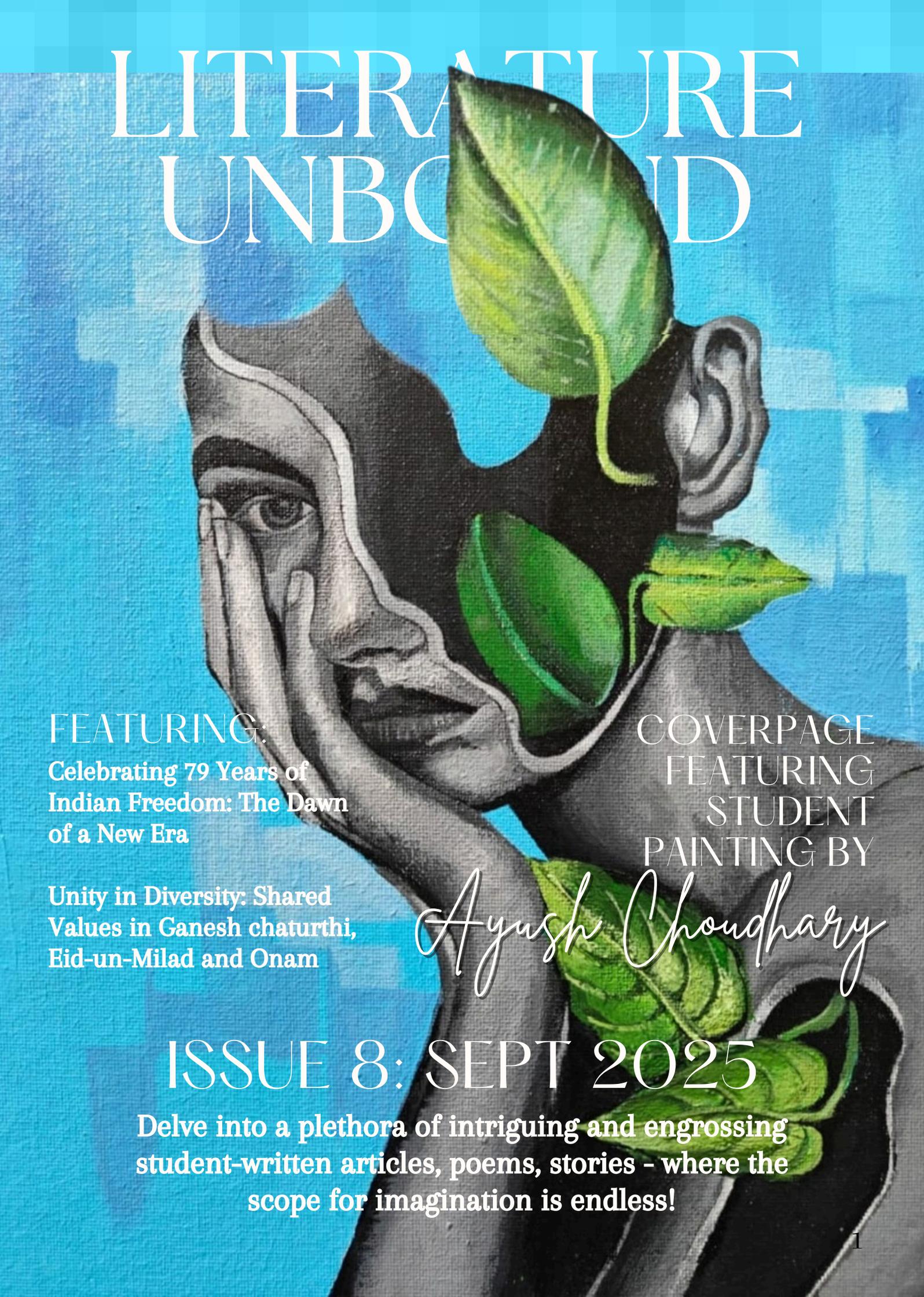


LITERATURE UNBOUND



FEATURING:

**Celebrating 79 Years of
Indian Freedom: The Dawn
of a New Era**

**Unity in Diversity: Shared
Values in Ganesh chaturthi,
Eid-un-Milad and Onam**

COVERPAGE
FEATURING
STUDENT
PAINTING BY

Ayush Choudhary

ISSUE 8: SEPT 2025

**Delve into a plethora of intriguing and engrossing
student-written articles, poems, stories - where the
scope for imagination is endless!**

Vision and Mission Statement

OUR SCHOOL'S VISION

“Igniting curious minds to become creative thinkers.”

OUR SCHOOL'S MISSION

“We are committed and determined to redefine the cause of excellence in education and implement it through accelerated, need-based, practical-oriented process with a holistic approach; to empower the learner for self-exploration, so as to become a responsible global citizen with a deep-rooted ethos of Indian culture and tradition.”



LETTER TO THE READERS

Dear Readers,

Warm greetings, and welcome to the 8th Edition of Literature Unbound: The September Edition! This magazine showcases original poems, articles, and literary works by the talented writers of Grades 9 and 10.

As Celeste Ng beautifully said, "The story is truly finished—and meaning is made—not when the author adds the last period, but when the reader enters." Thank you for bringing life to our words.

We deeply appreciate Meghana Ma'am for her inspiration and unwavering support in creating this platform for literature enthusiasts. Your feedback and contributions are always welcome—reach out at sarah.tshaikh1@gmail.com or aryagupta1635@gmail.com.

Thank you for exploring the world of words with us. Keep reading, writing, and discovering!

Warm regards,
Sarah Shaikh (President)
Arya Gupta (Vice-President),
Literature Unbound

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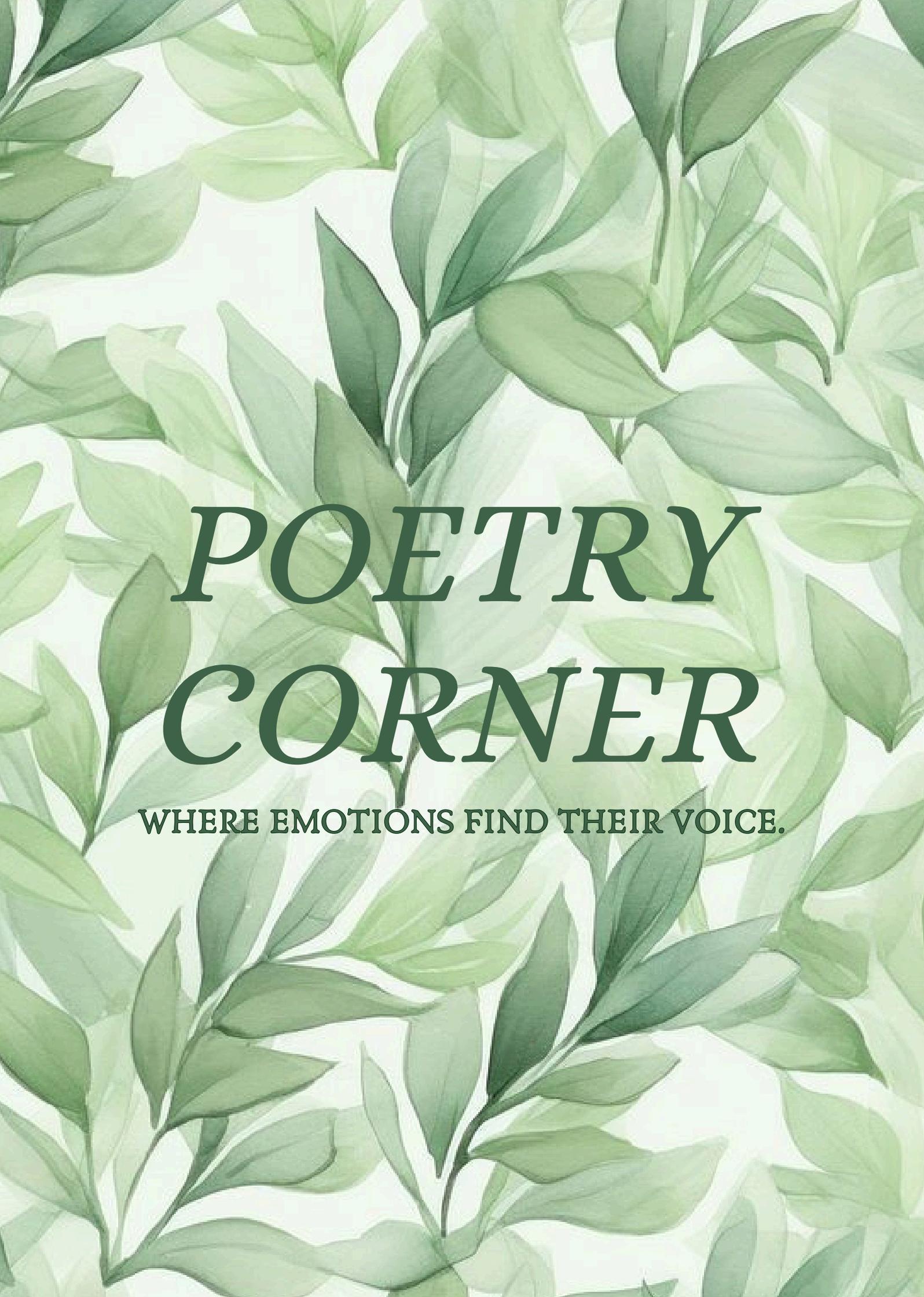
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*POETRY
CORNER*

WHERE EMOTIONS FIND THEIR VOICE.

You'll be okay!

*See it, open your eyes,
Face it, when you're divine,
Embrace your fears,
Kiss your failures,
But never let that go unwise.*

*Run but not away,
Hide but where you can be seen,
Future is to see,
Let the Feelings set flee,
See your luminous ray.*

*Dream until you conquer it,
sail until you reach beyond sea,
Wave goodbye to your peeve,
Send your soul to receive,
And get your merit.*

*Don't quit, keep doing it,
Don't throw, but let it go,
There is a destiny,
Where your escort is thee,
continue until you conquer it.*

*Don't you give anyone a say,
Reach until the far beyond,
Climb the peak till the highest,
Touch the mighties' mightiest,
Until then... You will be okay!*

— Bhoomi Bedmutha

AWAKING

*In the mirror, a world within,
Youthful eyes so deep.*

*Moments of doubt, fleeting fears,
Courage grows, shadows clear*

*Friends like stars guide the way,
struggles shape and dreams convey,*

*In the night, thoughts take a flight.
Teenage years a guiding light*

— Aahana Bharadia



Call to the Rain

*I wish the rain would come...
Blessing me with hopes,
Helping me rise high on my toes.*

*I wish the rain would come...
Making the earth jolly
Grooming the earth holly.*

*I wish the rain would come...
Letting the clouds embrace the Earth,
of happiness, its rebirth*

*I wish the rain would come...
the day comes people wait for
to smell the petrichor.*

*I wish the rain would come...
Let flowers take their worth,
giving the smell of million worth.*

*I wish the rain would come...
the dive of those water beads,
helping the growth of lil' seeds*

— Jidnyasa Gaikwad

Elements

*Stretch above the Earth, into their peak,
It is sky, they constantly seek.
From a distance, we notice their height,
The view from the top, an extravagant
sight!*

*Closely arranged, to form a range,
Our eyes, won't notice them change.
Not bound to time, difficulties many.*

*So much more, beyond their beauty,
Protecting species, their duty,
Mountains are just forces, of the nature
we know,
Way at the top, they often have snow.*

— Karthikeyan Iyer





*PEN &
PERSPECTIVE*

IDEAS IN INK, PERSPECTIVES IN MOTION.

CELEBRATING 79 YEARS OF INDIAN FREEDOM: The Dawn Of A New Era

SARAH SHAIKH

"Freedom is never dear at any price. It is the breath of life. What would a man not pay for living?"
— Mahatma Gandhi

What brings greater pride and a deeper heave to our chest than seeing the resplendent tricolour billowing across the sky? A day so profound for its historical significance, symbolising the dawn of a new era – the reins of control over our own country had finally come under our power on this day. Yet eyes still water as we ponder over the lives laid down the line by selfless freedom fighters in sacrifice for this liberation.

This August 15th, 2025, our school celebrated Independence Day with unmistakable zeal and evident fervour, with innumerable students, teachers and parents gathered for the event. The flag hoisting ceremony was graced by the highly revered Captain Vedant Changale (Ashoka Marg Alumnus, Class of 2016) as the chief guest. As the Guests of Honour, the Nasik city toppers of grade 10 and 12 were invited: Jeet Nikam and Tanmay Kadu – both Nasik city toppers of the ICSE stream, with an impressive 99.6%; Riza Shaikh – the Nasik city topper of the ISC Science stream with an impeccable 98%; and Anshum Gurule – the Nasik city topper of the ISC Commerce stream, with an austere 96.5%.



CELEBRATING 79 YEARS OF INDIAN FREEDOM: The Dawn Of A New Era

SARAH SHAIKH



Seeing these phenomenal achievers, patriotic performances, and hearing enlightening words from inspiring personalities – our Managing Trustee, Astha Kataria ma'am, along with the Chief Guest and the Guests of Honour – elucidate and expound over what celebrating August 15th is truly about, made the atmosphere abuzz with excitement and burning ambition to do something profound and meaningful for our own country.

Let this August 15th be a day to remember that the privileges that we enjoy today and the promenades that we take in the land we call ours are not the result of an ephemeral struggles, but the result of continued, arduous struggle and selfless sacrifices.

AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE AT MANAVSEVA OLD AGE HOME

BY SANVI PATIL



21st April, we had a field trip at school that was a bit different from the normal ones. we went to Manavseva Vridhashram in Nashik – a home for the elderly. It was one of the most unforgettable experiences that I have ever had on a trip.

We got to school early that morning, laughing and chattering in the bus as usual. The first thing I noticed when we got there was how still it was. The building was surrounded by plants and flowers bathed in sunlight, and the building was peaceful. The staff welcomed us warmly, and a few residents were already outside sitting, welcoming us with smiles and waving their arms at us. It felt welcoming right away.

After hanging out with them for a while, some of the students did a short program they had been rehearsing – a song and a small skit. The residents gave us their approval. They clapped and laughed.

We distributed the small presents we had brought before departing. A few residents broke down in tears and expressed gratitude for our visit. "You reminded me of my granddaughter," one of them said, holding my hand. Please come again." I was at a loss for words. I simply smiled and said I would. On the bus ride back, the atmosphere had transformed. It was quieter than usual – not because we were tired, but because we were lost in thoughts. We all discussed about how we never really spend time with our grandparents anymore, and how we would definitely come and revisit the place.



AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE AT MANAVSEVA OLD AGE HOME

BY SANVI PATIL

Manavseva Vridhashram was more than just a place to visit. We learned the value of listening, kindness, and respect from the experience. Words like "respect your elders" are common, but this trip gave them a tangible sense. All they wanted was a little time and some attention. These were people who had lived full lives and had stories, wisdom, and warmth to share.

I think every student should visit a place like this at least once. You don't just learn something – you feel something. And sometimes, that's even more important than lessons from a textbook. I hope I can revisit it myself someday.



A TRIBUTE TO OUR Teachers

BY GAURISRI TIWARI

"Teachers don't just teach lessons, they shape lives."

Teachers' Day is a special chance to thank our teachers. Most of the time, we don't even realize how much they do for us. We just attend class, take notes, and go home. But if you think about it, they spend so much time making sure we understand things, not just in studies but also in life. They teach us discipline, respect, and even how to handle failures. This day is important because it reminds us to appreciate their hard work and patience. It's not easy to manage so many students with different moods, yet they still try their best to help everyone.



We celebrate Teachers' Day on 5th September because it's the birthday of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan – a great teacher, the second president of India, and someone who believed education can change lives. On this day, schools have programs, performances, and sometimes students even become "teachers" for fun. But more than the fun, it's about showing respect. In today's fast-moving world, we often forget to stop and appreciate the people who guide us. Teachers face a lot of challenges now, especially with so many distractions around, yet they still put in the effort to keep us focused.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR *Teachers*

BY GAURISRI TIWARI



We might not remember every single chapter they taught, but we will always remember how they motivated us when we felt low, or how they explained a topic again and again until we understood. Teachers' Day is our way of saying,

“We see your efforts, and we are thankful.” It’s not about expensive gifts or long speeches – it’s about making them feel valued for the difference they make in our lives every single day.

– Gaurisri Tiwari

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Shared Values in Ganesh chaturthi, Eid-un-Milad and Onam

BY ARYA GUPTA



India's festivals are varied, as they stem from different origins and traditions, but each one embodies a common message of human values. For example, there are different ways to remember compassion, humility, togetherness, and service in Ganesh Chaturthi, Eid-un-Milad, and Onam.

Ganesh Chaturthi celebrates Lord Ganesha, who embodies wisdom and humility. For that reason, Lord Ganesha teaches us a great many satisfied simply through both form and also laying down ego and being accountable to the work of focusing.

The celebrations in Ganesh Chaturthi provide opportunity for community commitment.

Milad Un Nabi, or Eid-un-Milad, is a day for Muslims to mark the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) who is immensely respected in light of the the act of compassion, honesty, and sense of justice. On this day, many acts of charity, prayer and reconciliation occur while spreading peace in the world and love for humanity.

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Shared Values in Ganesh chaturthi, Eid-un-Milad and Onam

BY ARYA GUPTA



Onam celebrates a famed king, Mahabali, who is remembered because of his generosity and equality to all. Onam has a way of showing gratitude, along with harmony and congenially as a community with colourful flower patterns, feasts, and games in tribute of kings Mahabali

One Message

Though there is something unique to each, all festivals represented a similar

message of compassion for others, humility/gratitude in life, devotion to truth, and for the joy of celebrating together. Each of these festivals reminds us that under our individuality, we are not that different, and that we share a common humanity.

Behind the Filter :

THE PRESSURE TO BE PERFECT ONLINE

BY ALISHA ANEESH

Imagine waking up every morning, grabbing your phone, and diving into a world where everyone looks like they just stepped out of a magazine—flawless skin, perfect hair, and smiles so bright they could power a small city. Sounds like a dystopia when I say it that way right? But it's not, welcome to social media, where filters reign supreme and the pressure to be perfect is as real as your Wifi connection. But behind every flawless selfie lies a story of stress, comparison, and a desperate hunt for

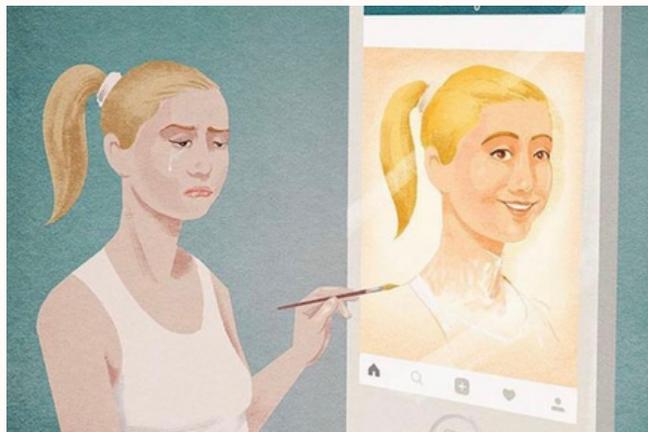
the perfect angle. Let's take an honest look at the pressure to be perfect online and why it's more exhausting than trying to solve math homework at midnight.

First off, filters are like magic wands that turn "I just rolled out of bed" into "I woke up like this" looks. There's the classic dog ears, the flawless skin filter, and the one that makes your eyes sparkle like you've just seen a puppy. But here's the catch: these filters don't



just add cute effects-they erase pimples, smooth wrinkles, and even change face shapes. Suddenly, your real face feels like the before picture in a makeover show, and your filtered face is the star of the after. No wonder it feels like we're all competing in a "Who Can Look Most Unrealistic?" contest!

Ever posted a selfie and then nervously refreshed your feed 50 times to see how many likes you got? Yep, that little heart icon has more power than the power outlet in a crowded airport. Getting fewer likes than your friend's dog's birthday post can feel like a personal tragedy. It's like social media is saying, "Congrats, you're officially less popular



than a goldfish." This pressure to rack up likes pushes people to post only their best (and often filtered) moments, which makes everyone else feel like their life is a boring black-and-white documentary.

Back in the day, peer pressure meant being dared to eat a weird bug or skip class. Now, it's about keeping up with TikTok dances, Instagram trends, and Snapchat streaks. If you don't post the latest viral challenge or look like you just stepped off a runway, you might as well be invisible.

Social media also normalizes cosmetic procedures, with millions of views on plastic surgery videos, making some teens feel like they need to "upgrade" their looks to fit in. It's like high school drama got a digital upgrade, complete with mean comments and public "shipping" wars.

Trying to keep up with this perfect online persona is exhausting. It's like running a marathon while a dog is chasing you-stressful and likely to end in disaster. Many teens feel anxious or sad because they compare their real, authentic, messy lives to everyone else's filtered highlight reels. Plus, constantly editing selfies can make you forget what your real face even looks like. This pressure can lead to low

self-esteem and even depression, which is definitely not the kind of “influencing” anyone wants.

Here’s the thing: nobody’s perfect, not even those flawless Instagram models. Behind every filter is a person with bad hair days, awkward moments, and probably a secret guilty pleasure they don’t post about. The pressure to be perfect online is like trying to fit into

jeans two sizes too small, uncomfortable and unnecessary.

Maybe it’s time to stop chasing likes and start celebrating realness. Post that goofy selfie, share your messy room, or admit when you’re having a rough day. Because the best filter you can wear is confidence – and trust me, that never goes out of style.

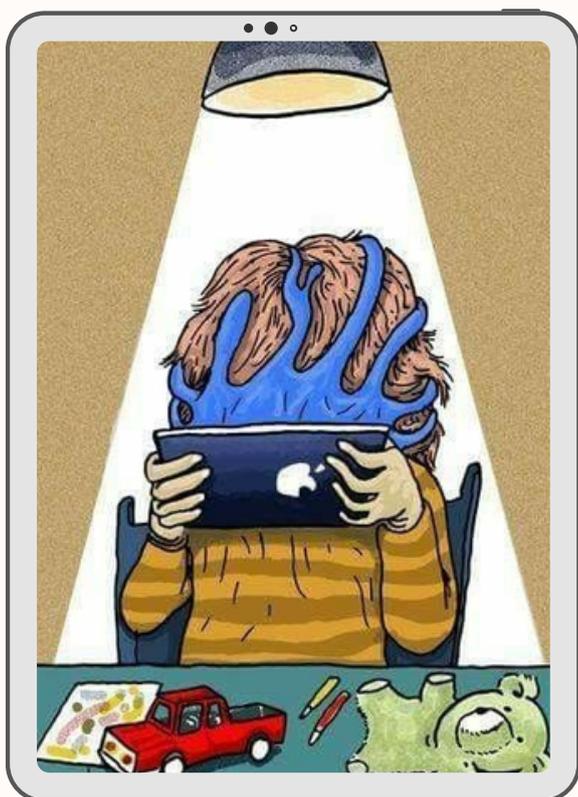
In conclusion, the pressure to be perfect online is a wild ride full of filters, likes, and endless comparisons. But beneath the surface, it’s okay to be imperfect, awkward, and totally human. So next time you feel the urge to add another filter, remember: your real self is way cooler than any digital mask.

WATCH . PLAY . SNOOZE . REPEAT FOUR EASY STEPS FOR RUINING YOUR LIFE .

– Pranika Bhardwaj

The intention of this article is not to completely ban video games or T.V. but to create awareness about their effects on the teenage mind and how dangerous the after-effects can be if the screen time is not limited. I should also add that this article is based on my perspective and not on some scientific study because that basically takes all the fun out of the article (not that there is any).

I know some people who don't know when to stop after they start a game or



switch the T.V. on. This seriously affects the way our brains function. For instance, there are a set of chores that I have to finish before I start watching or playing.

Once I'm done with some of them, I rush to play or watch what I want, completely forgetting about the next chore/s.

Technically, this shouldn't be such a problem because once my mom reminds or scolds me about that, I can do the chore then. But what we fail to realise is that this affects the way our brain functions over time. We start becoming careless and lazy because of the attitude that has been instilled over time in our minds: the attitude of "I'll do it later" or "It's not a big deal." In simple words: who cares if I do it now or not?

WATCH. **P**LAY. **S**NOOZE. REPEAT
FOUR EASY STEPS FOR RUINING YOUR
LIFE.

– Pranika Bhardwaj

This mindset also affects our school assignments. We think “The teacher almost always extends the deadline so why should I do it in time?” Yeah right. We simply let our reputation suffer. Sorry for being a little off-topic, but apart from our reputation, we are training our brain to respond in this way. Later in life, when we’re at a job and have deadlines, this habit won’t let us get things done – even if we have ample of time.

Now, apart from all the procrastination stuff, this really affects our behaviour. I didn’t believe it either but all Western famous T.V. shows feed rubbish to our brains and teach us to back answer and other bad habits. Video games make us react violently which is proven in a lot of scientific studies.

In conclusion, limit your screen time to 30 to 45 minutes max. Save your life while you still can.

Thank me later.

PARASOCIAL RELATIONSHIP-

WHY DO WE FEEL SO CLOSE TO INFLUENCERS?

BY SHREYA VISPUTE



What Are Parasocial Relationships?

Ever feel like you really know a YouTuber, a TikToker, or even a fictional character – even though you've never actually met them? That's called a parasocial relationship. It's a one-sided emotional bond where we feel deeply connected to someone we only see through a screen.

These relationships can form with social media influencers, movie characters, celebrities, or even Twitch streamers. You laugh with them, cry with them, root for them – all while they have no idea who you are. Sounds weird, but it's super common in the digital age.

Why Do We Feel So Close to Influencers?

Influencers are everywhere – your feed, your FYP, your late-night scrolling routine. They share their morning routines, their mental breakdowns, their skincare products, and their heartbreaks. Somewhere between the “Get Ready With Me” videos and the late-night life updates, something strange happens: we start to care.

You might even catch yourself thinking, “Why do I feel closer to this influencer than my actual friends?” Well, you've seen them grow. You've watched them struggle. You've celebrated their wins. This constant exposure creates a sense of

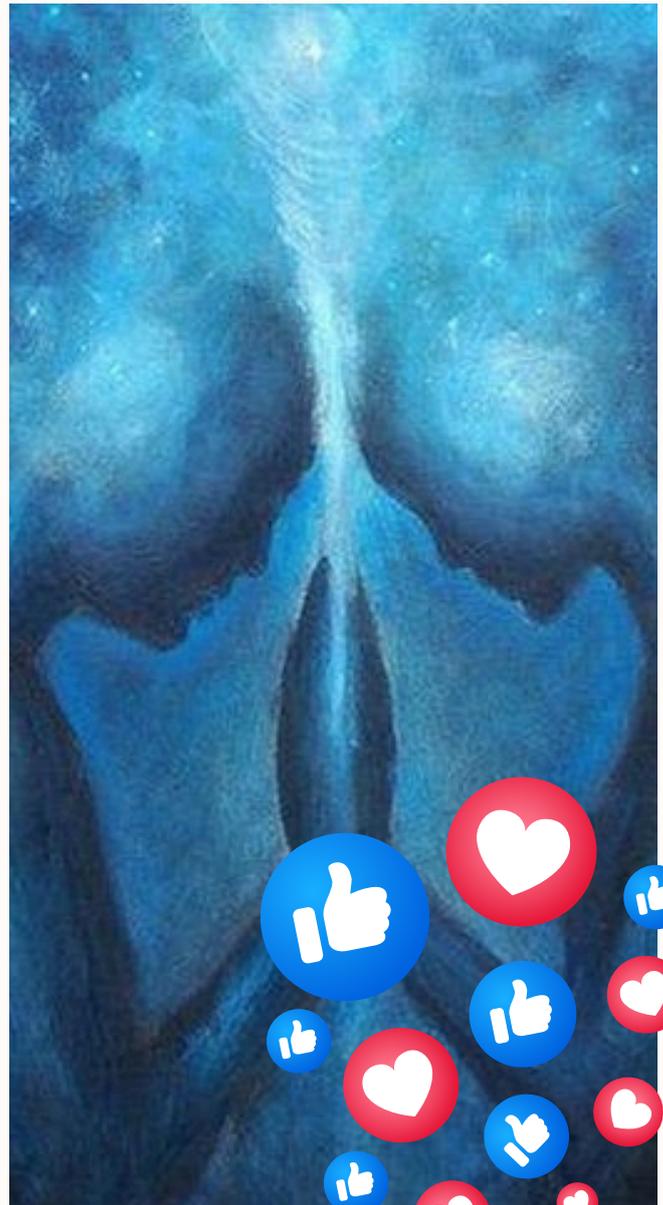
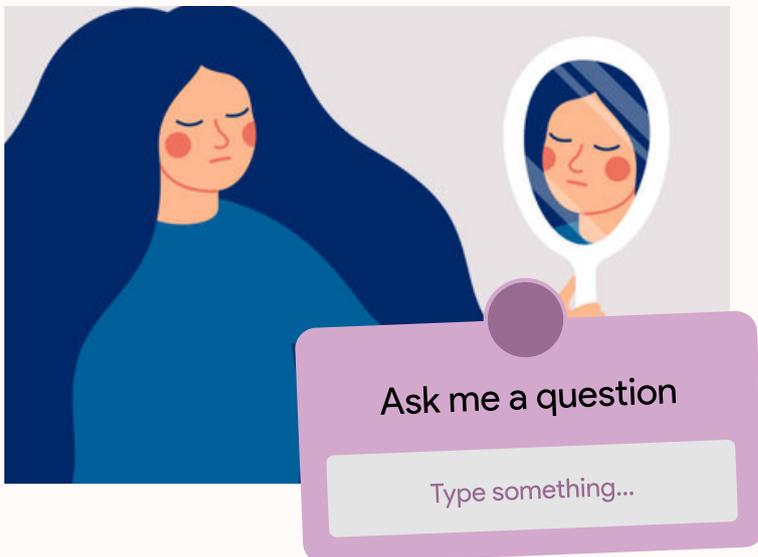
intimacy – even if it’s only going one way.

The Illusion of Connection

Influencers open up in vlogs, storytimes, and confession-style videos. This creates something called “perceived interactivity” – it feels like a real connection, especially when they respond to comments, do Q&As, or talk to the camera like they’re FaceTiming you. Platforms like YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, and Twitch blur the line between celebrity and friend.

Parasocial relationships can actually be a good thing. They can provide comfort, boost confidence, and help with self-discovery. But there’s a flipside.

When these digital bonds start replacing real-life friendships, or when we start having unrealistic expectations, it can lead to emotional burnout, loneliness, and even a distorted view of reality.



So... Is It Bad?

Not necessarily. Parasocial relationships aren’t just harmless “celebrity crushes.”

They play a role in emotional support, identity, and belonging. But just like anything online – balance is key.

Enjoy the content. Be inspired. Just don’t forget to connect with the people around you, too.



THE PSYCHOLOGY OF INTROVERTS VS. EXTROVERTS

————— BY FATIMA SHAIKH

We all know the feeling – being trapped in a noisy, overcrowded space, desperate to find a quiet corner. Or perhaps you're the one doing the talking, wondering why some people are silent and their eyes glaze over. That's the introvert-extrovert divide at work, and rooted in how our brains are wired.

But let's let's about distinct personalities and how we can create spaces in which everyone is comfortable.

*What Drives
These Personalities
Tick, and How
Can We Create
Spaces Where
Both Thrive?*

The Quiet Strength of Introverts

Introverts are not just people who are shy; they are deep thinkers who recharge by spending time alone. Small talk sucks them dry, but positive conversations light them up. If you have ever seen a friend or loved one mysteriously vanish at a party only to discover them a while later, reclining with a book or getting lost down an intellectual rabbit hole, you have observed introversion in real life. Crowds and repetitive chitchat are exhausting, even when they like to socialize in small spurts.

According to neuroscience, introverts process information differently; their brain is more stimulated, therefore they prefer quieter environments. Studies, such as one by psychologist Hans Eysenck, find that introverts receive a bigger dopamine hit in calm settings, which is why they love quiet corners and focused tasks. The misconception that introverts are antisocial misses the point—they simply engage with the world in a quieter, more deliberate way.



NORMALIZE BEING QUIET

The Energizing Spark of Extroverts

They flourish in noisy, bustling spaces and feel energized by socializing. Introverts process inwardly, while extroverts tend to process by talking through things. Their brains are more easily stimulated to hit that sweet spot, so they chase social vibes or new experiences. Laughter and a good argument help them increase their dopamine level, and research suggests that the inflow helps them sustain their outgoing spark.

They are the ones who organize outings, boost team morale, and fill awkward breaks with small conversations. But that doesn't mean they're shallow — they just live life externally, guided by people and action.

How Can We Create Spaces Where Both Thrive?

In the office, open-plan setups are an extrovert's paradise but they can overwhelm introverts. Adding quiet lounges, informal meeting areas, or the option to work from somewhere other than the office a couple of days or maybe a week enables introverts to regroup while extroverts collaborate on team projects.

Schools can also mix up things by offering group work for the extroverts, solo assignments for the introverts ensuring no one feels sidelined or exhausted. Introverted leaders often excel in listening, delving deeply, and creating careful plans. Extroverted leaders can supply energy, networking skills, and

I desperately need people. I recharge by sitting near those I love, laughing at their antics, and sharing stories. Being by myself is exhausting.

"Quietest people have the loudest minds."

-Steven Hawking

in-the-moment problem-solving. We must also leave room for both to grow.

Communication matters too. Extroverts love to hash things out loud, while introverts often excel in writing. Introverts may like to script out what they want to say in meetings. Afterward, letting them share their thoughts (for example, in a chat or in a follow-up email) helps ensure their voices are heard. Extroverts talk it out – they're not breaking into the piece to take over, but rather to pull you into it. A bit of patience goes a long way in keeping everyone in the loop.

We Need Each Other!!

There isn't one kind of personality that's 'better' – introverts lend thoughtfulness and focus, and extroverts bring energy and connection. The world isn't divided between quiet and loud people – many of us occupy the middle place (hello, ambiverts!). By adjusting our workplaces, classrooms, and even hangouts to accommodate both, we create environments in which everyone can flourish.

After all, the best ideas emerge when the thinkers think and share, the planners plan and act, the listeners listen and communicate.

Turn to Page 394..... or Press Play

– Tejasi Londhe



Stories aren't just told—they're lived, felt, and remembered. We read them late into the night, binge-watch them on screens, or carry them in our memories. Even a small spark can create a universe. But once in a while, a story comes along that doesn't just narrate a tale, it defines a generation. Harry Potter is that story. And ever since it changed its track from the books to the big screen, the real duel wasn't between wizards, but between pages and pixels.

It all started with 25 year old Joanne Rowling. A girl with big ambitions, she was. One day, a delayed train sparked the character of Harry, which later turned into a bestseller. The seven-book series followed a young wizard's journey of conflict, turmoil, and many discoveries.

Not to forget the classic "Good v/s Evil". This series became a global sensation, and got other subordinating books too. But the real question remains: who truly cast the most powerful spell, Rowling's words or Hollywood's visuals?

The books laid the foundation for two decades of magical storytelling, with the character of Harry, who discovers his wizardry after 10 years of lies.

Harry Potter

Over seven years, we explore friendship, choices, and the battle between good and evil. This series lets each reader visualize the world uniquely with its polished descriptions. This makes it an unforgettable journey, and more than just a story. The books are beautifully-crafted with emotional setbacks and inner complexities.

Characters like Professor Slughorn, who is portrayed as a fearful man avoiding life's bigger picture, reflect real struggles with stress and anxiety. The most well-crafted character, arguably, is Severus Snape who is an epitome of true love and dedication.

He shows how hatred and love can flow in the same vein, and how loyalty can both make and break a person. These rich portrayals make the series deeply relatable.

The books also captured the magic of human relations and their place in our life like Harry and Dobby.

The movies, however, take a different lane. They brought the wizarding world

to life with stunning visuals, iconic dialogues, and a brilliant star cast. Performances by Alan Rickman and Ralph Fiennes added depth to their characters. The films delivered magic, action, and emotion on a grand scale. This made the series capture global audiences.

However, key moments were often excluded, like important plots being short or disregarded.

A prime example is Dumbledore's backstory, which was largely ignored despite its emotional and narrative value. While the movies captured important parts to fulfill the narrative, they often sacrificed emotional depth for cinematic pace and runtime.

All in all, both the books and movies contributed to Harry Potter's legacy, but the books showcase refined depth and character arcs. The movies shine with stunning visuals and stellar performances too, but the originals take the cake here.

Roblox, Minecraft, and Other Video Games: The Future of Education?

– Shreshtha Palkhedkar

Gaming is becoming a platform for creativity, learning, and career growth. Video games were traditionally regarded as distractors or time wasters. Sites like Roblox and Minecraft are turning over this thinking by evolving from entertainment pivots into powerful tools for education, creativity, and even career development.

Game-Based Learning - Educators are already using games such as Minecraft: Education Edition across the globe in their science classrooms, geography, math, even history and coding classes. Instead of doing homework, a more recess-like approach to schoolwork has students engaged, problem-solving, and crafting projects that fortify learning units.



Similarly, with Roblox Studio, users can design their own games, teaching the young gamers the ins and outs of digital creation, game economy, and logic-based programming. It levels the playing field for access to STEM skills, all of which are highly marketable in today's economy.

Creativity and Community: but these platforms offer more than just structured learning. In these creative sandboxes, players create obstacles, design towns, and share their narratives for a worldwide audience to enjoy.

Children become consumers and creators, storytellers, and even entrepreneurs.

Roblox, Minecraft, and Other Video Games: The Future of Education?

— Shreshtha Palkhedkar

It Starts Here: When the lines between the online world and real life become blurred. With the booming industry of game designers and real-money economies, some Roblox developers made thousands... If not tens of thousands from in-world microtransactions.

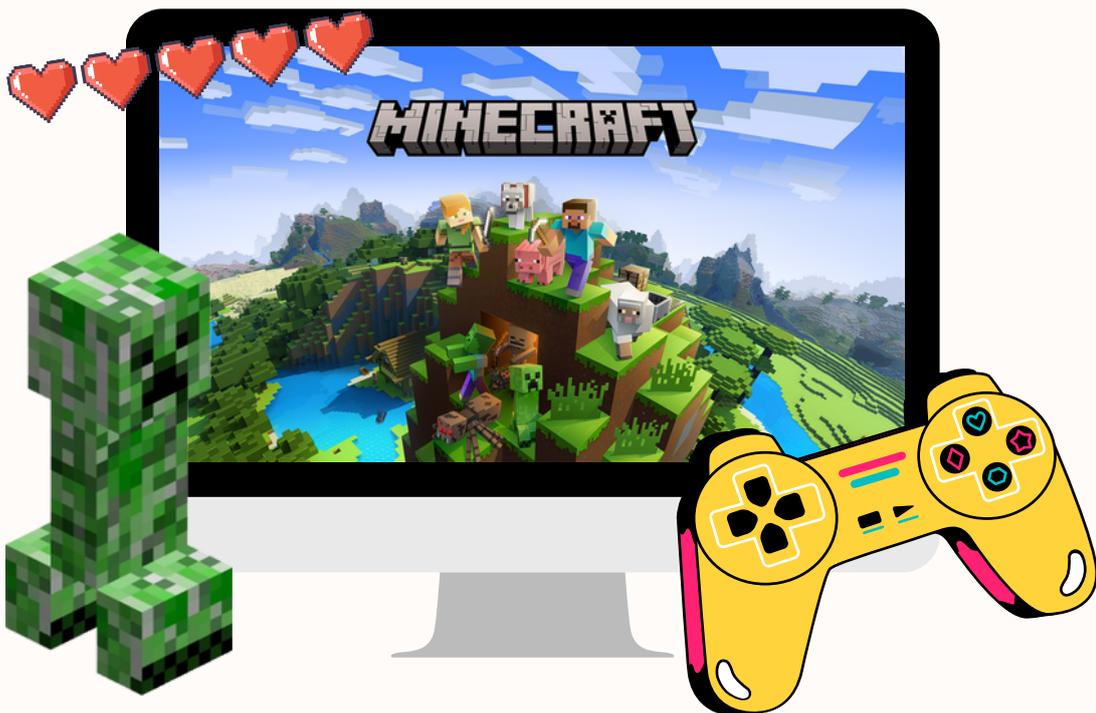
There are Minecraft live streamers and modders who have their own channels with significant branding and followings in the millions who teach

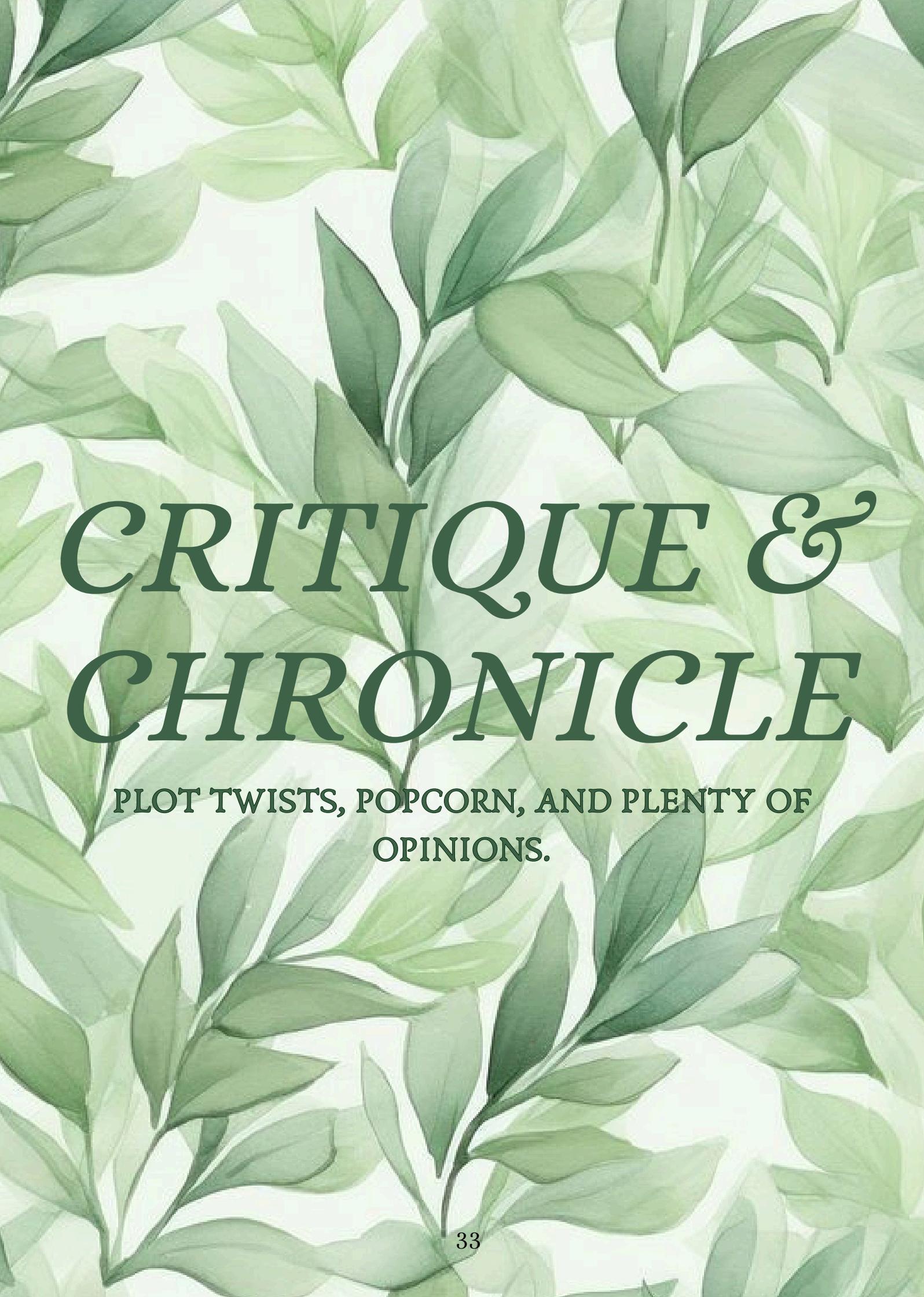
others what they've learned.

Is This the Future of Learning?

As traditional learning evolves—especially given that a digital reality continues to rely on technology—video games become a suitable avenue for engagement and skill building.

Video games redefine what it means to learn, from hard skills like coding and design to soft skills like communication and collaboration.





CRITIQUE & CHRONICLE

**PLOT TWISTS, POPCORN, AND PLENTY OF
OPINIONS.**

THE BOOK THIEF BY MARKUS ZUSAK (BOOK REVIEW)

BY MADHURA SANGALE

What if Death told you a story – and it wasn't what you expected? And when Death has a story to tell, you really have to listen. It is 1939, Nazi Germany. Death has never been busier, and will be busier still.

In *The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak delivers a powerful and haunting novel, narrated by Death itself. Through this unusual but strangely poetic book, we follow the life of Liesel Meminger, a young girl sent to live with foster parents in a small town during World War II. It all began with a train, a dead brother and Liesel's first stolen book.

The story introduces unforgettable characters: Hans Hubermann, Liesel's foster father with silver eyes, who teaches her to read; Rosa, her strict but loving foster mother; Rudy, the boy next door with lemon-coloured hair and a fierce heart; and Max, the Jewish fist-fighter hiding in their basement. Together Max and Liesel explore stories and the power of words. And yes, there is quite a bit of thievery.

What makes this book truly special is its language. Markus Zusak's writing is rich with imagery and emotion which are beautiful, poetic and devastating. The



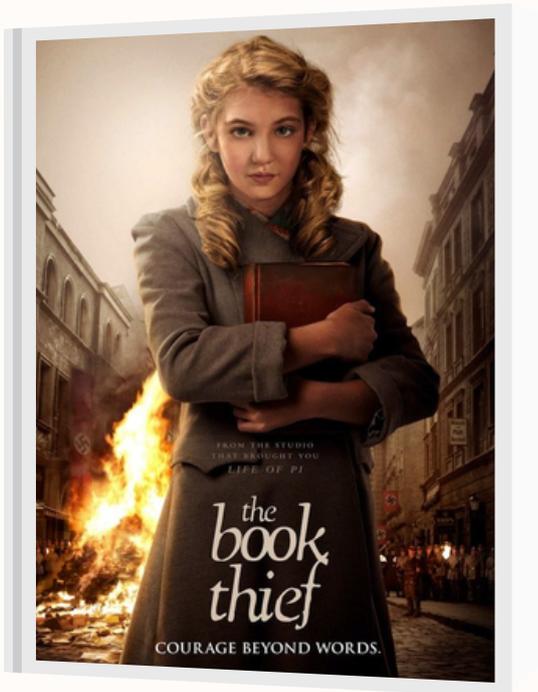
idea that words can be both weapons and life-savers runs deeply throughout the novel, and it leaves a lasting impression.

If you prefer quick reads, this book is probably not for you. But if you love slow reads in which every word lingers, then I think you should try this one out. Just a little warning – be ready with tissue paper at the end; you might need it.

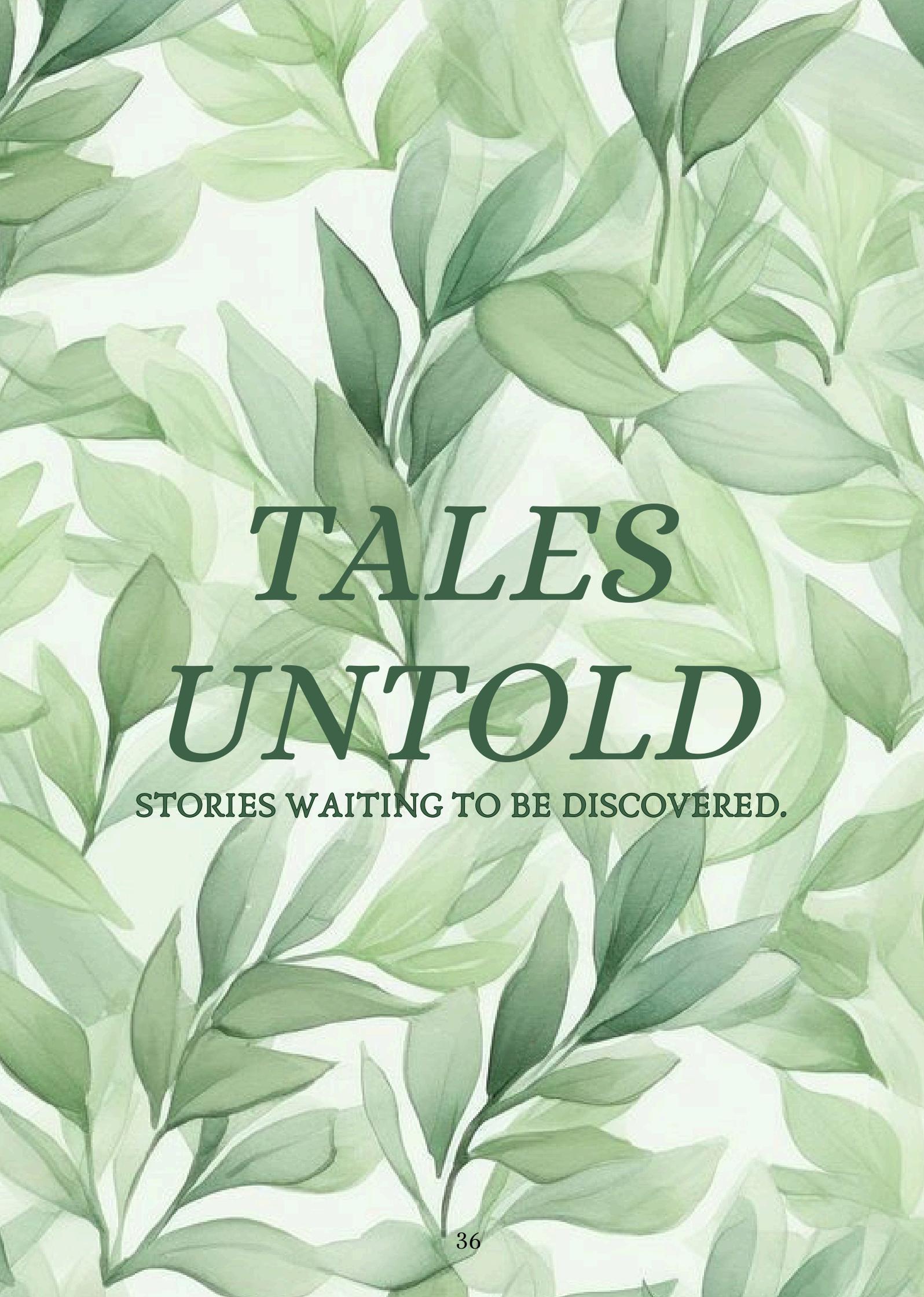
The Book Thief is not just a simple

historical fiction, but a book about how courage, kindness, stolen books and even words bring light in the darkest of times. It is a book full of emotions and stories of people who risked their lives to hide their Jewish friends, or the ones who threw bread when Jews were passing by.

The Book Thief is a testament to the power of words to both wound and heal. As the story closes, you'll find that some books, like lives, never truly end leave us.



*“I have hated words and
I have loved them, and I
hope I have made them right.”
-Liesel Meminger, The Book
Thief*



TALES
UNTOLD

STORIES WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED.

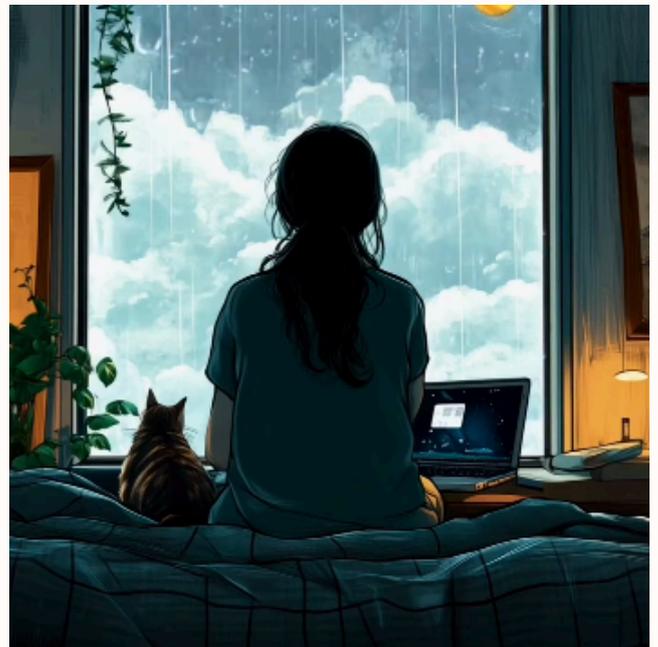
THE GIRL WHO FELT THE RAIN —

A Symphony of Skies and Soul

BY JIDNYASA GAIKWAD —————

It was a quiet afternoon in Nashik. Jennie, a cheerful and curious tenth-grader, sat at her study table with books open and a soft tune on her lips. In school, she was known not just for her grades, but for her sweet voice — calm and comforting, like a lullaby floating in the breeze.

As she flipped through her notebook, a sudden rumble echoed from the clouds. She looked up, startled. Big grey clouds had rolled in and taken over the sky. And then — it began to pour.



Raindrops fell down like pearls, dancing on rooftops and soaking the streets.

Everything outside felt alive again, washed and waiting, like the world had taken a deep breath.

Jennie rushed to the window, her eyes lighting up with wonder.



She heard the clouds shouting their lungs out, informing mankind about the beatdown of white beads on the golden land of Earth.

The smell of wet earth – petrichor – filled the air. It reminded her of summer holidays, paper boats, muddy feet, and old Bollywood songs playing on the radio. The trees outside danced with the wind, branches swaying like they were in a celebration.

She stood still, just breathing it in. Far away, thunder rumbled again, and a streak of lightning lit up the golden fields in the distance.

Everything paused for a moment – like the rain had pressed the pause button on the world.

And then came the ribbon of colors... the rainbow! It appeared gently, painting the sky in soft, magical shades that seemed too perfect to be real. Birds chirped again. Flowers turned toward the light. The rain slowly faded.

And Jennie – well, she didn't just see or hear the rain that day.

She felt it.

"Fill your paper
with the breathings
of your heart."

— William
Wordsworth

Do you have a story to tell, a poem to share, or an idea to express? Join us in shaping the next edition of Literature Unbound! Reach out at sarah.tshaikh1@gmail.com or aryagupta1635@gmail.com.