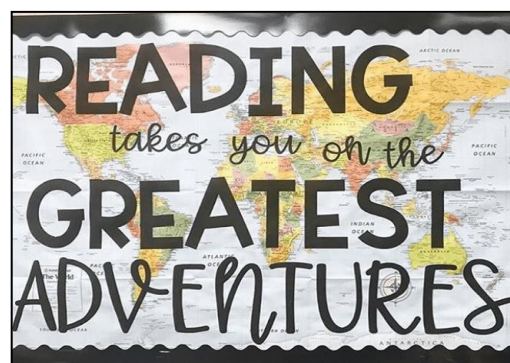




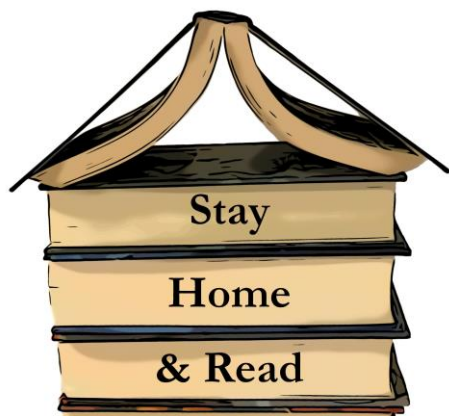
## READING OUR WAY THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

The world closed its doors. Masks covered our anxiety and depression. The oceans seemed to turn away and the universe angry and refused to help. We, humans, broken and puzzled locked our feelings in the beds of our houses. The wanderlust inside all of us cribbed. We bored humans for a change picked up an old dusty thing made of paper and that's when our world went topsy - turvy.

They say that a reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. I was personally devastated with the rising cases and my urge to get out of my house. Books were my escape. I never knew that my room could turn into the Great Wall of China, the pyramids of Egypt, the overpowering Himalayas and Bonjour Paris! Our brains can't really distinguish between imagination and reality that's why imagining is so powerful. So, we can basically experience everything through a book. Maybe all your wildest fantasies can actually come true.



Books can especially prove to be helpful in times of crisis. What we are experiencing right now, someone in the world has gone through it already. The stories in literature and help you escape reality and set off in another world far from your assignments and problems. With each unravelling minute of a Netflix episode, you know that feeling of cold sweat behind your neck, a good book and give you the same feeling much better. We can seek help and learn so much more. In the world of internet and globalization, we can avail the opportunity of so many free books. And actually, books are much fun, don't believe me, well try it out yourself!



**Navnoor Rana (IX B)**



**We read to know  
we're not alone.**

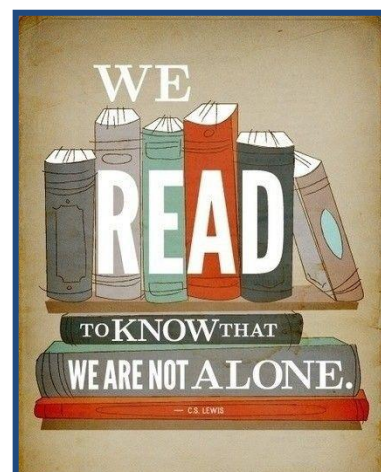
Reading is a perception. It's a way of life; a way of life through which we're able to glance at someone else's life.

As a human being, we are bound to be subjected to the various human emotions, but sometimes, the suppression of these emotions leads us to believe that no one will ever be able to parallel the situation that we reside in, that no one will be able to perceive our understanding of ourselves; and it is in these situations, that a person often tends to enclose himself in a book.

Whenever one opens a book, he's exposed to a whole another life. He can see the world through someone else's eyes, he becomes open to new possibilities, new phases that help him blossom into a mature person.

It is through reading only, that one can encounter a character that resembles his disposition and get inspired by the character's deeds, in a way that he works towards assimilating more of the character's traits in his self.

A person becomes part of the book, experiencing every written word and weaving the story further in his fantasy. A book becomes a way to newfound curiosity because you never know what will happen when you turn the page over. You live a new life with every book and grow with every word. You find solace in those pages and kinship in the characters. To sum up, reading truly takes away your loneliness.



**Arshiya Gupta (X C)**



Don't judge a book by its cover till you have read it because you don't know what's under those covers that you haven't explored yet. Don't judge me by my external appearance rather see the inner beauty which is my most important essence. You may have known me by my looks and what people think of me but I am sure you haven't seen the beliefs I hold. My outfit doesn't define me but my character does define a lot about me. Don't judge a book by its cover because it's the inner beauty that matters.

**Panini Arora (IX B)**



*I wish I were a book*

I wish I were a book,  
Handpicked by a reader, read by a brook.

Full of stories that transform and inform,  
As they read me through a windy hailstorm.

I would love to be read by hordes of scholars,  
Cause a flurry of thoughts, prevent mental squalor.

I shall be perfectly content like a brand new book,  
Ideally looking for an academic to hook.

Better than the Argonauts' quest of the Golden Fleece,  
I will take one to a world of solitude and peace.

A book which carries one to a world of wonder,  
And causes the delinquent inside to slumber.

I would like to be a story as old as time,  
A perfect inventory, read before bedtime.  
A veracious account worth a peep,  
To be pondered over in a twilight sleep.

Avni Moudgil (X B)

**A Dictionary**

The king of the planet,  
Words from A to Z,  
Bow in front of me.  
Your old, boring but sweet,  
A dictionary! That's what I am.



You don't feel my importance,  
Until you have me.  
I am pretty common,  
You would find me in every library.

Always ready to help you,  
But, am I really required?  
You only use a phone,  
For the mystery of the alphabets.

Still I hope,  
That you would not forget me.  
Don't know,  
That I will make it till the next century.

Always remember,  
Your dear dictionary is still there,  
At that corner of the library.  
Waiting for you,  
To read the secrets of the alphabets.

Avista Thakur (VIII A)



*Reading is to the mind  
what exercise is to the body*

Since the day we joined this immensely educated society, we've heard that reading is amazing, and it is a favourite pastime. But why is this so? Let's delve into it.

Reading is to mind, what exercise is to the body, said by renowned English playwright and poet, Joseph Addison. This is a really good way of actually understanding what reading does. It enhances our mental functioning and develops our thought process. It gives us a whole other view of the world, and thus makes us more broad-minded. It also shapes our creative thinking, birthing an abundance of ideas.

Reading all types of genres helps us to perceive our environment in a different vision. Be it a thriller, drama, fiction, non-fiction, comedy or whatnot, all of these are so interesting. Reading isn't subjective and can apply to any person, it being so universal. Expanding your horizon to all genres will help you become more open-minded and a connoisseur of the art of reading and writing. Reading is also very accessible; you can have thousands of books in your pocket without having to carry a myriad of paperbacks and hardcovers.

Uday Gupta (IX B)

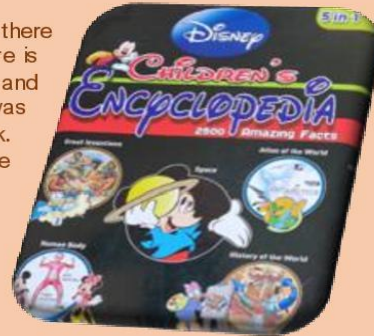




## The Book That Made Me A Reader...

A million-dollar question is **how I became a Reader**. Well, there is a small story behind every successful journey and here is mine. I was just six years old when my parents and grandparents got me my first **Children's Encyclopaedia**. I was small then and could barely handle the weight of that book. Also, I was not interested in reading. So, I kept it in the cupboard and forgot about it.

Then came the pandemic in which we all had new challenges to face. I could not go out to meet my friends or play for long. I was bored sitting at home so one day I picked up that bulky book kept it in the cupboard.



To my surprise it was so amazing filled with pictures and text, that I enjoyed reading it. It took me to various places around the world I never knew existed. Also, it took me to ancient places like Pyramid of Giza. I also gained lot of knowledge about human body, different inventions, and modes of transport, etc.

But you know what I enjoyed the most was my journey through space. I came to know about our Milky Way and some nearby galaxies like Andromeda. I was amazed to know Saturn was light enough to float on water if there was a bathtub large enough to dip it and Mercury has extreme temperature of plus 400 degrees Celsius when it faces the Sun and -200 degrees Celsius on the opposite side.

From then on, I enjoyed reading about Space and asked my parents to buy me a special Space Encyclopaedia. Now I have also started enjoying reading other books. Looking at my interest, my parents bought me a lot of books like a collection of 21 Hole Books and several Encyclopaedias. Reading keeps me busy and occupied and gives me so much of knowledge. I am very thankful to everyone who has been a part of my journey and today I truly believe that my first book Children's Encyclopaedia was the best thing that happened to me.



-Krushna Nagpurkar, Class 3B



How I became an avid reader.

During the pandemic I started reading lots of books, I first started to read a book called (THE BIG T-R-E-X). Though I had started reading by the age of 4½ years but it was never regular, but this pandemic gave me ample time to read and explore new books. I read books from many authors like Enid Blyton, Roald Dahl and lots more. Many a times I try to go through the story by its pictures like Giraffe pelly and me and a ladder which are very well illustrated. I try to read something before going to bed as I get a sound sleep by doing so. I travel with the emotions of the various characters of the book. Reading books has also helped me in improving my vocabulary and reading skills. This pandemic has definitely made me a voracious reader.

Vihaan Soin (III A)

### I love my school library because...



My school library is a peaceful place full of knowledge. It is always fun to be there. It has a large variety of books. Every step to the library fills me with a new story, new knowledge. I love to read short stories. Library worksheets are amazing. Ah! These days I miss my library. This pandemic has changed a lot and so is my library. Now it is online. We are all locked in our homes, but the availability of online books takes me to the outer world. It brings joy and happiness. I hope this pandemic ends soon and I enjoy visiting my library again.

Saanvi Bhatt (III A)





**"If you don't like  
TO READ  
you haven't found the  
RIGHT BOOK."  
— J.K. Rowling**

### The Art of Finding 'Your' Reading Taste

"Never apologize for your reading taste" — Betty Rosenberg

Just like many individuals struggle to find the right answer to question 3 on their math test, finding your own reading genre that instills excitement in you can be rather difficult too- in fact even more. Numerous times have I come across people that very casually term reading as 'boring' and support this by saying that it's too time consuming and the words seem to fly off the page. No, no- the reason why you feel this way is because you are reading 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', while your interest lies in books that are darker and mysterious; perhaps something like Gillian Flynn's "Gone Girl". These are just examples. Yes, we must read our way through the pandemic, but why not enjoy it- by doing it the correct way i.e. more personalised.

Let's talk more about genre. Why does it matter? One of the most striking aspects of literature is its highly developed sense of genre. Of course, a literary work's genre remains an important factor today. We distinguish broad categories of poetry, prose, drama, and novels with genres such as crime, romance, or historical fiction. Genres appeal to writers because they give a structure and something to build on, while they offer audiences the pleasure of the familiar and ingenious diversion from it.

There's no question that reading is important — it educates, inspires, entertains, and so much more. But with thousands of books published every week, how does a reader (especially one that is just getting into reading) decide which one to pick up? You must pick a genre (or more than one) that fits your style and personality- not something that you must accept as 'popular reads' just because society terms it so. Far too many people allow their reading to be guided by the taste of others; they limit themselves to top-selling lists or the latest publishing craze or want only to read the "right" books. How many people's love of reading has been thwarted by attempts to cram themselves with so-called classics or opaque literary tomes? As if literary fiction or classics (if there is even a proper definition for these terms) are the pinnacles of reading taste. In actual terms of reality, neither classics nor literary fiction are categories that help classify one's reading tastes. Here's where we must learn our first lesson - The tag 'bestselling' should not be indicative of your desire to read the book.

Now that we've developed the basis of a correct mindset, if there is something that you must all do next is to question yourself (which we have quite a lot of time to do as we're sitting at home 24/7 now) - Do you enjoy stories that fling you forward at a breakneck pace or do you prefer they let you amble along smelling the flowers? Are you a fan of dark humour or slapstick comedy? Do you want a book that gets you all confused and bothered or one that makes you too terrified to remain home alone? All of these questions are directly related to isolating the "appeals" you are drawn to; your personal "appeals" are solely indicative of your choice to pick or drop a book. Based on the abovementioned and likewise questions, you should be able to devise a basic idea as to where your mind leans to and then try to categorize these ideas into broad genres and sub-genres that you personally like. Now, we know, for example, that mysteries tend to be fast-paced and thrilling, they're often written without adornment, (though individual authors sometimes have recognizable styles.) Alternately, the fantasy genre is filled with dense characterization, globs of description, and proceeds at a stately pace. This leads us to our second rule – Keep questing and developing your taste.

Yes- now you've successfully developed your taste, and found your reading genre which is indeed the primary purpose of this text, but does it mean that you'll begin to start liking books now? Alas! The process of being glued to a novel for hours does not simply depend on the genre- in fact; numerous other factors play a role in it.

I would now like to introduce five more facets of appeals (and yes- they include more self-questioning!):

- 1. Pacing:** How quickly does the book move? Is it a page-turner or will it, like War and Peace did for me, take a month to finish?
- 2. Characterisation:** How are the characters treated by the author? Are they described so deeply that the book could be called a character study? Or are they just archetypal chess pieces in a complicated game?
- 3. Storyline:** What is the orientation of the plot? Is it character-driven or action-oriented? Very complex? Inspirational? Absurd?
- 4. Frame and Tone:** What is the mood of the book? Is it heart-warming? Thrilling? Dark? Philosophical? Quirky?
- 5. Style:** How could the author's writing style be described? Spare? Conversational? Poetic? Intricate?

Whether you are looking for a novel or narrative non-fiction, you can now begin mapping the sorts of stories you most appreciate on the gamut of options out in the world! And here we devise our last step to find a good read –Evaluate the book like you would do your test paper for 0.5 additional marks.

Seerat Gill (X D)



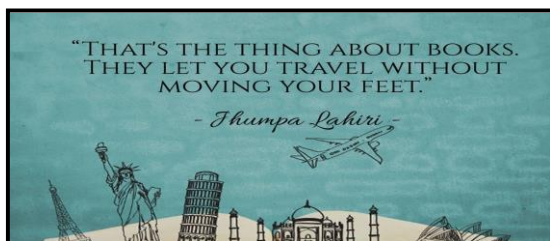
Reading – The Tour Guide to My World of Imagination

“A reader lives a thousand of lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one.”  
- George R.R. Martin

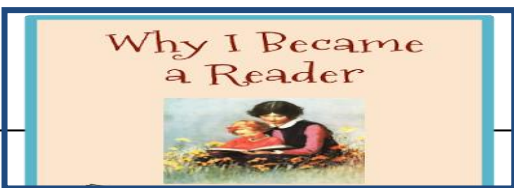
In my early years, my father would read me a story every night. As I grew up, I would read a story by myself before lights were out. Ever since, I was hooked. Reading is a fun thing as it takes you to your world of imagination.

Each word of the book can teleport you to a world that is wonderful, heavenly, and even more beautiful than the real world. I experienced such bliss when I read ‘Journey to the Center of the Earth’ by Jules Verne. Reading it made me feel as if I was one of the persons travelling to the center of the Earth. The beauty of the underground sea, the visit to the extinct Mt.Etna and in no time emerging from Mt.Sneffels to the island of Stromboli can only be experienced through reading books.

Although I am a peripatetic person and love to see things by myself, this pandemic has taught me to travel anywhere, anytime and with anyone without even moving from the couch. It is so simple, just step into the author’s shoes and enter into the world of beautiful imagination.



Brahmbir Singh (VIII C)



The book series Harry Potter and Tom Gates hold an honorable position in turning me into a total bookworm. Earlier, in fifth grade I was a person who got issued the thinnest Geronimo Stilton books and didn’t even read them; they always lay untouched in my bag. But then, by the end of the grade, there was a craze for ‘Tom Gates’ books, and me, just for the sake of getting it issued, I gave it a go. It was the first storybook which I read in just a matter of two days and enjoyed thoroughly. After that, I started exploring my home library and found Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone lying in a corner; I picked it up and started reading it. I enjoyed reading it so much because of all the magic and fantasy that I simply couldn’t resist reading all the series. And by the end of my grade 6, I had read the whole series!



Mannatvir Kaur (VII C)



Books are our guides like the dark night has shining stars.

We find math in things we buy, we use science every hour.

Hindi teaches us to love our country; Computer takes us far.

Punjabi is a gift from our State; Arts teaches how to make a Jar.

We are the future of the world; we would read books to become a Star.

**Aaryan Sharma (III D)**

### **BOOKS ARE OUR TRUE FRIENDS...**

"I'm Bored!", is the first and last statement that the parents are tired of hearing from their children these days. The parents' peace seems to have gone on vacation since the schools were closed. But, my parents gave me a solution... "Read a Book!!" Reading is the best alternative for keeping yourselves busy. Not only children should read books, but adults should read them too.

Some people have a fixed time to read - Some read when they get up in the morning, some read at dusk while they're having their tea and some read at bedtime, before they go to sleep. I am one of the night-owls!

When we read something, we brush off whatever's going on around us from our minds. We start travelling to very different and magical worlds that the authors have created for us. Many story books have illustrations to make the book look more appealing. Although, there are some books which do not have any illustrations in them at all! At first, we feel bored at its appearance, but, when we start to read it, we start visualizing the pictures in our mind and we feel jolly. We tend to get hooked to the book that we are reading to such an extent that we don't feel like stopping in between till we finish it.

When we were going to school, we used to learn a good amount of new words. Now also, while reading our books, we grasp many brand new words which we had never even heard of before and make an effort to use them while we speak. If, while reading, we read out loud, we get to absorb the right pronunciation of some of the unfamiliar words. By doing this, our reading skills become stronger and we start to use our minds in a more creative way. My favourite author is J.K. Rowling who has written all the Harry Potter books.

Books, lines written on pages,  
Intricate vocabulary set by the author,  
Books, subtle, hidden melodious laughter!  
Books keep us busy,  
Books make spending time easy

Productive time a child spends,  
Books are our true friends!  
Books, anytime we can open,  
Books, can be used as a token  
Books, an unbelievable world!

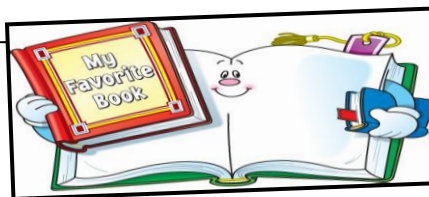


**Shravya Chhabra (VI B)**





# Matilda



This book is about an innocent little girl who was born into a family of illiterate and corrupt parents but because of her love for books, became a brilliant and a very intelligent girl and hence, a lovely person.

This book teaches us to be confident, independent and self sufficient when it comes to gaining knowledge. I would like all my friends to read it and learn a lot from this lovely little girl.

**Nehmat Sharma (IV D)**



## PERCY JACKSON AND THE LIGHTNING THIEF

Being from a world of Harry potter, Percy Jackson would have never been my first choice to read but as I read this book, I was so mad at myself for not reading this book earlier. For those of you who are also a bit late to the world of PJ (Percy Jackson), The Lightning Thief is about Percy Jackson, a 12 year old boy living in New York City. He's dyslexic and has ADHD, but he soon finds out that he's not the regular kid he thought he was. He's actually a demigod, the son of a mortal and Poseidon, the Greek God of the Sea (Really) Because of being son of Greek god; he is constantly at run from the monsters. With monsters I don't mean the monsters which come on Cartoon rather the deadly, dangerous monsters from the underworld. And he arrives at a Camp Half Blood which is for the children (of Greek Gods) just like him and from here his story unfolds.....

The world of The Lightning Thief brings Greek mythology into the modern world. Who knew that Mount Olympus was located on floor 600 of the Empire State Building? Or that the Greek gods are responsible for the spread of Western civilization? Or we walk among monsters who scour the Earth hoping to find the children of Greek Gods? A good book makes the reader think outside the book, that's what Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief made me do so. It inspired me to do my own research about Greek Mythology to extend my knowledge. I didn't mind that there were so many mythological creatures and gods mentioned in this book because it gave me the opportunity to learn more about all of them.

Rick Riordan makes the reader so intrigued that you can't stop reading until you finish the book. I still remember my mother shouting at the top of her voice at 1 am telling me to stop reading. Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief is no doubt a fantastic book which has humour, action and suspense all embedded in a single book. I hope after reading my book review you would surely read this book.



**Varun Rastogi (X C)**



### A book that changed my perspective on life....

It happened with me when I was reading my library book titled – “The Mortal Instruments”. I tenaciously walked over to the alphabetically-organized wooden shelves at my school’s library, careful not to smudge the name I had jotted across the back of my hand in black ink. It was an author’s name, I had only learned, Cassandra Clare. Fearing someone else had beaten me to the punch, I scanned the shelves of books and I found The Mortal Instruments there. I immediately sequestered myself away from the rest of my classmates and quickly opened it. On the page was a quote, written in the tiniest italic font:

"No man chooses evil because it is evil; he only mistakes it for happiness, the good he seeks."

I stared at the quote incredulously for I had always believed in the world being divided into two types of people, both pulled apart by the most diverse forces in nature -the good and the evil; the angelic and the demonic. Though that completely overthrew my belief. I rumbled upon something that was new. I recognised that it’s about power and perception, about what good and evil are, and whether they can be truly defined as such.

Enemies and friends switch places. Power changes perception. Lives hang in the balance. Whether or not they stay the same is another business all together! I realised that mankind could be really stupid, the reason perhaps is greed. I believe that this is not religion; it is a fact of life. This is man who, making use of his free will, decides to do what he wants to do and that is happiness to him at that moment, though later he may have to pay for it and realize it was not worth it. I refuse to conceive that hatred, willful ignorance, and bullying will win out.

Will they run things for a while? Yes, but only because they are screaming the loudest and fighting the dirtiest. However, those things have limits and they tend to burn out because there is nothing solid or lasting about them. Those who are acting in ways that are evil, harmful, hateful will be stopped. They will burn out and limp off. Maybe some of them will see the errors of their ways, maybe some never will. It doesn’t matter on the whole because goodness will eventually prevail.

This quote had changed my ideas and how I had perceived this world. Everything happened just by turning the front cover and opening an awesome thing called books!

Piya Goel (X D)

### WHY READING?



“A room without books is like a body without a soul”-Marcus Tullius Cicero

Reading takes you to a whole ‘another world. You can explore deep caves and steep mountains, narrow valleys and open skies, magical islands and the mysterious oceans and many more.

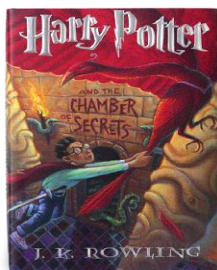
There is something for everybody. Goosebumps by R.L Stine for a thrilling experience and Harry Potter by J.K Rowling for a fantasy lover. Folktales from A.K Ramanujan for cultural knowledge and Mysteries from Nancy Drew for a future detective. Reading has it all. Books have always been a part of our daily lives. They are our best friends. They convert our boredom to fascination and ignorance to light.

Sri Sri Bhagavad Gita holds the most valuable lessons. In my opinion, it is the best book ever!

The technology is advancing now-a-days. The whole world is on our screen. But books will always hold a very special place in our hearts.

In the end, I would just like to say a big ‘Thank you’ to books for providing all of us unlimited entertainment and knowledge.

Aditya Gupta (V B)



This book is the second book in the Harry Potter Series. It's one of my favourite books of the whole series. The genre of this book is fantasy and detective fiction. This book is based around Harry Potter's second year at Hogwarts. After a very hard summer at his aunt's and uncle's place Harry is rescued from there by his friend, Ron and his elder brothers in a flying car. It was the first year of Ginny Weasley, Ron's younger sister. This year was not going to be very easy for any of them. Harry and his friends get a new professor of black arts, Gilderoy Lockhart. They find that Hagrid had been very sneaky and tried to find the details of his past. Bad things start to happen when many of the pupils at Hogwarts start getting petrified. Who was it? Was it Harry's archenemy, Draco Malfoy or someone else? Things also start getting weird when rumours start spreading that the Chamber of Secrets has been opened. Was it really opened? Read this very gripping tale to find the answers.

My favourite character of this book or largely the whole series was Hermione Granger. I loved her character because she was very intelligent and witty the whole time. She always intrigued me with her beauty and her very strong values of friendship and courage. Even though she was a Mud-Blood she never let anyone define her in a bad way. This is why I love her character.

This book was very gripping. I fell in love with this the moment I read the first page. This book gives a strong message about true friendship and extreme courage and intelligence. I would recommend all of you to read the first part before reading this to understand everything. This is a very real kind of fantasy and will appeal people of all ages.



Avani Garg (X C)

WONDER

When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind.  
-R.J. Palacio  
Wonder

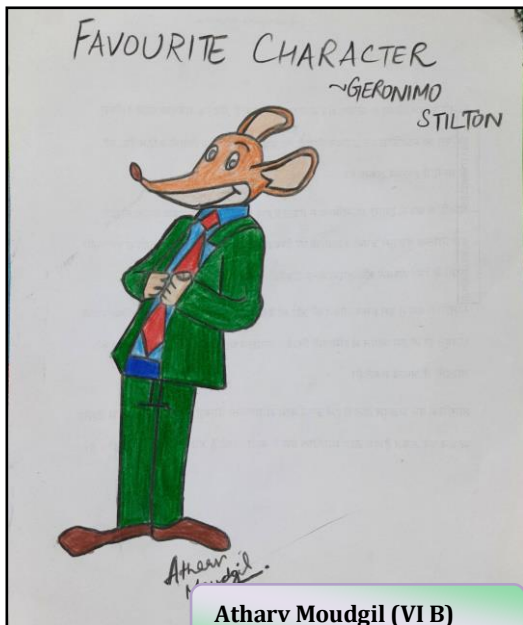
It is said never to judge a book by its cover in the same way never judge a human by its physical outlook. This intriguing book dives the readers by introducing the socially termed 'deformed' kid, August Pullman and his world of living. It talks about the contradiction of the perspective of different characters throughout the book. Starting mindset talks about the isolation (being homeschooled) and anxiety or panic attack a person feels and is felt by the receiver (Auggie). It also shares broader aspect of pre-teen in context to Auggie and his friends, Summer and Jack which also includes the antagonist aka 'the bully', Julian; and teenage nature aka 'The high school drama' in terms of Justin, Miranda and Olivia, Auggie's sister. It also touches the so-called subject 'sibling love/attention/care ratio' in comparison to older ones to the smaller siblings. The book ends by proving Auggie to take a stand against all odds by winning 'Henry Ward Beecher medal' for being the student "whose quiet strength has carried up the most heart."

**Favourite Character:** I personally favoured Olivia Pullman, the protagonist's sister much likely because, I being a teen having a younger brother relate to her at different timelines as the climax grows.

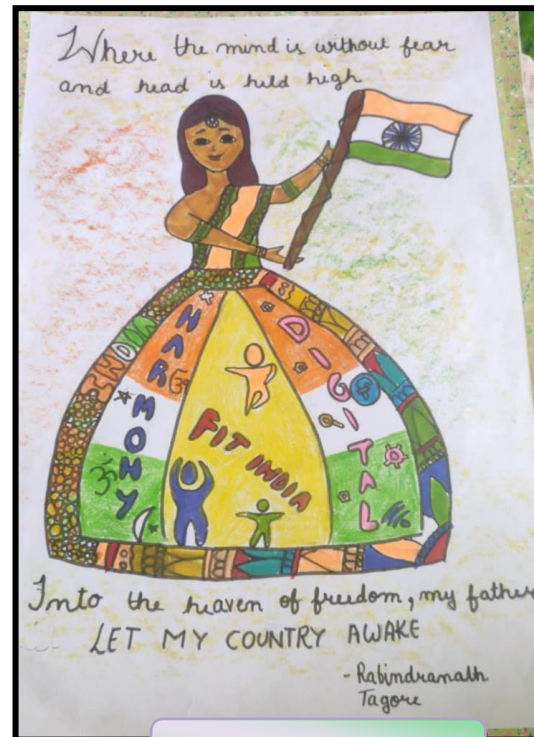
**Reader Recommendation:** I strongly recommend this book to every pre-teens and teens because it is worth reading to understand multiple points of view and calibrating different aspects that eventually helps one to be open-minded in the prevailing social injustice/ cliché mindset of the people.

Rishita Ghosh (X D)

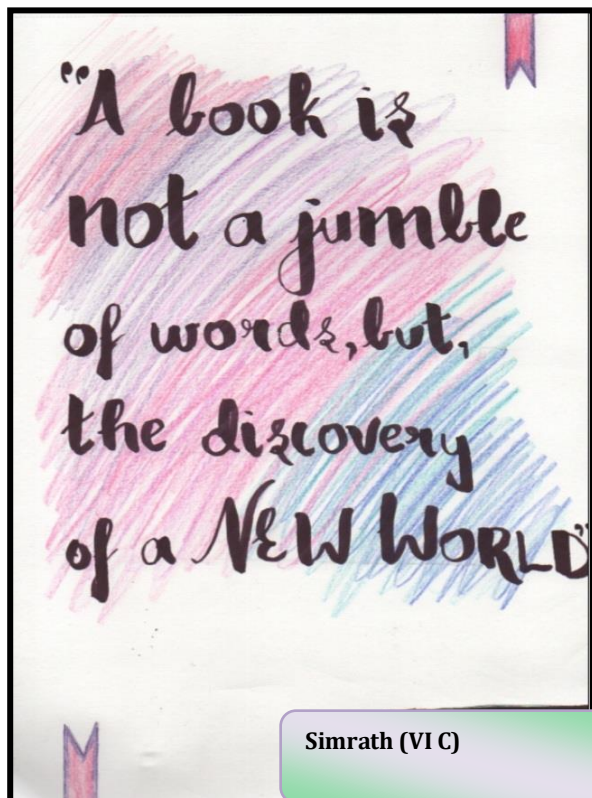




Atharv Moudgil (VI B)



Karman Kaur (VI B)



Simrath (VI C)



Sukhmeen Kaur (V B)



Shriya Gupta (V B)



Shivesh (VII A)

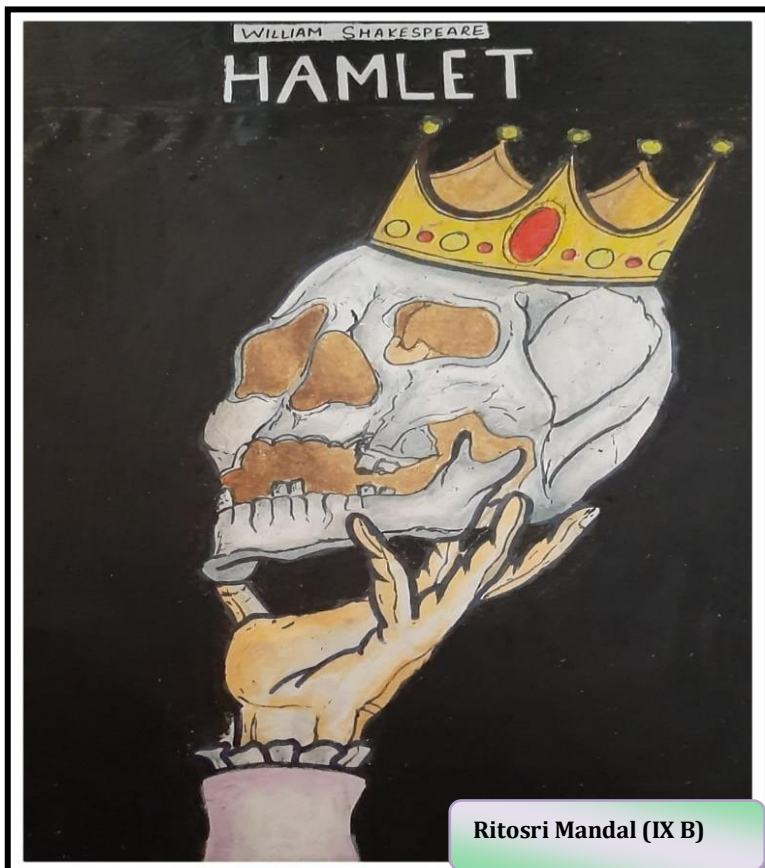


Jasmine Saini (VI D)



Tajveer Singh (IX D)

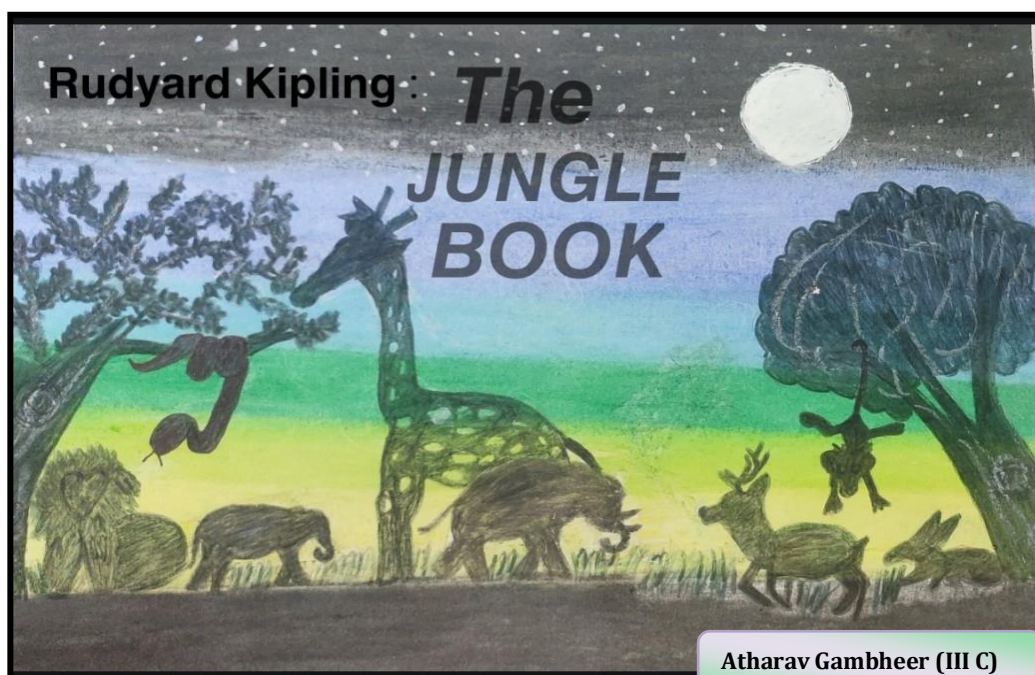




Ritosri Mandal (IX B)

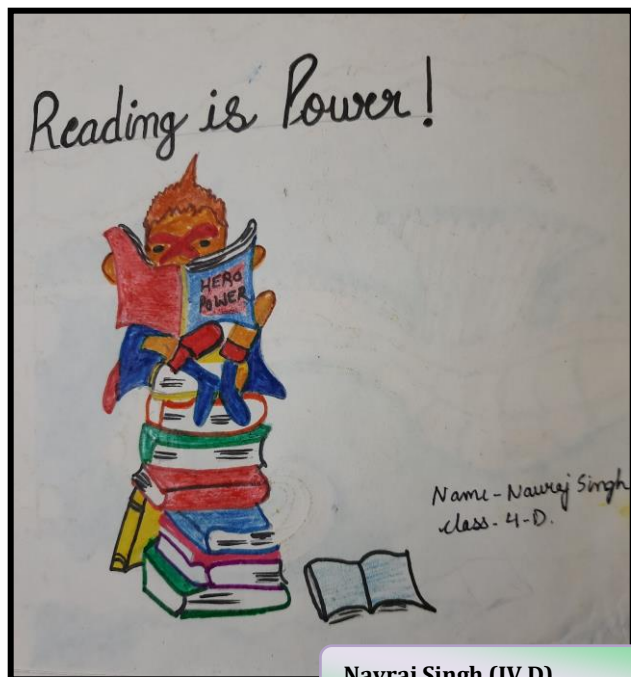


Sukhmani Kaur (IX C)

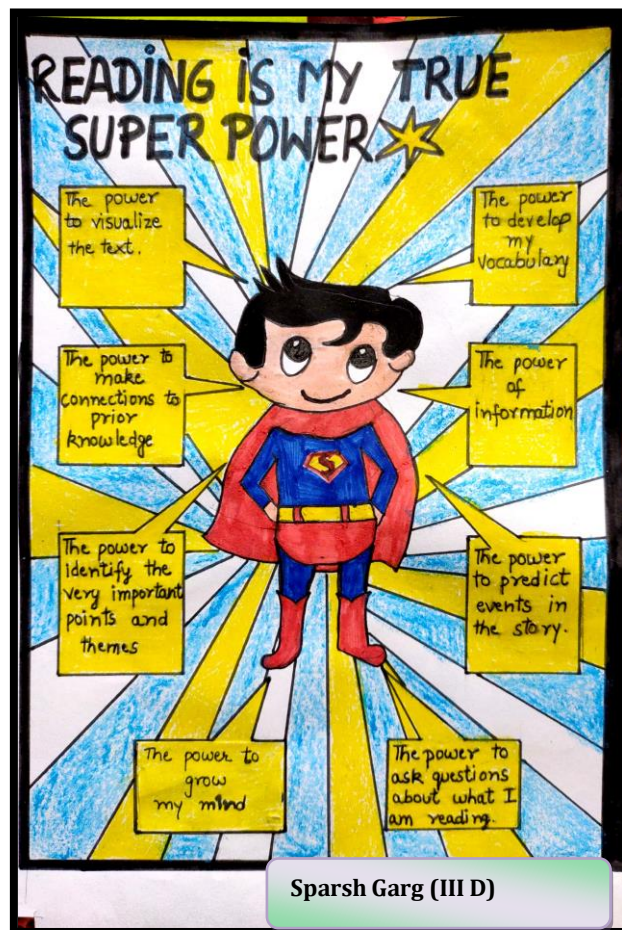


Atharav Gambheer (III C)

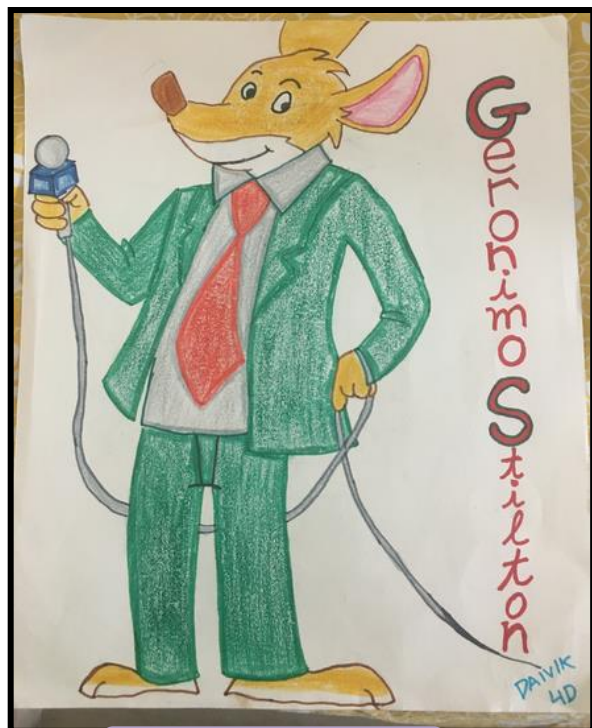




Navraj Singh (IV D)



Sparsh Garg (III D)



Daivik Babbar (IV D)



Ayan Chetal (V C)

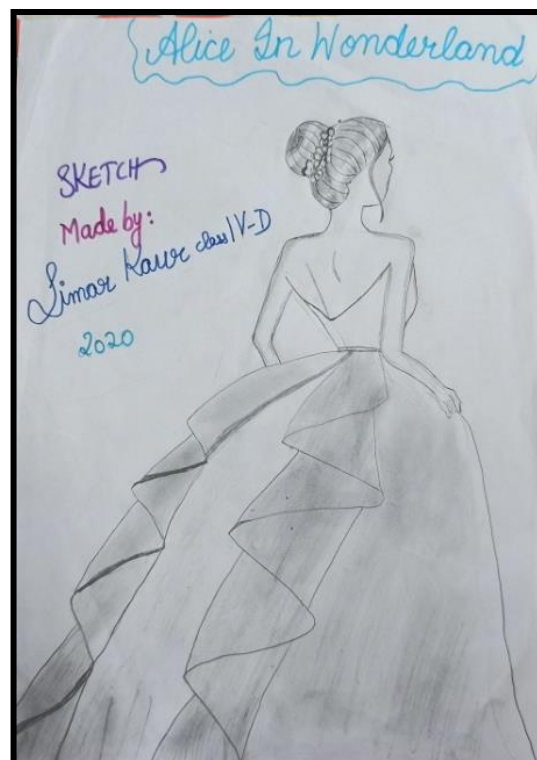




Aishveen Dhanoa (IX D)

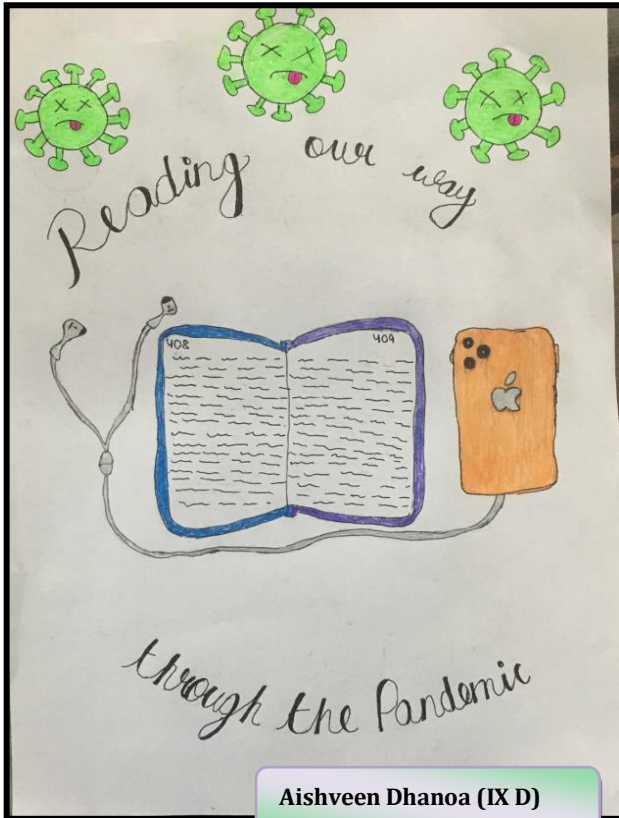


Harnoor Kaur (X A)

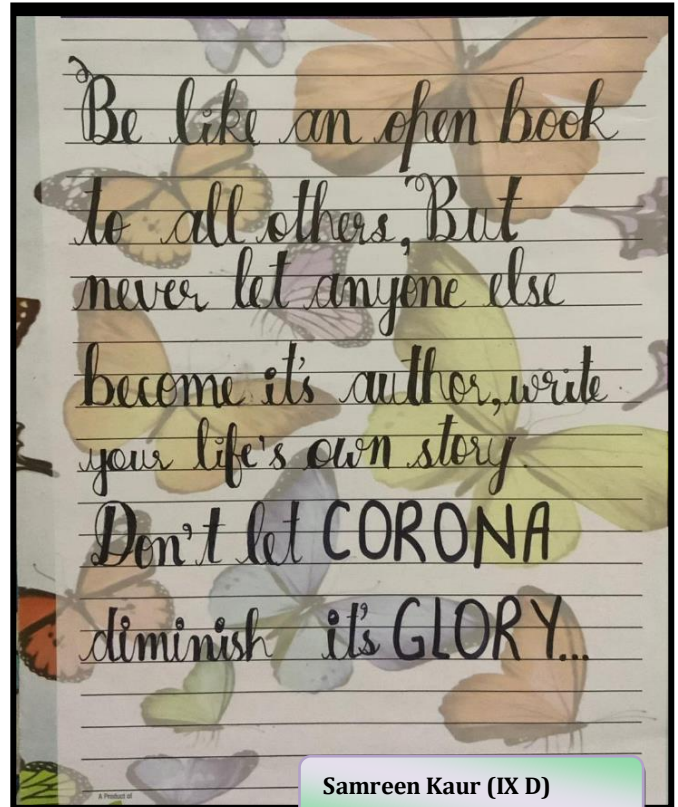


Simar Kaur (IV D)

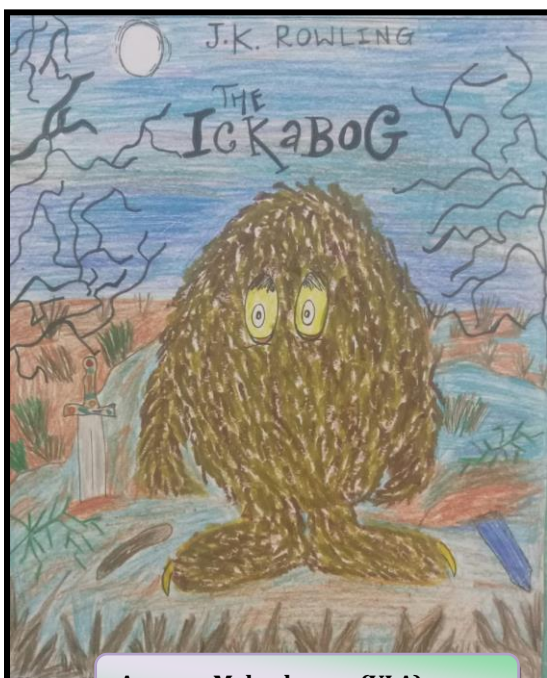




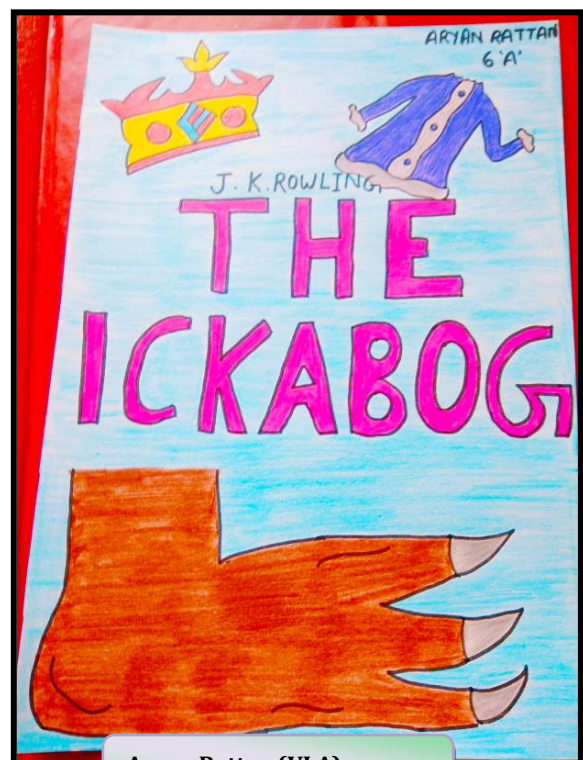
Aishveen Dhanoa (IX D)



Samreen Kaur (IX D)



Armaan Maheshwary (VI A)



Aryan Rattan (VI A)