

BACK TO THIEVERY: ALLADIN

Stealing has become a regular job for me now, unless I am in Agrabah. The corona chapter is far from over. Now it has turned into a scarier demon. Sometimes, I think of Genie who had given me three wishes. But Genie, though he is my friend and can do anything, says that he can't make a virus vanish; besides not being able to make someone love another person, or bring back the dead. I told him 'great sorcerers and magicians can take you under control but you cannot control a virus?'. We have not spoken since.

CHIRANJEEV
CHABBI, class
VIII, Pratibha
International School

Tiny Tales

Entries

PART 2

Dear diary,
I MISS ROWLEY,
GREG HEFFLEY

It's been 2 months of lockdown now, and I feel lonely as I cannot talk to my best friend Rowley. I am so lonely these days that I would be happy to even meet my crazy classmate Fregley. However, my elder brother, Rodrick is chilling out these days. Although he cannot meet his friends or go out to perform with his band, he is content to be in his room and plays video games.

RUPSA KARMAKAR, class VIII C, School,
Calcutta Girls High School, Kolkata

ANNABETH CHASE SAYS WE
HAVE TO FIGHT TOGETHER

Dear diary,

Today morning, I woke up to find the world at rest. It was deadly quiet and I heard only the sound of the birds chirping at Camp Half-Blood. Usually, by this time, we can hear Clarisse yelling at her siblings or some sword fighting going on in the arena. But in the past few weeks, we haven't heard anything. This is due to the virus which has taken the world by storm. This isn't something we can fix with Daedalus' laptop or with a sword fight. We, the world, have to fight this together, as one team.

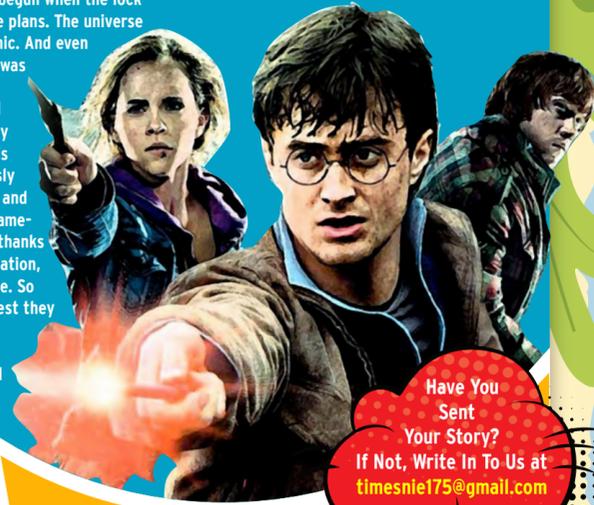
MANJARI PARUCHURI, class IX, Delhi School of Excellence-Attapur, Hyderabad

HARRY GOT STUCK
AT HOGWARTS

Third-year at Hogwarts just got over and the holidays had begun when the lockdown froze all the plans. The universe was facing a rare pandemic. And even the famous Harry Potter was getting bored. He really wanted to go outside and relax in the cold and flaky Hogwarts ground with his best friends - Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger and meet the Hogwarts game-keeper, Hagrid. But thanks to the current situation, none was possible. So each did the best they could. Ron helped Hagrid

take care of the Hogwarts animals, Hermione spent hours studying in the Gryffindor common room and Harry spent his time talking to Hedwig, or polishing his Firebolt.

AHMAD IMRAN PATEL, class VII, Delhi Public School



Have You Sent Your Story?
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BIRBAL ABIDES BY
SOCIAL DISTANCING

One day Share Khan - brother-in-law of Akbar went to Hasan's for a haircut. In the next two days, Akbar became ill, followed by his wife. Birbal was out in the neighbouring kingdom for work. When Birbal reached Delhi, 50+ courtiers were sick along with Akbar. Birbal asked the *valdyas* to check the infected people.



He realised that all people have common symptoms. Birbal knew it is a type of virus, and social distancing was only solution to curb it. He sent guards wearing masks to Akbar to explain the situation. Birbal directed Akbar to control the virus. He started running the 'darbar' while the courtiers stood in the balcony; and supplied free food to the needy. After few weeks, all is well.

SAANVI SAIKAR, class I,
DPS Panvel

WE MADE MOTHER'S DAY
SUPER SPECIAL FOR MARMEE:
JO MARCH

Dear diary,

This lockdown, Meg and I have been off work, Amy is having online classes and Marmee (mom) has been taking great care of us. So, when we realised that there were no plays, no events, no movies to attend on Mother's Day, we planned a day off for Marmee. At the break of dawn, I recited a poem to Marmee, Meg presented a scarf to her which she had sewn herself, Amy made drawings and Beth played a tune on her piano. Then, we finished the household chores ourselves and organised a grand lunch. We made salads, sandwiches, burgers. For the evening, we prepared cream and muffins. It was quite late by the time we finished as we'd been cooking our favourite foods. Marmee said that this was the best meal she ever had.

P V DHARSHINI, Class VII, SBOA School And Junior College,
Chennai

I HAD A GREAT TIME WITH
MS HONEY: MATILDA

Dear diary,

Today is the last day of the lockdown and I want to share with you my experience through it. I have been living my life with immense faith and gratitude as I was really clueless about the future. But thankfully, I had been adopted by Miss Honey, who is now my de-facto mom. We ended up having a great time together. I think it was the best time we both ever



had. I helped her sweep the floor, wash the utensils and performed other household chores with my kinetic powers. We painted droll pictures, cracked funny jokes and cooked every meal together. After supper, we used to read books and sleep. Once we even had a night out in the backyard of our garden and found never-seen-before constellations. We tried making home-made ice cream and after trying several times, BOOM! Wow, we were speechless - it was that awesome.

I will always remember this lockdown!
VANSHIKA, class V, DPS, Sector 45, Gurgaon

Test yourself

Quiz time

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Q.1) For which novel did Salman Rushdie win the 1981 Booker Prize?

- A. East, West
B. Midnight's Children
C. The Moor's Last Sigh
D. The Satanic Verses



Q.2) Which crime writer created the character Detective Inspector Jack Frost?

A. RD Wakefield
B. RD Waterfield
C. RD Wingfield

D. RD Woodfield

Q.3) In 1955, poet Philip Larkin became a librarian at which university?

- A. Cambridge
B. Hull C. Leicester
D. Oxford

Q.4) Which author wrote these novels: 'Quite Ugly One Morning' and 'Be My Enemy'?

- A. Christopher Brookmyre
B. Iain Banks
C. Ian Rankin
D. Irvine Welsh

ANSWERS

1. B) Midnight's Children 2. C) RD Wingfield 3. B) Hull
4. A) Christopher Brookmyre

KNOWLEDGE BANK (GEMSTONE)

Taaffeite

Taaffeite is a unique mineral, named after its discoverer, Richard Taaffe (1898-1967). Taaffe found the first sample - a cut and polished gem - in October 1945 - in a jeweller's shop in Dublin, Ireland. Taaffeite is the only gemstone to have been initially identified from a faceted stone. It remains till date one of the rarest gemstone minerals in the world.

- SRINJOY TALUKDAR, class VII, Calcutta Boys' School



BEST OUT OF WASTE

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Do you have overripe bananas that you are considering doing away with? Don't discard them. These overripe fruits can be put to great use for making some interesting things. Here are some ideas:

Puree banana in ice creams and shakes

Bananas cannot be consumed directly when they become mushy. But puree them and add to your mango shake (instead of sugar) and you will have a thick, frothy and nutritious fruit beverage. Alternatively, mash banana and add to ice cream along with other ingredients that you usually do and you will get delicious banana-flavoured home-made ice cream.



Banana hair mask

This fruit is great for dry hair. Mash one overripe banana in a bowl. Add some olive or coconut oil to it and apply on hair for 15-20 minutes. Shampoo as usual - your mane will be less frizzy and more tamed and smooth post this banana hair treatment.



Must try recipe

Here comes June with its full wave of sweltering and sultry heat, but worry not kiddos! Hands-down to these cool recipes, which will surely beat the heat. So, put on your chef's hat, wear your stain-free aprons, wash your hands, and let's get started.

Topping the list is delicious

White Pasta Salad

Ingredients:

- > 1 bowl - boiled pasta
- > Some veggies - chopped bell peppers, capsicum, sweet corn, broccoli, cherry tomatoes, green onions, mint leaves (to garnish)
- > Mayonnaise/home-made creamy dips
- > 1/4 teaspoon salt and black pepper
- > Lime juice
- > Just take 1 tablespoon of cooking oil in a saucepan and add water to it. Add pasta (fusilli, penne, maca-



roni, the list is endless). Once it softens, just drain off all the water and let the pasta cool down. Meanwhile, add two tablespoons cooking oil in a pan. Add finely chopped onions and cherry tomatoes. Next, add all your colourful veggies like chopped bell peppers, capsicum, broccoli and some sweet corns. Sprinkle a pinch of salt. Toss them upon slow heat for 4-5 minutes.

Marinate: Make sure the pasta is at room temperature. Take a dollop of mayonnaise or any other home-made creamy dip and add it to pasta. Next, add half a teaspoon of lime juice. Now, add all the cooked veggies. Mix and keep it in the refrigerator for minimum twenty minutes or until the pasta is soaked properly in mayonnaise and lime juice. Presentation: Put the marinated pasta in your favourite bowl. Finally, garnish it with mint leaves.

- By SIMPY DADIALA, Teacher, DPS, Vasant Vihar, Delhi

6 WORDS THAT ONCE
MEANT SOMETHING
VERY DIFFERENT

Awful: In the 1300s, it originally meant 'inspiring wonder' and was a short version of 'full of awe'. But now the word has purely negative connotations.

Silly: In its earliest uses, it referred to things worthy or blessed; from there it came to refer to the weak and vulnerable, and more recently to those who are foolish.



Cute: 'Cute' was derived from the word 'acute', which originally meant shrewd or sly. But that was in the 18th century. Over a hundred years later, American slang shortened and transformed 'acute' to 'cute', even changing its meaning to 'pretty' or 'dainty'.

Doom: It originally meant a law, judgement or decree. Current meaning: Fated death or destruction.

Myriad: If you had a myriad of things 600 years ago, it meant that you specifically had 10,000 of them - not just a lot.

Quell: Quelling something or someone used to mean 'killing it', not just subduing it!