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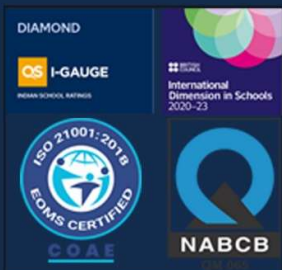
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ELIXIR

The Flow of Magical Writing

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Editorial

The Importance of Avoiding Informal Questions in Professional Settings.

In any workplace, we often talk about "culture" as if it's a grand, abstract concept, but culture is actually built in the smallest moments—specifically, in how we talk to one another. At this juncture, I want to talk about a specific set of habits that can quietly erode trust and productivity: the habit of asking informal, intrusive questions like "Where are you going?", "What are you doing?", or "Why are you doing that?" While these questions may seem like innocent small talk or simple curiosity, in a professional environment, they carry a weight that can be deeply damaging.

The "Surveillance" Trap:

When we ask a colleague, "Where are you going?" every time they stand up from their desk, or "What are you doing?" as they look at their screen, we aren't just making conversation. We are creating an environment of surveillance. Psychologically, this puts people in a "hyper-vigilant" state. They begin to feel like they are "onstage" at all times, being watched and monitored. Research shows that when employees feel constantly observed, their stress levels rise, and their genuine, creative selves go into hiding. Instead of focusing on their work, they focus on looking busy or explaining their movements. A professional workspace should be a place of results, not a stage for performance.

The Erosion of Trust and Autonomy:

The question "Why are you doing that?" is perhaps the most dangerous. Unless it is asked as part of a structured coaching session, it often sounds like a challenge to a person's competence.

Professionalism is built on the assumption of competence. When we hire someone, we are saying, "I trust your judgment." When we constantly query the "what" and the "why" of their minute-by-minute actions, we are practicing micromanagement. Micromanagement is the ultimate "trust-killer." It tells the other person: "I don't trust your process, and I don't value your autonomy." Over time, this leads to "learned helplessness," where talented people stop taking initiative because they're tired of being questioned.

Respecting the Boundary of Privacy:

We must also remember that every professional is an individual with a right to privacy. A person standing up to leave the room might be going to the restroom, taking a private medical call, or simply clearing their head to solve a difficult problem.

Asking "Where are you going?" forces a colleague to either overshare personal details or feel awkward about keeping them private. Furthermore, seemingly casual questions can unintentionally border on discrimination. Asking about someone's personal plans or "why" they are doing something a certain way can accidentally touch on protected areas like family status, religion, or health.

Shifting to Professional Inquiry:

So, how do we stay informed without being intrusive? The key is to move from activity-tracking to outcome-based communication. Instead of "What are you doing?", try: "Could you give me a quick update on your current projects?" Instead of "Where are you going?", try: "Are you free for a quick sync later today, or do you have a full schedule?" Instead of "Why are you doing that?", try: "Could you walk me through the logic of this process so I can better understand the workflow?" These alternatives respect the other person's expertise while still getting you the information you need.

Conclusion:

To close, I want to challenge each of us to look at our daily interactions. Are we building a culture of trust, or a culture of "checking up"? Professionalism isn't just about how we dress or the reports we write; it's about the respect we show for each other's time, space, and mind. By avoiding intrusive, informal questioning, we give our colleagues the room to breathe, the autonomy to innovate, and the respect they deserve.

Let's focus on the outcomes we achieve together, rather than the movements we make alone.

Thank you.

Mr. Richard Alkander
Department of English

How is History Related to Our Daily Life?

History is not merely a record of the past, but the foundation of our daily lives, shaping our identity, behaviors, and societies. By understanding history, we gain critical thinking skills, learn from past mistakes, foster empathy, and make more informed decisions, directly influencing how we live, work, and interact today. History explains who we are and where we come from, offering a sense of heritage and perspective on our personal, cultural, and national background. Historical context helps us understand current events, political shifts, and societal behaviors, allowing us to be better-informed citizens when voting or engaging in civic activities.

One of the most visible connections between history and daily life is culture. The language we speak, the clothes we wear, and the food we eat are all products of historical development. History also shapes the systems we follow in our daily routines. The calendar, public holidays, and even the structure of the week have evolved over time. National events like Independence Day remind us of important historical struggles and achievements that define a nation's identity.

Learning history helps to develop in our pupils good social and moral values which are so vital in a multi-racial society like Singapore. Understanding the contributions of historical personalities and significant historical events will help to inculcate values such as loyalty, perseverance, propriety, people's welfare, religious toleration and racial harmony. Our young will also learn to appreciate the nature of other societies, their cultures and politics. History makes them recognise the fact that the way people see and judge things is conditioned by the society within which they live.

History also influences laws, government, and society. The rights and freedoms we enjoy today are outcomes of past movements and sacrifices. By studying history, we learn valuable lessons from past successes and mistakes, which help us make better decisions in the present and future.

In conclusion, history is not separate from our daily life—it is a part of it. It shapes our identity, guides our actions, and helps us understand the world around us. By appreciating history, we gain a deeper awareness of how our lives are connected to the past and how we can build a better future.

Reena S
Department of History



Modern Air Defense Systems

The Role of Computers, Sensors, and Robotics

“In modern warfare, victory belongs not just to speed or strength, but to the intelligence of machines working faster than human reaction.”

Imagine a powerful invisible shield spread across the sky, always alert and ready to protect a nation from danger. This is what modern air defense systems do. They safeguard a country from threats like enemy aircraft, missiles, and drones. In earlier times, people depended mostly on their eyes and simple tools to detect danger. Today, technology



has transformed this process completely. Computers, sensors, and robotics work together as a smart and efficient team, showing us an important idea: true strength in the modern world comes from intelligence and coordination rather than just physical power.

At the heart of these systems are sensors, which act like the eyes of the sky. They continuously scan every direction, detecting objects flying at different heights and speeds. Within seconds, they gather important information such as distance, direction, altitude, and velocity. This data helps in deciding whether an object is safe or a possible threat. Without sensors, the entire system would be blind and unable to respond.

Once the information is collected, it is sent to powerful computers, which serve as the brain of the system. These computers analyze the data almost instantly using advanced programs. They can identify whether the detected object is friendly or hostile and calculate the best possible response. In critical situations, even a small delay can lead to serious consequences, so these computers are designed to think and act faster than human reaction time.

Robotics and automation bring action into the system. Automated missile launchers and unmanned defense platforms can respond quickly and accurately when a threat is detected. They reduce the risk to human life by operating in dangerous conditions and ensure high precision in their actions. In this way, robots do not replace humans but support them by performing tasks that are too risky or require extremely fast responses.

In conclusion, modern air defense systems are a remarkable combination of sensors, computers, and robotics working together in harmony. They detect threats quickly, analyze them accurately, and respond with great speed and precision. As technology continues to grow, these systems will become even more advanced, making our world safer. The true lesson we learn is that the future of

C.P. Rajesh
Department of Computer

Love That Gives

In friendship, it's the silent stay,
When storms refuse to end,
The "I'm here" at midnight hours,
The heart of a true friend.

In siblings, it's the little fights,
Then giving up your share,
Standing strong before the world,
But soft when they're not there.

In motherhood, it's sleepless nights,
And dreams she set aside,
A thousand worries tucked away,
Behind a patient smile she hides.

Love isn't always loud or seen,
Or shown in grand displays,
Sometimes it lives in quiet acts,
In what we give away.

To lose a part, to make them whole,
To choose their joy above,
That's the gentle, endless truth
Of sacrificial love.



*Deonna A Prabhin
VIII-Ruby*

Firsts in India



- ❁ India's First President – Dr Rajendra Prasad
- ❁ India's First Prime Minister – Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
- ❁ India's First Woman Prime Minister – Smt Indira Gandhi
- ❁ India's First Woman President – Smt Pratibha Patil
- ❁ First Indian Woman to Climb Mount Everest – Smt Bachendri Pal
- ❁ First Indian Woman IPS Officer – Smt Kiran Bedi
- ❁ First Indian to Receive a Nobel Prize – Rabindranath Tagore
- ❁ First Indian to Go into Space – Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma
- ❁ First Indian Cricketer to Score a Double Century in One-Day International Cricket – Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar
- ❁ India's First Expressway – Mumbai–Pune Expressway
- ❁ First Woman President of the Indian National Congress – Annie Besant
- ❁ First Captain of the Indian Cricket Team – C. K. Nayudu
- ❁ First Cricketer to Receive the Khel Ratna Award – Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar
- ❁ First Satellite of India – Aryabhata
- ❁ First Indian to Win an Individual Olympic Gold Medal – Abhinav Bindra
- ❁ India's First Newspaper – The Bengal Gazette

*R.S. Harsh
VI-Jade*

Gentle eyes that see so much,
Paws that have the quiet touch,
Purrs that signal all is well
And show more love than words can tell.

Graceful movements touched with pride,
A calming presence by our side.
A friendship that will last and grow,
Small wonder why we love them so.



The Cat

*E. Fiona Michelle
IX-Sapphire*

1. Why is six afraid of seven?
 2. What has keys but can't open locks?
 3. What has a screen but never watches?
 4. I disappear when you finally look for me. Who am I?
 5. I am full at night but empty by morning. Who am I?
 6. The more you try to hold me, the faster I leave. Who am I?
 7. I wait for you to sleep so I can start working. Who am I?
 8. I know all your secrets but never speak unless you do. Who am I?
- "Keep questioning, because curiosity never ends."

Twist Riddles

Answer

1. Because seven ate nine
2. A piano
3. A phone
4. Your lost item
5. Your dreams
6. Time
7. Your dreams
8. Your mind



*Ashna G.J
IX-Jade*

A Brief History of Music



Music

The oldest known musical instrument is a vulture-bone flute discovered in Germany, dating back about 40,000 years. Ancient thinkers such as Pythagoras also linked mathematics with music, showing how rhythm and harmony are connected to numbers.

The Rise of Western Classical Music (1600–1900 CE)

1. Baroque Period (1600–1750)

Key Figures: Johann Sebastian Bach, Antonio Vivaldi, George Frideric Handel

2. Classical Period (1750–1820)

Key Figures: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Joseph Haydn

Famous Works: Turkish March (Mozart), Für Elise (Beethoven)

3. Romantic Period (1820–1900)

Key Figures: Frédéric Chopin, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Franz Liszt

Modern Music (1900–Present)

Jazz

Key Figures: Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald

Popular Music

Artists: Bruno Mars, JVKE, Taylor Swift

Digital Age and Beyond

Today, music is created, shared, and enjoyed through digital technology, allowing artists to reach audiences across the world instantly.

*Blesso
IX-Ruby*

Nature's Melody

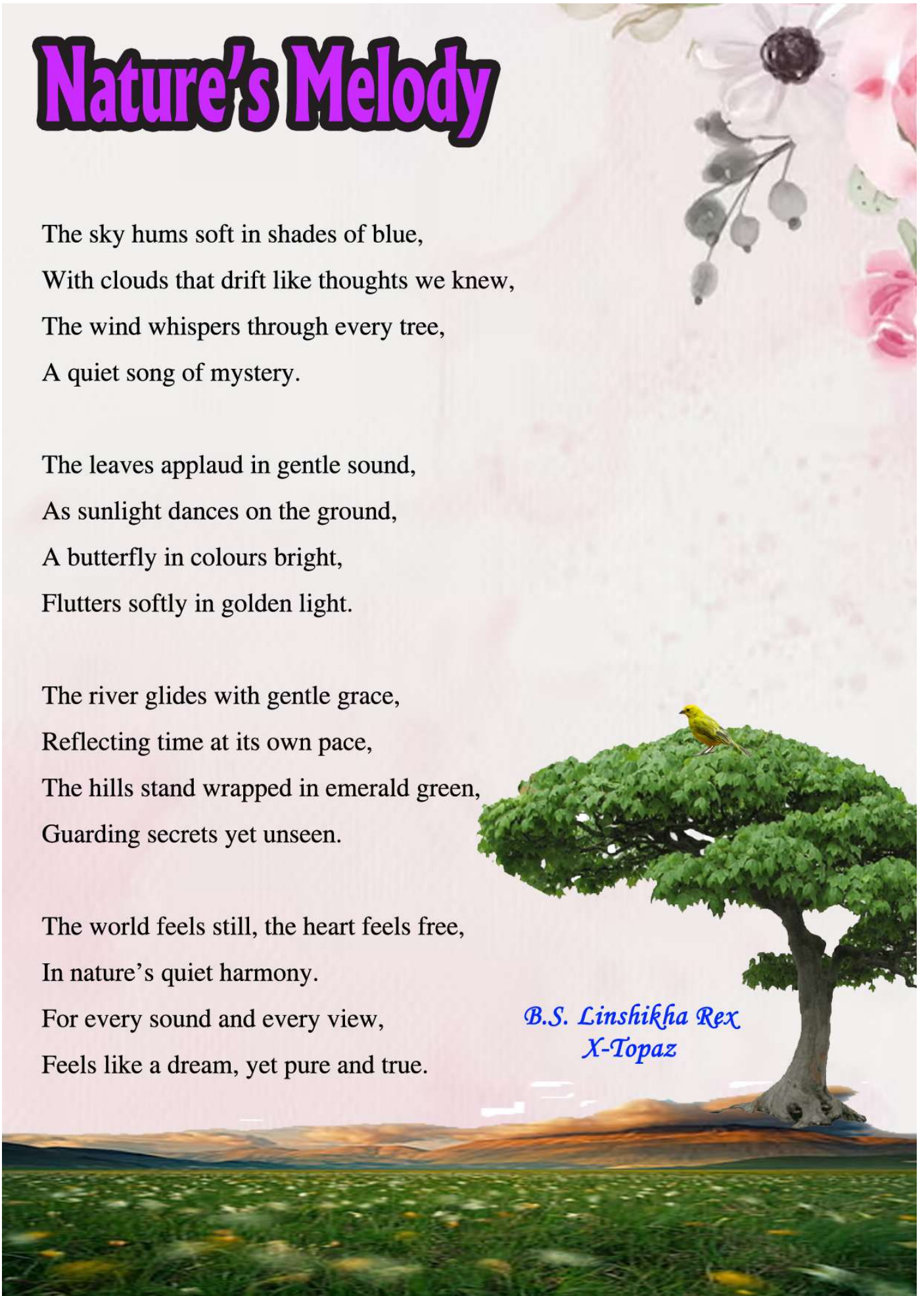
The sky hums soft in shades of blue,
With clouds that drift like thoughts we knew,
The wind whispers through every tree,
A quiet song of mystery.

The leaves applaud in gentle sound,
As sunlight dances on the ground,
A butterfly in colours bright,
Flutters softly in golden light.

The river glides with gentle grace,
Reflecting time at its own pace,
The hills stand wrapped in emerald green,
Guarding secrets yet unseen.

The world feels still, the heart feels free,
In nature's quiet harmony.
For every sound and every view,
Feels like a dream, yet pure and true.

*B.S. Linshikha Rex
X-Topaz*



Idioms and Proverbs



1. Practice makes perfect – You get better through practice.

Example: Keep trying; practice makes perfect.

2. In hot water – In trouble.

Example: I was in hot water for not doing my homework.

3. Face the music – Accept punishment or criticism.

Example: He broke the rule and had to face the music.

4. Life is a journey – Life has many stages and experiences.

Example: We learn new things because life is a journey.

5. A fresh start – A new beginning.

Example: The new school year is a fresh start.

6. Follow your dreams – Try to achieve your goals.

Example: Always follow your dreams.

Nedhish S.P
IX-Jade

Fun Facts

1. The skin on your feet has the thickest layer, while your eyelids have the thinnest.

2. Your heart can keep beating even outside your body as long as it has a supply of oxygen.

3. The brilliant orange flower Zinnia was the first flower ever grown in space.

4. An elephant's trunk has no bones but contains about 40,000 muscles.

5. Our mouths produce more saliva before we vomit to help protect our teeth from erosion. The acid in vomit is strong enough to wear them down.

6. Plants, like humans, can run a fever when they are sick.

7. Dogs sweat through the pads of their feet.

8. If you eat too many carrots, your skin may develop an orange tint.

9. Babies cannot taste salt until they are about four months old.

10. If you touch your tongue while yawning, the yawn may stop immediately.



Bhaghealakshmi
VI-Topaz

The Day The Earth Spoke



One morning, I woke up to a strange silence. There were no birds chirping and no wind blowing. Just silence.

Suddenly, I heard a soft voice.

“Can you hear me?” it asked.

“Who... who are you?” I whispered.

“I am your Earth,” the voice replied.

I was shocked.

“The Earth? Why are you talking to me?”

“Because,” it gently said, “you are finally quiet enough to listen.”

I did not know what to say. The Earth continued, “I give you air, water, and land. But what do you give me in return?”

I looked around. Plastic was everywhere. Smoke filled the sky. Trees had been cut down.

“I’m sorry,” I said.

“Sorry is a beginning,” the Earth replied. “But I need action.”

“What can I do?” I asked.

“Start small. Plant a tree. Save water. Say no to plastic. Inspire others.”

Then the silence returned.

But this time, it was not empty.

It was full of responsibility.

That day, I did not just wake up from sleep; I woke up to reality.

*Chrisbin Jaedon
IX-Sapphire*

The Mind's Quiet Chaos



Everyone says that the world outside is dangerous because of failures, competitions, pressure, and the things that come with growing up. But honestly, the most dangerous place is not outside at all. It is our own mind.

In school, this shows up more than we realise. A single low mark can feel much bigger than it actually is. One small mistake in class can stay in our thoughts longer than it should. Even simple moments, like a comment from a teacher or a reaction from classmates, can keep replaying in our heads.

It is not always the situation that affects us, but how much we think about it afterwards. Sometimes, it might be a small thing. But our mind creates false stories around it and makes us feel fearful or worried even when nothing is actually wrong.

From the outside, everything might seem completely normal. Classes go on, assignments get submitted, and conversations happen as always. But inside, there can be a lot going on that no one else notices.

That is what makes the mind such a powerful place. It can turn small worries into big ones. But at the same time, it also has the ability to do the opposite.

A little confidence can silence a lot of doubt. One positive thought can slowly replace many negative ones. It does not happen instantly, but it is possible.

The mind may sometimes feel like the most dangerous place. But if understood properly, it can also become the strongest support a person has.

“Because the mind is not just where worries live; it is also where courage and strength are born.”

Sanjna Sankar
XII-Stem

GK Quiz



1. Point Nemo is located in which ocean?
2. Who is the Education Minister of India?
3. In what unit is electrical power measured?
4. What do you call a scientist who studies planets?
5. What was badminton initially called?
6. Who is the author of the book Wings of Fire?
7. What is the currency of India?
8. What is the most poisonous fish in the world?
9. Who is known as the "Iron Man of India"?
10. Which city is known as the "City of Joy"?

Answers

1. Pacific Ocean
2. Dharmendra Pradhan
3. Watt
4. Astronomer
5. Poona
6. Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
(with Arun Tiwari)
7. Rupee
8. Stonefish
9. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
10. Kolkata

*Jashna Dany S.S
IV-Ruby*

If I Could Change Something!!!

"Today is the opportunity for change; tomorrow is the future we create."

If I could change one thing in the world, I would choose to make a difference by bringing equality to everyone. From the past to the present, equality has been declining in many parts of society. Sometimes, it feels as though the world is made only for rich people to survive and succeed. However, the truth is that the world was not created this way; we humans have made it so.



Today, society is divided by factors such as wealth, religion, social class, and even education. The wealthy often receive what they desire, while many poor people struggle even for food and education. As a result, people are not always treated equally. This is unfair and should not be accepted in a society that values humanity.

I often wonder why so many people have to face hardships and struggles. Later, I came to understand that the world is filled with challenges and suffering. Even so, I believe that positive change is possible. Miracles can happen when people choose kindness, understanding, and equality.

The world can become brighter only when we change our attitudes and learn to treat everyone with respect and fairness. If each of us takes a small step towards equality, we can make the world a more colourful, peaceful, and beautiful place for all.

Thank you.

*Reshma
VII-Topaz*

The Wise Tree

On the edge of a small village stood a crooked mango tree that no one liked. Its trunk bent sideways, and its branches grew in odd directions. The other trees laughed when children climbed them and ignored the crooked one.

One summer, a young boy named Arun came looking for shade. The straight trees were crowded, so he sat under the crooked mango tree. To his surprise, its twisted branches made the coolest, quietest spot. Day after day, Arun returned, reading his books and sharing his lunch beneath the tree.

One afternoon, a storm rolled in. Strong winds shook the village. The straight trees tried to stand tall, but many of their branches snapped. The crooked mango tree, however, bent with the wind. It swayed, dipped, and danced, but it did not break.

After the storm, the villagers noticed something new. The crooked tree was still strong, offering shade and even a few sweet mangoes. The other trees, now damaged, stood silent.

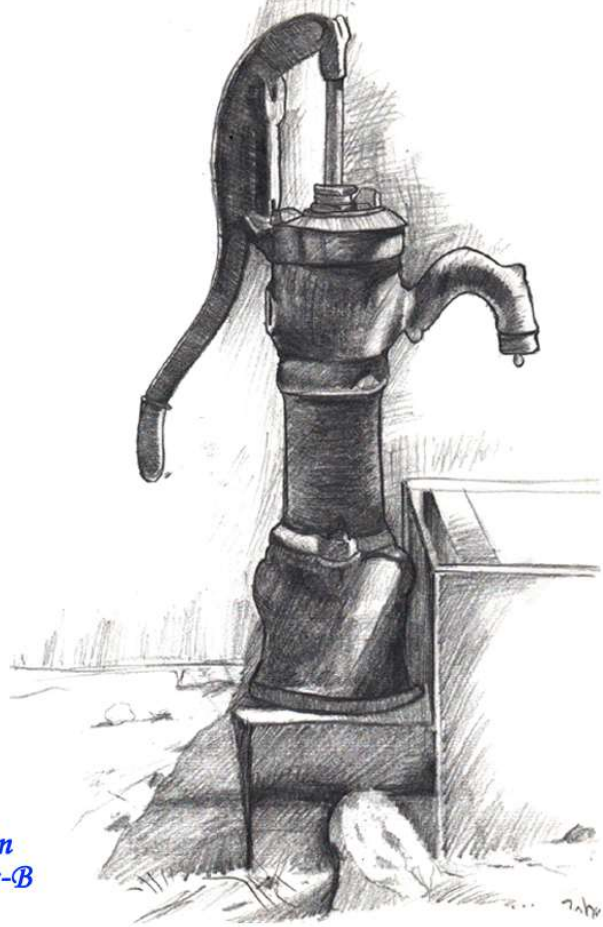
Arun smiled and said, “Sometimes being different is what keeps you strong.”

From that day on, no one called it crooked. They called it “the Wise Tree.”

Moral: Don’t judge a book by its cover.

Varshith R,S
IX-Sapphire





*Joshita John
IX-Aspirants-B*



*Joanna J.R.
IV-Ruby*

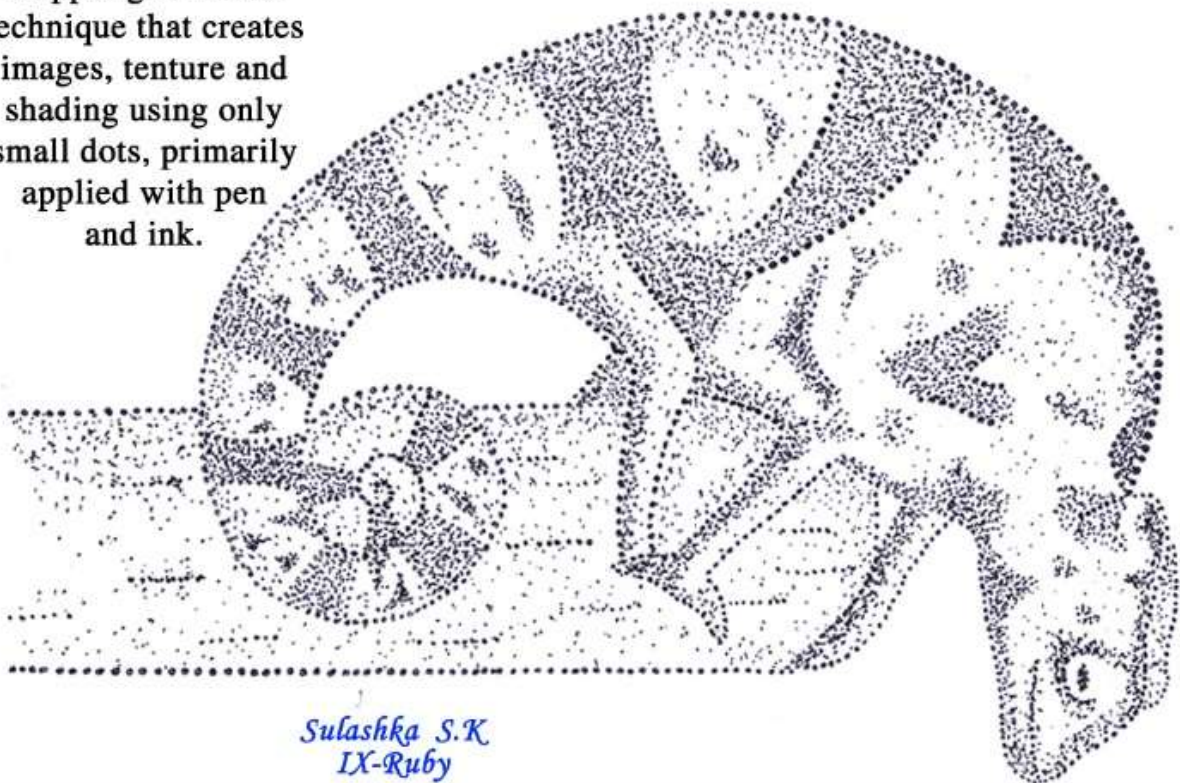






Renzo Bryan R.B
I-Ruby

Stippling is an are
technique that creates
images, tenture and
shading using only
small dots, primarily
applied with pen
and ink.



Sulashka S.K
IX-Ruby



*Aanic Jasper V.P
VIII-Ruby*



*Jadzia Sheraphine
IV-Ruby*