of 'runner up' for this year). After the match, we went down the stairs and saw a crowd gathering against

a barricade surrounding a pathway. We didn't know what was going on but I decided to join in and all I heard was

“He's coming! He's coming!” Just as I was about to ask the person next to me who it was that was coming, I saw Berdych making his way onto the path. I swiftly take out a piece of paper from my bag which I had put in to get any autographs if I got lucky. I was mentally patting myself on the back for preparing myself. I rushed over and handed it to Berdych who signed it gladly. I couldn't believe my luck and just stared at it in awe!

The next scheduled match was Roger Federer (ATP RANK – 8) VS. Radek Stepanek (ATP RANK – 50) at 7:00 in the evening. After a quick bite at the adjacent restaurant, came



the time for the much awaited match. Being one of my all-time favourite tennis players and one of my idols, Federer was one of the main stars we had come to see. When we got into the

centre court (which was filling up very quickly) I couldn't get the smile off of my face. I couldn't believe it! I was finally going to see the tennis legend that I had been looking up to since I was about 7 years old.

As they walked in, I was just looking at them and pinching myself to make sure I wasn't in a dream. The whole atmosphere was sensational. The entire audience was very absorbed but also successfully performed a Mexican wave three times in a row. The players had to wait to serve until the wave subsided! It was hilarious.

This match was very intense and had everyone biting at their nails. Both of them played incredible and put up a good fight against one another. At the end, it was Federer who won this battle of nerves with a score of 6-2; 6-7; 6-3. This match was so contesting that it seemed like Stepanek had won too! Federer went on to be the champion in the finals of this tournament against Berdych.

As soon Federer's interview was over. Esha and I decided to run down to the barricade we previously stood against (which I had learnt was the players' entrance and exit) hoping to get as lucky as the last time we were there. But many others seemed to have had the same idea, as it was packed. We somehow managed to stand somewhat close to the barricade and were very pleased. All we had to do then was wait.

After ages of waiting I was starting to get slightly impatient as I also wanted to watch Novak Djokovic (another favourite of mine/ATP RANK – 2) play against Roberto Bautista Agut (ATP RANK – 53), which was next on the centre court. Just as I was thinking of it I heard a number of



excited voices say “Djokovic!” “Djokovic!” I was confused on what was happening and turned to see Novak Djokovic making his way to the centre court. He was right in front of me and even smiled at me! I was too star-struck and everything happened too quickly for me to take a picture or anything of that sort.

We waited for a little longer to see Federer, just as the security listened into his earpiece and said “Open the barricade! He already left.” I saw the transition from excitement to disappointment on everyone’s faces, but not me! I still had hope. I turned to Esha and told her “Let’s wait for 5 more minutes, maybe they’re just tricking everyone

into leaving”. So we waited but still no luck. Still, I was not unhappy or unsatisfied at all. After all the events of that day – watching a couple of my favourite players play, seeing Berdych and Djokovic up close, and now making my way to watch another possibly amazing match, I just couldn’t be discontent. We walked back to the centre court to watch the next match. We walked in after the first changeover and I was right, it was an amazing match, although we could watch it only halfway (as it was getting very late and we had to make our way back to Abu Dhabi), I couldn’t complain, I was too happy to complain! It was one of the most memorable days of my life and I’m already excited thinking about the possibility of coming back next year!



Esha Hazarika, Class-V

A Visit To Mata Vaishno Devi Temple

A visit to the holy shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi, located in Katra, Jammu and Kashmir, is considered to be one of the holiest pilgrimages of all times. This holy cave is situated at a height of approximately 5200 feet. It is a 13 km long uphill journey; so I knew it was going to take a long time. We had been planning this second trip since the time we had last visited, which was four years ago,



It was six o’clock in the morning when I woke up at our hotel in Katra. I was annoyed and tired at first for getting up so early on my holidays. That was soon replaced by excitement when I realized why I got up

in the first place, to go to the amazing Mata Vaishno Devi temple. I quickly got out of bed, took a shower and got dressed in my comfiest clothes and shoes.

Finally we went down to the breakfast hall at our hotel. There were barely any people considering it was so early; but that didn’t bother me much since there was no line for the breakfast buffet.

After breakfast we went to our room to get our things and we were off on our way to the Vaishno Devi shrine.

It was only a five minute drive to the bottom of the mountain from the hotel we were staying in, and that is where our journey starts. We got our ID’s and we scanned the crowd for four good horses who were supposed to take us to the Bhavan. There were many options like the helicopter, the ‘palki’ which is a seat between two bamboo sticks which is carried by four men who have to walk in sync, riding the horses and of course walking which takes about five hours.

For the first kilometer we didn’t find any horses so we had to walk. Finally we found four horses soon after that.

As soon as I got on the horse I couldn’t help but stroke the

back of its long neck. I was scared at first because I thought it would react by shaking rapidly and I would fall off, but it didn’t react at all. As soon as we started moving I yelped in pain but that soon went away.

At first you might think “Oh, this is great. I could stay here soaking up this view all day” but when you’re in the third

or fourth hour of the journey your back starts aching a lot. It might have only happened to me but it hurt like crazy. During the journey many people were chanting “JAI MATA DI” at the top of their lungs in order to keep them going.

After a long journey we finally reached the Bhavan. We left our shoes in a locker. Soon we were headed to the holy cave and we were in a man-made tunnel which was open and many people try to overtake you. After a long wait, which got the best of my patience, we finally got to see what we came for, the beautiful holy ‘pindies’ or rocks. These are the ‘pindies’ of three Goddesses: Ma Lakshmi, Ma Kaali, and Ma Saraswati. We saw it for only a few seconds but that was enough for me to feel happy and forget how tired I felt. Much to my disappointment we had to leave so we could let other people witness what I saw. That’s when I realized that last time I came we went through a different tunnel which wasn’t spacious like the one we just went through. That was much smaller and it was a challenge to get through it. The one we went through this time was opened when it was too crowded.

The horseback journey back to the bottom of the mountain hurt my back much more. There were many food joints on the way; so we had lunch in one of them. I realized the journey was about to end when my father was about to pay the horse keepers. It was difficult to walk at first due to the long hours of horseback riding.

When we went back to the hotel I recalled everything that happened earlier. Everything went off as planned. My mother says if everything in the journey goes as planned, no matter how long and hard it is, it means that the Goddesses are calling you.



Arunav Bora (Romit)

A Tale Of Perspective



Dear Diary,
Today was such a horrible day all around. School was boring like hell. As usual me and Michael just ditched the last few lessons and went to grab a few cold ones by the bleachers.

Also, in other news Emma just broke up with her new boyfriend. Didn't I tell you that was going to happen soon enough!? That girl is such a skank...

AND SERIOUSLY WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY FAMILY!!
I get so frustrated sometimes with Dad's restrictions. What is up with this stupid curfew?! I don't see why I can't stay out past 10... Jennifer's parents aren't so unreasonable and absurd. And Mom says I am not getting the new Galaxy for my birthday. All my friends have s4 and I am stuck with this s3 crap. Gosh, I wish sometimes I was adopted. I HATE MY LIFE.

Dear Diary,
It's been 3 weeks now since we crossed the border. Life is good over here. I can tell that young Osama is trying his best to mix in with his new found friends. He has been going to the NGO School at our basement started by that kind American lady I was telling you about. She really reminds me of Amma. She has that same angelic smile. I miss Amma and Baba so much some days.

It has been hard trying to source for work. I tried helping out at the warehouse on the outskirts but I hate being so far away from Osama. I can see that same desolate and sad look in his eyes ever so often. Truth be told, I am finding it hard to move on as well. I miss all my friends back home and I pray every day for their safety.

I can still hear the screams and explosions whenever I go to sleep. I am scared, diary, I am scared. But I have to stay strong. Osama is everything I am left with in this world and he is my full responsibility. I will make you proud Amma and Baba. I will. Love you always.

"One person's craziness is another person's reality."

Those words from American film director and writer, Tim Burton, resonate ever so clearly in today's tumultuous world. Where one girl is frustrated with her parents while trying to stay on par with an increasingly materialistic and care-free society, another is just reminiscing about days gone by and the simple life which most of us cannot even fathom to have.

We all need to step out of our comfortable and protected bubble and look out at the world. Ukraine. Syria. Iraq. Afghanistan. The list goes on. Thousands if not millions of children have been displaced from their homes and live as refugees. Amid such unrest, the notion of a normal childhood has all but disappeared for these young bystanders of war.

And yet isn't life all about perspective. Those things that we take for granted or feel hard done by, can only be a dream and aspiration for many. All we need is to open our eyes to the world around us and try just a little more to be content. We are fortunate individuals you and me. We have much to be happy about.

At the end of the day, we can complain that rose bushes have thorns but why can't we rejoice that thorns bushes have roses too?

