

Nature teaches us to be mindful, giving and compassionate

Nature, they say, is the best teacher ever. Nobody can predict what it will throw at us, and what it will teach us in the process. But it is never too late to realise that abusing nature can never lead to any good.

TAKE, BUT NEVER STOP GIVING

While playing, when someone takes advantage, the rest of the group revolts. It's the same situation with us and nature. We get a lot of things from nature like fruits, wood, etc. We over abuse nature such that calamities like desertification, global warming occur. We cut down trees for wood, we throw our garbage into oceans and kill fish in the sea. Imagine if nature decides that this has gone on for too long and decides to stop bearing trees, removes oxygen from the Earth? What will be our state?

The lesson I have learnt from nature is that we can take but must never stop giving. We should thank nature for giving us these facilities and help to keep the environment clean and stop over-abusing nature.

Vibha Priya Mahesh, class VIII, Delhi Public School, Whitefield

WHAT WE SEND, COMES BACK

Nature is the best teacher ever. Nature has taught me so many valuable gems. I have learnt that what we do, comes back to us. I learnt that our life is an echo, what we send out, comes back to us. Our actions will have consequences and we need to suffer for it. We cruel humans started hurting mother nature but look at what has happened. We ourselves are being locked in our homes and are suffering from the pandemic. We wrapped mother Earth with plastic but nature wrapped us back in plastic PPE kits as a consequence. So we should always do only virtuous deeds, be cheerful and stay positive.

Anagha B Poojari, class IX, MES Kishore Kendra Public School

DON'T BE MEDDLESOME

Nature is the teacher who not only imparts virtues, but also implements them. It is as gentle as a mother to its children, but when the mischievous children cross their limits, then nature takes the fearful form of a taskmaster to teach them a lesson. Nature is our ultimate guide and companion - people betray, but nature never does. It imparts life lessons without the use of words. Thus, nature teaches us, not to be too laid back or too meddlesome, but to choose to take up the role that a situation demands.

Rishika Gitta, class X, Whitefield Global School

DO RIGHT FOR VICTORY

Nature is something we all are connected to. All living and non-living, substances and creatures, phenomena and creations, make up the sum total to form nature.

We might not notice that there is something so delicately balanced and maintained in a cycle or process such that every single action happening in this universe is carried out by nature. Nature simply is the chief executive officer (CEO) of everything and we others are the employees in separate departments and processes, that fulfill several tasks.

For example, a seed germinates to form a tree. This involves humans, sunlight, water and other necessities. That tree produces a flower which gets pollinated by bees. The bees need nectar from the flower for themselves and their hives and in turn do the pollination work for the plant. Flowers later give rise to fruit. Humans take the honey and the fruits for themselves and thrive. We must agree that humans directly or indirectly owe their existence to trees.

Nature is vast and one may say manages different processes through team work, and with discipline at every point in the process.

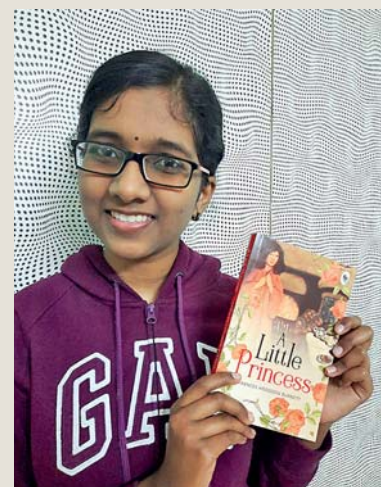
Every single small thing done right leads to a greater victory. This is the art of doing big things with ease, which we must learn from nature. I would like to end with a quote: Nothing is particularly hard if you divide it into small jobs. - Henry Ford.

Siddharth Kothari, class IX, St Joseph Boys High School

A tale of unwavering courage and human virtues

A Little Princess is a must-read for people of every age because it is not just a story that one will enjoy, but also one that shows determination, strength and hope in the midst of cruelty and spite. The protagonist of the story is a little girl called Sara, who has a rich father and is sent to a school with all the luxuries one can imagine. She is soon called a 'princess' by all her friends. Sara, despite being rich and always flattered, never thinks of herself as being different from the rest of her classmates. Pride and ego have no place in her simple and loving heart. But everything changes when Sara's father dies, leaving not even a penny behind for his daughter. She is made a servant in the very boarding school where she was the most prized student. Those who had flattered her and apparently loved her when she was rich now no longer care about what becomes of her. Although shocked and pained by the changing and cruel ways of the world, Sara does not lose hope. Living amidst hate and selfishness only makes her more empathetic and selfless. The story is about how she continues to remain a 'princess' at heart:- resilient, generous, kind and hopeful.

This story by Frances Hodgson Burnett reflects the ways of the world we live in. Only status, position and wealth are considered prestigious. People bow down to those who have power, even if they are stone-hearted and cruel, but push away those they cannot gain from financially or politically, no matter how kind or generous they are. Sadly,



virtues are considered important only in theory. In real life, people only run behind money, and doing this, they sever all ties of friendship, love and fraternity. But one must always remember that love and kindness are things which when given away always come back in abundance.

Book - A Little Princess
Author- Frances Hodgson Burnett



Money when spent does not return, but love when given always returns - this is a universal truth, which is not subject to change. Sara's story is an example of this truth. A Little Princess is sure to leave a lasting impression on the reader's heart. It is a classic that does not get old, for it talks of not times and places, but of innate human virtues. These virtues are waiting to be removed from the shelf of the heart's deepest chamber, dusted and used once again by human civilization.

Rishika Gitta, class X, Whitefield Global School

WEEKEND PLAN



Activity-packed weekends energise me for the week

Who doesn't love a relaxing weekend so that we can recharge ourselves for two whole days while spending quality time with family and friends.

I love taking advantage of the free time I get during the weekends.

I have made it a habit to waking up early and playing some sport or doing an activity. I feel that it really helps keep my body full of vim and vigour. After this exercise and energetic workout from playing, I give myself reasonable time to catch some Zs.

My family and me usually venture out on Sundays and hit the streets. We love exploring new areas and we make sure we visit it one every Sunday. One such Sunday we went for a drive to Turahalli forest. Another time, we planned a trip to Mysore. We stayed at a resort. It was truly a relaxing journey and we all enjoyed playing songs in the car and merrily driving to Mysore. The true highlight of the trip was that the resort had a large grass ground where the whole family enjoyed playing cricket for hours. We also went out sight-seeing and tried new and delicious dishes at some restaurants.

The Mysore atmosphere was so enchanting that we visited the place again, to welcome the new year. This time, with four families. The long drive was accompanied with songs and games and we reached Mysore in no time. The most incredible part of this trip was that all of us children organized a treasure hunt in the whole resort for all the elders. It had 12 clues and took 1 hour. The planning and execution was impressive and it was a way to show our gratitude to our parents and elders, and making sure they enjoy this trip!



We returned to Bangalore on Saturday and yet again I woke up early on Sunday to play cricket and relive my fabulous weekend schedule!

Undoubtedly, I prefer such kinds of weekends which unwrap all the stress but nonetheless keep us active and power-packed for the whole week!

Siddharth Kothari, class IX, St Joseph's Boys' High School

SCHOOL OF 2020

A year of learning and unlearning

We have been together for so many years. Sharing our hopes, dreams and fears. But one day, we were sent home to stay. Learning online was a new normal day. What should have been time for celebration. Became a time of worry, concern and isolation. But what we learnt in a time like this? Only love, care, humanity and the strength for each other. We care, we wish, we dream and pray it never comes back again. The school of 2020 will hold a special place in our heart. Virtual or Actual

Being a teacher for more than three decades has turned me into a disciplined, old school believer of hard-core philosophies and set rules for teaching and learning. But 2020 brought a big change in my capacity as a teacher. It's brought a miraculous change in my thought process.

Online teaching has been a transition for students, teachers and parents alike. From classrooms to online medium, it has been a long journey of adapting to the new challenge. If we have to find pros or cons of learning through online, it will lead to a never-ending debate. There is so much to learn and unlearn at the same time. The reason why online courses have become so popular is because of its multiple advantages over traditional courses. Online learning can be done anywhere, anytime. Even when one is on vacation or on leave, one can complete a course without having to step out of the home. It saves travel time. No additional time is spent on reaching the training centre. The



Renu Uppal, coordinator, DPS Whitefield

TEACHERSPEAK

advantage which is most relevant to the present time is that online courses are safe from the perspective of social distancing.

Classroom learning, on the other hand, establishes a relationship between the teacher or facilitator and the student. Until recent times, the traditional method of teaching in the class-

room was the most ideal. However, with the recent pandemic, physical classrooms have become risk zones.

With commitment and dedication, humans have always taken life to a better destination. Online teaching and learning looks fancy and seems like fun as of now, but for how long? I am sure like me, many teachers and many more students must be missing going to school and will be wondering which is better, virtual or actual?



MY BIRDIE

She was kept in a room, behold, The cage was plated with silver and gold, From the day she was rescued, She at times was dull and bare. In the coldest nights she had, The warmest woollen blanket of all, The brightest, sunniest view all day, She chirped louder than all. The happiest day of all, Was during the family gathering, My little birdie would look outside, And sing with all her might for the gathering. As I grew older, I began to think hard,

What is there for my birdie After all these years? Would she sore back to the mountains? Or would she still be here? Would she never again eat The fruit she found out there? After I thought all day I could still not understand What was in my birdie's mind Each and every day. The loud chirps I thought was music, Was it her cry? For all the beauty and colour and happy sounds, My Birdie had lost the power to fly.

Aadrita Nag, class VIII, Bethany High Koramangala.

HAPPINESS

Happiness is what you need But nobody can feed, Happiness is almost like pleasure The best thing you'll ever find, like, treasure!

Happiness you'll find most in your family It is even more precious than a 120 lakh crore salary. Happiness is everywhere You should never ask 'Happiness is Where?'

Happiness is very important And you can never give it on rent, Happiness is life And you can never kill it with a knife.

For happiness you never need to give money Like how you give it for the delicious honey, You'll get happiness



If you give away your kindness.

Happiness means joy It's how when you get a new toy Happiness, Happiness everywhere Happiness, Happiness in land and air Happiness, Happiness up and down Happiness, Happiness in city and town.

Disha R Bhat, class V, Bethany High School

BOWLING IN ICU

In Jasprit Bumrah's absence, the Indian team could feature Mohammed Siraj, who has played just two Tests, Navdeep Saini, who has played one match, and Shardul Thakur, who has also played just one. In case India include uncapped T Natarajan, instead of either Saini or Shardul, the experience will drop to just three Tests

AUS HAS COMBINED BOWLING EXPERIENCE OF 150 TESTS

■ The Indian team already has a depleted look following injuries to Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav, both of whom got injured after the first and the second Tests respectively. Experienced pace bowler Ishant Sharma, who has toured Australia four times, didn't make it to the team for the Australia tour as he was recuperating from an abdominal tear. Though now he is fit and playing for Delhi in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament, the Covid-19 restrictions prevented replacements to be sent to Australia.

■ It leaves India with a weak line-up, one that is thin on experience. For Aussies, in contrast, the combined experience of Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood adds up to 147 Tests. With pace-bowling all-rounder Cameron Green's three-Test experience, it comes to 150.

BOWLING WOES WILL WORSEN IF ASHWIN TOO IS RULED OUT

■ India don't have any pace bowler who has the experience of playing at the Gabba. The Gabba is considered to be a fortress for Australia and their pace bowlers are most well-equipped to bowl there. India's other worry will be the availability of Ashwin, who woke up on Monday with a tweaked back and batted with it to help India draw the third Test with his dogged batting (39 off 128 balls). If Ashwin doesn't play, then India may be forced to field Kuldeep.

■ The left-arm wrist-spinner played just five IPL matches last season. On this tour, Kuldeep has played just one ODI and one warm-up, in which he bowled just 16 overs. That has been the only cricket he has played post lockdown. Kuldeep's last India draw the third Test with his dogged batting (39 off 128 balls). India though will be hoping that Ashwin regains fitness for the fourth and final Test.

Siraj will be leading the Indian attack in the Gabba, which will be a series decider. In his debut match, Siraj pocketed five wickets while in the third Test at Sydney the pacer got two wickets to his name

I know that the Gabba in Brisbane is Australia's fortress but India have the ability to take on the Australians. They (Australia) have not lost there since 1988 but there is always a first time. If Ajinkya Rahane and company do it, I won't be surprised at all.
Sunil Gavaskar,
former India captain

IS IPL TO BLAME FOR INJURY-WRACKED TEST SERIES?

Australia coach Justin Langer suggested the delayed Indian Premier League was to blame for so many injuries marring Australia's blockbuster series' with India. The short-form extravaganza normally begins in March but, along with other major international sporting events, was postponed as countries went into coronavirus lockdowns. It was then moved to the

United Arab Emirates as cases rose in India and only got under way on September 19, culminating on November 11. Players then had to go through a 14-day quarantine in Australia with the one-day series starting almost immediately after they were allowed out. "I love the IPL. I look at the IPL now as I used to look at the county cricket for our young players. Guys who play

county cricket, it helps them in their cricket development enormously. I think it is the same with IPL with our players. It helps their white-ball cricket development. But the timing of it, because of what happened with Covid-19, probably wasn't ideal. I just wonder if that is having an impact on the injuries we are seeing in both teams." said Langer. IANIS

Steve Smith scuffing guard row

Smith was seen scuffing up the area around the batting crease on day five of the third Test between India and Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground and social media users started questioning the Australia batsman for his gamesmanship

CRICKET FRATERNITY REACTS TO THE CONTROVERSIAL MOVE

Virender Sehwag: In a tweet, Sehwag took a dig at Smith over his controversial actions and said Australia tried all tricks but failed to stop India from drawing the Sydney Test. "Tried all tricks including Steve Smith trying to remove Pant's batting guard marks from the crease. Par kuch kaam na aaya. Khaaya peeya kuch nahi, glass toda barana," - Sehwag wrote.

Brad Hogg: Former Australia spinner Brad Hogg too criticised Smith for his action and said the area which Smith was trying to tamper with belonged to the opposition batsmen. "Batsmen's area. Not his space to mark! It did alert my eyes during the live coverage," - Hogg said in a tweet.

Michael Vaughan: Former England captain labelled Steve Smith's antics 'very, very poor' in a tweet. "This is very very poor from Steve Smith!!" - Vaughan wrote.

Aakash Chopra: Former India batsman and popular commentator was also critical of Smith's action and took a dig at him in a tweet. "Shoes can be used for many things. Removing an opponent's batting guard mark too....Not for taking sharp catches though," said Chopra.

Sunil Gavaskar: Former India captain and batting legend Sunil Gavaskar called it a 'nothing matter' and had a neutral view on the

incident. "It's a nothing matter. Even if he scuffed Rishabh Pant's guard, Pant came and took another one."

Shane Lee: Former Australia pacer Shane Lee said, "He was not trying to cheat, but he should not be on the wicket. I am really really concerned about some of our behaviour. Steve Smith scored a fantastic hundred in Sydney and the way he reacted afterwards, I thought, there is a real anger there. It is disturbing. You wind forward to this test: I m seeing the same signs as before (Sandpapergate). I m seeing someone like Smith who is getting really, really angry."

It's something I do in games to visualise where we are bowling, how the batter is playing our bowlers, and then out of habit I always mark centre. It's such a shame that this and other events have taken away from what was a great batting performance by India yesterday. **Steve Smith**

Paul Pogba takes Man United top with win at Burnley

Paul Pogba took Manchester United top of the Premier League for the first time in three years as his deflected winner saw off a dogged Burnley 1-0 at Turf Moor. United now lead defending champions Liverpool by three points ahead of a top-of-the-table clash between the two most successful sides in English football history at Anfield on Sunday. Despite continued speculation over his future, Pogba has played an increasingly important role in United's first serious title challenge since legendary former manager Alex Ferguson retired in 2013. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men have now taken 29 from the last possible 33 points to recover from just two wins in their opening six games of the season. AFP

QUIZ TIME!

Q1: Which basketball player won the 2016-17 NBA James Walter Kennedy Citizenship Award?

- a) LeBron James ☐ b) Luol Deng ☐
c) Wayne Ellington ☐ d) Damian Lillard ☐

Q2: The most singles tennis matches won at the US Open is 106. It was achieved by which of the following players?

- a) Chris Evert ☐ b) Martina Navratilova ☐
c) Serena Williams ☐ d) Steffi Graf ☐

Q3: Whom does the record of the longest unbeaten streak in chess history, with 111

consecutive wins, belong to?

- a) Hikaru Nakamura ☐ b) Sergei Tiviakov ☐
c) Fabiano Caruana ☐ d) Magnus Carlsen ☐

Q4: Name the player who scored 38,387 points to become the player with most scores in an NBA career.

- a) Charles Barkley ☐ b) Michael Jordan ☐
c) Kareem Abdul-Jabbar ☐ d) Nate Archibald ☐

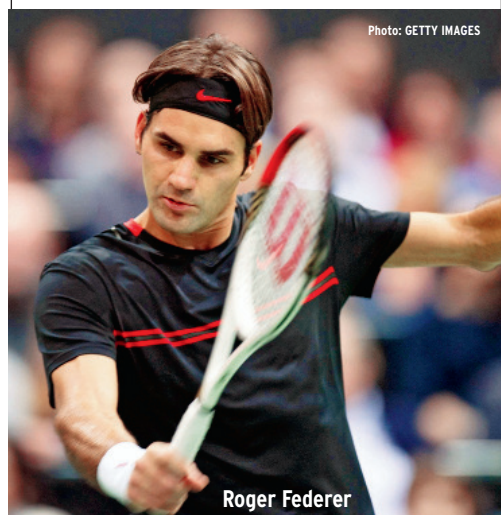
Q5: Which of the following players won the 2018-19 NBA Sportsmanship Award?

- a) Kemba Walker ☐ b) Vince Carter ☐
c) Mike Conley ☐ d) Jason Kidd ☐

Q6: Who is the youngest Women's World Chess Champion?

- a) Alexandra Kosteniuk ☐ b) Ruan Lufei ☐
c) Hou Yifan ☐ d) Kateryna Lagno ☐

Q7: Roger Federer has won more than 355 singles



Roger Federer

matches and 20 titles at the Grand Slam. Which other player has as many titles?

- a) Novak Djokovic ☐ b) Rafael Nadal ☐
c) Dominic Thiem ☐ d) Stan Wawrinka ☐

Q8: Who is the oldest individual winner of a Freestyle Skiing World Cup event?

- a) Ian Edmondson ☐ b) Alexandre Bilodeau ☐
c) Mike Nemesvary ☐ d) David Wise ☐

Q9: Who was the youngest driver to win a Formula One World Championship?

- a) Sebastian Vettel ☐ b) Lewis Hamilton ☐
c) Charles Leclerc ☐ d) Max Verstappen ☐

Q10: This British player was just over 15-years-old

when she first won the Wimbledon Women's Singles Championship. Who is the player?

- a) Sofia Kenin ☐ b) Iga Swiatek ☐
c) Simona Halep ☐ d) Charlotte "Lottie" Dod ☐

Q11: Which female boxing world champion was the youngest to win the vacant WBA women's featherweight title, in 2008?

- a) Ana Julaton ☐ b) Heather Hardy ☐
c) Choi Hyun-mi ☐ d) Amanda Serrano ☐

ANSWERS: 1 a) LeBron James 2 c) Serena Williams
3 d) Magnus Carlsen 4 c) Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
5 c) Mike Conley 6 c) Hou Yifan
7 b) Rafael Nadal 8 a) Ian Edmondson
9 a) Sebastian Vettel 10 d) Charlotte "Lottie" Dod
11 c) Choi Hyun-mi