

Express

YOURSELF

Did you go on a vacation with your family recently?

Do you wish to put down your thoughts about something that's troubling you? Did a speech or talk inspire you to be a better human being? Are you a budding poet or painter? Whatever be your interest, use this space to speak up.

WE CAN FIX CLIMATE CHANGE

Once a phrase used only by scientists, climatologists and science teachers, "global warming" is a commonly discussed topic nowadays. With the month of June being the hottest ever recorded, it's obvious that an extreme climate change is taking place. And the fact that we humans are responsible for this change and the impact is increasingly serious and even dangerous, has nothing to do with how much we know about science or how smart we are, but simply where we figure in the political spectrum. But saying that, "Yes it's a real problem and I don't want to fix it," makes us the bad guys. According to the Journal of Petroleum Science and Engineering, "The use of fossil fuels produced 23.8 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide in 1996," and is estimated to substantially increase the global temperature in the next 50-100 years. But despite various evidences and scientific data supporting the argument that the use of fossil fuels needs to cease, the issue of global warming still remains to be a great challenge. Climate change affects every single one of us. From

the smallest organism on Earth to us, homo sapiens, and beyond, climate change has long term consequences that cannot be predicted. As a young adult, a safe and clean environment means a lot to me. I believe it is important to know how serious this issue is and find

public transport, saving water, rainwater harvesting and switching to solar energy etc are a few of the measures. The bottom line is this – climate change is af-



fecting you and me right here, right now, in the places where we live. But by working together we can hopefully fix it.

- HUNAR, class XI, Carmel Convent School, Chandigarh



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BUILDING LEADERSHIP AND TRUST

To be honest, I wasn't looking forward to the Senate camp. We tried to dance in the bus headed for Kumarakom, but a moving bus isn't exactly the best dance floor. On reaching our destination, our vice-principal and principal took sessions that turned out to be eye-openers. They made us understand that as leaders we should shoulder responsibilities and never doubt ourselves. But within minutes, we were running around like crazy. The games were designed to tap leadership skills. In one game, we were blindfolded – a leader had to take us through a series of obstacles. It taught us communication and trust. The most competitive game was a treasure hunt, by the end of which we were all at each other's throat. Next was the dive into the



cool pool which was full of fun. The best part of the day was the game 'Fair Pair' in which we had to find a pair and dance to a song or enact a scene from a movie. Seriously, I had the best time at Senate camp. A day I dreaded turned out to be one of the best in my life. I hadn't just made friends but a family. For me, the camp was a golden opportunity to make new friends and renew ties with old ones. Needless to say, I look forward to attending similar camps in future.

- DIYAA JYOTHILAL, class X, Gregorian Public School, Ernakulam

REJOICE IN WHAT YOU HAVE

It was the first week of March; I was visiting my sister in Kolkata. I was happily munching on a sandwich, chatting with my sister and mother in the car. That is when I saw three children



nice clothes or food. This made it uncomfortable for me to eat the sandwich. I wrapped it in a newspaper and told my mom that I would eat it later.

Their smiles haunted me and that's when I realised how comfortable my life was. I remembered the times I cried for a dress my friend had even though I had a better one. I realised how lucky I was to have such great parents, a comfortable home, good clothes, food and everything else to lead a content life. That day, I learnt to be satisfied and rejoice in what I have.

- ANUPAMA S, class IX, Venkat International Public School, Bengaluru

MY SPACE GOES DIGITAL TOO

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I AM NOBODY'S PRINCESS

Princess. When I mention the word 'princess' you are struck by the image of an elegant, delicate woman walking down the steps of her palace. When I say princess, are you also struck by her weakness, dependence and that her only goal in life is to meet her prince charming so that he can turn her sorry life around? I have a few questions to ask these princesses. Couldn't Cinderella have been bold enough to stand up to her torturous stepmother instead of remaining her helpless slave? Why did Ariel sacrifice her ethereal voice just to meet some unknown prince? If their love was so true, why couldn't she ask the prince to come and meet her in the ocean instead? What if Sleeping Beau-

ty's prince had never come to meet her? These princesses portray exactly what a girl shouldn't be – dependent, fickle, faint-hearted and always submissive.

I know, what you are likely to say, "Hey, chill. It's just fiction." I agree. But what about girls all over the world presuming that weakness, dependency and pretty faces are the only sign of true beauty? Basically, this means fitting into society's image of perfect little girls (princesses). Any girl who is not thin, not particularly nice to look at, is carefree or opinionated and/or unafraid to express her views is termed as 'disrespectful' or 'a tomboy'. In fact



boys, along with girls, carry the burden of leading 'a perfect fairy tale life'. Shedding tears is considered a weakness and accepting defeat the sign of a wimp. Have you ever read about a 'prince' crying? As new definitions of masculinity infiltrate the world, sensitive men are shamed.

To change the scenario, I thought of making princesses new role models – giving them the title of goddesses. Indian goddesses are polar opposites of princesses. They are strong, fiercely independent, highly intelligent and are their own 'Prince Charming'. Indian goddesses are the epitome of power. They are the women every girl

Indian goddesses are polar opposites of princesses. They are strong, fiercely independent, highly intelligent and are their own 'Prince Charming'. Indian goddesses are the epitome of power and are the women every girl must look up to.

must look up to. My first choice is goddess Kali. She is intense, powerful and fearless. This dusky beauty, proudly flaunting her dark complexion, can slay any demon in her way. So don't think that dark isn't beautiful! We should learn from Kali to be fearless and stand up to anybody looking to suppress us. My next choice is Saraswati, goddess of wisdom, music and learning. Intelligence and tranquillity emanate from her. All girls must at least try to be like her – smart, confident and poised. Number three is Durga, the goddess of justice and protector of all that is good and

harmonious in the world. Protecting our world and all that it stands for is an important quality to be learnt from this ferocious deity.

There you go, I 'scrapped' the princesses and gave you new role models to look up to. I feel that Indian goddesses could easily take princesses down in a fight. We should also be like that. Anyone trying to take us down should be met with stiff opposition. So don't be a princess, be a 'goddess' instead.

- SANIKA DESHMUKH, class IX, Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Vashi

IMP: All the articles and poems are published with bare minimum editing.

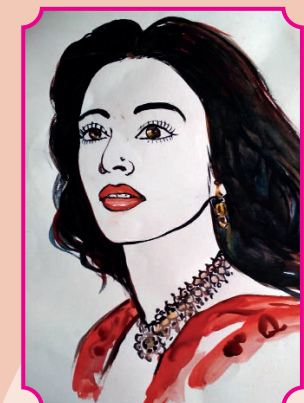
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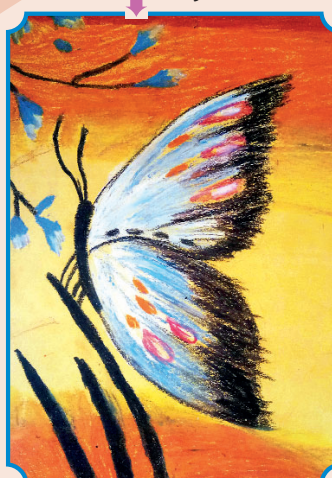
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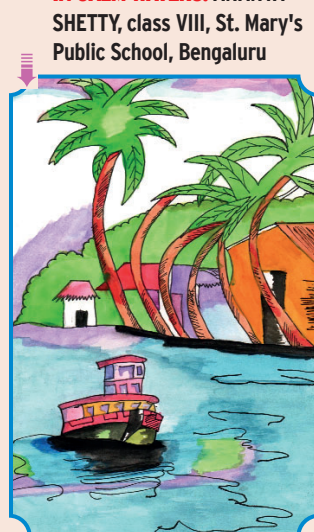
RAVEN EYED: SHREYA S KANT, class VIII, Gregorian Public School, Ernakulam



FLUTTER OF BEAUTY: ANITA KUMAR, class V, Jnana Sweekar Public School, Bengaluru



MOTHER OF MINE: SAHIL DHIMAN, class IX, Holy Child School, Morni



IN CALM WATERS: ANANYA SHETTY, class VIII, St. Mary's Public School, Bengaluru

STAND UP FOR YOURSELF

Ah! the world outside consumed in its gloom
Waiting and waiting to succeed before its doom,
But one man apart from the oceans of crowds,
Has one thought in his mind, swirling around,
And he waits and waits for the time to come when he says it aloud
And when the time comes he says it aloud and it sounds like :
The crowds I see outside my window
Working like machines, on a command or a lure for mel-low
Functioning for a life, then falling like a hive
Broken, broken, broken

But they never know what lies beyond,
Beyond the chains which bind them,
The chains which scarred their hands and numbed them
There lies the nitwit doom
And the most priced fame
Some people that go 'beyond' experience either of the two in their game
Or end up trying even if they were lame.
People who live out of the box actually live,
People who think different are the ones living
The population of the world actually is only a few hundreds living
Only a few hundreds living

and giving the world,
What only a 'few' can see .
These are the people who see gold where everyone sees nothing.
Nothing, nothing nothing -
There is no word as it Cause the whole world erupted from it.
Figure it up and it will chew you brains
Grind it up into fine grains, It will be too copious to count,
Either equal to the hair in your nose
Or equal to the clouds in a rose.
At last I want to say,
There is nothing in this world to make you gay
Or tear you up and make

you pay
Unless you create such a haphazard way as people say.
Stand up, and up out of the crowd,
If the crowd flows south, flow north,
If the crowd laughs at you because you are different, Laugh at them because they are nothing much but someone silent.
You are you
The game is yours, C'mon let's get set for the chores
As life's difficult to the core And then you stand up to the crowds and say:
This is it, or have you got more?

ARNAB CHOKHAWALA, class VII, Children's Academy School, Kandivali, Mumbai

OCEANS OF FANTASY

Perplexed by the ocean of the world,
Anxious by the fish in the sea,
Composed only by the sound of the waves and dreams in the sky.

ESHUPRIYEH BELGOTRA, class X, NESISM, Mumbai

THE REVELATION

I was shocked, a little surprised
When I heard my heart's voice.
It said something I never expected to hear
But it was something



I knew was there. It said it because It couldn't bear anymore
The deep fears Sugarcoated with 'strength'
Now came out melted.

NEHARIKA THAKUR, class XII, KV INS Dronacharya, Ernakulam