



“Summertime Sadness.”

Lana Del Rey has ripped open my chest and grabbed my heart because this is exactly how I am feeling. The summer’s over and for us twelfth graders, it was our last high school one ever. This is the last time we were in a mad scramble to complete the holiday homework in the last three days; the last time we ever got to come back to school as a student after the summer; our last School Birthday as a student. This summer has ended and thus, we are in our “period of lasts”. Though, it has not all been sad. It was a defining time for the LGBTQ+ community and with June as the Pride month, we got to see a lot of parades (online, sadly). *[The1975 concerts, y’all, OH MY GOD]* The headquarters of NASA in Washington renamed the main street “Hidden Figures Way” to honour the black female mathematicians who defied racial segregation to play a crucial part in the USA’s most celebrated missions. Our very own Chandrayan-II was launched successfully this month. Article 370 was also scrapped off and you must read on to see two different points of view, expressed quite nicely by our fellow students.

August brought with it delicious petrichor emanating from the ground, beautiful skies, our dear old school’s 76th birthday and the first (and last for us poor twelfths) IntraMUN. The IntraMUN was a huge success (props to the Sec. Gen. and the OC), where all the first-timers were able to understand the working of a model conference and thus, participated zealously.

Time’s flying by at the speed of a Firebolt and all we can do is wish for it to get hit by a Bludger and slow down. The half-yearly assessments are ALMOST here (oh, dear) and then it’s October whooshing in with a plethora of activities, AND, not to forget, Halloween! We’re going to be in December all too soon and with that, the twelfth will again be sucker-punched with the reality of ‘school’s practically over’ and ‘OMG, it’s our last Sports Day y’all, I’m gonna cry’. I think that’s enough of lamenting for now and all we can do is make the best of this (read: last for us) year and study till we make it to our dream colleges.

Aanvi Singh
(a morose twelfth grader)

For eyes to see and you to rejoice

- **How to Become a Reader**—If you don’t like to read, you haven’t found the right book yet.
- **75 + 1**— Birthdays are just nature’s way of telling us to eat more cake
- **Rotten Tomatoes or Fresh Potatoes**— If you have a life beyond books, this is where it lies; reviewing our favourite TV Shows
- **Article 370; India’s Crown, Back to India?** - Gear up for some hot steaming debate by our young intellectuals
- **K-Pop; The Truth Untold**— Discover the dark side of the now flourishing K-pop industry

Editorial Board Members

Patron and Editor in Chief : Mrs. Archana S. Mankotia

Staff Editors : Dr. Swapna Chandra & Mrs. Bhawana Kashyap

Student Editors : Maahi Bumb & Kaavya Khemka

Members : Aanvi Singh, Sejal Maheshwari, Devanshi Pandey, Disha Kabra, Divya Rastogi, Jahnvi Koolwal, Navya Puri, Pratibha Sharma, Preksha Soni, Reya Malu & Saanvee Tewari



Splashing Victors!

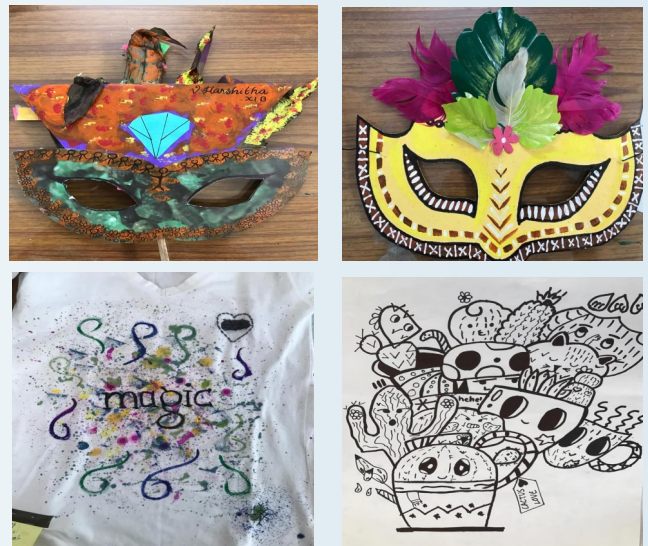
On 8th and 9th May, 2019, the school organized the Annual Inter House Aquatic Meet. Ms. Srishti Tandon, a national level swimmer, was the Chief Guest for the opening ceremony and talked about how failure is advantageous in life, in her speech. All the participants displayed excitement and paramount house spirit in different events. For the second day, the Principal welcomed Mr. Jayant Mehlawat, a Navy official and national level swimmer as Chief Guest. There was a synchronized swimming performance which left the audience spell bound. In his closing speech, Mr. Mehlawat appreciated the hard work students put in, and the Principal, Mrs. Archana S. Mankotia, appreciated the Aquathlon, a thrilling event consisting of swimming and a sprint. Vagmi Singh and Suhani Rawat bagged the Best Senior and

Junior Trophies respectively; in Aquathlon, Shankari Karthikeyan bagged the first place followed by Devjani in the senior category. In the juniors, Suhani Rawat was named the winner, followed by Keya Chaudhary. Florence Nightingale bagged the House Champion Trophy followed by Madame Curie, Helen Keller and Sarojini Naidu.



Moving with Meraki

Art is something that makes us breathe with a different kind of happiness. All MGDians got the opportunity to paint with vibrant colors using their tools of talent in the Art Festival 2019, organized on 4th and 7th April. Innovative activities like T-shirt designing, poster making, mask making, diya & pot decoration, puppet making, dreamcatcher making and many more were planned for the students.



Caricatures by Sneha Jain (X-D)

Enlightening Lives

18 girls from MGD went to the Balika Sadan School affiliated to Jagriti organisation. For ten days, the girls taught the underprivileged students various art forms like art and craft, music, yoga, drama, computer skills and English speaking. The Jagriti Foundation also presented a card to M.G.D.



United States of America, The Land of Dreams

A group of 51 students along with 5 teachers left on the 13th of May for USA. They visited the east coast of USA, that is, Orlando, Niagara, Boston and New York City.

The tour began with the girls having a magical day at Disney World and surely reliving their childhood fantasies. The next day, they visited the Kennedy Space Centre where they had a session with Ed Gibson, who was a science pilot on the Skylab 3 mission. He told them that NASA has had to partner with Elon Musk, the founder of Space X, as government funding has decreased drastically and gave the students some insight on what the US government's involvement is really like in matters related to NASA.

They also went to Cape Canaveral, an iconic launch pad, from where the first manned orbital mission had taken off. They were

taken for a tour of MIT and Harvard University at Boston and also had a session on artificial intelligence at Harvard which was extremely stimulating.

Furthermore, they went to Niagara Falls. New York was their last destination, where they visited Times Square, Madame Tussauds and Empire State Building. They also had a meet-and-greet with Morgan Rose, a Broadway artist.



“Cadets, assemble!”

A Combined Annual Training Camp was held at Maheshwari Girls' Public School from 18th June to 27th June, 2018 wherein seventeen cadets participated and added feathers to MGD's cap by securing positions in various events.

Felicitated with a cash prize, Cadet Kamakshi Yadav and Sergeant Vaishnavi M. Saxena were declared Rajasthan's Best Cadet for the years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 respectively. Cadet Samaira Shekhawat was awarded a gold medal in Master of Ceremony. Group Commander honoured Chief Officer Anjali Sharma for outstanding class 10 result and the Principal, MGPS also gave a memento to her for excellent organization of the camp.



Hubs of Learning

When we walk together, we grow together and CBSE, realizing the significance of this journey, has introduced 'Hubs of Learning'- a platform to help elevate budding schools with the help of a mentor school. M.G.D. Girls' school has been declared as the mentor for four other schools and therefore has the responsibility to host the activities. On 19th July, its first event was organized for class 9 students which tested the participants' ability to dance, act, sing, speak and paint keeping in mind the theme, 'Social Media'.

Rotten Tomatoes or Fresh Potatoes

SUITS

Suits begins with Harvey Specter, who is known to be 'the best closer in New York' getting promoted as a Senior Partner at Pearson Hardman, a law firm based in NYC. Harvey hires Mike Ross to be his associate after being impressed by his photographic memory but there's one problem: Mike has never been to law school. Mike and Harvey are fiercely loyal to each other. Their playful banter and teasing will make you fall in love with the duo. The *bromance* between Harvey and Mike only seems to grow as the show goes on. Just like you and me, these characters communicate in endless references to their favorite TV series and movies. While trying to conceal Mike's little secret from the world, the two outsmart and outclass everyone. Each episode of this show is power packed with wit, sass and sarcasm. If anything, this show will set your standards of being a lawyer really high. Kaavya Khemka (XII-C)



Brooklyn Nine-Nine

Brooklyn Nine-Nine is without a doubt one of the best sitcoms out there.

It's complete with all the elements of any good T.V show. Set in New York, it follows the antics of NYPD detective Jake Peralta and his teammates as they crack tough cases and their charming and diverse personalities and one liners will keep you snorting throughout. Even with all the witty humor and obviously needed action in the life of the 99th Precinct, the show creatively tackles a range of social issues in the most lighthearted ways possible, leaving you wanting more endlessly. Jake Peralta with his charming wit and humor, Amy Santiago and her love for binders, Captain Holt and Cheddar, Charles Boyle and his culinary skills, Rosa and her axes, Terry and his yogurt are just some of the things you will miss after watching this masterpiece and pinnacle of entertainment industry. And it's a bet that after you finish watching it, you won't stop saying, 'Noice'. Saanvee Tewari (IX-G)



Stranger Things

The kids and the monsters owned our hearts from the very beginning. *Stranger Things* is the show that you must watch if you're looking for some thrill, a little drama and a pinch of horror. From great sayings like "friends don't lie" to a ten-year-old making *nerd* her favorite word to a strange kid expressing her love for Eggos by blowing out windows and doors to *crazy Russians* creating havoc for the gang of kids to solve, *Stranger Things* has definitely blown away our minds and given us gasp-worthy moments all throughout the seasons. The nostalgic '80s theme of the show, combined with these middle-schoolers and their drama is entertaining and fun to watch. Also, you will find the answer to a never-ending story in this mirror-of-your-dreams of a show!

Navya Puri (X-D)



F.R.I.E.N.D.S

*All I know at the end of the day,
All that I really want to say,
They always brightened my mood when low,
They don't know that we know they know we know.*

Perhaps the most influential and well known American sitcom around the world for all ages is F.R.I.E.N.D.S. A total of ten seasons have been created by the very ingenious David Crane & Marta Kauffman. The show revolves around the interlinked lives of six friends in Manhattan who deal with all walks of life together. This show makes you stay up all night watching 'just one more episode' because of the slew of wonderful characters, compelling storyline and sheer awe-inspiring dialogues. We firmly believe that if you haven't, you should watch F.R.I.E.N.D.S and give yourself the time of your life as the show gets better with each episode. You'll cry, you'll laugh, and then you'll come back for more. Reya Malu and Jahnvi Koolwal (XI-B)



Sherlock

Sherlock Holmes— a meticulous narcissist with very few friends (I mean one) who's said to be the best consulting detective in the world. And Dr. John Watson— a veteran of war, a friend and flat-mate to Sherlock who's often described as 'ordinary'. Sherlock is a crime drama series set in the 21st century, centred around these two characters living on 221B Baker Street. Each episode is a wild ride where you jump between intense murder cases and funny banter; you're intrigued by Sherlock who notices something as unimportant as the colour of someone's socks and at the same time empathize with Dr. Watson for having such a hyper-active friend who thinks everyone is beneath him. If you like shows filled with plot twists, British humour and a know-it-all who you'll end up loving, then visit 221B Baker Street and Mrs. Hudson will definitely treat you with a British cup of tea!

Maahi Bumb (XII-E)



75+



With a hundred colorful balloons, melodious beats, exotic costumes, all in line with 'fantasy' theme, the staff and students celebrated the 76th birthday of MGD. The celebration began with a tribute to Rajmata. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Mrs. Dharmendra Kanwar, a travel writer and an alumna of MGD and the Guest of Honor was President, Rani Vidya Devi. In her speech, Mrs. Kanwar praised the poised and intellectual nature of Rajmata.

After the customary cake cutting ceremony, the Principal, Mrs. Archana S. Mankotia, read out the birthday messages and the art students presented their paintings to the school. The most awaited inter house musical dance-drama then commenced. From the strange lands of OZ to the magical lands of Aladdin and from the dauntless world of Moana to the beautiful world of The Beast and Belle, the magic weaved right in front of the audience eyes. The little girls from the primary wing stole the show with their adorable dance performance. There was a tie between Sarojini Naidu house and Madame Curie house at the first place, Florence Nightingale house secured the second place and Helen Keller house was at the third place.



Sarojini Naidu and Madame Curie house with the winners' shield



Dance performance by the Primary Section students

IT for IT

(Information Technology for Inquisitive Teens)

The 4th edition of IT Fest - Technacks was organized by M.G.D. Girls' School. It was a two day event which took place on 6th and 7th August 2019, comprising various competitions like Web Studio, Digital Ocean, etc.

The Scindia School, Gwalior secured the first position in the event, followed by M.G.D. Girls' School at runner's up position.



Tricolor Triumphs

Independence Day celebrations began with the customary flag-hoisting by the Principal, Mrs. Archana S. Mankotia. The school band performed the National Anthem followed by the melodious patriotic songs by the school choir. All the attendees took the National Pledge recited by the Head Girl followed by the National Anthem. There was a band display followed by the poised NCC girls marching. The Principal talked about celebrating Independence Day and keeping our environment clean.

The celebration concluded with the distribution of sweets to all present.





Executive Board of MGD IntraMUN 2019



“Raise Your Placards, Not Your Voices”

The first ever edition of the IntraMUN was organised in the school on the 13th and 14th of August, 2019. With six committees- UNSC, UNHRC, SOCHUM, AIPPM, COPUOS and CCPCJ, the IntraMUN witnessed enriching and heated debates with over 250 delegates participating. The IntraMUN provided a platform for all, especially the first timers, to excel in the art of debating. The Chief Guest for the event was **Ms. Lavina Nagpal**, who is currently working at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and is also a member of the MGD Guild family.

Event	Date	Host school	Result
WELMUN'19	3 rd - 5 th August	Welham Boys' School, Dehradun	Devanshi Pandey - Best Delegate Arya Gogia - Verbal Mention
The Palace MUN'19	11 th and 12 th May	The Palace School, Jaipur	Arsheya Mathur– Verbal Mention Radhika Das - Verbal Mention Rashi Kushwaha - Verbal Mention
Lawrence School , Sanawar MUN'19	5 th – 7 th May	Lawrence School, Sanawar	—
MSBSS MUN'19	31 st July- 2 nd August	Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh School, Jaipur	Arsheya Mathur- Special Mention
DSMUN'19	16th August– 18th August	Doon School, Dehradun	Muskan Singh - Outstanding Delegate Aanchal Poddar- Honorable Mention Pranshu Bhardwaj - Verbal Mention



Palace MUN delegation



WELMUN delegation

fallplaylist.mp3

I Want It That Way - Backstreet Boys (also, check out the Jake Peralta version B99)
You're Still the One - Shania Twain
Stop Dragging My Heart Around- Fleetwood Mac
Don't You (Forget About Me) - Simple Minds
November Rain - Guns N' Roses
Smells Like Teen Spirit - Nirvana
High and Dry - Radiohead
The Climb - Miley Cyrus
Breaking Free - High School Musical Cast
Umbrella – Rihanna (make sure that you watch Tom Holland's Lip Sync Battle)
My Mum Is Amazing - Zain Bhikha
In The Ghetto - Elvis Presley



Bastille Day

Bastille Day was celebrated in the school to promote cultural diversity. Students of classes 7 and 8 recited a French poem and performed a dance. A melodious French song 'Longtemps' was presented by Pearl Jain and a presentation was displayed, showcasing the highlights of the French revolution. The celebration concluded with a cake cutting ceremony and singing of the national anthem of France.



War Of Words

The Rajmata Gayatri Devi Memorial Inter-School English Debate took place on the 29th of July 2019, on the occasion of Rajmata's birth anniversary. The Chief Guest was H.H. Rani Vidya Devi and the Guest of Honour was Mrs. Jane Himmeth Singh. The esteemed judges presiding over this battle of words were Dr. Rashmi Dickinson, Mrs. Anu Bhatia and Dr. Parul Singhal. Fifteen schools from Jaipur participated and all the contenders put forth an enriching rally of views. The event commenced with inspiring words by Principal, Mrs. Archana S. Mankotia, who explained the significance and origins of debating to the audience. The competition kick-started with the extempore round which had the most thought provoking visual combinations which the participants interpreted in many unusual and

interesting ways. The second round, the turncoat debate, tested the students' ability to present the two sides of the same coin. Both qualifying rounds gave way to six teams for the finals. The finals witnessed an intense battle of wits between the opponents which left nothing to be desired. The debators presented phenomenal views on various topics, after which Maharaja Sawai Man Singh Vidyalaya took home, the much desired Trophy. MGD School was declared the runners-up for the event. The event definitely left the participants with much food for thought and with the hope of witnessing many more thought provoking and enriching experiences of this kind in the future



Guest of Honour, Mrs Jane Himmeth Singh and Principal, Mrs Archana S. Mankotia lighting the lamp



Winners, MSMSV with the trophy



Breaking the Records

Date	Event	Host School	Result
1st to 5th April	Prithviraj Memorial Shooting Competition	-	Gaurvi Sunda - Gold U-14 10m Air Pistol Mehak Chaudhary- 4 Gold, 1 Silver & 1 Bronze Medal; declared Champion of Champions
10th July to 12th July	All India IPSC Badminton (U-14,17,19) Tournament	Genesis Global School, Noida	U-14 Team- 2nd position. Faguni Awasti- 3rd position in U-19
7th August	Inter School Swimming Competition	Tagore International School, Jaipur	Overall Championship Trophy
21st July	Jaipur Yoga League	-	Ayushi Sharma- Best Individual Champion Trophy
27th May to 29th May	IPSC Girls' Chess Tournament	Ashok Hall Girls' School, Almora	Team- 3rd position in U-17 2nd position in U-19 Ashi Upadhyay- Overall Champion U-19
20th and 25 th May	Rajasthan Open Junior and Sub-Junior Aquatic Championship	St. Xavier's Senior Sec. School	10 gold medals, 14 silver medals and 1 bronze medal
17th March to 21st March	Bhairon Singh Memorial Shooting Competition	-	Chitswaroop Kaur-1 Gold and 1 Silver Medal
30th March to 5th June	5th Eklavya Shooting Competition	-	Chitswaroop Kaur- Silver Medal
-	Jaipur District Open Yoga Competition	Vidyashram School, Jaipur	1st Position- Shreyanshi Sharma 1st Position- Ayushi Sharma 2nd position -Shirin Sharma 3rd position - Kanishka Agarwal
-	IPSC Shooting Championship	Rajkumar College, Rajkot	-



IPSC Badminton Team



Jaipur District Open Yoga Competition



Ayushi Sharma - Overall Champion, Jaipur Yoga League

ICTRC Principal's Summit



Workshops

Career Counselling for Class 10



Workshop by RBI



Workshop by Mr. Srijan Pal Singh on futuristic careers



Workshop on climate change



Session on Rajyog meditation



MUN Training workshop



Cloth Marbling Workshop by Pearl Academy



English Teachers' Training Workshop



Geography Lab Inauguration

On 12th July, Geography students of classes 11th and 12th attended a session by renowned Geomorphologist, Professor H.S. Sharma who also inaugurated the recently renovated Geography Lab of the school. In his session, he discussed various environmental problems in India with special emphasis on climate change and its impacts on Rajasthan.



Fun & Frolic



Grandparents' Day

Plantation Drive



Recitation Competition



INDIA'S CROWN, BACK TO INDIA?

Article 370 was a temporary provision of the Indian Constitution, which gave special status to the region of Jammu and Kashmir, allowing it to have a separate Constitution, a state flag and autonomy over the internal administration of the state. On 5th August, the Central Government revoked the special status given to J&K.

FOR

The incongruous wall, subject to controversy since long, separating Kashmir from India is now gone. I ask, for how long the nation will drag a provision that has resulted in conflicts, hindered economic development of the region and has delineated a state from the union of India? The opposition accuses this decision to be undemocratic but was there any other solution to the historic Kashmir issue where the peace talks and negotiations have failed several times. How can a bill passed by both the houses of the parliament be undemocratic? If we look at the impacts of mending this historic blunder, we'll see the economic impacts of this decision are going to be massive. Earlier people and companies could not buy land in Jammu and Kashmir, but now several companies can invest and create employment for the people of Kashmir. Secondly, it would have hefty political impacts as now the 73rd amendment of the Indian constitution will be applicable to state which strengthens local elections. Along with this, people who came to Jammu and Kashmir during partition will now be recognized as the citizens of the state. Lastly, this historic decision strengthens India's position on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and Aksai Chin. This, dear audience, is a huge step towards full political and territorial integration of Jammu and Kashmir, or what we proudly call it, the crown of India. I wish to preserve this very prestigious crown of our nation, and hence advocate the well ruminated decision of removing article 370.

Himja Dave (XI-F)

AGAINST

We uphold democracy when we represent. We uphold democracy when we acknowledge dissent. We uphold democracy when we respect. We uphold democracy when we shield the golden value of human rights. But what happened recently is a brutal murder of democracy. What looms ahead is a blooming prospect of tyranny. What already is happening is pure oppression. Article 370 and 35A, recently revoked, were seen as the main obstacles hindering development in the region of Kashmir and promoting violence. As important as it was to remove the articles, this way of doing so is absolutely unethical and undemocratic. A step taken in haste which neglects the stakeholders of the Kashmir issue. What the government has done is regressive and will further alienate the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The government's obsession with setting the clock back is pushing the country back into the turbulence of the 1940s. There's a virtual blackout in the Valley with few workable mobile phones and internet connections and prohibitory orders in place. The Kashmiri political leaders are put under a house arrest. Right to assemble peacefully has been taken away. The bill was rushed through, unilaterally. Kashmiris are numb. It's a heart wrenching scenario painted in a democratic nation. My opposition would say that there was no other way, but they are wrong. There's always a way of negotiations and consultations; a way in which you give people the freedom to communicate; a way in which you don't pursue arbitrary arrests; a way in which Kashmiris right are not taken away. It's the way of democracy. But my heart aches as I see it break and burn down to ashes.

Devanshi Pandey (XI-H)

CULTURAL APPROPRIATION— A REGRESSIVE IDEAL

Cultural appropriation or in most cases termed "cultural misappropriation" is the adoption of elements of one culture by members of another culture.

The first idea that pops up is the loss of originality and authenticity of the culture of the groups being appropriated. Discarding their own virtues and embracing others' lifestyle alienates the group from its roots and at the same time puts up a question mark on their integrity. The mere fact of copying someone humiliates the imitator. Sadly, some people do it to appear fashionable while others are forced. Just like the Afro-Americans are expected to patronize the White culture. This they do to stop being discriminated against while in reality, they start undermining themselves. Conversely, the feeling of being imitated or the hitch that is born when you feel that the credit of your culture is being snatched away by someone else is what the group whose culture is being adopted has to deal with. The modification done by the appropriated group insults the very ideal and the group which fostered it. Misuse of their culture by the fashion industries deteriorates the matter. In 2018, Gucci was criticized for igniting cultural insensitivity by putting turbans on White models. The Independent reports stated that "Many Sikhs condemned the move as a huge sign of disrespect, pointing out that the turban is a symbol of faith not a fashion accessory."

Pretending to be a race that you are not and imposing ideals that were never yours has led to a controversial subject denominated *black fishing*. It's a term used for someone accused of pretending to be black or mixed-race on social media. Just a glance at the number of likes on the photos with tanned skin and hairstyle with curls and braids can explain the inexplicable perplexity that persuades people to emulate Afro-American women. Once frowned upon because of such hair style and skin colour, these women are now mimicked and are being excluded while the imitators steal the limelight.

The biggest drawback that we are facing is that the people and the society as a whole have started losing faith in themselves. With each person pretending to be someone else, we have crushed our individuality and self-respect.

To sum up, cultural appropriation is a regressive ideal as it abuses the culture of the groups being involved and has corrupted our distinctiveness.

Reya Malu (XI-B)

How To Become a Reader

A simple four step guide to become a regular reader.

Finding out *Why?*

Do you want to read to be inspired? Do you want to pass your time in fantasy worlds? Are you interested in a certain topic? Find out your purpose or motive for reading.

Discovering *What?*

Discover your genre of choice with our Easy Reading List. Do you want to solve cases with Sherlock or battle dragons? An important thing to remember is, don't feel pressurized to finish your book; if it feels like a chore even after the first 50 pages.

Figuring out *Where?*

Though reading is an activity that could be done anywhere, if you are a beginner, it is easier to start reading at quiet or comfortable places which help you concentrate. Once you get the hang of fluent reading you'll be able to start reading anywhere.

Making your *When?*

Whether you're reading to pass your time or as a passion, finding the right amount of time is important. If you're a beginner, start off with 10 minutes per day, slow but steady. An ideal time would be right before you go to bed. As you strengthen your skills, you can increase the time or space out small breaks through your day.

Additional tips to remember:

I. Start off small, with novellas or short stories. Don't pick up 800-paged Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix to start your reading regime.

II. Make sure you read the blurb before you start reading. If the blurb doesn't interest you, chances are the book won't either.

III. Maintain an online or hand-written record, including details like when you began and finished the book, the author's name and how you would rate it. It may seem tedious at first, but you'd be surprised at the sense of accomplishment you'll feel once the journal starts to fill.

IV. Create a Goodreads account, on the website or the app. It'll give you tons of recommendations based on your preferences, and you can maintain a To Read list. You can also balance the record mentioned above on this account.

V. If you feel that the size of a book intimidates you, try concentrating on getting through a single chapter. You'll finish the book before you know it.

Saanvee Tewari (IX-G)

And now for the Easy Reading List...

Fantasy Series

Harry Potter
Percy Jackson
The Mortal Instruments

Dystopian

The Giver
Divergent
The Hunger Games

Young Adult

The Fault In Our Stars
Eleanor and Park
My Sister's Keeper

Biographies

Steve Jobs
Becoming
(Michelle Obama)
I Am Malala

Classics

Little Women
Pride and Prejudice
The Great Gatsby

Thrillers

The Girl On The Train
The Da Vinci Code
The President Is Missing

Mystery

Murder On The Orient Express

The Cuckoos Calling
The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

The Stage is Yours

As a person interested in dramatics with a loud voice, I have no trouble standing on the stage and calling it mine, even if it is for a few minutes. Personally, I don't have enough experience to tell you if you should fear the stage or not but I can tell you that if what you feel is a rush of excitement, nervousness and a bunch of unknown emotions when you stand up there, then you know you're at the right place. How to get over stage fear is a difficult question to address. When it comes to acting, my trick has always been to appreciate the role. However small or big it is, look in the mirror and say it's yours to keep. That makes all the difference. Appreciating the role means empathizing with the character and situation you have. Try finding traits that make you similar to the role you have and you'll suddenly feel a greater amount of enthusiasm. Think of it as getting a free chance to be someone else for a few days, a free chance to take a break from the routine. The second way is to trick yourself into being a different person on stage regardless of how you actually are. For example, no matter how happy you are, if the role demands melancholic behavior, understand why the role requires that. This has helped me a lot and I hope it works the same for you. The biggest key is to trust yourself with it and I believe that you'll do wonders if you achieve that.

Pranjal Khandelwal (XII-H)



The Truth Untold

by **BTS** (listen to it!)

K-pop has taken the world by storm with artists like BTS, IU and BlackPink. It has sought its way to popularity all around the world, with its vibrant concepts, complex choreographies, and ruthlessly hardworking idols. But life for these K-pop idols isn't as easy as it seems, even with all the love that they receive. It's an industry that works around the concept of 'survival of the fittest'.

With their hardcore vocal practices, strict diets, unnatural beauty standards and no guarantee of debut, these idols and trainees live a life surrounded by criticism. They have strict rules binding them through contracts which don't allow them to wear certain clothes, eat certain types of food, or even have relationships. We've seen idols collapsing on stage due to over-exhaustion and even though fans express their concerns through social media, they can do very little to help the artist in real life. Idols often suffer from mental illnesses with depression and anxiety being quite rampant in the K-pop industry. While some idols decide to pay attention to their mental health, others just fall further down the void creating an extremely unhealthy environment for themselves. Female idols are sexually exploited far more often than you think, and the cute, innocent façade that they're made to put on is more often than not, a lie. It is mandatory for all idols, male or female, to receive fan-service training which plays a major role in developing the image that their company/management wants them to portray.

K-pop industry's dark side might come as a shock to those fans who are here for the dynamic beats and cool raps. But now that you're aware of what goes on behind the scenes in the life of a K-pop artist (the truth has finally been told), you can always be a good Samaritan and spread positivity in this otherwise gloomy industry. And of course, keep listening!

Isha Poonia (XII-A)