

# THE EAGLES' BULLETIN

*Indus International School Hyderabad | Issue #24, August 2023*



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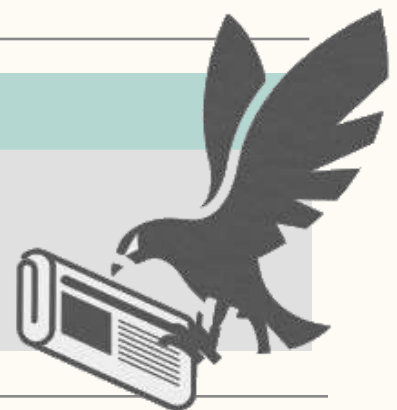
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**EDITOR'S NOTE****THE TEAM:**

Dear Readers,

It brings me great joy to present the August Issue of the Eagle's Bulletin to you all. Our team of writers and designers have worked hard amidst exams and academic commitments to produce high quality articles for you to enjoy. I would also like to take this opportunity to address an error in the previous issue of the Eagle's Bulletin. The article in the Entertainment and Pop Culture section titled "Barbie's Journey with Feminism" was incorrectly credited. The actual author of that article is Roopa Veeramala from Grade 11.

For the subsequent issue, we are thrilled to announce that we will start accepting responses from our MYP students in Grades 6, 7 and 8. Our mission has always been to unite the student body and act as a voice for the entire school community. We believe in the power of writing to build connections, foster empathy and inspire change. With this belief in mind, we invite both MYP and DP students to share their poems, artworks and articles with us.

I hope you all enjoy reading this issue of the Eagle's Bulletin. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. Your readership drives us to strive for excellence with each and every issue. If you have any queries, feel free to email me at [sanjana.iver@indusschoolhyd.com](mailto:sanjana.iver@indusschoolhyd.com).

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TikTok

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### Unpacking the impact of TikTok/short videos on young minds

~ Roopa Veeramalla , Grade 11

The Internet has evolved over the years and revolutionized several aspects of our lives from the acquisition of knowledge to instant communication at a speed that has not been seen before. Among the iceberg of the internet, TikTok and YouTube Shorts have established a peak role in the lives of the younger generation.

Shorts have emerged for younger generations as a platform to express creativity in a short span of time while also having the benefit of connecting with their age demographic, while the YouTube shorts have been considered a space for users and audiences to express creativity in small bite sized-pieces that includes clips of popular dances, lip syncs and creative comedy sketches but in recent years studies have noticed that this seamlessly “harmless fun” extends beyond sights. The impact of these platforms have extended over the surface influencing behavior, opinions, mental health and other factors.



YouTube shorts and TikToks are quick, engaging and give the audience small rushes of dopamine. Though this might seem harmless at first, recent studies have proven otherwise. There has been evidence that social media usage triggers the same chemicals in the users' brain as substance abuse. Dopamine greatly influences motivation levels and serves as our brain's reward system, driving us to accomplish daily tasks. Short videos, defined by their clear intent, theme, and rapid pace, captivate users for extended periods. Yet, excessive consumption of these videos leads to overstimulation

of dopamine, particularly affecting younger audiences with developing frontal cortex. This often results in diminished motivation, exhaustion and severe mental burnout. Not only that, it has been discovered that shorts algorithms use the technique of instant gratification which is created since users tend to have a span of anticipation on the content, if the followed content is intriguing enough, the brain releases dopamine. This leads to curiosity of the succeeding short or reel and lastly followed by instant rush of dopamine. This cycle is repeated viciously until the repetitive behavior comes to a stop.

The algorithm constantly recommends content that influences several aspects of young audiences' perception. Shorts are the peak of misinformation, the information provided on these short videos are not verified and when this content is consumed by the younger generation, it could potentially create mass hysteria, taboo, and gaps in knowledge about important civil topics.

Body image issues are one of the most prominent ways the platform has influenced the younger generation. At a young age, viewing and idealizing unhealthy beauty and body standards in forms of weight loss diets, trends that include body shaming can lead to body image issues and poor self-esteem. On the positive side, TikTok's Content is slowly getting more progressive even though the misinformation is unavoidable. There has been an increase in individuals that spread awareness regarding important global issues. There have been several instances where an awareness act had progressed to a full activist campaign creating a change and progressive thinking throughout the demographic.

Overall, there are several ways in which the younger generation is impacted by the short videos. As a platform, it derives endless opportunities for creativity, talent and social activism alike. As a society it is important to be aware and evacuate the possible pessimistic outcomes in the digital era.







## FEATURE ARTICLE

### Reclaiming Comfort and Confidence: Women Gymnasts Advocate for Unitards

~ Kshetra Rao, Grade 10

I want to discuss an important issue that has been weighing on all women gymnasts for a long time - the discomfort of wearing leotards. As a passionate gymnast, I have always loved the feeling of flying through the air, executing flips and twists with precision. But lately, the discomfort of leotards has been putting a damper on my overall experience.

As a woman gymnast, I have been wearing leotards for competitions and practices for as long as I can remember. While I appreciate the tradition and aesthetics of leotards in gymnastics, I have come to realize that they can also be a source of discomfort and distraction for me during competitions.



One of the main challenges I face is the tightness and revealing nature of leotards. They are tight fitting, one-piece garments, which can make me feel self-conscious and exposed. This discomfort often lingers in the back of my mind during competitions, and it becomes challenging to fully focus on my routine and perform at my best. I constantly find myself adjusting my leotard or feeling conscious about how I look, instead of being fully present in the moment and giving my all to my performance.

Moreover, the pressure to conform to a certain body image or meet certain beauty standards associated with leotards adds to the mental stress of competition. As a gymnast, I believe that my performance should be judged based on my skill, technique, and athleticism, rather than my appearance in a leotard. However, the reality is that the focus on physical appearance, especially for female athletes, can sometimes overshadow the true essence of the sport.

Recently, I have been following the movement among women gymnasts who are advocating for the option to wear unitards as an alternative to leotards. Unitards provide more coverage and can offer a more modest and comfortable option for gymnasts, without compromising freedom of movement. The idea of wearing a unitard and not having to worry about constantly adjusting my leotard or feeling self-conscious is appealing to me. It could potentially allow me to fully concentrate on my routine and perform to the best of my abilities without any unnecessary distractions. I believe that gymnastics should be a sport that is inclusive, empowering, and focused on an athlete's abilities rather than their appearance. Every gymnast deserves to feel comfortable, confident, and fully present during competitions. I hope that the gymnastics community will continue to have open and constructive discussions about providing more options and choices for gymnasts when it comes to competition attire.

This could include offering more options for gymnasts to choose from, such as different styles of leotards that provide more coverage or alternative uniforms like unitards or shorts with t-shirts. As a gymnast, I am hopeful that the gymnastics community will continue to have meaningful discussions and take steps toward finding a resolution that respects the rights and dignity of all athletes while preserving the integrity of the sport.





## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Revolutionizing Cancer Detection: The Power of Biomarkers

~ Vrinda Agarwal, Grade 10

In the relentless battle against cancer, early identification of the disease plays a vital role in saving lives and enhancing the well being of patients. Biomarkers can potentially revolutionize cancer detection and treatment techniques. These extraordinary tools provide renewed optimism and possibilities, paving the way for targeted treatment and providing a glimmer of hope to millions.



Biomarkers, measurable indicators of biological processes, have emerged as game-changers in cancer research. These include genetic mutations, specific proteins, and molecular changes that can

signal the presence of cancer in its earliest stages. By detecting these subtle alterations, biomarkers facilitate the identification of high-risk individuals, allowing for timely intervention and potentially life-saving treatments.

Early detection has long been recognized as a critical factor in combating cancer effectively. The ability to catch the disease in its early phase significantly improves the likelihood of successful treatment. Biomarkers, which have the property of unparalleled sensitivity, are at the forefront of this endeavor, making it possible to spot cancer long before it manifests clinically.

Moreover, biomarkers are paving the way for personalized medicine. By analyzing a patient's unique biomarker profile, oncologists can tailor treatments to individual needs. This personalized approach maximizes the effectiveness of treatment while minimizing adverse effects.

According to Forbes, recent data also suggests that adding biomarkers can increase the success rate of cancer clinical trials, implying that biomarkers can significantly improve patients' therapy alternatives.

### Apple's iPhone production shift from China to India: What could this mean for the future?

~ Avaneesh Gondlyala, Grade 10

"Made in China". That's a statement located on practically every item these days. Whether that may be something as simple as a glue stick or as complex as an Nvidia RTX 4090, this little phrase finds itself in almost everything. So, why is it that major tech companies like Apple are starting to deviate from producing their products in China? And what could this imply for the future of tech manufacturing?



While Apple products like to boast their signature "Designed in California" phrase on their boxes, the truth is a bit more complicated than that. You see, even though iPhones themselves are technically "designed" in Apple's California headquarters, their parts are sourced from all over the world and eventually manufactured (As in put together) in China. But, with the recent negative impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Chinese iPhone production lines, Apple is looking to diversify its supply chains to prevent its sole reliance on China. This is where India comes into the picture

Apple began producing iPhones in India in late 2017, but it only accounted for about 4% of all iPhones. Fortunately, the iPhone 14 marked the first model to be produced in India almost instantly upon release. And, with the first actual Apple Stores opening in India last April, it seems like Apple finally believes that the majority Indian market is ready to purchase iPhones, especially with the reduction in taxes thanks to local production. As Apple shifts its production focus to India, more big-name companies such as Google and Tesla are also considering diversifying their supply chain in India. Who knows? Maybe in a few years, India may reach the production levels of China, especially with Modi's "Make in India" policy.



## ECONOMICS & BUSINESS

### Sri Lanka's Economy in Crisis: Striving for Stability

~ Leisha Agarwal, Grade 11

Based on the official data released on June 15, Sri Lanka is currently grappling with one of the most severe economic crises in its history. According to a statement from the Census and Statistics Department, the downturn was caused by high interest rates and inflation, as well as rising

component costs, import restrictions, lower export revenues from the clothing industry and decreased tourism. The crisis still persists in the island country.



In response to Sri Lanka's severe economic crisis, the central bank acted quickly by lowering interest rates by 250 basis points. The central bank's interest rate cut was intended to encourage borrowing, spending, investment, and business activity. The goal is to foster economic growth and recovery by mitigating the effects of high inflation, skyrocketing interest rates, and declining exports.

Due to Covid 19 and the subsequent lockdown, tourism stopped and along with it - one of the important sources of revenues and foreign exchange dried up. The crisis was triggered when foreign exchange reserves were depleted to historic lows. As a result of the severe lack of foreign currency reserves, the country was extremely vulnerable to economic shocks and external pressures and even had difficulty purchasing oil and gas for its industries.

Sri Lanka is in the midst of a severe economic crisis, with a startling 11.5% contraction in the first quarter of 2023. But, the IMF predicts that the economy will grow next year and pave the way for long-term prosperity.

### Battle of Big Tech; Microsoft vs. Google

~ Torita Chakravarty, Grade 11

An almost 5% rally for Alphabet, Google Search's parent company, on Wednesday this week indicated that Google Search's business has been, thriving even in a dodgy advertising market. Due to the competition from Microsoft Bing's AI chatbot, released in February 2023, many feared the downfall in Google Search's popularity. Based on predictions, Alphabet's market capitalisation was set to experience an increase of more than \$100 billion. Alphabet is well positioned to compete with Microsoft in AI, as evidenced by Google's dominant market share and the consistent expansion of the cloud sector.



Multiple AI products have been presented this year by Alphabet, and products such as Google Lens and Google Translate have been in the market competing for decades. Alphabet has also upgraded its technology to compete with Microsoft well.

Microsoft still remains strong in the battle for online dominance, charging ahead with their spending and meeting AI demands. On Tuesday, they presented an onward-looking plan for spending in the AI sector. Wall Street will be taking into account how AI services that generate information may benefit Microsoft. The same guaranteed an edge with investments in OpenAI, the owner of the most talked about AI service, ChatGPT.

In the rapidly evolving landscape of AI and technology, both Alphabet and Microsoft have positioned themselves to remain at the forefront of innovation, though Google stays ahead of their predicted 5% growth at 7%, whereas Microsoft lags at an 8% growth rate, despite predictions for 9% to 11% growth this fiscal year. Having said that, Microsoft's strategic investments and unwavering commitment to AI suggest that the struggle for technological supremacy in the market is far from over.



## POLITICS

### Ecuador divided after assassination of presidential candidate

~ Rahul Iyer, Grade 9

On August 9th, Ecuadorian presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio was shot dead shortly after a campaign event in Quito. The six main suspects of the assassination are all Columbians who, according to the police, belong to large criminal gangs.



However, what does this assassination mean for the country of Ecuador?

Like many other countries, Ecuador has been left reeling in the wake of the Pandemic. Recently, Ecuador has been experiencing thin cracks in their economy that could soon turn into gaping holes. These cracks are ever-widening against the backdrop of the Ukrainian war and global inflation. The government has been working on returning the nation to a path of sustainable growth but the assassination of a major presidential candidate was a major setback.

President Lasso has declared a nationwide state of exception which allows the military to support police operations and restricts freedom of assembly. Heavy police and military presence are expected on election day and will be concentrated at polling sites. Villavicencio's replacement candidate, Christian Zurita, cast his ballot while wearing a bulletproof vest, helmet and being flanked by armed guards. In an interview he mentioned that "These are difficult and dark moments for the country but we are up to it".

For years the Ecuadorian authorities have failed to respond to the security crisis and this should be treated as the wakeup call to finally take action to protect the population – given this rise of organized crime groups that are terrorizing large parts of Ecuador.

### INDIA'S increasing influence in Geopolitics

~ Manasvini Naren, Grade 12

Increasingly, India's influence around the world is increasing due to its projections into various regions of the world using the context of trade alliances, arms deals, and defense cooperation. This is giving India its influence around the world but domestically, these actions strengthen support for the ruling party as their actions are seen as enterprising and aspirational and bolsters the patriotic sentiment within the country.



One of India's strongest ties in the Middle East are with Israel since 2017: Israel being India's top 3 arms suppliers of 2021 and the two countries

coproducing weapons. The Haifa port, worth \$1.2 billion was won by the Adani Group and its partnership with an Israeli group. Diplomatically, India also has friendly relations with various other countries in the Middle East including Palestine. Despite Saudi Arabia and UAE's long partnership with Pakistan, they are seeking ways to form ties with India through the UAE-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Similarly, India has strong ties with Egypt as well and is negotiating a deal to extend credit to Egypt to help stabilize their economy. In the West, India's strong involvement with the G-7 could help align their economic policies and bridge the gap between the global north and south.

Through such lucrative alliances in both the East and West, India is finding a way to cement itself as a formidable power both in South-East Asia and globally. Geographically, India's position as well as size is strategic in mediating between powers in the east and west as well as the global north and south and such strength could turn out to be monumental.





## OPINIONS

### UN: Partnership, or Power Struggle?

~ Aanya Pande, Grade 9

United Nations: the image of international welfare and unity. Formed after World War II to prevent further conflict, the UN is an organization we now associate with humanitarian aid and peace. However, individuals are beginning to question whether the UN is still a relevant solution to present-day conflict.



The leading criticism regarding the UN's relevance is related to the five permanent members of the Security Council (the P5) - the U.S.A., The U.K., China, Russia, and France. These members can veto decisions and topics, making them significantly more influential than the other ten non-permanent member nations. P5 countries existed because of their positions after World War Two. The continued existence of this power is now raising questions: did upholding that decision put the UN on a path to power inequality and obsolescence?

Nevertheless, we cannot dismiss the impact that The United Nations has made overall in humanitarian aid. The steps it has taken toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals played a significant role in codifying human rights. It has also acted as a platform for countries to come together in the face of major international issues and build resolutions to limit the possible negative impacts.

The United Nations is still relevant: not as a solution, as a platform to help build humanity toward peace and prosperity. Its dissolution would be more harmful than beneficial. It's time we focus on how we can build it up, face the more prevalent issues, and move away from the unequal distribution of power that the veto power provides. We need to build on the opportunities a global stage like the UN presents and use it the best we can.

### Socialization - What's the right balance?

~ Nitya Kashyap, Grade 10

Our friends are our safe space at this age. People who we can go to and be with when everything around us seems to be falling apart. Being a teenager, our social lives mean the world to us. Getting a grip on balancing school and our friends is one of the main skills to master during this time, to make sure that one can relax, but simultaneously manage all the challenges that come with the academic Year.



The question to ask right now, is what is the right balance between school and our friends? To any teenager, it only seems right to be able to go out with friends, call them and spend time with them at regular intervals. But at the same time, this can cause a clash with their parents' perspective on the same topic. While this age is all about having fun and making the most of our youth, it is equally as important to prioritize academics. Yet, wanting to spend time with our family and friends is important too. We will never be at the same age again and be able to go on thrilling experiences that would give us memories to last a lifetime. These opportunities also help us learn with our friends about skills that necessarily do not always come with school.

On that note, pushing our studies behind is not a feasible option. Setting boundaries with what one is comfortable within their friend circle is also a key thing to learn about. Stick to study habits continuously, but still go out with friends. As a teenager we know where we stand with our priorities. In the end, spend time with friends, make memories and enjoy time within safe boundaries, but always keep in mind that school and future are equally as important. Finding the balance between two seemingly opposite worlds may take its time, but in the end it would be worth all the adjusting and effort.







## ENTERTAINMENT & POP CULTURE

### The Evolution of Social Media Challenges: From Fun to Potentially Harmful

~ Anika Bhupatiraju, Grade 8

Social media has transformed the way we interact, communicate, and share content online. One of the most intriguing phenomena to emerge from this digital revolution is the evolution of social media challenges. Initially, these challenges began as lighthearted and entertaining activities, promoting camaraderie and creativity among participants. However, over the years, they have taken on a more complex and at times, potentially harmful nature.



In their early days, social media challenges were primarily harmless and even beneficial in some cases. Challenges like the "Ice Bucket Challenge" (to raise funds for ALS research), demonstrated the positive power of social media for social causes.

However, as social media evolved, so did the nature of these challenges. Some began to push boundaries, prioritizing shock value and attention-seeking over positive outcomes. The popularity of dangerous challenges, such as the "Tide Pod Challenge," where participants consumed laundry detergent pods, raised serious concerns about the potential harm these trends could cause. Such challenges posed physical risks and highlighted the impact of social media on groupthink. However, it is important to note that not all social media challenges are detrimental. Many continue to spread positive messages. Challenges focused on environmental sustainability and mental health awareness have been successful in promoting social good.

In conclusion, the evolution of social media challenges reflects the dynamic nature of the digital world. From their innocent beginnings to potentially harmful outcomes, these challenges have shaped the way we interact with social media.

### Back to the Future: The legacy of 90s cinema

~ Saanvi Manduva, Grade 11

The 90s, an era of cultural, artistic, and technological advancement. While hip-hop music and retro fashion were on the rise, so was the entertainment industry. Advancements such as computer-generated imagery (CGI) and special effects were contributors to this growth. Films produced were known for their memorable pop culture references and iconic characters still popular among young adults in our current generation. But how have these movies continued to remain timeless classics and why do we continue to refer to dated motion pictures for modern-day films?



When considering factors that play a prominent role in the sustenance of 90s screenings, nostalgia is a leading element. As time passed, the films garnered a sentimental following. This has led to reboots and sequels of popular franchises. Along with this, directional style comes into the picture influencing contemporary filmmaking. Examples of such filmmakers include Christopher Nolan and Quentin Tarantino leaving a profound mark on the industry and inspiring future projects.

The 90s saw a wide range of film genres flourishing. From action and comedy to drama and science fiction with versatile storytelling techniques stemming away from a conventional plot. In addition, with the introduction to the internet Hollywood films from the 90s became more globally accessible, contributing to the spread of American culture and influencing filmmaking around the world.

Films produced in the 1990s were instrumental in shaping modern cinema, pushing technological boundaries, reflecting cultural shifts, and providing a foundation for the diverse range of films we continue to enjoy today.





## SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

### Shakthi Rising: India's Mission for Women Empowerment

~ Ishanvi Tupili, Grade 10

India's "Mission Shakthi" is a resolute step towards women's empowerment. The initiative, named after the Sanskrit word for "power" targets the diverse challenges women face in the nation.

Education is a core pillar of Mission Shakthi. It aims to bridge gender gaps in education, ensuring girls have equal access to quality learning. This strategy envisages nurturing informed and empowered women who can contribute effectively to the community.



Economic empowerment is another focus. The initiative advocates for the participation of women in the workforce and in entrepreneurship. Mission Shakthi empowers women

to overcome traditional barriers and establish themselves as professionals and entrepreneurs by providing training, skill development, and financial aid.

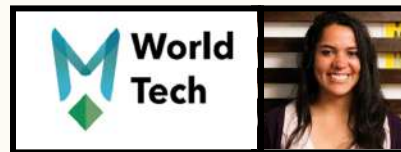
Health also takes precedence as Mission Shakthi promotes women's well-being by ensuring access to healthcare facilities, raising awareness about maternal and reproductive health, and addressing nutritional and sanitary concerns. Additionally, the initiative underscores the importance of women's involvement in decision-making, advocating for their representation in governance, local bodies, and societal leadership.

In essence, Mission Shakthi exemplifies India's commitment to gender equality and women's growth in society. As it gains traction, the initiative paves the way for a brighter, more inclusive future for women in India.

### Exploring Ilana Milkes' Vision: Empowering Learners to Thrive in the Digital Age

~ Sivani Jaggavarapu, Grade 11

In today's rapidly evolving world, technology has become a crucial part of the world in nurturing the minds of the future. Although one might anticipate that the most vital aspect of the future would be readily available to all, it is unfortunate that only some possess such knowledge. Ilana Milkes, upon witnessing this remarkable situation, demonstrated admirable proactiveness and took a commendable initiative to support the future of society. Here is the inspiring account of how she contributed to shaping a better future through her exceptional startup venture, World Tech Makers.



World Tech Makers is a startup mainly situated in Colombia.

The purpose behind the startup was to provide younger generations with both technological equipment and the required knowledge. World Tech Makers decided to take the initiative in solving this problem. In 2020, They launched educational kits in which each child was equipped to receive educational technology for the rest of the year. These educational kits taught them specific skills such as computational thinking, biotechnology, and robotics to help them keep up to date on current technological advancements and ones that will take place in the future. A previous initiative of theirs, which was launched under the exact cause, was bootcamps, which also helped educate future generations on technological advancements. Their mission is to bridge the gap between talent and opportunities. Their service to future generations will significantly contribute to the world's future.



## HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

### Student Stress Buster: Discovering the Calming Power of Ashwagandha

~ Niyati Lakshmi Reddy, Grade 9

Ashwagandha (*Withania Somnifera*) is a medicinal herb prominent in Ayurvedic medicine. It comes from the root of the ashwagandha plant. The name Ashwagandha describes the smell of its root meaning “like a horse” Ashwa means horse. In Ayurvedic medicine, Ashwagandha is a Rasayana. This means that it helps maintain youth both physically and mentally. Ashwagandha has been used for a variety of purposes such as reducing stress and anxiety, improving brain function, memory, boosting energy levels and treating various imbalances such as blood sugar, blood pressure, and more.



The ashwagandha root can be very beneficial to students. The root has adaptogenic properties which means it has the

ability to resist and adapt to stress. Chronic stress has a great impact on the mind and in a teenager it could lead to memory problems and cognitive decline. Ashwagandha is very useful in a student's life as it lowers cortisol levels. This can provide students with the ability to bear emotional stress and fight the results of pressure on the mind. The root could be very useful when students have posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), Generalized anxiety disorder (GAD), and social anxiety disorder (SAD).

Apart from being a stress buster, ashwagandha has been proven to increase memory and focus which are two very important things for a student. It can be very useful to an athlete as well as mental strength impacts one's overall performance. Research shows that ashwagandha can boost endurance during physical activity.

### Chlorophyll water: Aesthetic trend or effective health supplement

~ Nashitah Hussain, Grade 11

In a world where wellness meets aesthetics, a trend that seamlessly combines health and beauty has emerged: Chlorophyll water. Beyond its vibrant green color, this newfound supplement has captured the hearts of health enthusiasts and influencers alike, promising a fusion of effective health additives and visual appeal.



Derived from chlorophyll present in plants, this concoction holds plenty of benefits, both inside and out. The main reason for its popularity is its potential as a potent antioxidant. Chlorophyll neutralizes harmful free radicals and aids in reducing oxidative stress, boosting cellular health and strengthening the body's defense against various illnesses.

The aesthetic element of chlorophyll water travels beyond its visual appeal. The irresistible Instagram-worthy factor of this trend cannot be dismissed. The intensity of its green hue transforms the supplement into a captivating visual experience, turning self-care into an immersive experience.

But does this trend hold scientific merit? Researchers suggest that chlorophyll could potentially support detoxification, enhance energy and even assist in improving gut health, thereby enhancing your skin. However, as with any health trend, individual results may vary. For one to obtain results, it's prudent to incorporate this trend into a balanced lifestyle that includes a wholesome diet, regular exercise and adequate hydration.

Chlorophyll water intertwined the allure of aesthetics with the promise of well-being, offering a refreshing yet visually pleasing experience that goes beyond hydration. As one considers incorporating this trend in their routine, it is wise to remember that the trend is about embracing a holistic approach that benefits both your inner and outer well-being.



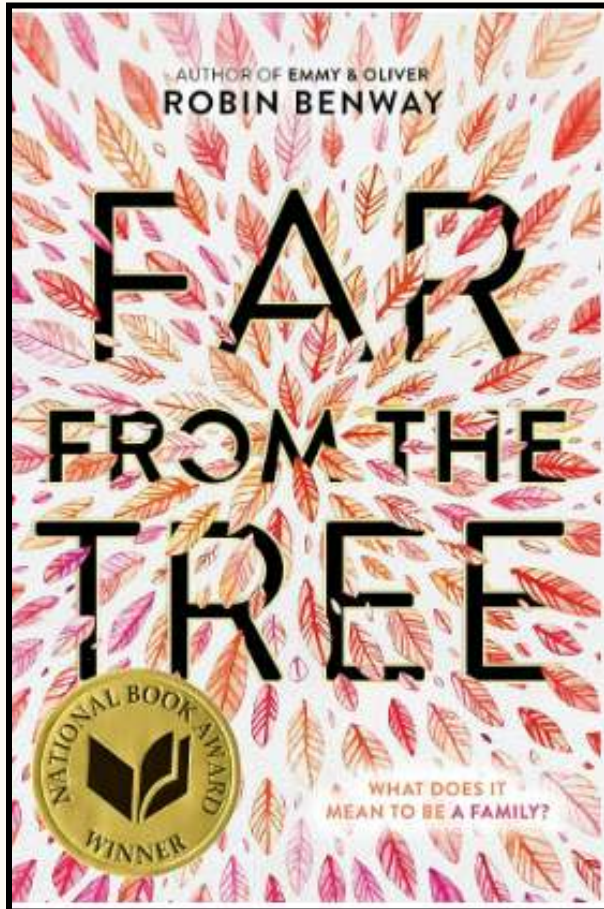


## REVIEWS



### Book Review- Far From The Tree

~Shrika Reddy, Grade 7



Robin Benway's novel *Far From the Tree* celebrates the strength and love of unconventional families, and the unbreakable bond between siblings far and near. Benway develops strong, realistic characters that are layered with heart, pain, and hope.

In 2017, Robin Benway's novel, *Far From the Tree*, was awarded the prestigious National Book Award for Young People's Literature. This remarkable work of fiction delves into the lives of three siblings who were adopted and, quite unexpectedly, discovered each other later on in life.

The novel takes readers on a journey of self-discovery as the siblings seek to learn more about each other and their newfound family ties. What makes this story particularly captivating is that it is told from multiple points of view, each providing a unique perspective on the story. The siblings are brought together by secrets, shame, and a burning desire to unravel the mysteries of their past and discover their true identities.

*Far From the Tree* explores a range of deeply personal themes and issues that arise from unconventional family units, such as the unwavering bond between siblings and the challenges one faces when trying to fit into a new culture or community. Moreover, the novel tackles topics related to adoption head-on, including questions of race, identity, grief, loss, abandonment, trust, shame, and a sense

of being misunderstood. Overall, *Far From the Tree* is a captivating read that offers a poignant and insightful look into the complexities of modern family dynamics.





## SPORTS

### Dimming Lights: An Insight into the Careers of Messi, Ronaldo, Dhoni, and Other Icons

~ Gaurav Arutla, Grade 9



In the world of sports, certain names shine so brightly, it's hard to not know about them! Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, MS Dhoni, Serena Williams and many others are icons who have left an indelible mark on their respective sports. However, as time marches on, even the brightest stars begin to lose some of their shine.

Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, often hailed as the GOATs ("Greatest of All Time") in football, have created memories for countless football fans. They have been the driving force behind millions of people tuning in to watch football. Without them, many aspiring players might have thought going pro in football was an impossible dream. But these two legends have consistently proven their brilliance every single time they stepped onto the pitch. However, just like anything else, we must acknowledge that their careers are inevitably coming to an end. Dealing with injuries one after another, facing toxic fans, and enduring the physical demands of the sport, sooner or later, their time will come to retire.

Similarly, MS Dhoni, the former Indian cricket captain and one of the finest finishers the sport has ever seen, is navigating the twilight of his career. Dhoni's lightning-fast reflexes and astute cricketing mind made him a formidable force, but age has led to a decline in his performance.

In conclusion, we all know that time will sooner or later catch up with these sporting icons. However, their legacy and impact stretch far beyond what we can imagine. These legends have left an everlasting imprint on their respective sports, inspiring generations to come and shaping the future of sports for years to come.

### Harry Kane's Move to Bayern Munich: A Quest for Trophies

~ Samvit Reddy Punnam, Grade 9

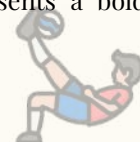
In a seismic transfer that sent shockwaves through the football community, Harry Kane bid farewell to Tottenham Hotspur, his footballing home, and embarked on a new chapter with Bayern Munich. The English striker's decision to leave behind a storied tenure at Spurs and join the ranks of the Bavarian giants was fuelled by a burning desire: to secure the elusive trophies that had slipped through his fingers in North London.



Kane's move to Bayern Munich ushers in a fresh era for the striker, characterized by the promise of collaboration with established footballing luminaries. Paired with Robert Lewandowski, one of the world's most prolific goal scorers, Kane brings a unique blend of versatility and precision to the club's attacking arsenal. The potential symbiosis between these two potent strikers has already sent ripples of anticipation throughout the footballing world.

For Kane, this transition is about more than just a change in scenery; it's about rectifying a glaring omission from his otherwise illustrious career. Having consistently demonstrated his scoring prowess and leadership qualities at Spurs, the absence of major silverware has been a source of frustration for both the player and his fans.

However, the transition won't be without its challenges. Adaptation to a new league and tactical nuances, coupled with the pressure to perform at the highest level, presents a steep learning curve. Yet, with Kane's track record and the support of his new teammates, the prospects of finally securing those coveted trophies are tantalizingly within reach. As the footballing world watches with bated breath, Harry Kane's move to Bayern Munich represents a bold gamble on his part.





## CREATIVE CORNER - POEMS

### Poems

~ Curated by Praveenya Neelam, Grade 10

#### Ode to the Monsoon By Shravya Gala, Grade 9

The cold windy breeze  
Raindrops splattering the window  
Leaning against the window sill  
Snuggling with a blanket

Sipping on a cup of warmth  
As I stare into the endless void  
Scrolling through memories  
Thoughts of unimaginable things

The touch of raindrops,  
The smell of nature's liquid gold  
A divine gift from nature herself  
I stare up at the blue, misty sky  
I glide between your drops  
Taking in a gust of air  
The damp smell of mud

One of the great things about you

#### Ode To Writing By: Medha Koppala, Grade 9

A sort of unexplainable escape,  
When I write I feel liberated.  
An eagle in the sky, I soar high.  
There's no end to the extent I can reach.

And there's so many thoughts in this brittle mind,  
Can't bear to keep them all inside,  
Sometimes one must let it all out,  
To stop from burning in a fire of their own creation.

Key to the lock of being lost,  
A weapon sharper than knives.  
This phenomenal skill can conquer the world,  
With just a few credible words.

The voices you provide,  
To ones who've lost their's in various fights.  
Without you we shall perish,  
For who will be there to advocate our rights?

A sacred power to wield.  
I shall hold you close to my heart,  
Till the day my rights are peeled,  
And my hands can no longer play their part.







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