

National Public School Rajajinagar

**First Edition
2024-25
Volume LI**



GRADE 11



Editorial

With new beginnings come new hope, new possibilities and new life. As the bright summer transitions into the monsoons, nature showcases its miraculous renewal cycle. The parched earth eagerly drinks in the first drops of rain, and the once-dormant seeds burst forth with vibrant greenery. This seasonal transformation mirrors our own journey of growth and change. Just as the rain breathes life into the landscape, we too are inspired to embrace new opportunities, nurture our dreams and cultivate a future filled with promise.

Here we are at the start of yet another year, each with our aspirations, goals and commitments and our dreams. And to help you realise your dreams, why not take a little inspiration from others on their paths?

Crafted by our fellow students with creativity and dedication, the first edition of our school newsletter for the academic year 2024-25 celebrates the vibrant energies that come with new beginnings. Marvel at the talents of your classmates with various articles, poems and artwork, each an expression of their creator's individuality. Look at life through a brighter lens with Sunny Side Up, and read about inspiring individuals with Insights.

We thank our amazingly talented newsletter crew comprising tasteful editors, keen journalists, and the teachers who made all this possible. As we turn the pages of this issue, we find the motivation to pursue our dreams with renewed vigour and support one another through our collective journey of growth and discovery. Let's start this year with optimism and a commitment to making the most of every moment.

Looking forward to a wonderful year

Shuktij M Balaraja, 12A

Disha Solomon, 12B

Editors-in-Chief

TIMELINE



INVESTITURE – JUNE 4



CLASS ASSEMBLIES



CAREER COUNSELLING – JUNE 6



ORIENTATION (6-12)

INVESTITURE

JUNE 4, 2024

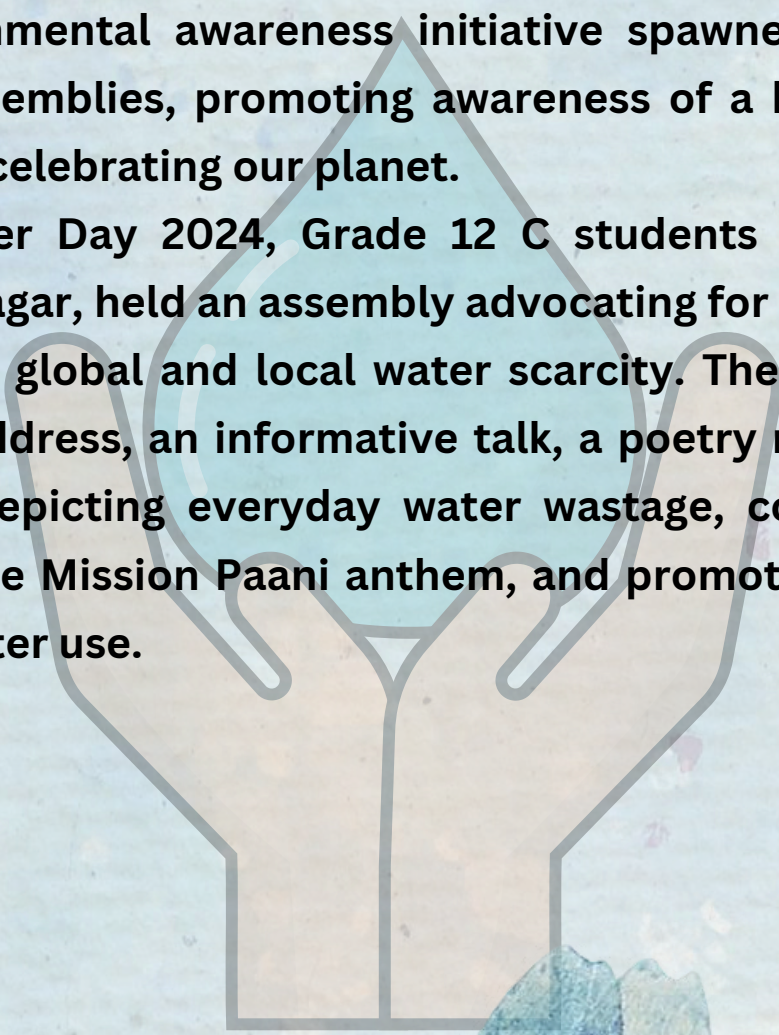
The investiture ceremony at National Public School, Rajajinagar, on June 4th, 2024, marked the start of the academic year by bestowing authority on student leaders. After a rigorous nomination and election process, the theme "Lumiere and Veritas" was chosen, symbolizing the quest for truth and enlightenment. The event began with an invocation song and a welcome address by the Principal, acknowledging the newsletter committee. Student council members were introduced and sworn in, followed by a disciplined March Past. Prefects, Vice-Prefects, House Captains, Sports Captains, Club Presidents and Secretaries were inducted, emphasizing their roles in fostering community and competition. This ceremony highlighted the school's dedication to developing future leaders and role models.



CLASS ASSEMBLIES

CBSE's environmental awareness initiative spawned several creative and unique assemblies, promoting awareness of a host of the world's problems, and celebrating our planet.

On World Water Day 2024, Grade 12 C students of National Public School, Rajajinagar, held an assembly advocating for water conservation and addressing global and local water scarcity. The event included an introductory address, an informative talk, a poetry recital, and a mime performance depicting everyday water wastage, concluding with the class singing the Mission Paani anthem, and promoting the message of responsible water use.



Students of Grade 10C organized a special assembly for World Forest Day. Beginning with a welcome speech followed by a poem celebrating Earth's greenery, the assembly included representations of forest-dwelling tribes, a presentation on forest facts, and concluded with the class singing Michael Jackson's "Heal the World," symbolizing their commitment to sustainability.

Students of Grade 10D organized an Earth Day assembly on April 22, promoting global environmental preservation. The assembly began with a welcome address and the song "Teri Mitti," followed by a skit highlighting environmental challenges and a collective pledge. It concluded with a performance of the Earth Day anthem and a closing speech, urging shared responsibility for the planet.

Students of Grade 10B hosted an assembly on the International Day of Biodiversity, starting with a dance performance on the importance of trees, followed by an art exhibition. A skit highlighted the harmful effects of human activities, particularly deforestation. A student then gave a speech with practical suggestions for safeguarding biodiversity. The assembly concluded with a vote of thanks, emphasizing the day's theme.

CAREER COUNSELLING (COMMERCE)

On June 6, 2024, Mr. Abhijeet S. Jain, regional head of The Institute of Cost Accountants of India and a distinguished alumnus of NPS Rajajinagar (2002), held a conference on cost accounting and post-12th career opportunities. Key topics included the importance of early goal-setting, starting courses in advance, and maximizing time by pursuing additional degrees like CS alongside main degrees (LLB, CA, etc.). Mr. Jain detailed the procedures, costs, and timelines for various career paths. An engaging Q&A session provided further insights into degree aspects, starting salaries, and supplementary courses. The conference broadened perspectives and introduced new possibilities, concluding with Mr. Abhijeet presenting a commemorative memento.

ORIENTATION (GRADES 6-12)

Orientation sessions were held for parents of students in Grades 6, 9, 11, and 12, as well as for parents of newly admitted students in Grades 7 and 8 for the 2024-25 academic year, to familiarize them about scholastic and co-scholastic programs.



SUNNYSIDE UP

Blowing Raspberries

It was just a few words.

But yet, it was enough to crush me.

That's the beauty of words. You don't need many to get a point across. We've all experienced hearing people's whispers and judgy remarks. We've felt that intense rush of fear and restlessness before posting a story, checking it again and again to make sure it was just as good as the first time, and contemplating whether it was even worth posting in the first place.

We've experienced that feeling when you think the entire world has something to say about you. That feeling when you think millions of eyes are on you for all the wrong reasons, or when you feel a wave of mortification wash over you, and all you want to do is hide and never come back.

I just want to be an honest musician all my life. As you travel, unknowingly we all become complacent at a point of time, we start taking things easier and I don't want to get into that space where I'm too complacent about my career. I never want to lose my focus.

Opinions are put forth for growth. Receiving various viewpoints on different scenarios help us get a better understanding of the situation, and allows us to utilize it to the best of our abilities. The only dilemma that arises is the intensity of the opinions.

Insults and disapproval are bound to come our way. Experiencing loss and defeat is a path everyone goes down once, and it is reasonable to feel disheartened and demotivated. But it is vital to remember your inherent worth and strength.

People may try to bring you down with their words, but their negativity does not define you. Embrace your uniqueness by staying true to yourself and surrounding yourself with positive influences.

Shifting our concerns from external validation to personal growth can help make a significant change. We must also embrace emotional resilience, and build our self-confidence to become less susceptible to external negativity.

Judgement mostly arises from the insecurities and biases of others, rather than an actual, well-intentioned perspective. Recognizing this makes us understand how trivial the remark we once viewed as "demeaning and subduing" truly was.

Fumble that speech. Get that question wrong. Post that story. Because, at the end of the day, others' opinions don't matter.

They never mattered in the first place.

By : Tisya Mahesh Chikodi - 10C
Chief Columnist – Sunny Side Up

INSIGHTS



Vijay Prakash is an Indian Playback singer and also a Music director from Karnataka. He has given his voice for predominantly Kannada, Tamil, and Telugu films, in addition to Hindi, Malayalam and Marathi films. Prakash won the Karnataka Government's 'Best Playback Singer' award for the year 2016 for the song "Nammooralli Chaligaladalli" from the film Beautiful Manasugalu. He is also one of the artists credited for the song "Jai Ho", which won the 2008 Academy Award for Best Original Song. The song also won a Grammy Award in the category "Best Song Written for Motion Picture, Television Or Other Visual Media." He has also won the Filmfare Award for Best Male Playback Artist – Kannada twice for the songs Gatiya Ilidu from the Kannada film Ulidavaru Kandante and Belageddu from Kirik Party.

A lot of people are afraid in choosing an unconventional path. You have a degree in engineering; yet chose to pursue your passion. When or what incident stirred your inner voice to pursue singing?

I'm not very proud to say but I couldn't finish my engineering. My dream to become a singer was so powerful that I had to choose it midway. That's not something I would ever advice or suggest anyone because in today's time and in fact much later in my life I realized education is very important, no matter how strong your dreams are to pursue something that is outside the academic. Not only as plan B but education is very important as it gives you a broader understanding of life itself and helps you in application of your skills in the right way and approach. In my case, I joined engineering but somewhere my mind was full of music. I couldn't focus on anything else but singing and when you are young you dream a lot, which is good and is important in any age. Specially in your teens, you look forward to life right? There is so much imagination of what life could be and what you would want it to be, that was my fuel.

A certain imagination of me being a singer, me being on stage performing and learning more about music. Today you want to know more about my journey, it means there is something that you see in my journey and that something comes with self-belief and a focus that never gets shaken by the outcome of what you decide. Once you decide you want to become something, you should just keep chasing it no matter what, whether you win or lose, there's hope or no hope, just keep chasing your dream. That's what I did and I'm glad I did it!

You grew up in Mysore, the historical, cultural city. How did the city inspire and ignite your love for music? How did you feel moving to Bombay to pursue music professionally, from the peace and comfort of your home to hustle and bustle of Bombay?

Mysore being an organic, historical and cultural city influenced me to a great extent. The people of Mysore are very kind, relaxed and receptive to art and artisans. As a child, Mysuru Dasara and the performances of legends like Yesudas and Balamuralikrishna inspired me. Organically and subconsciously my body and mind absorbed music naturally as my grandparents and parents were musicians too. Hence in a way I would dedicate my musicianship to my hometown.

I was 19 when I moved to Bombay with dreams. Dreams give you strength. There was cultural shock, but I moved out my comfort zone to handle myself emotionally and physically and that's life. That's how Bombay helped me to explore myself and to be a better person.

What has been the challenging piece you have worked on so far in your career? How did you overcome it and handle the pressure and expectation?

Honestly, even today when I go for a recording it is still a challenge. The challenge never ends, every thing that you do in life is a challenge and it is so because you want to excel in it. There is a certain preparation, either you can call it preparation or a challenge, it's just the terminology. Right now, I'm judging three reality shows, Sa Re Ga Ma Pa in Kannada, Tamil and Telugu, for which most of the days I have to take a flight at 5am, even now after being in the industry for so many years, it is challenging but you want to do it because you want to give the best out of yourself. Coming back to your question, what was the most challenging piece of music, is something which I really don't have an answer to because every song was a challenge for me. You are born with a certain indigenous quality, in the sense if I say it in a musical way, I can sing in a certain style and range, I have more of a mid and baritone voice. So, if I have to sing in a high pitch, maybe it's out of my comfort zone, if I have to hit higher notes, I have to push myself. Pushing is not stressing yourself, it is finding techniques to reach those difficult spots in life without stressing yourself. You should think how to achieve it without taking stress, then you will just find a secret path within your mind. So, when you take anything as a challenge it drains you out, but when you take it as something you need to decode and find an answer to it without stressing, then it is a joyful experience. That's what I try to do.

In a career like music, where the future isn't foreseeable, did you ever think of doing something else? Has there ever been a phase in your life where you felt you're your career was overwhelming? What kept you going?

No matter what, belief in life is important. I always believed that life is fair to me and in the end we will love our journey against all odds. The universe supports this belief and hard work and the uncertainty of life slowly disappears. Believe in yourself and your talent and be optimistic about your life's journey.

You were one of the finalists in the popular singing show Sa Re Ga Ma Pa in 1999. Now you are one of the judges in the Kannada, Tamil and Telugu versions of the show. This is a milestone of an achievement. From being inspired to an inspiration yourself. How does that make you feel?

It's a very natural experience and I can proudly say it is my hard work, there is no other secret to it. I have worked for 18 hours a day for so many years and I'm still working for 17-18 hours a day. Because I get joy out of working, it's not like I'm working because I have to work. From being a contestant in Sa Re Ga Ma Pa to being a judge of the same show in three languages is a journey and a very full filling one. Also, its about sharing with people what you have understood, what you think you have learnt from other people in terms of knowledge and experience. Time is very precious, we often fail realising it, every day, every moment is a treasure which we are spending and this is something you can't earn again. But if you are using it in a right way, it rewards you. I was a contestant, and after the contest it's not like I took life easy, I kept working on my music, there's a body of work that kept building. When you achieve something, don't look back and just be satisfied about what you have, of coarse you have to keep celebrating yourself everyday but keep looking forward and how much more you can accomplish.

What was that one piece of advice you received that made you stand strong during difficult times? Who were the idols you looked up to in your growing days and still do look up to even today?

A friend of mine said that I have a good voice. He also said that having a great voice is not life, but what you do with that voice is life. In 2010 while touring the US with AR Rahman sir, I received huge appreciation for my performance in couple of concerts, but that didn't last in few other concerts, which upset me. At that moment, when I went backstage, the advice that I received from AR Rahman sir has stuck with me till date. He said "When things are going your way that's great, but when things don't go your way, how you react shows your character and integrity." That experience taught me that life is always in between the threshold of happiness and sadness. It keeps throwing success and failure at you. How you face it is what really matters. That is our true test of character.

For a musician like you, music is a part of your soul. You take your music everywhere with you. Where do you envision yourself in the next few years? What barriers do you want to break to take music forward?

I just want to be an honest musician all my life, as you travel, unknowingly we all become complacent at a point of time, we start taking things easier and I don't want to get into that space where I'm too complacent about my career. I never want to lose my focus, that's what I want to be. After 25 years, I still want to be excited about what I want to do. If I have to go on stage, I want to have the same excitement and enthusiasm I had when I was 20. Also, as a musician and a responsible citizen, I want to do whatever charity, philanthropy work, in the field of music specially, for talent who cannot afford music education. That is something I have been doing in a small scale, I really want to scale it up and help a lot of budding musicians and find a path that can help them achieve their success. For the barriers I want to break, there will always be some inner struggles with you right, like something in you which you want to change, it could be anything like you want to eat a cake but you want to hold back for your health, if you consider these simple things as barriers then there will be many. So many things in me that I want to change with time, some I have managed to, some I may take little time, some I may never, but it's okay, it's a beautiful journey. One good thing about me is I celebrate myself and I know my limits and strengths. That's one thing I want to keep intact other little barriers I'll try to overcome with time.



Nishka Prashanth 10C

Tia Salian 10B



CONSCIOUSNESS AND ITS ENIGMA

What is consciousness? Is it simply the state of being present in all 5 senses? Is it just being able to see, hear, taste, smell, and feel? Consciousness has been a mystery to philosophers and thinkers for centuries. The very meaning of consciousness has a vast image. The thoughts our mind produces and the way our body interprets them are both different sides of consciousness in themselves. Everyone can describe how the ocean may feel to them, but the feeling is extremely subjective to the concerned person. The qualia is the hard problem of consciousness. Older theories, like those presented by John Locke, suggest that consciousness may be the interaction of neurons but, newer theories backed by the proof of technology suggest that consciousness arises from eukaryotic neural networks. Over the years, various philosophers and psychologists have explained consciousness in terms of subjective analysis. The very first theory was introduced by René Descartes, who explained that – “Consciousness is irrefutable- even if everything else you think you know is an illusion- because consciousness is observed from within.”

This revolutionary theory gave birth to the famous quote- “I think, therefore I am.” Recent and more plausible theories suggest that consciousness arises from the complexity of a system. This theory came to be known as the IIT theory or the Information Integration Theory. Theories of consciousness have been discussed for years and research is being done even now, and this makes a ‘conclusion’ to this discussion pointless. Consciousness does not need to have a definition. Each brain has its consciousness much like each body. Each consciousness has its feeling of presence unique to the beholder of the spectacle.



A Thorn's Beauty

**Deep inside the garden, pain blossoms like a rose,
Its sharp thorns penetrating where hope was once born.**

It wraps around dreams with relentless embrace,

A shadowed reminder of life's delicate space.


But amidst the petals of torment's cruel art,

Resilience grows, a flower in the heart.

Just as a rose blossoms despite the thorns,

Courage unfolds within, again and again.

Medha Biswajit, 11 A





LIFE

The sun starts to set,

Seasons change once more.

I was seven full of joy and desire,

When did I reach adulthood,



I sit and wonder.

Someday with wrinkles and creases,

Smooth skin no more

Will I truly see how wonderful life is?

Drishti Jain - 11B




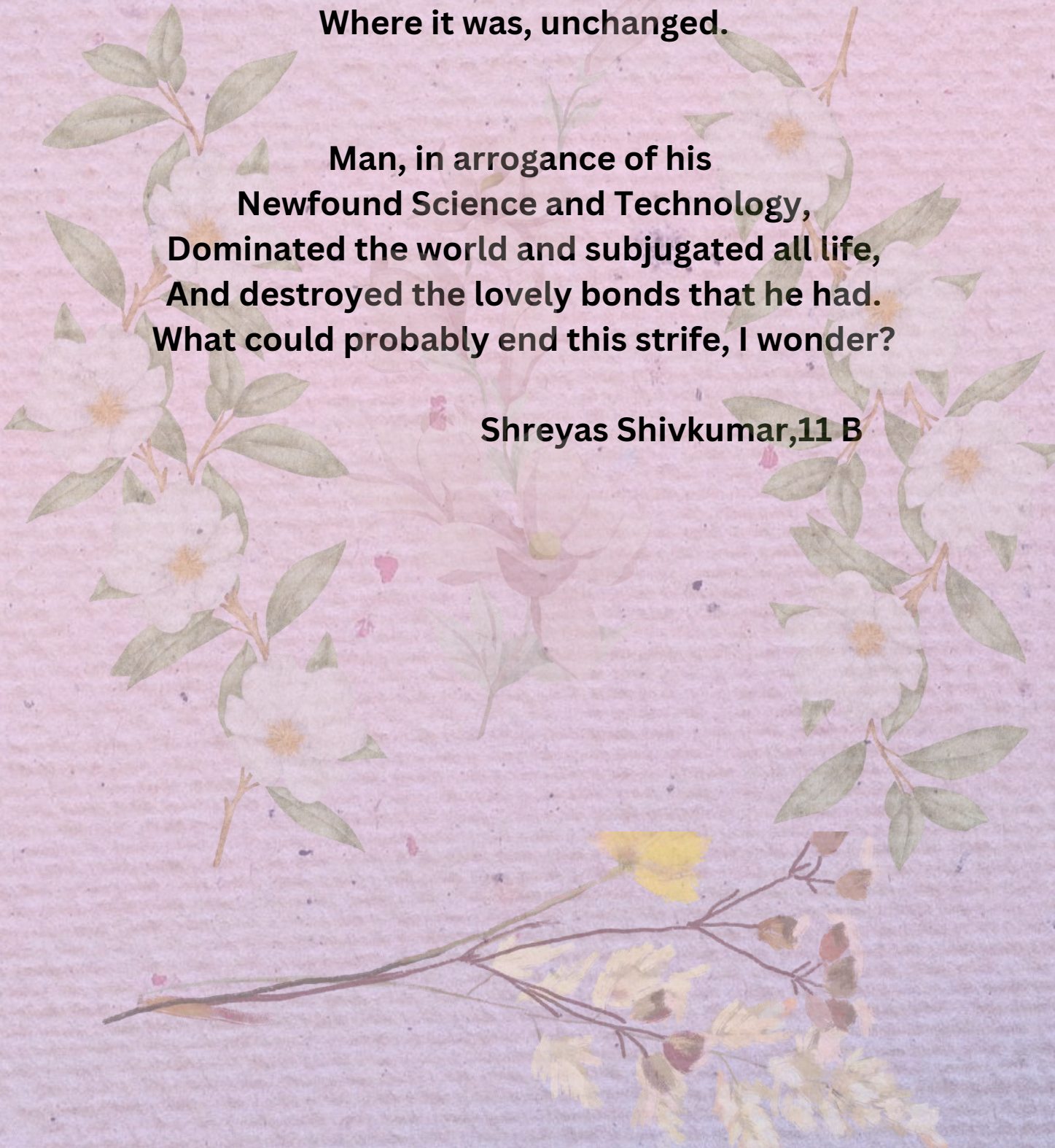
CULTURE



**With changing times,
Man has changed.
He has modernised the world
But his culture remained
Where it was, unchanged.**

**Man, in arrogance of his
Newfound Science and Technology,
Dominated the world and subjugated all life,
And destroyed the lovely bonds that he had.
What could probably end this strife, I wonder?**

Shreyas Shivkumar, 11 B



Happy? Or “happy”?

In a world where smiles are plastic,
And chatter flows like cheap elastic,
They prattle on, these merry souls,
With vacant eyes and empty goals.
Their laughter's loud, their joy a shout,
Their words, they spill without a doubt,
Yet underneath, a quiet fear,
That silence brings the truth too near.
They speak of dreams, of skies so blue,
But never once of what's most true.
Their voices fill the empty air,
A constant noise, a ceaseless blare.
But hush, dear friend, just for a while,
And let your thoughts drift out in style.
For in the quiet, wisdom grows,
And peace, like gentle water, flows.
In silence, we find our power,
A strength within, a tranquil hour.
So let the talkers fill the space,
While we embrace the silent grace.

-Kriday Kumar 11B

Daydream

Daydreams are ones with ability

A place for endless possibilities

for some it is the definition of freedom

because they enjoy it during boredom.

Others see it as a distraction

as it takes away all their attention,

but they don't know about the unimaginable things

because their creativity didn't get wings.

So, daydreams aren't so bad

But they make reality look sad

-Shuddhi Mahadev, 11C

The Conjuror

In the shadows cast by candlelight,
A behemoth composed of day and night.
Fingers poised upon the ivory keys,
A pianist conjuring melodies with ease.
With each stroke, a story softly told,
In notes, emotions and mysteries unfold.

From tender whispers to thunderous roar,
The piano sings of life's rich lore.
In hallowed halls or humble abode,
The pianist finds solace in her ode.

A maestro crafting dreams from silent air,
A virtuoso beyond compare.
Through joy and sorrow, love and pain,
Her music weaves a timeless chain.

A symphony of the soul, a timeless art,
the pianist's passion connects all hearts.
For in her melody, we find our own,
A journey shared, a world unknown.

Ira Jaliha, 11B

Left behind

The ashes of sunset and tears of fire
whisper goodbye as the darkness goes higher!

A season end of gilded light
laughter lingers in fading light.

Endings aren't curtains drawn
but neither give the perfect dawn.

Cracked cocoons and butterflies
(the waning moon's slyest smile)!

Treasures of a cherished hoard
on Odysseys new, not drawn aboard,
Shadows fall, but dawn ignites
a Phoenix's fleeting first flight.

The gratitude of silent vows
are filled with "why?"s, and "don't know how"s

But shall we raise a quiet toast,
to chapters ending, to new glory and boast?

For new symphony starts to hum
a vibrant world, we welcome!

Saqeeb Chand, 11 C

ART

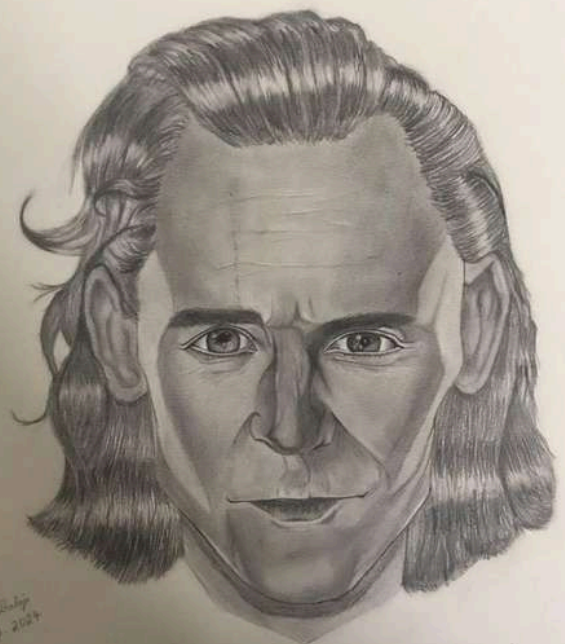
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Loki: The God of Mischief

Diya Balaji, 11 B



Exploring the wild

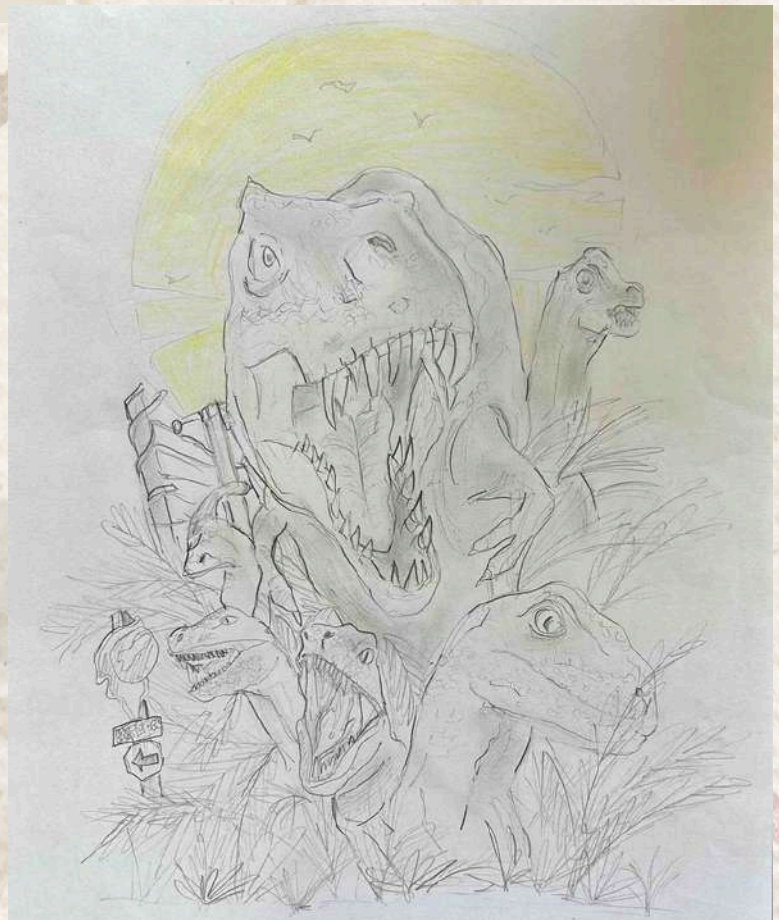
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