

# KLOUD9

INDIA'S EXCLUSIVE MAGAZINE FOR THE YOUTH



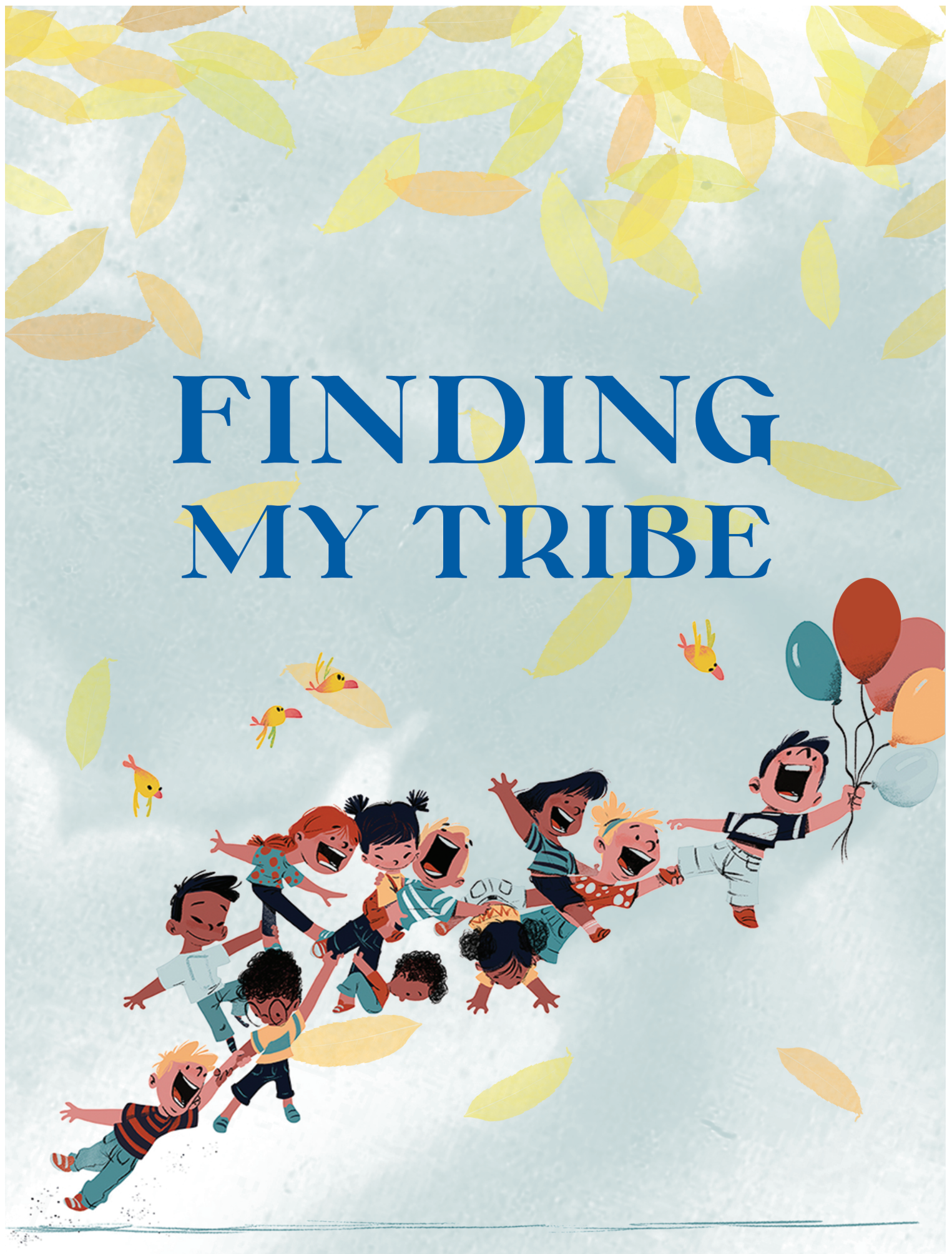
**VOLUME 7 ISSUE 20 FEBRUARY 2024**

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Sri Aurobindo Institute Of Education

Theme - Championing the Protection  
and Preservation of Future Generations



# FINDING MY TRIBE







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# KLOUD9 team

**Founder**

Prof. Achyuta Samanta

**Editor-in-chief**

Ruskin Bond

**Editor**

Dr. Mona Lisa Bal  
editorkloud9@kiitis.ac.in

**Marketing & Branding**

Swati Chakrabarty

**Design**

Maulika Basu

**RNI No: ODIENG/2016/69425**

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# EDITOR'S note

## Editor's Musings

"If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." – African Proverb

In an increasingly uncertain world, we have embarked on a mission to find a shared commonality and sense of purpose to ensure that our voices are heard, even if our thoughts are different from others. It appears to be rather utopian and even herculean, but it is possible and is in fact, the only way to be.

"What should young people do with their lives today? Many things, obviously. But the most daring thing is to create stable communities in which the terrible disease of loneliness can be cured." – Kurt Vonnegut.

Isolation and an acute sense of loneliness in a crowded world is one serious issue that most of us deal with, though it isn't as vocal and visible an issue as social media compulsions, peer pressure, taboos on menstruation, sexual and gender orientations, and other teen issues. But perhaps at the crux of it all is the sense of rootlessness that we live with – that beyond the din of what is popular, with it and "Instagrammable" lies a deep sense of having to fight one's own demons with no army. Yet, remember always, for every problem there lies a solution. You need to find yourself first to be able to make connections with others to share your world views with. Immerse yourself in a journey of self-discovery to tap your kinships in the future. It will give you a sense of purpose and direction. You will know yourself, your mettle, and resolve. You will also understand that sharing it with others will not water down your sense of direction and make you aimless. Instead, it will clear the fog of underconfidence that limits your vision and leadership.

I hope you will delve into this mission of finding your tribe and it will give you a lot of happiness. Foster and support causes, join groups, or volunteer for something that you think will be meaningful for you. Don't be a social media addict and limit yourself to virtual interfaces only because you feel safe there. Step out of your comfort zones and your tribesmen and women will be a part of you, and the loneliness will vanish.



**DR MONA LISA BAL**  
Editor **KLOUD9**





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# COVER STORY

## FINDING MY TRIBE

- Nandita Mishra

A casual chat with my friend's grown-up daughter the other day triggered a thought whose significance I hadn't realized till then. She said that she had felt very lonely as a teenager. It threw me off guard because to all appearances she is a typical post-millennial kid who grew up in her hometown, with friends that she knew from her pre-school days. That meant that the parents of her friends were also kind of friends, who moved in the same social circuits largely. And yet, this post-millennial child grew up lonely. Strange indeed, because she is sufficiently outgoing, popular, talented and was well placed as a student. And I would like to believe, the home environment was progressive, liberal, and well-supported.

As I thought more about it and prodded her to help me understand, I realized all of that was superficial. This precocious girl never found her tribe as she was growing up. An engineer by qualification, she followed up her degree with an MBA and worked in advertising for a few years before branching off as a writer and creative producer. This was something that she wasn't trained for. It was her passion and she excels in it now. Possibly, the creative craving and the recognition of its expression made her a lonely teenager.

Extrapolating it further, I now realize that many of us are on a quest to find our own tribe, and also discover where we belong in many ways.





## FINDING MY TRIBE

For most of us, “getting out there” and meeting new people is demanding enough. Just saying “I’m going to find my tribe” out loud or even admitting it to yourself is a very courageous declaration. Whether we are 15 or 50, married or single, gay or straight – setting out to build our tribe is daunting, and yet, a key to our self-realization. It’s a great start because we go with the assumption that we know our tribe.

Then as we set ourselves to seeking out the fellow tribesmen and women, the real challenge begins. If you are a vegan, it might appear an obvious choice to tap other vegans on social media and those in your immediate friends’ circle to get going. Sharing your food choices, and campaigning with like-minded people for kindness and compassion to all living beings is quite straightforward. But in reality, it isn’t. We choose a certain food preference for different reasons. We may not even necessarily have access to or like the same foods, or even for the same reasons. Choose people of your tribe who appreciate your choices even if they have a different preference. They will be your co-travellers for much longer, with a deeper understanding, appreciation, and respect for what you are passionate about. Remember, your tribesmen are not your clones. It is wonderful to find people who share your passions, but hopefully, others can also fit in your tribe outside of your immediate interests. Even though you do not share the same excitement for the same areas of interest, if you have similar values, your tribe bond will be stronger. Interests change with time and circumstances, but the core character traits and values





that drive your choices remain a much stronger connecting factor. Myra loves travel and is an enthusiastic vlogger for sustainable travel and tourism. She has been my tribe friend for over a decade because of our enthusiasm to explore the world, though I can no longer travel to most of the destinations that she loves to explore for a variety of reasons. But like Myra, I believe that planet Earth is beautiful, it's a gift that we must protect, preserve, and prioritize over all else. I am not a social media influencer and struggle with technology. I will never be able to make those videos and reels like her, yet I feel a strong kinship with her, and I am glad she isn't my clone because that would be so boring.

Your tribesmen don't have to come from a background similar to yours. Being part of a tribe and making that connection rewarding doesn't depend on how similar you are. Age, gender and sexual orientation, financial and social status aren't necessarily the deciders for a shared kinship. Infact, differences and dissimilarities often make us more empathetic and easier to share our personal issues. Perhaps, the surge in psychological counsellors and the need for a shrink to help you tide over mental health issues, low self-esteem, dealing with bullying, isolation, and a feeling of alienation in the sameness that we all live in should make you more adventurous and open to seeking tribesmen who are from a varied background and social system. Think about the two years of the pandemic and the numerous WhatsApp and other social media groups that you joined ostensibly to continue to survive in the pandemic.

## FINDING MY TRIBE



## FINDING MY TRIBE

Most of those challenges are over now. Yet, the groups thrive with a different sense of direction and purpose now, because each one of us had our own challenge to live with at that time. Somewhere, it has allowed us to share a part of ourselves with people whom we have never met socially and who share no common background. Last week, a Facebook friend from the US, who I know through a Facebook group DMed me. Her request was I send a photo of my deceased pet dog for her to put in a wall in her house, that she calls Fur of Fame. My dog died almost 5 years ago, and I left that group after he died. And five years later, I got this message. Molly is definitely a tribeswoman for me for the shared love and memories of our deceased pets, and today my fur angel's picture is hanging on a wall of a home in the US. I don't think I will meet Molly in person in this lifetime, and we are obviously very different people. And yet, I have such a strong connection with her.

So be open to expand your horizon because your tribe is much bigger than your shared background.

Don't seek yes men or those that agree with you with all your opinions, because you need to hear other voices that share a different viewpoint on the same subject to be able to choose, to decipher and to sift, to be able to build your own perspectives. Variety is the spice of life may sound cliched, but it is the key that. Having a "lifelong" or "favourite" or "best" friend might not be a fair way to define our tribe members. Agility in our relationships is a smart, compassionate, and fair way to survive isolation in a very crowded world. Open your minds and hearts and make wise informed choices

when you align with or accept someone in your tribe, it will inevitably take the pressure off your life in ways that will be rewarding and genuine. I hope you find your voice and form your first tribe this February if you haven't already. Let's all beat this isolation with the best kinships and a common humanity above all else.







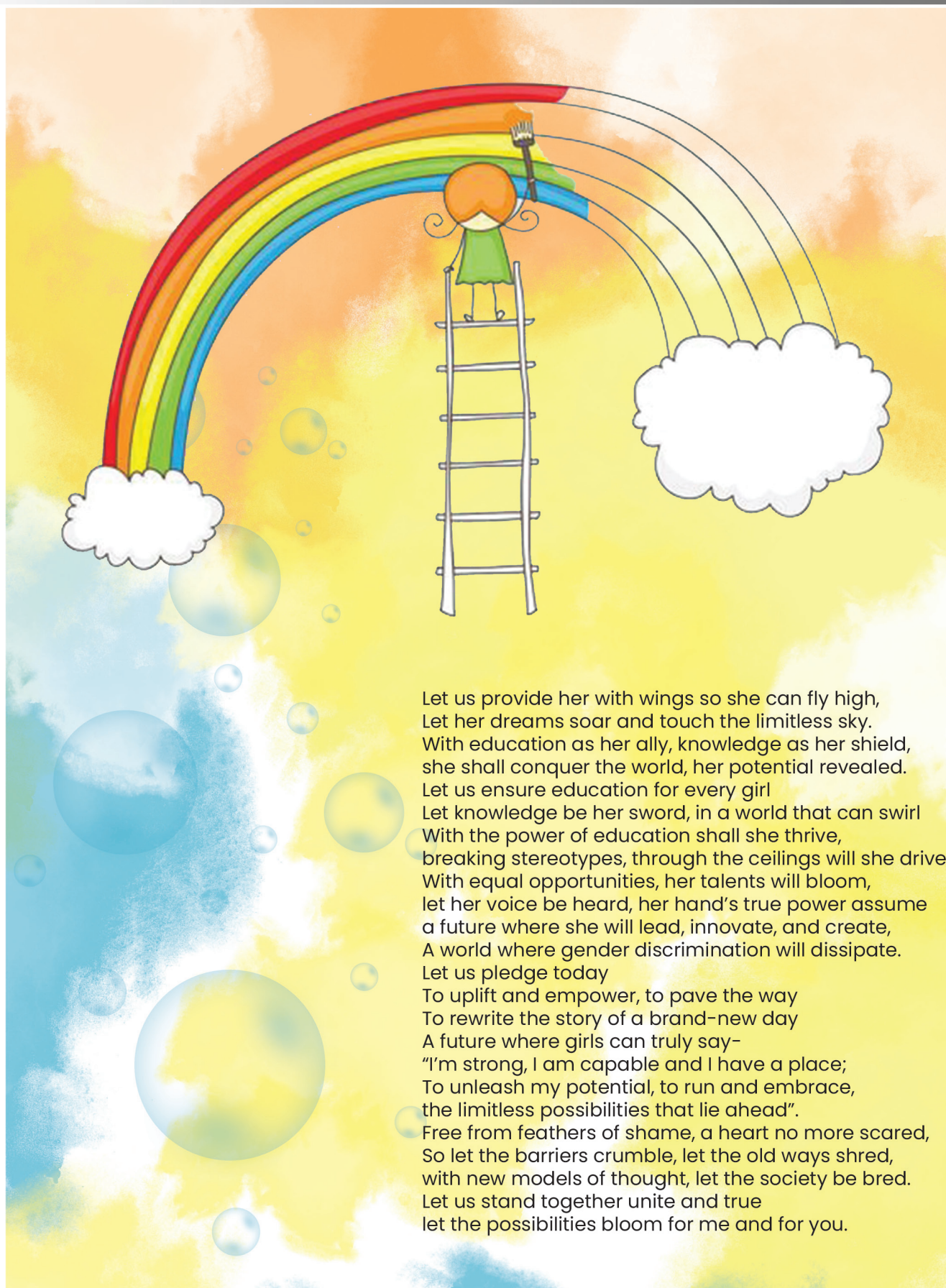
**Name - Anamika Roy**  
**Class - VIII**  
**School - Shaw Public School**

## FOR PINK SKIES

It's time we open our eyes to the colours of different skies,  
In a world where possibilities spark like fireflies,  
Rise to honour and celebrate the girl child's birth  
To recognize her strength, her brilliance, and her worth.  
Amidst the chaos and the noise, she stands tall,  
With dreams as vast as the universe, ready to enthrall.  
With a flicker in her eyes and a fire in her soul,  
She dares to dream, to conquer every goal.  
With hearts full of hope and determination strong,  
Let us nurture her dreams, let her spirit belong  
To a world that believes in her, empowers her grace,  
a place where she thrives and finds her rightful space.  
In this journey, united we all must be  
For every girl child and let us set her free  
from the shackles of prejudice and inequality  
Let us ignite a movement of solidarity.  
Let us break the chains that hold her back,  
Break the barriers, demolish every track.







Let us provide her with wings so she can fly high,  
 Let her dreams soar and touch the limitless sky.  
 With education as her ally, knowledge as her shield,  
 she shall conquer the world, her potential revealed.  
 Let us ensure education for every girl  
 Let knowledge be her sword, in a world that can swirl  
 With the power of education shall she thrive,  
 breaking stereotypes, through the ceilings will she drive.  
 With equal opportunities, her talents will bloom,  
 let her voice be heard, her hand's true power assume  
 a future where she will lead, innovate, and create,  
 A world where gender discrimination will dissipate.  
 Let us pledge today  
 To uplift and empower, to pave the way  
 To rewrite the story of a brand-new day  
 A future where girls can truly say-  
 "I'm strong, I am capable and I have a place;  
 To unleash my potential, to run and embrace,  
 the limitless possibilities that lie ahead".  
 Free from feathers of shame, a heart no more scared,  
 So let the barriers crumble, let the old ways shred,  
 with new models of thought, let the society be bred.  
 Let us stand together unite and true  
 let the possibilities bloom for me and for you.





**Name – Sangna Chatterjee**

**Class – XI**

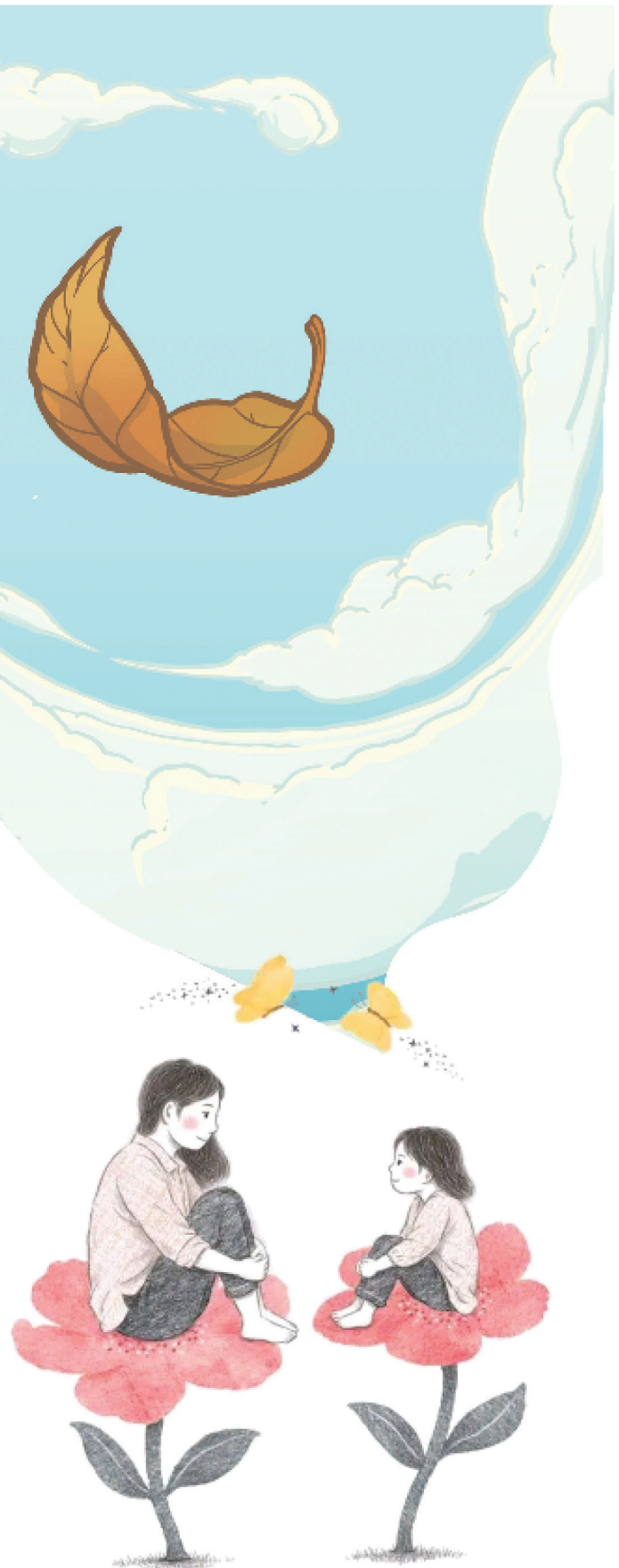
**School – St.Teresa's secondary school**

## The Final Call

The calm London breeze brushed gently against my skin,  
The gentle afternoon sunshine lay its delicate touch in the ambience,  
symbolizing that it was half past five.  
Nature was decked up at its finest during the golden hour.  
London's atmosphere depicted an endearing tranquility.  
My heart yearned to return home; and the only place I could refer to as home was India.  
I suppressed the pent-up emotions within the unconscious surface of my mind,  
as I sat down to attend the fifth conference of the day.  
My cell phone rang abruptly,  
The caller ID depicted that it was someone perhaps unknown,  
the number seemed unfamiliar,  
I pressed the silent button to conclude the distraction.  
however, the calls did not cease.  
The caller at the other end of the phone was desperately trying to put my patience to the test.  
The calls continued surprisingly for ten more times,  
the screen portrayed that same unidentified number.  
It left me bewildered.  
I let out a sign of frustration.



However, I chose ignorance.  
 I chose to avoid the senses  
 which repeatedly brought that  
 same unidentified number to  
 my consciousness.  
 The conference came to a halt  
 after a couple of hours,  
 satisfaction resumed within  
 the hearts of the employees,  
 the incentive poured in,  
 and the agreement signed  
 portrayed a hefty amount of a  
 million pounds.  
 My cell phone rang;  
 yet once again.  
 However, this time, it was  
 someone familiar,  
 or perhaps too familiar to be  
 ignored.  
 The Caller ID drew my attention  
 quick enough as the caller at  
 the other end of the phone,  
 was my mother.  
 I answer the call reluctantly;  
 a nervous silence filled up the  
 aura across the other end of  
 the call,  
 the silence portrayed nothing  
 but uneasiness.  
 It built in a sense of anxiety  
 within me,  
 I could hear muffled cries  
 assorted within her voice,  
 as she tried her best to  
 communicate,  
 or perhaps bring it to my sole  
 awareness that the person  
 whom I had claimed to be my  
 best friend,  
 for the past fifteen years of my  
 life,





lost her battle with cancer.  
The cancer returned victorious  
even though she fought heroically  
for the past two years,  
for the last two years of her life.  
Little did I know,  
that this particular phone call  
would leave me guilt-stricken for  
the rest of my life.  
and then,  
at that particular moment, I was  
hit with disastrous information.  
That, it was her,  
it was she, who tried her best to  
communicate with me,  
during the last few minutes of her  
life.  
It was she, who wanted to hear  
my voice for the very last time.  
But I was so engaged within the  
compelling action of money-  
making to such an extent,  
that I forgot to provide importance  
to something perhaps much  
more salient in nature,  
Relationships.  
Ten missed calls from her,  
are all that I'm left with till the very  
end of my existence on earth.

---





**Name – Nishtha Roy  
Chowdhury**  
**Class – XII**  
**School – Delhi Public  
School Newtown**

# BOUND BY BLAME: THE INESCAPABLE HOLD OF VICTIM BLAMING

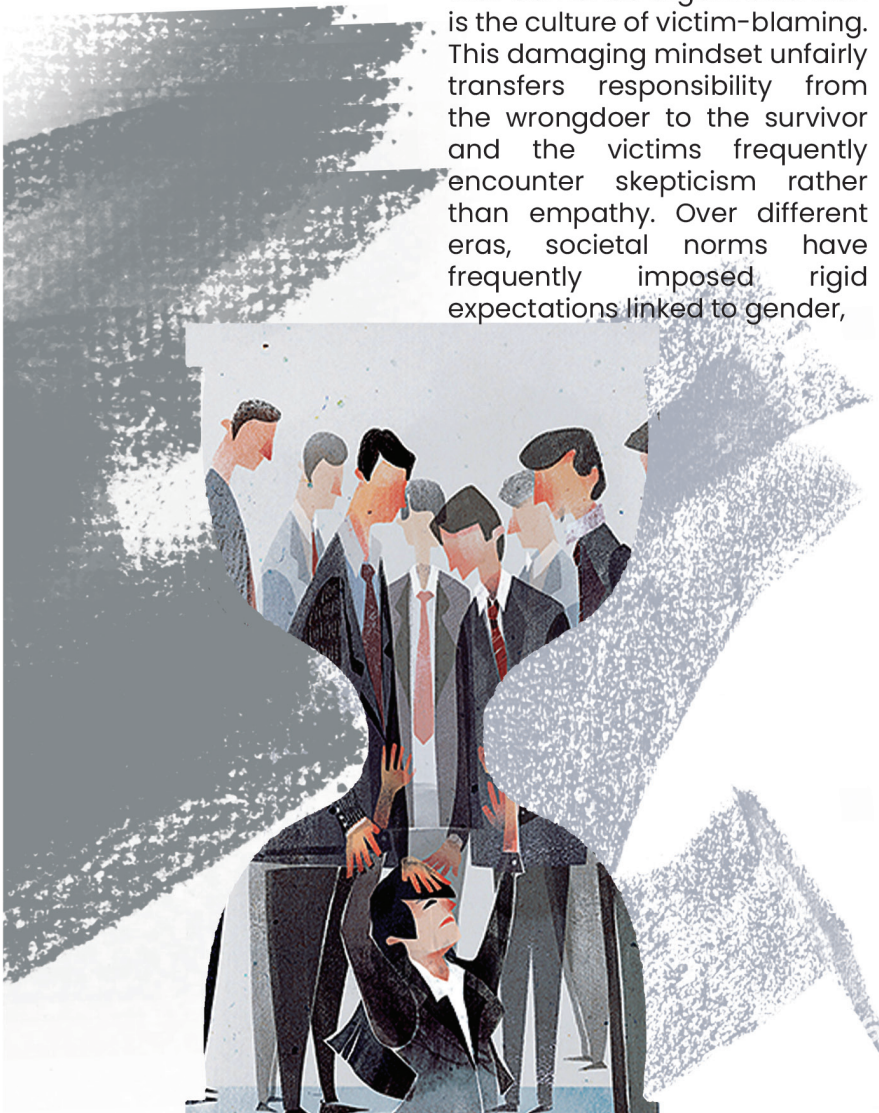
“Men will be men.”

This seemingly harmless expression conceals a deeper and more insidious truth—a reality in which the culture of victim-blaming thrives in fertile soil.

A persistently harmful trend that demands urgent attention is the culture of victim-blaming. This damaging mindset unfairly transfers responsibility from the wrongdoer to the survivor and the victims frequently encounter skepticism rather than empathy. Over different eras, societal norms have frequently imposed rigid expectations linked to gender,

class, or race. These norms have sustained the idea that victims hold nearly all responsibility for the harm they suffer, establishing a framework where blame is unjustly transferred from perpetrators to survivors. Pre-existing societal prejudices tied to gender, race, and socio-economic status frequently shape how victims are perceived.

Manusmriti's depiction of women as subservient, obedient, and primarily accountable for upholding the moral fabric of the household sanctions the perpetuation of the victim-blaming cycle. Manusmriti, which is an ancient Hindu legal text, seems to advocate that a woman must epitomize perfection consistently to arouse her husband's interest. The text not only establishes a hierarchical structure where wives are expected to unquestioningly submit to their husbands but also dehumanizes the overall position of women. The text suggests that even if a husband succumbs to vices, the wife must endure and rectify rather than a challenge. It is suggested that a woman's life is not her own but rather entwined with fulfilling societal expectations and managing her husband's flaws. This blatant objectification of women contributes to a culture where women are reduced to





fulfilling societal ideals, giving way to an environment where the blame may be unfairly shifted to them if they fall short.

However, one might contend that those were the bygone eras. How do the teachings of Manusmriti impact the youth in contemporary times?

The influence of Manusmriti persists to this day, shaping generations of opinions. Centuries later, this entrenched patriarchy has become the norm, intertwining with a culture of victim-blaming. Patriarchy, in its traditional form, has consistently elevated

men, and similarly, victim-blaming redirects blame to the victim and emboldens the perpetrator. In many infamous incidents, society has seen that the perpetrators exhibited a startling absence of remorse. One of the culprits, upon conviction, stated that he did not regret his actions. This unrepentant attitude highlights how a culture that fails to hold perpetrators responsible may inadvertently empower them, upholding a cycle of impunity that undermines justice and the well-being of victims.

Changing the deeply ingrained culture of blaming victims poses an extraordinary challenge, prompting a re-evaluation of a woman's position in society. Amidst celebrations intended to honour the girl child, there's a poignant oversight of the very girl child being celebrated. This reflection leads one to ponder: How uncertain is the future for women in such an environment?







# Interpreting Religion - An Issue Which Needs To Be Addressed

**Name: Justin Joji Alexander**

**Class - XI**

**School- Stewart School, Cuttack**

Myth, art, and religion provide the impulse to move forward in the pursuit of unity, wholeness, and transcendence. Indeed, they do, as observed by sociologist Radha Kamal Mukherjee, a pioneer of Indian sociology. Religion is a binding force, an asset to society, a force that grounds people to their morals and promotes values that are constructive to individuals and society. However, misinterpretation of religion is a vice that needs to be addressed, for religion imposes constraints on one's actions - these constraints are supposed to prevent one from being anarchical and promote good values. However, the constraints are irrational and untested by historical experience and reason and are highly perilous to the individual and the society at large. Let us discuss why.

Why must religious instructions be updated with time?

Religion essentially possesses a moral component. It would not be wrong to assert that religion depends on morals and morality. The moral system is dependent on the social structure of the society, as observed by the noted Sociologist, Emile Durkheim. This social structure is not constant, rather it is perpetually changing





with time. Different factors contribute to the changing nature of society and as society changes, the moral system, too, changes. Hence, we, the people, should also welcome change. Religious scriptures are ancient documents that are libraries of complex literature written and compiled thousands of years ago, during a time when the social structure was tremendously different than what it is today. Hence, the moral rules and instructions prescribed by religion, which have a huge influence on people, were different in those days and many of those instructions are not applicable today. Hence, religious instructions need to be updated with time, so that the people do not face any impediment in accepting social change.

Now, let's talk about something important. An issue which is not addressed widely enough, though its influence on the people is tremendous. Interpretation of religious texts. As mentioned earlier, the scriptures of different religions are libraries of complex literature written and compiled ages ago. The language used in the original text is vastly different from what we speak today, and the historical and cultural context is far from close to today's world. There is also a copious use of literary devices and allusions which are difficult to ascertain and elucidate today. Hence, they cannot be understood in its literal sense, rather to find out what is meant by the authors, a method called the "historical-critical" method needs to be employed.

Pope Francis, in his apostolic exhortation titled, "Evangelii Gaudium," wrote: "The biblical text which we study is two or three thousand years old; its language is very different from







that which we speak today. Even if we think we understand the words translated into our language, this does not mean that we correctly understand what the sacred author wished to say."

"The biblical text which we study is two or three thousand years old; its language is very different from that which we speak today. Even if we think we understand the words translated into our language, this does not mean that we correctly understand what the sacred author wished to say."

Even if we employed the historical-critical method, we are still far from discovering the true intent of these texts, for there is another factor which conceals the real meaning. Bias and prejudice.

Bias and prejudice are pervasive in society- it exists in every individual and no one is free from it and this bias reflects in a person's actions without their knowledge.

Social psychology talks about the "schema", which is the mental framework through which we view the world. It is sculpted by our own experiences and the beliefs we were exposed to in our lives. It organizes our knowledge and assumptions of the world around us. Schemas may even border superstition and once it is formed, it shows a strong perseverance effect, remaining unchanged even in the face of contradictory information (Kunda and Oleson, 1995). Hence, social vices like homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, misogyny, misandry and so on may be a part of our schema and these will actively manifest themselves. So, the scholars who interpret the scriptures, too, are under the control of their schema and their interpretations are highly



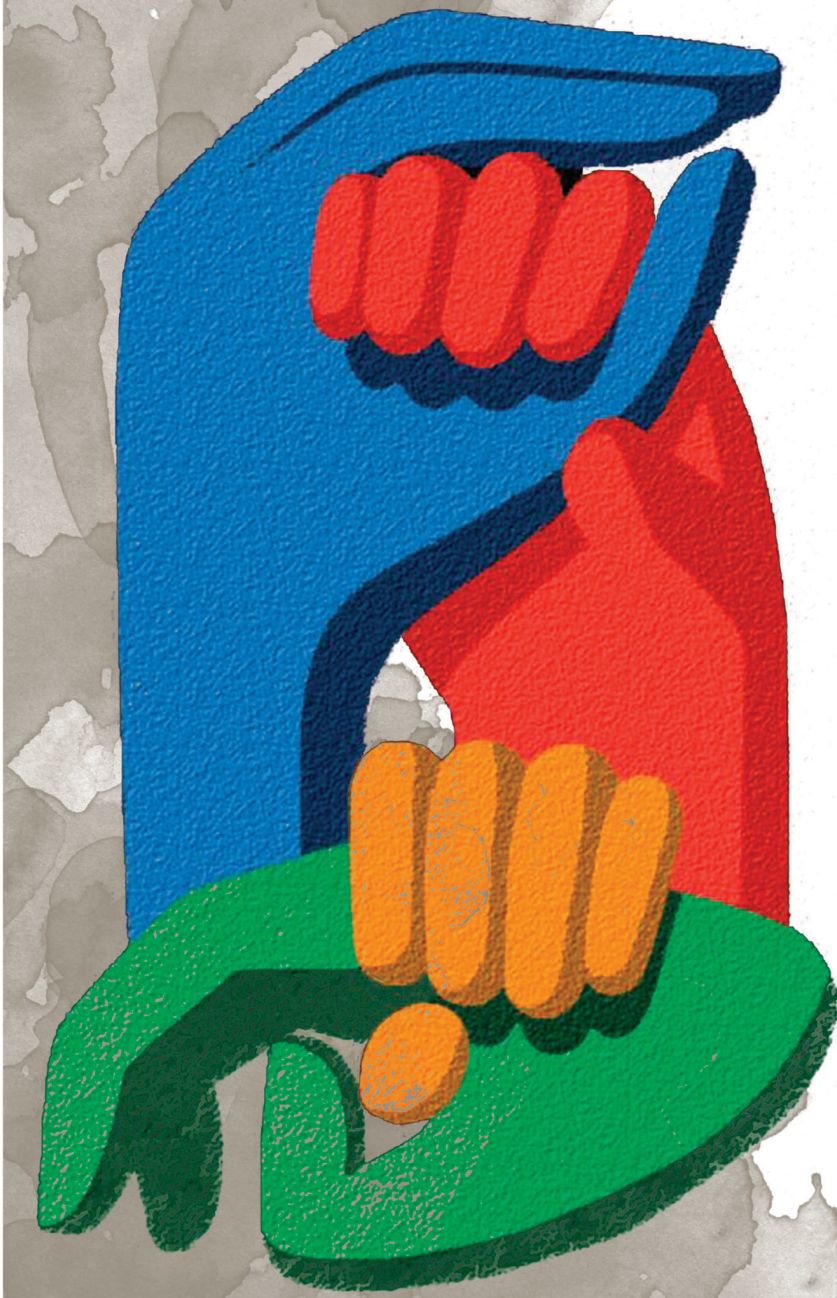
likely to contain their prejudice and superstition. Indeed, we have sociologists, literary critics, historians, philosophers, and even psychologists who can deal with the interpretation of these texts, however, all of them, being human, are under the control of their schema and foster their prejudice and superstition. However, when we are dealing with documents that have huge masses of people in a chokehold, the issue is highly serious.

During our early childhood, we are taught about religion and are taught to not question religious beliefs. Our society is highly conformist and since our childhood, our skill of critical thinking has always been controlled. As we grow up, we begin to question things. Yet, certain information fed to us in our early childhood does not waver—it remains deeply rooted in us and plays a role in our perception of ourselves and the world.

We remain adamant in our religious beliefs and believe whatever the teachers of religion say, and we fear to question these teachings as these are sanctioned by the concept of eternal punishment—a dreadful and horrifying situation which continues eternally. This is a major cause behind religious trauma, a widely prevalent issue which has taken the lives of people yet remains largely unaddressed, especially in India.

It is high time we realised that what we are taught in the name of the “right” interpretation of the scriptures is mixed with the prejudice of the people who interpret them, while the original intent of the authors of these scriptures might have been vastly different. Critical thinking must be encouraged and we should be careful if what we are taught contradicts the facts backed by scientific reasoning (here, science includes both natural and social science).

We also need to understand that truth and facts are different. Facts are backed by science and historical experience and are indisputable. However, truth is something different and is subjective and includes our thoughts and beliefs. Hence, what may be true for a person may not be true for another, the precepts of a religion are not equally true for everyone. As humans, we must be allowed to explore ourselves and always apply our critical thinking, so that our lives are not restrained and governed by what is not right for us.







**Name - Sonakshi Saha**  
**Class - VII**  
**School - Delhi Public School**  
**Joka South Kolkata**





# #WowTech UNLEASHED



**Name - KARTHIYAYANI CK**  
**Class - IX**  
**School: Kendriya Vidyalaya**  
**Hebbal Bangalore**

'Yesterday' unveiled an epic discovery, 'today' unfolds a revolutionary symphony, and 'tomorrow' holds the promise of a marvel yet to be seen wholly. The realm of intuitive indigenous technologies is indeed epic, revolutionary, and marvellous. So, let's tag it as #WowTech throughout this essay.

Indigenous tech refers to potent innovations rooted in traditional knowledge and local expertise. They play a crucial role in the development of our country by boosting the economy and leading to sustainability and self-reliance.

Despite being born from locally available resources, these innovations manage to address problems in almost every field, ranging from healthcare to the ecosystem. Embracing such tech will surely cast a scientific and magical spell that can lay a firm foundation for a dynamic future.

#WowTech has many pros. Firstly, it empowers local communities by spreading awareness about incredible possibilities. Also, techniques that are endemic to a particular region are elevated to the next level where a broader section can avail benefit. For instance, traditional farming methods like intercropping help mitigate climate change. #WowTech enables crops to adapt to different climatic conditions and ensures food security.

Embracing #WowTech fosters a sense of ownership and pride among us. This vibe drives increased participation in the interminable process of development.

Moreover, #WowTech offers cost-effective solutions that can be accessed by many. The practices that come under #WowTech help reduce carbon footprints too.

Let's have a look at some inspiring stories where indigenous

technologies have played a very important part.

- Husk Power System, a company led by Jharkhand's Gyanesh Pandey, uses rice husks to generate electricity.
- In 2022, Jharkhand's Gaurav Anand started making handloom sarees by extracting fibre from water hyacinths. This mitigated the impact of weeds and employed over 450 women.
- Bijayashanti Tongbram from Manipur uses lotus stem fibre to weave mufflers and stoles. Our very own Prime Minister lauded her efforts by highlighting the contribution that her products make to our economy.



Aren't these stories amazing?  
However, #WowTech has a long way to go. It needs supportive policies and investments for research and development. This deserves more recognition. #WowTech needs to be provided incentives for the preservation and transmission of priceless skills. #WowTech has wow factors which are born out of abstract indigenous knowledge and later integrated with microprocessors and interfaces. For vocalising this local treasure, let's unleash our ideas, unleash #WowTech and build tomorrow's world.

---







**Name - Sayani Basak**  
**Class - X**  
**School - Bagbazar**  
**Multi Purpose**





**Name – Mayank Kochar**  
**Class – V**  
**School – Sri Sri Academy**

## FINDING MY TRIBE

Be around the world shifter,  
The game shaker,  
The magic maker,  
The light bringer,  
The wide thinker,  
With pride builder,  
The smooth boater,  
With some nice thinkers,  
These are my heartbeats,  
These are the people of my  
tribe.







**Name - Rajashree  
Ratna Mohanty  
Class - VIII  
School - DAV Public  
School, , Bhubaneswar**

## TRIBE OF LIGHT

In the fog of uncertainty, where doubts hold sway,  
I sought my tribe to light my way.  
Amidst the chaos, where the truth may hide,  
I longed for kin to stand by my side.

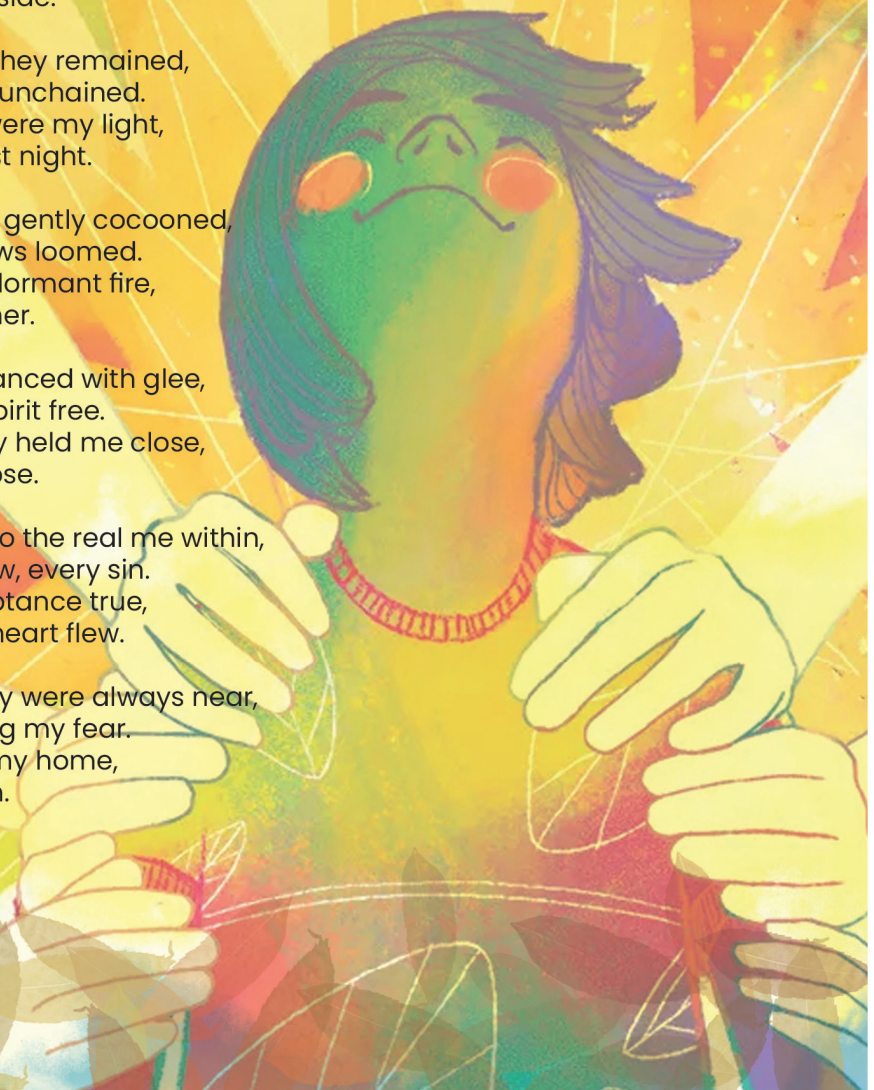
Through the darkest of nights, they remained,  
A beacon of hope, undeterred, unchained.  
In the depths of despair, they were my light,  
Guiding me through the longest night.

In the cocoon of my fears, they gently cocooned,  
Nurturing growth where shadows loomed.  
Their support, like lava from a dormant fire,  
Ignited my spirit, lifting me higher.

In moments of triumph, they danced with glee,  
Sharing in the joy, setting my spirit free.  
And in moments of sorrow, they held me close,  
Offering comfort, a soothing dose.

They saw through my facade, to the real me within,  
Embracing my quirks, every flaw, every sin.  
In their presence, I found acceptance true,  
A sanctuary of love where my heart flew.

When loneliness beckoned, they were always near,  
Dispelling the darkness, calming my fear.  
For in finding my tribe, I found my home,  
A family of souls, never to roam.







**Name - Ananya Mohanan**  
**Class - VII**  
**School - Delhi Public**  
**School, Bhopal**







**Name - Prativa Sautya**  
**Class - XI**  
**School - Tamralipta Public School**

I knocked at the door, "You called me, Sir?"

Mr. Aditya gestured a come-in sign with his right hand. He has been handling all the matters prominently ever since his father passed away. He is a man of his word and always strict with his decisions. Every time he calls someone to his office is only to reprimand them for their poor performance.

"You did a great job!"

Anuj stuttered in his words. "I... I thank you, sir." He never saw it coming from a man who is never satisfied with anyone's work. "You really liked my work, sir?"

"I'm in no mood for fooling around."

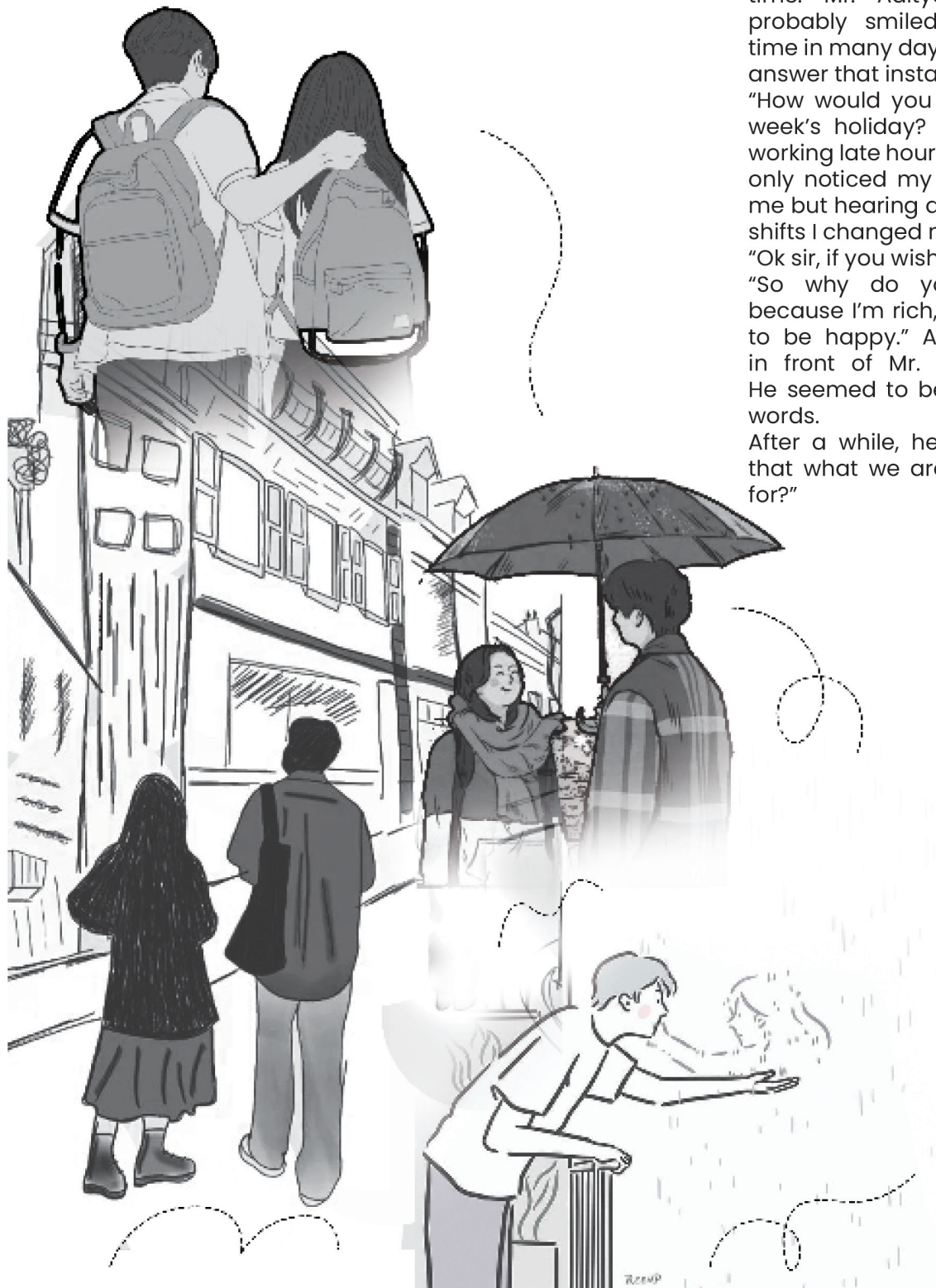
"I'm sorry sir."

"You don't need to apologize, Anuj."

"You've helped our magazine reach its most deserved position."

"I...?"





"Yes, your thought-provoking story 'Rich and Poor' received much love and affection from all the readers."

"Did you like it?" Anuj asked almost without hesitation this time. Mr. Aditya smiled, he probably smiled for the first time in many days but he didn't answer that instantly.

"How would you like to take a week's holiday? I've seen you working late hours." I thought he only noticed my story and not me but hearing about my night shifts I changed my mind.

"Ok sir, if you wish."

"So why do you think just because I'm rich, I'm supposed to be happy." Anuj stood still in front of Mr. Aditya's desk. He seemed to be at a loss for words.

After a while, he replied, "Isn't that what we are working late for?"



"Then why did you write in your story that being rich doesn't make you happy?"

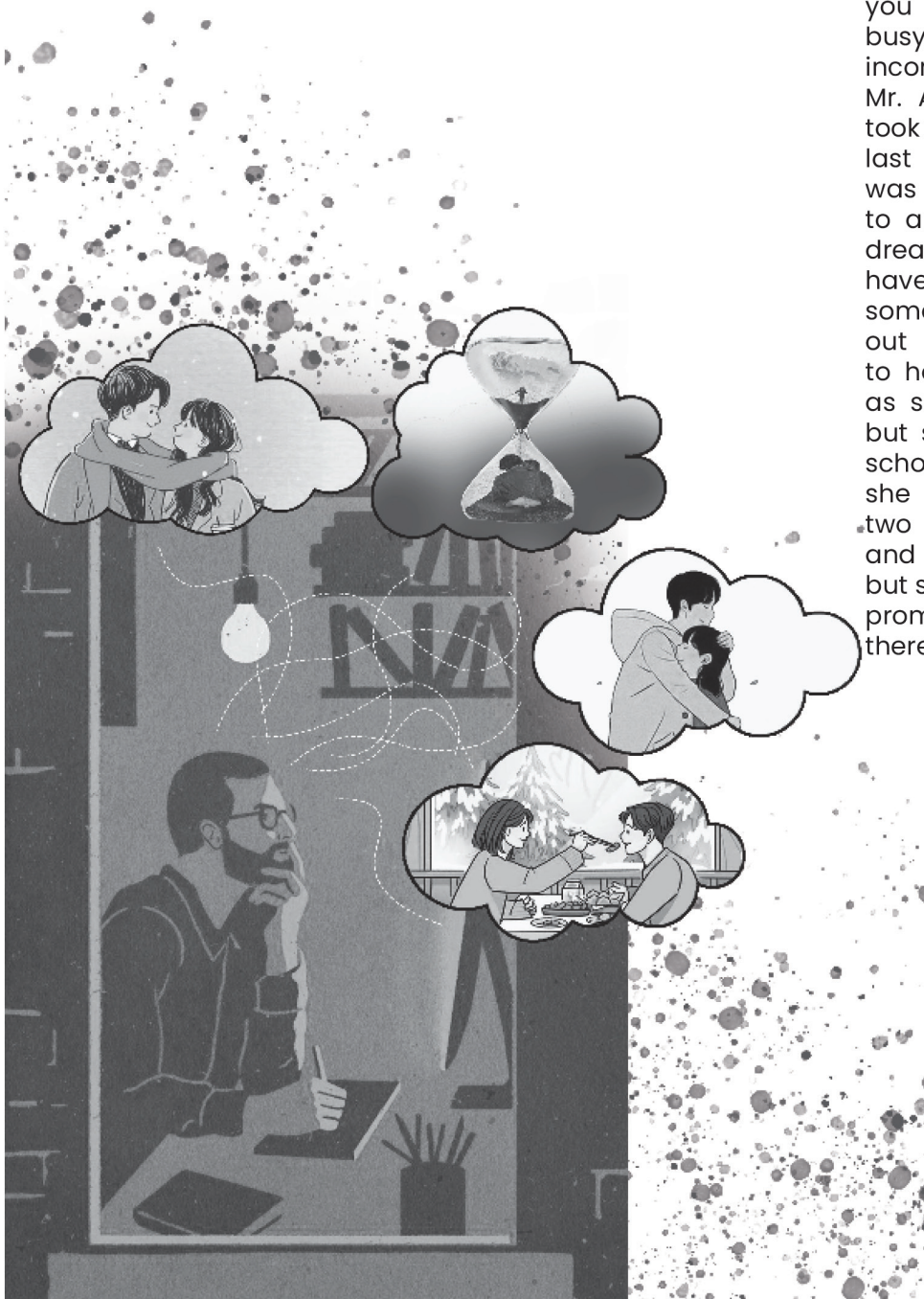
"Maybe that's why it's fiction." I wondered why he asked me that.

"I know you're thinking why I asked you this, well I overheard your conversation yesterday as I was passing from the cafeteria."

"Oh..." I didn't know what to say.

"Being rich doesn't make you happy Anuj, it keeps you busy enough to focus on the incomplete parts of your life."

Mr. Aditya continued as Anuj took a seat, "I remember the last time I was happy when I was in 10th standard, belonged to a middle-class family and dreamed of having the life I have now but not alone, I had someone in my life, we planned out everything even planned to have our first trip together as soon as we go to college but she never made it out of school and her house, the one she hated the most. She was two years younger than me and a woman of her promises but she didn't keep the one she promised to me, she wasn't there





**Name- Pramiti Chatterjee**  
**Class - XI**  
**School - Aditya Academy**

## Alas, a Girl!

Still, in pain, she opened her eyes wide and saw her lovely child sleeping beside but despite being a father, He was clenching his teeth seeing such trash placed it harshly near his feet.

Little soul full of trust never knew why the society did burst. Never knew why the society did burst. A lady of fifty, with distinct regret howled forward to decide its fate. "Get rid of this burden, for the sake of god a girl in the family will cost you a lot.

The mother was pale with fear and tears couldn't keep safe her baby, her dear.  
 Nature watched numb, brutally agonised many such precious souls forever ostracized.

A Saina as a Sindhu  
 Make India cherish  
 If 'she' got a chance  
 Not to perish,  
 Could prove her worth  
 Would make you proud  
 of time you stop,  
 Live O my daughter  
 Live abound

Rise up, Shine, hold on to your ground full of life, you aspire and dream  
 NO BRUTAL HAND EVER STOP YOU GLEAM.

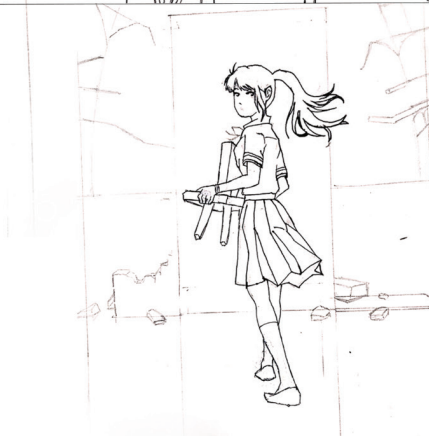
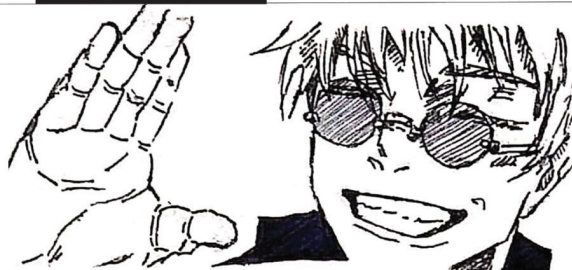
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**Name - Sayari Saha**  
**Class - X**  
**School - Lycée School**





# Opinion



**Name - Resam Fiza**  
**Class - XI**  
**School - Techno India**  
**Group Public School,**  
**Raiganj, West Bengal.**

As prevalent today, esoteric groups mainly would be the most common tribe for anyone. However, for many, it may not be the same. On my part as well, it beholds some different philosophy.

People who have distinct entities as their companions move in groups, and share each other's opinions and thoughts. But has anyone recognised that a lot of these human forms could be one's self embodiment? Even great scholars like Gautam Buddha empowered his inner strength harnessing the vicinal sources within himself. And in self-introspection attained omniscience.

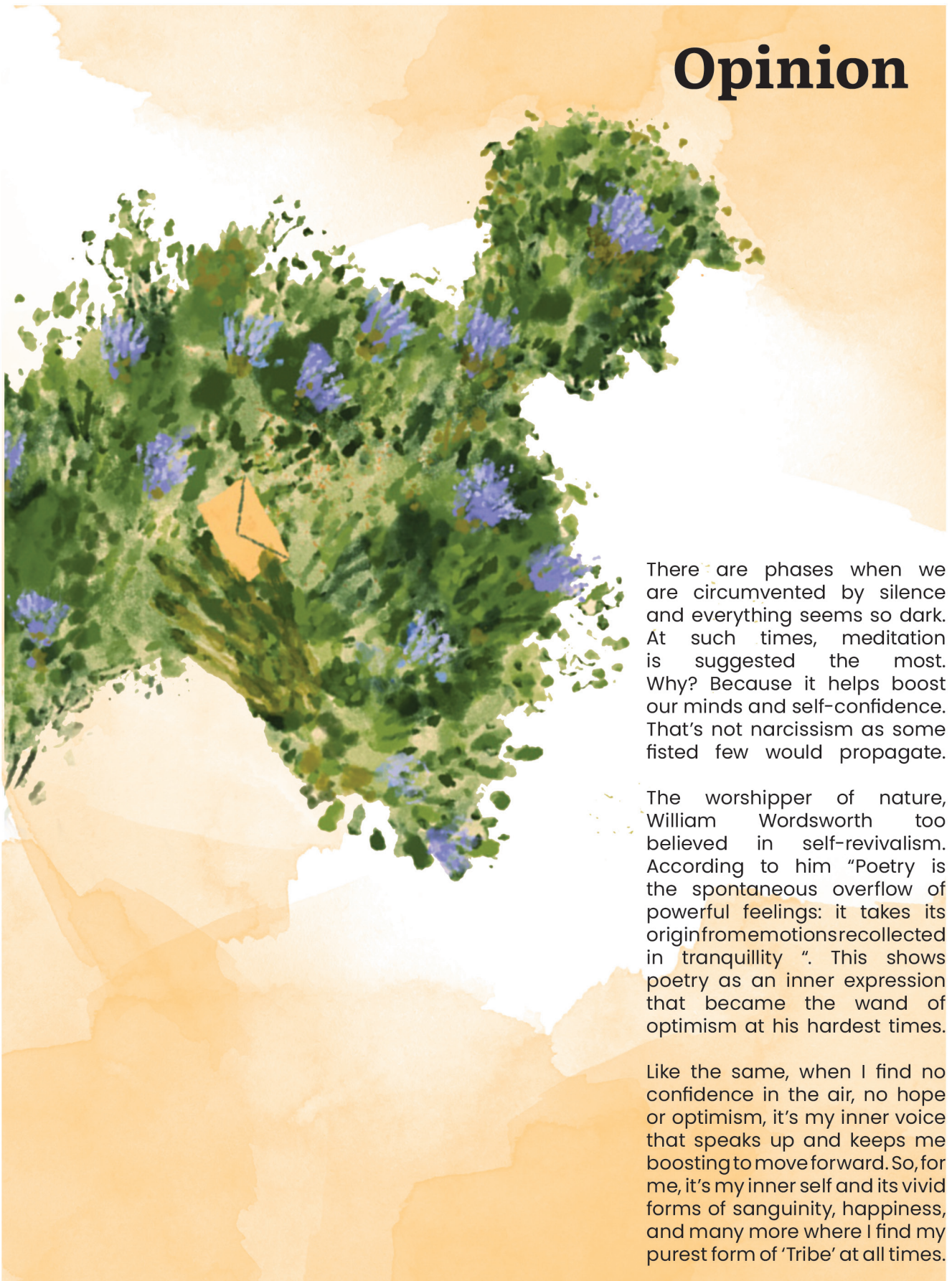
It is not untrue that I feel quite within myself. There is an over conscious and insecure feeling that chases me. But that doesn't mean I detest standing amidst the crowd. It's simply the reason that I find much solace in solitude.

Many a time and at a greater extent today, the heartiest and mightiest people become subject to erratic changes. Even I have faced betrayal and treachery from the ones I believed the most. The one who never lied to me is my inner soul.





# Opinion



There are phases when we are circumvented by silence and everything seems so dark. At such times, meditation is suggested the most. Why? Because it helps boost our minds and self-confidence. That's not narcissism as some fisted few would propagate.

The worshipper of nature, William Wordsworth too believed in self-revivalism. According to him "Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes its origin from emotions recollected in tranquillity ". This shows poetry as an inner expression that became the wand of optimism at his hardest times.

Like the same, when I find no confidence in the air, no hope or optimism, it's my inner voice that speaks up and keeps me boosting to move forward. So, for me, it's my inner self and its vivid forms of sanguinity, happiness, and many more where I find my purest form of 'Tribe' at all times.

## *Puzzle Time*

1. What's bright orange with green on top and sounds like a parrot?
2. There's a one-story house where everything is yellow. The walls are yellow. The doors are yellow. Even all the furniture is yellow. The house has yellow beds and yellow couches. What color are the stairs?
3. What word contains 26 letters, but only has three syllables?
4. What can you hear, but not see or touch, even though you control it?
5. A girl fell off a 20-foot ladder. She wasn't hurt. Why?
6. What has lots of eyes, but can't see?
7. I am often following you and copying your every move. Yet you can never touch me or catch me. What am I?
8. Grandpa went out for a walk and it started to rain. He didn't bring an umbrella or a hat. His clothes got soaked, but not a hair on his head was wet. How is this possible?
9. You are always living in me. No matter how much time goes by I am still right there with you. What am I?
10. What has hands, but can't clap?

Puzzle Credit - Reader's Digest



## 'LEE KESHAV: AN INSPIRATION FOR YOUNG INDIA ON HOW TO MAKE A CAREER APART FROM CONVENTIONAL INDIAN SPORTS'.



Lee Keshav

### 1. What ignited your passion for Motorsports, and how did you discover your love for racing?

From an early age, I was drawn to the thrill of speed and technology. Initially aspiring to carve a path in MotoGP, I

soon found myself gravitating towards the world of Formula 1 racing. It was during my first experience on the racetrack, behind the steering wheel of a race car, that I felt an indescribable sense of

belonging. Taking high speed corners and feeling the downforce, it was a feeling like no other. Moreover, witnessing legends like Michael Schumacher further fueled my passion and solidified my love for racing.

### 2. Can you share a pivotal moment in your journey where you realized that Motorsports was your true calling?

There was a pivotal moment in my journey when I realized that motorsports wasn't just a hobby—it was my calling. It was when I stepped onto the racetrack for the first time in a race car. At that moment, amidst the adrenaline rush and the sound of engines, I felt an undeniable sense of fulfilment. It was as if I had found my purpose, and from that day





## 'LEE KESHAV: AN INSPIRATION FOR YOUNG INDIA ON HOW TO MAKE A CAREER APART FROM CONVENTIONAL INDIAN SPORTS'.

forward, I knew that motorsport was where I was meant to be.

### 3. What advice would you give to young kids who dream of becoming professional racing drivers like yourself?

To all the young dreamers out there, I urge you to relentlessly pursue your passion. Dedication, perseverance, and belief in yourself are essential for success in this demanding sport. Utilise every opportunity to hone your skills, whether it's through karting, online racing or national racing events. Never lose sight of your goals, and remember, with hard work and determination, anything is possible.

### 4. How do you stay motivated and focused on your goals, especially during challenging times in your career?

Every setback serves as fuel to propel me forward, reminding me of the countless hours of hard work and sacrifice I've invested in my career. Surrounding myself with a supportive team and mentors who share my vision also plays a crucial role in keeping me motivated during challenging times. Ultimately, my love for the sport and determination to succeed serve as constant sources of inspiration.

### 5. What does it feel like to chase your dreams on the

### racetrack, and how does that passion drive you forward?

Chasing my dreams on the racetrack is an exhilarating feeling like no other. The rush of adrenaline, the intense focus, it's all part of what drives me forward. Knowing that I'm doing what I love motivates me to give it my all every time I hit the track.

### 6. Could you describe a moment of triumph or victory that reinforced your belief in the power of perseverance and determination?

One of the most memorable moments of triumph in my career was when I won my





## 'LEE KESHAV: AN INSPIRATION FOR YOUNG INDIA ON HOW TO MAKE A CAREER APART FROM CONVENTIONAL INDIAN SPORTS'.

first race in the Indian National Championship. Against all odds, I crossed the finish line ahead of some truly formidable opponents. It was a moment of pure joy and validation, a reward for years of hard work, dedication, and sacrifice. It was a moment I'll never forget, reminding me of the sheer thrill of victory and fueling my desire to achieve even greater heights in the sport.

### **7. Who has been your source of inspiration or role model in the Motorsports world, and how have they influenced your journey?**

Throughout my journey, I've drawn inspiration from legends like Michael Schumacher and Lewis Hamilton, whose skill and determination have left an indelible mark on the world of motorsports. Their

commitment to excellence and pursuit of success serve as constant reminders of what it takes to succeed in this demanding sport. Their legacy continues to inspire me to push my limits and strive to be better every time I hit the racetrack.

### **8. How do you balance the thrill of racing with the discipline required to excel in such a competitive field?**





## 'LEE KESHAV: AN INSPIRATION FOR YOUNG INDIA ON HOW TO MAKE A CAREER APART FROM CONVENTIONAL INDIAN SPORTS'.

Balancing the thrill of racing with the discipline required to excel is all about finding the balance between passion and focus. While the adrenaline rush of racing fuels my love for the sport, discipline is what keeps me grounded and focused on working on my skills and pushing myself to new heights.

**9. What do you think sets Motorsports apart from other sports, and why should young individuals consider pursuing it?**

Motorsports offers a unique blend of adrenaline-pumping action, intense competition,

and technical skill that sets it apart from other sports. The opportunity to push the limits of speed and performance while competing against the best in the world makes it an exhilarating and rewarding sport for young individuals with a passion for racing.

**10. As a professional racer, what legacy do you hope to leave behind, and how do you aspire to inspire the next generation of drivers?**

My ultimate legacy in motorsports is not measured in podium finishes or championship titles but in

the lives I touch, the dreams I inspire, and the impact I make on the sport and its community. I aspire to be an inspiration for the next generation of drivers, encouraging them to chase their dreams, to overcome obstacles courageously, and to live the journey with passion and purpose. Whether on or off the track, I strive to lead by example, embodying the values of sportsmanship, integrity, and resilience, and leaving behind a legacy that inspires the future generation of drivers.







**Sangeeta Tandon**  
Principal,  
Shri Shikshayatan School

## Principal Speaks

### 1. How do you encourage students to socialize without social media for an overall growth?

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the role of schools has evolved significantly, reflecting the shifting dynamics of modern society characterized by nuclear families, single-child households, and working parents. Schools now play a crucial role in instilling values of friendship, teamwork, and adaptability among students. In Shri Shikshayatan School, through activities like class assemblies, group projects, and presentations, students are encouraged to connect and socialize, fostering essential interpersonal skills. Events such as inter-house activities, bagless days, and art classes emphasize collaboration and enjoyment sans digital distractions. Participation in inter-school festivals and exchanges with partnering schools, both locally and globally, offers students valuable exposure and opportunities for social interaction. International visits and homestays with partner schools further enrich students' learning experiences, broadening their perspectives and enhancing their social skills.

### 2. How do you think India can utilise 'Girl Power' for better nation building?

Across the globe, women have long been marginalized and underestimated, but the tide is turning as nations recognize the vital role of women in driving progress. Nowhere is this more evident than in India, where saree-clad female scientists have played pivotal roles in advancing the nation's space programs at ISRO. It's imperative to shift societal mindsets and empower girls through education and financial independence, debunking the myth that working women cannot balance career and family. In reality, their determination and desire for independence drive them to excel. Increased support for schemes aimed at empowering girls is essential, as harnessing India's girl power is key to realizing its potential as a global superpower.

### 3. According to you what is the best aspect of NEP 2020 and how will it benefit the student community?

NEP 2020 stands as a comprehensive educational policy designed to meet the nation's needs and societal aspirations, ushering in a plethora of changes aimed at promoting quality education. Notably, it places significant emphasis on early childhood education, recognizing its pivotal role through ECCE directives. The focus on foundational literacy and numeracy

promises to standardize pre-primary education, fostering greater accountability. Additionally, provisions such as eliminating rigid subject divisions, emphasizing the role of languages, enhancing teacher training, and implementing a credit framework mark positive strides. At the collegiate level, students stand to benefit as NEP aligns higher education more closely with the global market, ensuring a more relevant and competitive academic landscape.

### 4. Given the rising shift to digital learning, do you think technology is a bane or a boon for school students?

In our modern era, characterized by continuous progress and evolution, it is imperative to embrace change to remain relevant. During the COVID-19 pandemic, technology played a pivotal role in ensuring continuity of education for students, highlighting its indispensable nature. Technology serves as a crucial tool in this pursuit, facilitating education through hybrid classes and online training, transcending geographical barriers and promoting self-learning. Yet, alongside its benefits, technology poses risks, particularly for our younger generation if not wielded wisely. Thus, effective guidance is essential to ensure students

**Sangeeta Tandon**  
Principal,  
Shri Shikshayatan School

## Principal Speaks

navigate the digital landscape responsibly and safely. As we harness the power of technology, let us also prioritize its mindful and informed usage to foster a balanced and thriving learning environment. By empowering students with the knowledge and skills to harness technology effectively, we equip them to thrive in the digital age while mitigating potential pitfalls.

### 5. What according to you should be the basic requirement for cultivating critical thinking in children?

The significance of cultivating critical thinking skills cannot be understated. Unfortunately, even today, challenging questions in examinations are often dismissed as out of syllabus, indicating a lack of emphasis on analytical thinking. To address this, it's crucial to instill a culture of questioning and interpretation from early childhood. Students should be presented with real-life scenarios within their subjects, encouraging them to seek additional information and analyze various perspectives. Providing the freedom to think critically and express their thoughts is fundamental to nurturing these skills in children. By fostering an environment that values inquiry and independent thought, we can empower students to become adept critical thinkers capable of navigating complexities in both academic

and real-world contexts.

### 6. A few tips for students to increase their habit of reading books.

The tradition of storytelling, deeply ingrained in our culture as 'dadi nani ki kahaniyan,' reflects the rich heritage of India as an ancient civilization where oral narratives were passed down through generations. The family, as the primary unit of society, plays a pivotal role in nurturing this tradition. By engaging children with bedtime stories or tales during meals, parents can instill a love for storytelling and reading from a young age. Unfortunately, modern distractions like cartoons often overshadow this valuable practice. Yet, the enchanting world of literature awaits those who delve into it. At our school, we host a literary festival called 'Words on Wings,' where students not only explore diverse literary works but also unleash their creativity by crafting original stories. We invite renowned authors for interactive sessions, fostering a culture of reading and storytelling. Whether through hardbound books, e-books, or newspapers, the habit of reading enriches one's life, offering a lifelong companion in the form of stories and ideas. Fostering a habit of visiting the school library and starting with short stories is an excellent way to cultivate interest in reading.

By providing the freedom to choose what they enjoy, we empower students to explore different genres and discover their preferences.

### 7. Your suggestions for students who are willing to pursue unusual professions as a career future.

In our school, we prioritize career counseling sessions for our senior secondary students, spanning two days and featuring accomplished individuals from diverse backgrounds who share their unique journeys. Staying open to innovation,

Through these sessions, we've noticed that many renowned celebrities embody qualities such as innovative thinking, resilience, and courage—attributes essential for navigating today's evolving job landscape. Traditional professions are giving way to new opportunities, with startups exemplifying how young entrepreneurs identify societal needs and forge ahead with determination.

It's crucial for students to embrace adaptability and readiness to meet the changing demands of professions, equipping themselves with the skills and mindset necessary to thrive in dynamic career paths. By learning from the experiences of successful individuals and staying open to innovation, students can chart their own paths to fulfillment and success in an ever



**Sangeeta Tandon**

Principal,  
Shri Shikshayatan School

## Principal Speaks

changing world.

**8. What according to you are the must-learn life skills for every student and the reasons?**

**a)** Adaptability is crucial because the world is constantly changing, and students need to be able to navigate new situations and environments effectively.

**b)** Resilience is important because it enables students to bounce back from setbacks, learn from their mistakes, and continue striving towards their goals despite challenges.

**c)** Hard work is indispensable because success requires consistent effort and dedication and there are rarely any shortcuts to achieving meaningful accomplishments.

**d)** Managing emotional and interpersonal skills is essential for students to build healthy relationships, communicate effectively, and navigate conflicts in various aspects of their lives, contributing to their overall well-being and success.

**e)** Empathy is critical for students to understand and connect with others, foster cooperation and collaboration, and contribute positively to their communities and society as a whole.

**9. What is your suggestion on balancing sports and studies simultaneously for school students?**

Physical health is closely linked to emotional well-being and overall happiness. Schools play a crucial role in promoting holistic development by incorporating sports and physical activities alongside academics. By providing play areas for all age groups, schools create opportunities for students to engage in physical exercise, develop teamwork skills, and relieve stress. Parents also play a vital role in supporting their children's participation in sports activities, as it not only promotes physical fitness but also enhances confidence, discipline, and resilience. On the field, children often experience joy and a sense of accomplishment, contributing positively to their overall happiness and well-being.

**10. Please share some insight/ suggestions for the students and readers of Kloud9 as a mentor.**

Strive to maintain a balance between hard work and enjoyment during your student life. Embrace the challenges of academics while also finding time to engage in activities that bring you joy. Recognize the significance of

friendships formed in school—they have the potential to last. While technology can be a valuable tool for learning, don't rely solely on it. Seek out real-world experiences and opportunities to broaden your horizons beyond the digital realm.

Never compromise on your values and principles. They define who you are and guide your actions in both personal and academic endeavors. Remember that happiness is a choice and a frame of mind. Cultivate a positive outlook on life, focusing on gratitude and embracing moments of joy, no matter how small.

# *Attention Bibliophiles: Books to be Read Before Turning 18*

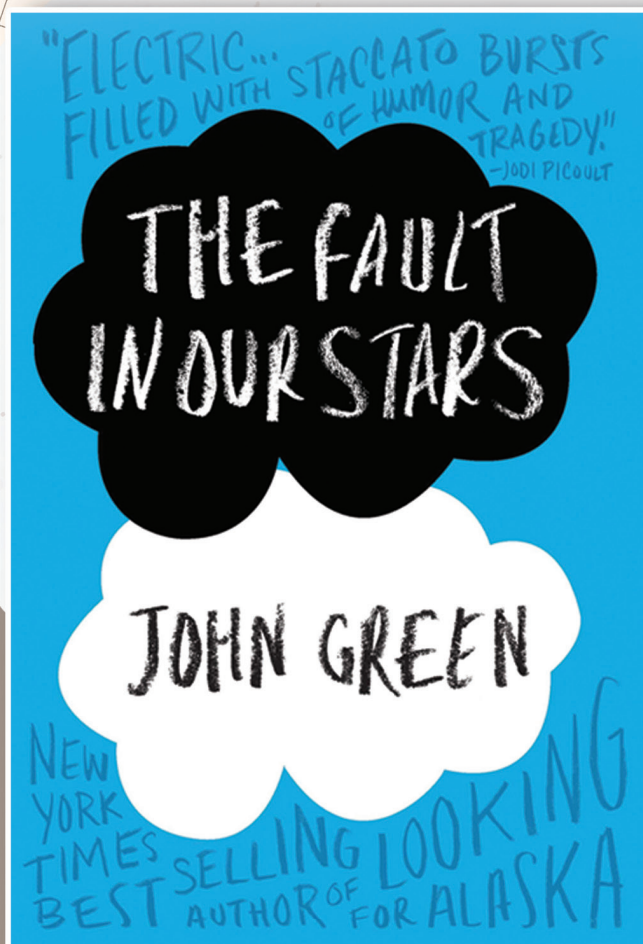
## 1. 'The Harry Potter Series' by J.K.Rowling





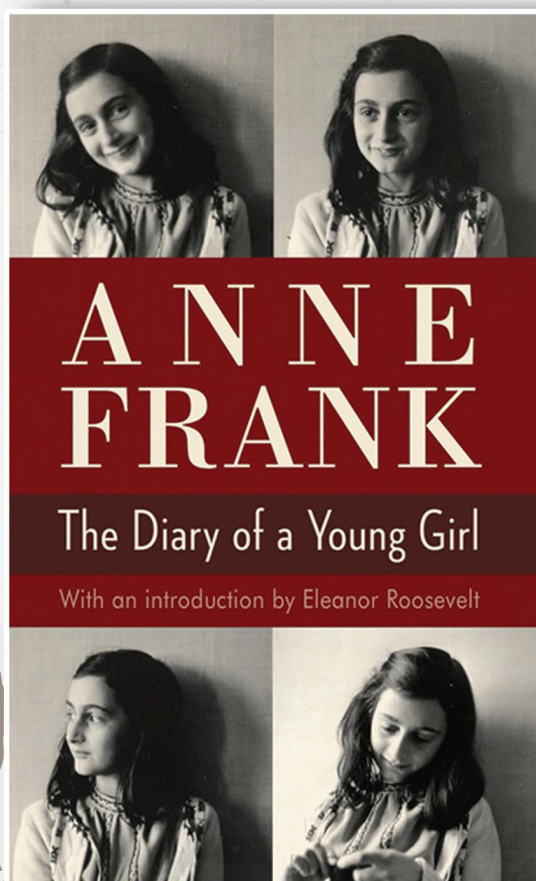
## *Attention Bibliophiles: Books to be Read Before Turning 18*

2. 'The Fault in Our Stars' by John Green



## *Attention Bibliophiles: Books to be Read Before Turning 18*

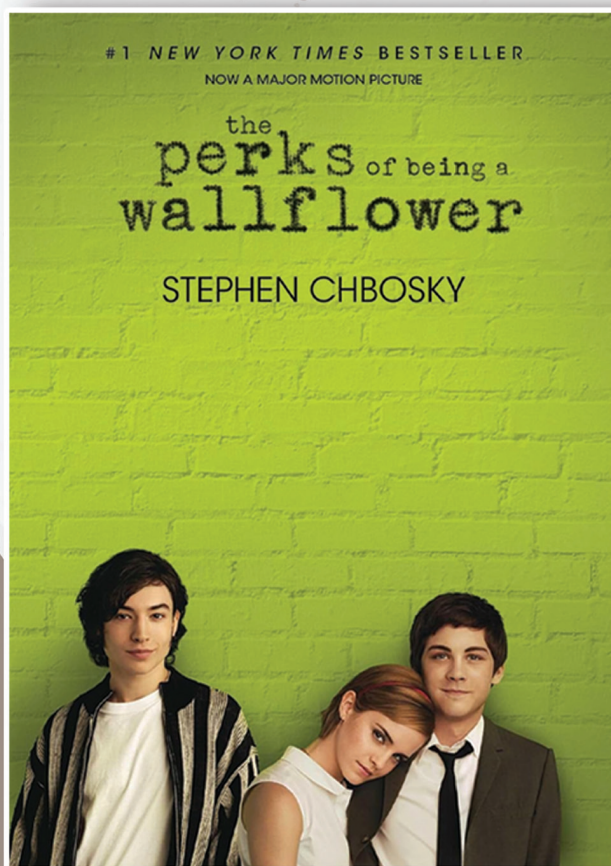
### 3. 'Diary of a Young Girl' by Anne Frank





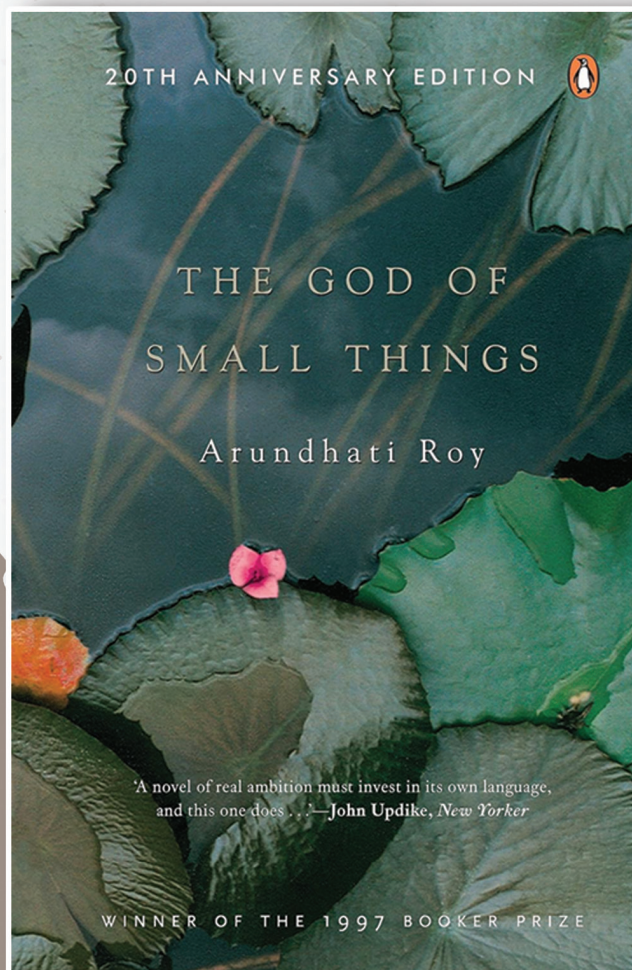
## *Attention Bibliophiles: Books to be Read Before Turning 18*

### 4. 'The Perks of Being a Wallflower' by Stephen Chbosky



## *Attention Bibliophiles: Books to be Read Before Turning 18*

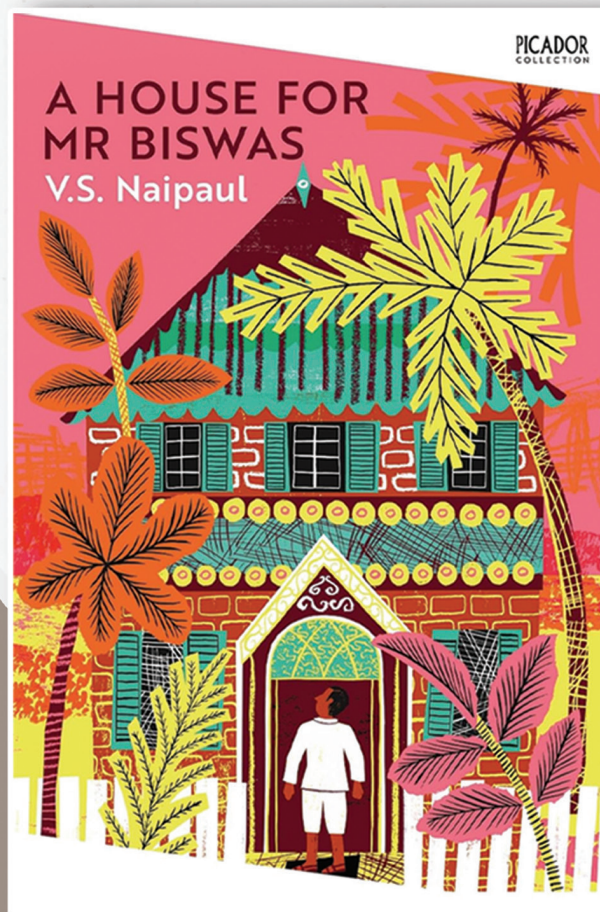
### 5. 'The God of Small Things' by Arundhati Roy





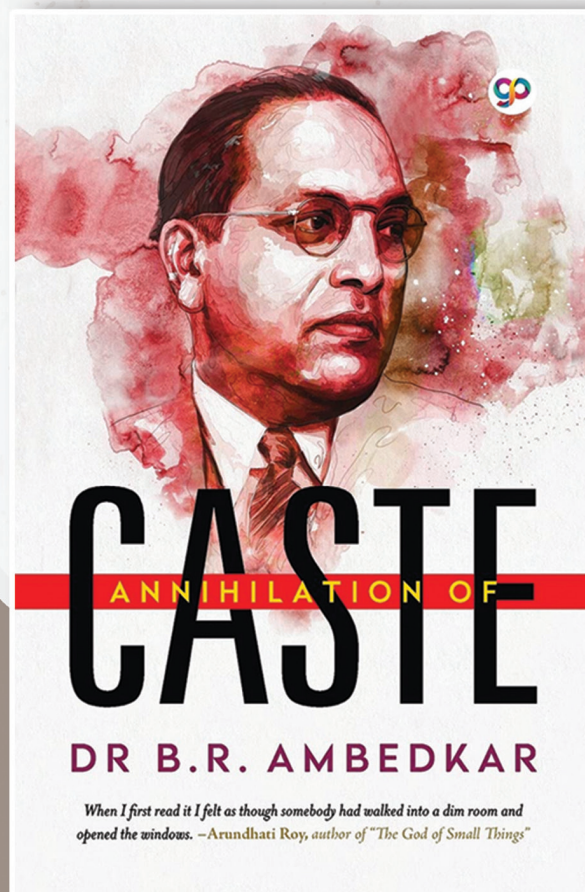
## *Attention Bibliophiles: Books to be Read Before Turning 18*

6. 'A House for Mr Biswas' by V.S. Naipaul



## *Attention Bibliophiles: Books to be Read Before Turning 18*

7. 'Annihilation of Caste' by B. R. Ambedkar



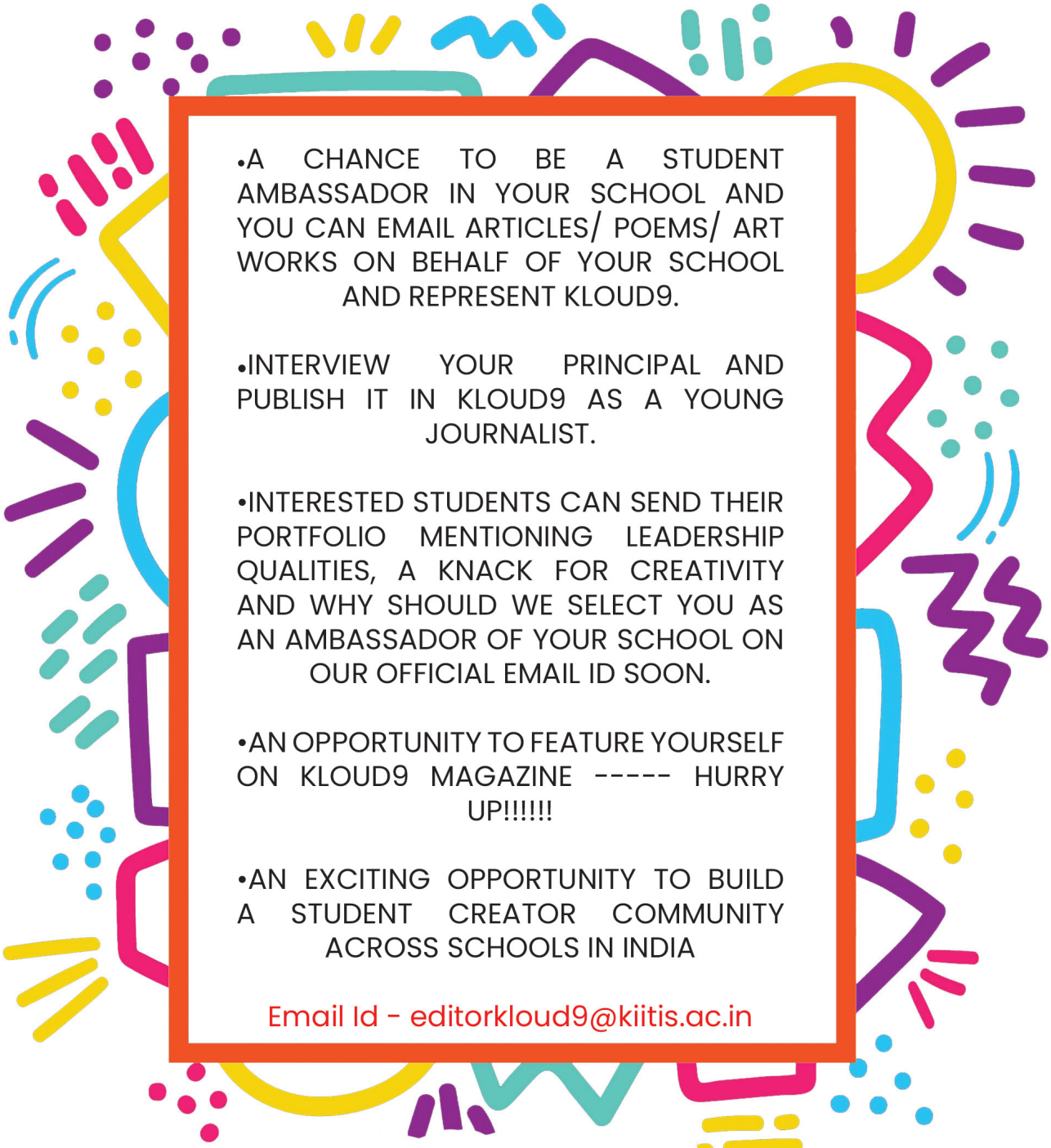


## Answer:-

1. Answer: A carrot.
2. Answer: There aren't any stairs—it's a one-story house.
3. Answer: Alphabet.
4. Answer: Your voice.
5. Answer: She fell off the bottom step.
6. Answer: A potato.
7. Answer: A shadow.
8. Answer: Grandpa was bald.
9. Answer: The present moment.
10. Answer: A clock

Puzzle Credit - Reader's Digest

# CALL FOR STUDENT AMBASSADORS TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH KLOUD9



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**As a youth driven platform, our primary aim is to provide you with an inclusive platform that plays host to your pioneering and ingenious insights and opinions.**

Writings should be original and in English.

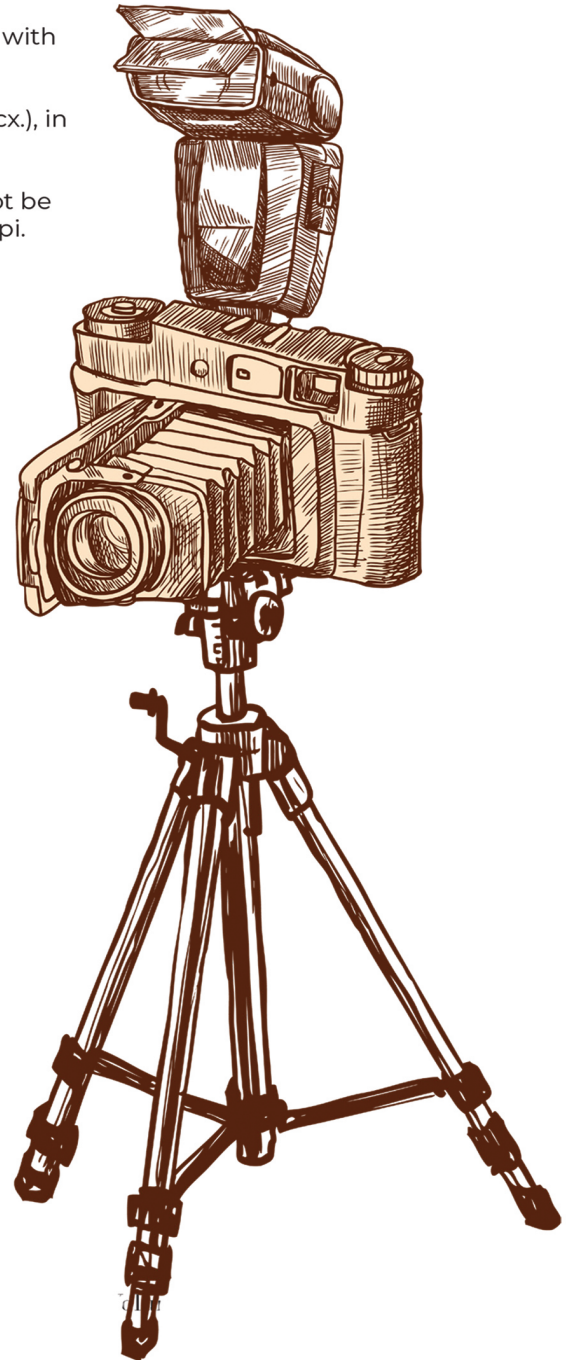
Your submissions may take the shape of a short story, opinion, photograph or just your take on any general topic of your choice. Ideally your pieces should be in the span of 600-2000 words.

All submissions should have the writer's name in full, job/workplace designations or educational qualifications and educational institution with city, e-mail ID and contact number.

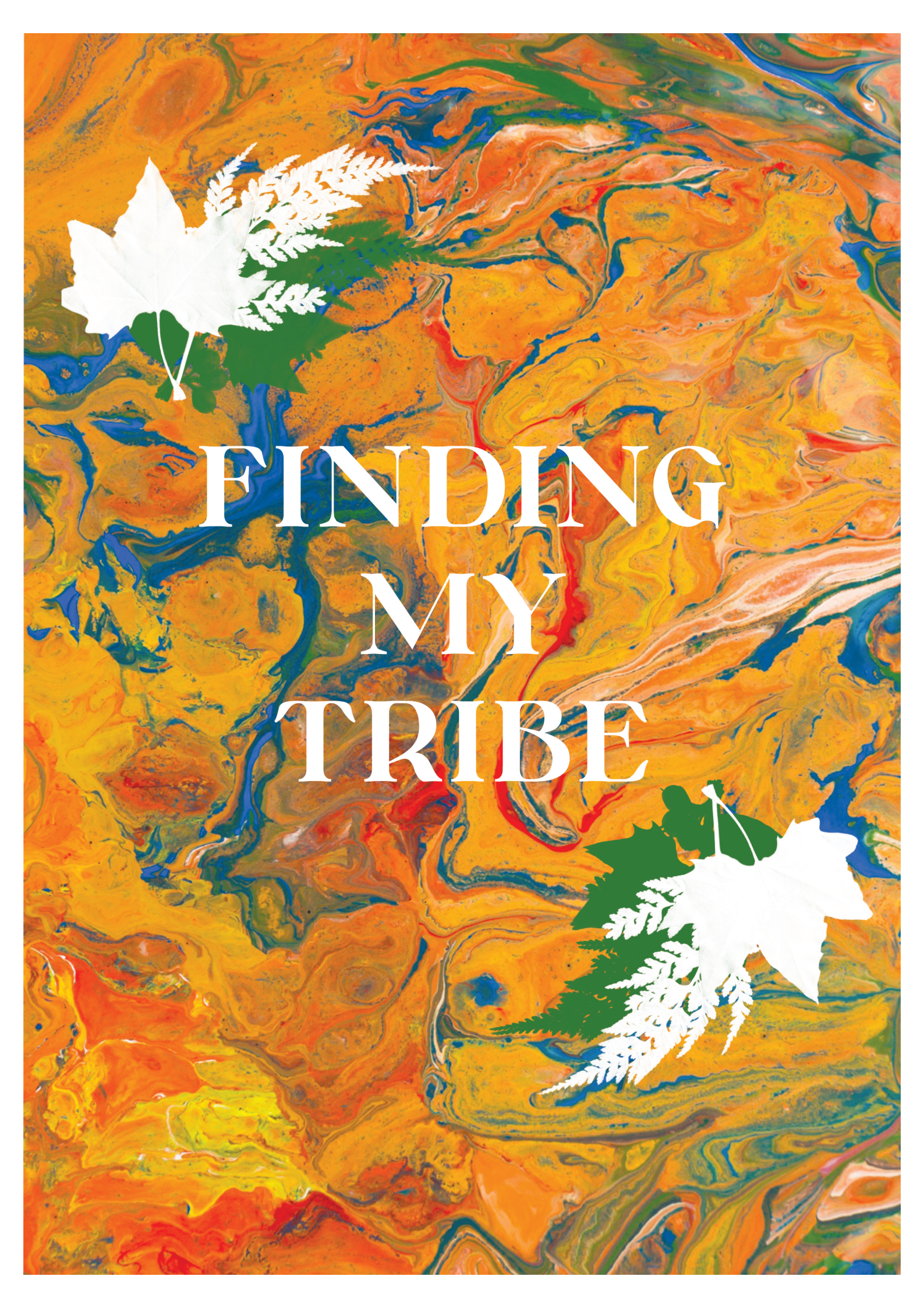
If you send by e-mail, your work should be in Word Format (doc. or docx.), in blank, 12-point Times New Roman.

Pictures and photographs should be sent in jpg. format and should not be those downloaded from the Internet. Scan resolution should be 300 dpi.

The decision of the Editorial Board will be final.  
Reach out to us: [editorkloud9@kiitis.ac.in](mailto:editorkloud9@kiitis.ac.in)





The background is a vibrant, multi-colored marbled paper with swirling patterns of orange, yellow, red, blue, and green. In the upper left and lower right corners, there are white cutouts of autumn leaves and ferns, with green foliage visible behind them.

# FINDING MY TRIBE