

BIODIVERSITY

e-Book of Short Stories

A compilation of entries of Story writing competition organized on International Day of Biological Diversity by Pushpa Gujral Science City in collaboration with Punjab Biodiversity Board

Compiled By
PUSHPA GUJRAL SCIENCE CITY

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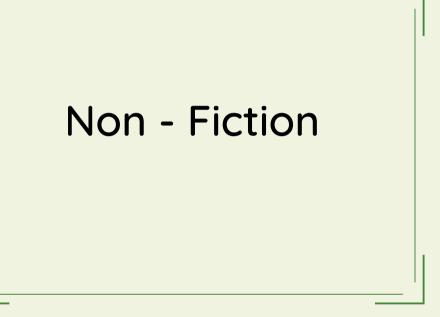
Preface

The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 as the International Biodiversity Day to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. As the global community is called to reexamine our relationship to the natural world, one thing is certain: despite all our technological advances we are completely dependent on healthy and vibrant ecosystems for our water, food, medicines, clothes, fuel, shelter and energy, just to name a few. The theme for IBD 2020 was 'Our Solutions are in Nature'. The theme emphasizes hope, solidarity and the importance of working together at all levels to build a future of life in harmony with nature. 2020 is a year of reflection, opportunity and solutions. It is expected, from each of us, that we will "Build Back Better" by using this time to increase the resilience of nations and communities as we recover from this pandemic. 2020 is the year when, more than ever, the world can signal a strong will for a global framework that will "bend the curve" on biodiversity loss for the benefit of humans and all life on Earth.

Pushpa Gujral Science City celebrated International Biodiversity Day 2020 with Punjab Biodiversity Board on May 22. The objective of the event was to raise awareness among participants about conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity resources. An online webinar was organized due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic accompanied with online activities like Story writing competition and Photography contest for students and general public. The Story writing competition was organized in two categories, i.e, Junior (Below 15 years) and Senior (Above 15 years) levels in English, Hindi and Punjabi. The competition got an overwhelming response from student and public. 38 participants in Junior category and 28 in Senior category participated from Punjab, Delhi, Odisha, West Bengal, USA. Overall, there were 71 entries. We are amazed at the creativity of the participants esp. the students who are a storehouse of imagination. PGSC believes that story form is a very effective way of thinking and learning about nature and environment. This e-book is a compilation of Best entries received under the Story writing competition. We are happy that people from pan India participated and sent their poems.

We present to you the best compiled and edited stories as adjudged by our honorable judges and hope you enjoy reading the same.

Dr. Neelima Jerath Dr. Loveleen Brar



WINNERS

Gurjant Singh (Seniors) Guru Nanak Engineering College, Ludhiana

We live on the most beautiful planet- Earth, which has very a clean and attractive nature, full of greenery. Nature is our best friend which provides us all the resources to live. It gives us water and pure air. 'Environment' means all the natural surroundings such as land, air, water, plants, sunlight, forests, etc.Healthy environment maintains the nature's balance as well as it helps in growth and development of all the living things on Earth. However, nowadays some man made advance methods are ruining the environment in many ways which disturbs the balance/equilibrium of nature. We are putting our lives as well as the lives of the future generations in danger. Let us take the example of Amazon rain forest. It is the world's largest tropical forest. Its an area with torrential rain that almost never burns on its own, yet Brazil's largest city - Sao Paulo was plunged into darkness in the middle of the day as a massive plume of smoke from fires burning in the Amazon descended on the city. They are caused mainly due to human activity, especially clearing land for farming. The degradation of the Amazon rainforest has profound consequences from climate change to global health. The burning of these forests has potential impact on the biodiversity of the Amazon, and threats to indigenous tribes that live within the forest.

Nowadays, due to CORONAVIRUS, humans have been staying inside, the environment is temporarily changing, wild animals are roaming the streets and some typically smog filled skies are clear. Air pollution has dropped to unprecedented levels across the world as major cities and countries impose lockdown measures to curb the spread of Coronavirus.

People in Punjab, India, say they can see snow peaks of the Himalayas, a view that for decades has been blocked by air pollution. New Delhi alone has witnessed 60 percent drop in fine particulate matter, the world's deadliest air pollutant. Los Angeles, the traffic-congested city with one of the highest smog level in the US, has seen nitrogen levels drop significantly. The Ganges is one of India's holiest and also most polluted river. Millions live on its bank across several states. It is widely considered as a lifeline for many Indians. But it has become severely polluted in the past few decades – industrial effluent has been regularly emptied into the water, so is the human waste of millions of people who live alongside its banks. The government has spent millions of dollars to clean up the river with very little success. But the lockdown meant to curb the spread of the coronavirus appears to have helped. According to some scientists, at certain sections of the holy river, the water is clean enough to drink. Such a remarkable improvement has not been witnessed in the past 30-40 years.

Development in technology is beneficial for the environment, but some people say if humans stop using technology and lead a simple way of life, then only we can save the environment. But nowadays, we have come so far ahead in technology that there can be no going back. We cannot ask people of the jet age to go back to the age of the bullock cart. There are lots of advances going on in technology which are helping the environment. One prime example is finding solutions to water problems in developing countries such as Africa. Here, desalination plants have been set up to get clean drinking water from sea water – an almost inexhaustible resource. Furthermore, Japan is working to build a working space solar power system by 2030. By drawing on the colossal energy of the sun, it can meet the entire world's electricity requirement indefinitely without nuclear

or GHG emissions. If successful, the impact on the world would be monumental. It would mean energy for schools, hospitals and homes. It would mean another industrial revolution. Some countries like China use Artificial Rain Technology when huge fires occur. Technology is helpful when used in right direction.

Some important actions to protect or improve the environment -

- 1. Reusable carry bags
- 2. Avoid unnecessary or wasteful packaging products
- 3. Plant trees. They will help to absorb excess carbon dioxide
- 4. Don't burn any waste, especially plastics, for the smoke may contain harmful gases.
- 5. Judicious use of fertilizers, intensive cropping, proper drainage and irrigation.
- 6. Rotation of crops.
- 7. Harvesting of rain water
- 8. Walk or cycle where it is safe to do so walking is free, cycling can help to keep you fit.
- 9. Creating awareness through environmental programs.





Lavanya (Junior) Swami Sant Dass Public School

"BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION, NOT A PART OF THE POLLUTION"

Nature is one of the most precious gift to us from God. It is one of the greatest blessings to mankind. Essentially, nature is everything we are surrounded with, like, the water we drink, the air we breathe, the sun we soak in, the birds we hear chirping, the moon we gaze at and much more. According to scientists, the earth formed about 4.54 billion years ago. In the ancient times, people led a simple and uncomplicated life. They spent their life in lap of nature. They found solutions to their problems in nature. Moreover, people found many benefits of connecting with mother nature, as the ones who were more connected, were happier, vital and had more meaningful life. There wasn't much progress in technology. Means of transportation as well as communication was very limited. But as the years passed, many changes took place. The vehicles were invented and traveling was made easier and faster. Later these inventions started creating pollution. The pollution started increasing and unknowingly humans became more careless and selfish. Then came the Industrial revolution. Tons of plastic started floating on beautiful lakes. Humans contaminated water with raw sewage. People started cutting trees for their own benefit. In the past few years mother nature lost its thousand of bird and animal species. As the best view comes after the hardest climb, in the same way government started taking drastic steps to reduce environment pollution. Our beautiful river Ganga- the holy river of Hindus also got contaminated. In 1984, the Indian Government spent cores of rupees for cleaning the river. But it wasn't fruitful. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was also launched on 4th of October in the year 2014 to enforce people to make their surroundings clean and green. Our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi constructed 90 million toilets in rural India. This project costed Rs. 1.96 lakh crore (US \$27 billion). Though this Abhiyan is heading towards success but some careless people aren't willing to use.

HEAR MOTHER NATURE'S CRY,
AS SHE WATCHES HER ANIMALS DIE
HEAR MOTHER NATURE'S CALL,
AS ONE BY ONE HER TREES FALL
HEAR MOTHER NATURE'S SHOUT,
AS THERE'S POLLUTION ALL ABOUT
HEAR MOTHER NATURE'S CRY,
AS SHE IS LEFT ASKING WHY!

If nature has the ability to protect us, it is also powerful enough to destroy the whole mankind. Humans are destroying mother nature without any realization. Absence of any one element is sufficient to cause a natural disaster. In recent decades, zoonotic diseases (transferred from animals to humans) have gained international attention. Ebola, Bird flu, Swine flu, Middle East respiratory system (MERS), West Nile virus and now, THE NOVEL CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19), have all either caused or threatened to cause major pandemics with thousands of deaths and billions of economic losses. COVID-19 has caused lot of losses to human population. Nature has given us many warnings to reduce environment pollution but Mankind didn't care and now this virus is teaching us a lesson. It is rightly said,"प्रकृति जब पिसी है बड़ी महीन पिसी है". Now the nature is taking revenge from us. But now, our stay at home is benefiting us as the river Ganga, which wasn't cleared after spending so much money, is now clear and it can even serve us drinkable water. Global warming is also decreasing. This virus has taught us that "PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE". After observing the year 2020, we should plan about our future. According to me:

EAST OR WEST GOING GREEN IS THE BEST! NATURE IS OUR TRUE TEACHER. IT HAS ALL THE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS THAT WE FACE TODAY. WE LEARN A LOT OF LESSONS THROUGH PAINS AND FROM NATURE. IN FACT THE NATURE IS MADE UP OF ALL THE LESSONS AND PROBLEMS. NO PROBLEM ARISES BEYOND NATURE. REMEMBER THAT NATURE ALWAYS WEARS COLOURS OF SPIRIT. SO RESPECT NATURE BY NURTURING IT EVERYDAY!



APPRECIATIONS



Katie, USA (Senior)

Rivers and streams, once brown and muddy, now clear and visibly full of life. Skies, once gray and polluted, now clear and blue, revealing sunbeams and majestic mountain views. Wild animals, once driven from their natural homes by humans and cars and urban development, now returning to the cities to reclaim their former glory. As our planet blossoms and grows in response to the effects of COVID-19, no longer fettered by human interference, millions of people across the globe are also returning to nature to manage the more stressful effects of the virus negative, reconnecting with themselves, their families and the world around them. Edible gardens have sprung up on rooftop terraces and in grassy expanses across communities as men, women, and children discover the joy and feeling of accomplishment in nursing a seedling into a replenishing source of nourishment. Children, finally tired of bright, distracting screens are playing outside, becoming familiar once more, or perhaps for the first time, with the natural world around them. Those seeking physical release are taking walks or bicycle rides, enjoying fresh air and the smells and sounds of nature. Flower gardens have blossomed as peace is discovered in churning fresh soil with bare hands, the beauty of the natural world coaxed forward with a little care. Truly, our solutions are in nature, if only we give it and ourselves the time, space and respect to expand, to grow, to live. It took a pandemic to show us the scope of effects of human encroachment and development on the natural world, and it took a pandemic for us to turn to Mother Nature for comfort, for life lessons, for blessings. COVID-19 will not last forever. We will eventually return to gatherings of family and friends, commuting for business or for pleasure and exploring the shops and markets, resuming of the fast pace of every day life. We must endeavor to remember this moment in time, not just for the devastating price that many have paid with their health and their lives, but also for the positive lesson that it has taught us: that with a lot of care and a little restraint, both we and nature can flourish.

Pradipta Paul (Senior) Parabandnda Vidya Mandir, Lumding, Assam

Mother Earth- The healer, where life exists. No other planet has life in the Universe, but only earth. Millions of years ago, life on earth began with power from sunlight and water maintaining a balance with different chemical compounds of nature. Life was pure and environment was green. But with the emergence of all life forms, and human life, life became modern and artificial. People moved far from natural bliss towards artificial mode of life. Human activities caused great damage to nature and it lost its healing power. The 2020 Pandemic has caused disaster to human life but it was a bliss to nature. The nature is in a healing mode. It seems to be rejuvenating itself as the modern life has been virtually put in a pause mode. Where artificial life has lost its value and time, nature blooms in its own way. As we have seen people are not craving for glamour and living a easy life. The Pollution levels have decreased. The river Ganga is back to its pure form. The number of regular patients in hospitals have also reduced. There is something magical about being in nature. You cannot put it in words, but you feel it deep within it touches your spirit. Just few minutes of being in nature makes us feel healed and restored. Nature gives us strength, drains away all negative energy and fills us to the brim with positive energy. So we can say time and nature is the most powerful source to human life existence. Life is always safe in mother nature's warm womb. Diseases are less & life is more blissful and pure. The nature has provided everything in its own form. The fruits, vegetable, water, oxygen, medicine, etc. So, our solutions are in nature, only if we recognize. Let's work together to save and care for our mother nature to deal with present and future problems with natural solutions.



Anita Sarkar (Senior) Research Scholar, Deptt. Of Zoology, University of Burdwan, West Bengal

The worldwide disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the environment including living beings, climate and economy. COVID-19 outbreak has inflamed the environment with insecurity, helplessness and depression that influence the psychology or ethological changes of living beings. The severe decline in planned travelling has caused many regions to experience a drop in pollution levels. The lockdown has resulted in 25 percent reduction in carbon-dioxide and 50 percent reduction in nitrogen oxide emissions. Till 2020, the anthropogenic impact on environment was severe but due to outbreak of this pandemic total scenario has changed. During the first month of lockdown, China produced approximately 200 million fewer metric tons of carbon dioxide than the same period in 2019, due to the reduction in air traffic, oil refining, coal consumption, etc. NO2 levels have been reduced by 22.8 µg/m3 and 12.9 µg/m3 in Wuhan and China, respectively. NASA has been monitoring how the nitrogen dioxide gases dropped significantly during the initial Chinese phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. NASA uses ozone monitoring instrument (OMI) to analyze and observe the ozone layer and pollutants such as NO2, aerosols and others. In Venice, water in the canals cleared resulting in greater water flow and visibility of fishes. There has also been reduction in life threatening activities of marine or aquatic organisms due to less disturbance by boats, ships which has also led to clarity in water quality. The fish biomass is also expected to increase due to sharp decline in fishing. Social distancing measures adopted by most of the governments has led to cleaning of the beaches. This is a result of reduction in waste generated by tourists who visit the beaches. Reduction in use of private and public transportation, as well as, commercial or anthropogenic activities has caused a sharp decline in noise pollution. As people are staying at home and travelling less, some animals have been spotted in empty streets. Preliminary reports show that the unavailability of migrant labors is interrupting crop harvesting activities. Media reports show that the closure of hotels, restaurants during the lockdown is already depressing milk sales. The poultry farmers have been badly hit due to misinformation, particularly on social media, that chicken are the carriers of COVID-19.

This story summarizes impact of this pandemic on environmental sustainability and rejuvenation which confirms that 'Our solutions are in nature'. So, it is said that nature has the healing power to improve global air quality and pollution levels which indirectly promotes environmental sustainability provided by Coronavirus and lockdown.

Finally, it is concluded that COVID-19 will produce both positive and negative indirect effects on the environment. Decreasing greenhouse gas concentrations is not a sustainable way to clean the environment. Furthermore, the virus crisis brings other environmental problems that may last longer and may be more challenging to manage if countries neglect the impact of the epidemic on the environment.



Guneev Kaur (Junior) St. Joseph Convent School, Jalandhar

From the birds chirping to the dogs barking,
The Sunshine to the stars twinkling,
From Plants and animals to fungi and bacteria,
Ecosystems that house them as oceans,
forests, mountains, environment and coral reefs
All are the beautiful gifts of nature,
But Nature is in crisis!

Nature is the most valuable and integral gift from 'Him to us' to live on Mother Earth. I would say that nature is something that does not cost any penny to watch at. Everything in the nature has its own power and uniqueness provided by the God. Have you ever noticed the different colours of sky at different times? From dark at night, bright blue in early morning, reddish tone at the time of sunrise, orange in afternoon, clear blue in evening and the cycle continues. What a beauty it is! The trees clubbed together with animals as forests, hill stations filled with mountains, that blue sky with the shining Sun and lush green grass is what all we call it as nature's beauty. Studies show that deforestation and loss of wildlife causes increase in infectious diseases. Intact nature provides buffer between the human diseases and emerging diseases are often the result of encroachment into the natural ecosystem and changes in human activity.

Whenever we see a beautiful butterfly in our garden or anywhere, we are just in the mood of catching it. Have you ever wondered how sleek its body is, how many colours are there on its wings? The answer from most of us would be a big NO. Then how can we say that we appreciate nature? From Himalayan Hills of India to the Switzerland, the places where each one wants to enjoy a word called as NATURE!! The Deccan Plateau in our country, the Holy Ganges, The Valley of flowers in Uttarakhand, Kutch in Gujarat — It is NATURE....!! While using this so called word Nature, one should be observant enough to appreciate its each and every aspect.

Here I can relate this nature with the present situation we are suffering from in the entire globe. Who had ever thought of people in cages or so called prisons and animals and birds moving freely around. From World War I to French Revolution; people were out though fighting, but yes, out.

The Ganges is India's holiest and also most-polluted river. Millions live on its bank across several states. It is widely considered as a lifeline for many Indians. But has now become severely polluted in the past few decades - industrial effluent is regularly drained into the water and so is waste of millions of people who live alongside its bank. The government has spent millions to clean up the river, but with very little success.

The lockdown meant to curb the spread of the coronavirus appears to have helped. Field researchers had stated that it can never be cleaned, but nature proved that it can very well heal itself if not disturbed. That is 'US' who have destroyed it. From millions and billions going everyday to nobody now; Oh My God! Still it did everything on itself. Our capital, New Delhi's pollution level decreased as well. The unhealthy air changed in the lockdown. But as soon as the lockdown got some relief, the unhealthy air was back.

Early in the morning we can hear the birds chirping, I would say that in just fourteen days I witnessed those things which I didn't even think of in the past fourteen years. I got the golden opportunity to see the lower Himalayan ranges from my rooftop, which my dad had never even thought of...

2020 was said to be an 'Year of Prosperity' to which now people are saying of 'Adversity'. But no, its an 'Year of Prosperity for nature'... it is reviving its beauty! Kudos to Him for His lovely creation!







The rule of the nature is 'Change'. From centuries we are observing this 'rule' and not only this, in the *Vishnupuran*, the creator, lord Vishnu has also mentioned the change which includes birth and death for living beings and creation and destruction of mankind. We were close to the nature from the ancient times but now the range of people has come down. People want to live by their own ways. They want to change their normal way of living. And this is why we are suffering. God gave humans a brain, so that they can be distinguished from ANIMALS ...AND THE RESULT OF THE ROTTEN BRAIN IS THIS PANDEMIC, STARTED BY THE HUMANS AND NO LINE OF LIMITS.

Some years ago my nasty neighbor complained to the landlord that the chestnuts were falling on his grass. Without further ado the landlord lacking wisdom, compassion, sense, courage decreed my lovely tree. A death sentence and to add some bogus credence to this gutless decision, he said that the tree is getting too big, in any case it must be chopped down. It left my back bedroom exposed to extreme heat of summer. Now there is just a stump that 5 years later still provides only the slightest shade. However, all was not lost, because the chestnuts left behind some seeds, that, with time sprouted into a young offspring and is racing to beat the replacement tree which may well exceed in height. By this time next year, if nobody complains or notices eventually in the back of my place, there will be again a wonderful chestnut tree dropping its seed in defiance of grumpy old man.

Now in this time of deadly Coronavirus, all the scientists are, perplexed to find the cure for this highly contagious disease. But do you think anyone has ever thought that the problems created by humans are always solved by nature. So now just think of a scenario where you are in a forest and mosquitoes are biting you. At that time you remember mosquito repellent created by nature and given to us as a gift, i.e, lemon or maybe lavender. Do you think this is not enough? So what about the trees and bamboos given to make houses and what about oxygen and water? So our solutions are in nature. See this is not nature which has stopped us in the pandemic, it is the human nature of revenge and hatred which has created this virus. It is human greed which kills. The greed to be first, the greed to be the most powerful, the greed to be the best. Nature expects us to learn about ourselves and not to destroy it. If not, result 'll be ruthless.

"Adopt the pace of nature, its secret is patience."



Nature consists of Air, Water and Soil and also, includes all flora and fauna. Nature has a unanimous concept, i.e., survival of the fittest, which means species not adaptable to change get extinct and new species arrive.

Nature has a quality in itself - to keep balance among the flora and fauna without any interface. With the advancement in science and technology, human beings have started interfering in Nature. The interference in nature to make life easier has affected the Nature adversely, for e.g., human beings constructed dams and curtailed the free flow of water in rivers.

Man invented mobiles and is using the technology with radioactive waves which has affected the very existence of species like, sparrow, pigeons, crow and many other birds.

The man establishes various industries for mass production but has no idea of the hazardous waste which flows in rivers and canals making them dusty, muddy, non-drinkable. Similarly, man uses various types of pesticides and fertilizers for growing more crops which in the longer run affects the fertility of land and in certain cases even makes it barren.

Nature has maintained a balanced by creating lot of forests but the human beings in the name of industrialization, colonization destroyed these forests to establish various factories, industries, housing and several other facilities. This not only affected the availability of oxygen but also led in increase of carbon dioxide and various other poisonous gases. This imbalance led to Global Warming affecting the climatic conditions. This also resulted in increase in sea water levels with melting glaciers. With so much destruction, still nature has solution to all the problems.

Solutions provided by Nature

The present lockdown and other restriction imposed by the governments all over the world and temporary closure of transport, industries, offices and other activities all over the world has once again proved that the nature has been reinventing /refilling the gap which the human beings could not do even after making so may plans and spending millions. The water in the rivers has started becoming clear and drinkable.

Hence, the present lockdown has once again proved that nature is the best healer and can provide solutions for various problems.

Ishita Bansal (Junior) Sanskriti KMV School, Jalandhar

Significance of Nature

Nature has been in existence long before the human race and ever since it has been taking care of the mankind and nourishing it. In other words, it offers us a protective layer which guards us against all kinds of damages and harms. The survival of mankind without nature is impossible and humans needs to understand this.

Eco-friendly, not as deadly

What is conservation of Nature?

Conservation of Nature means the preservation of forests, land, water bodies and minerals, fuels, natural gases, etc. and to make sure that all these continue to be available in abundance. All these natural resources make life worth living on earth. Life would not be imaginable without air, water, sunlight as well as other natural resources present on the Earth. Thus, it is essential to conserve these resources in order to retain the environment integral.



Green Revolution The Best Solution to arrest Pollution

Nature is an important and integral part of mankind. It is one of the blessings to human life; however, nowadays humans fail to recognise it as one. Nature has been an inspiration for numerous poets, writers and artists. This remarkable creation inspired them to write poems and stories in the glory of it. They truly valued nature which reflects in their work even today. Here is a look at some of the steps we can take to conserve Nature:

REDUCE WATER CONSUMPTION

Water is available in abundance on Earth. This is one of the reasons people do not consider much before using it. However, if we keep using it at this speed, in the future we may not be left with as much of it. Therefore, simple things such as turn off the tap while brushing or reuse leftover water to water the plants can help in this direction.

EAST OR WEST, GOING GREEN IS THE BEST: SPREAD AWARENESS

Spreading awareness about the conservation of nature very important. It can be achieved only when more and more people understand its importance and the ways in which they can help. Besides this, it is essential to plant more and more trees. It is necessary to contribute towards lowering air pollution. We must use shared transport and do rainwater harvesting.



WINNERS

Panchanan Panda, Bhubaneshwar (Senior) Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

This is the story of my life. My life from day one has begun with solutions from nature. Once I suffered from hay fever. My parents took me to doctors. But even the long term treatment could not cure me. Finally, my parents applied some ancient techniques of ayurveda like, tulsi, black pepper, ginger and roots. I got cured. In 2013, my mother had a severe neurological problem resulting in inability to stand or move. I took help of medical Doctors, but they could not treat her. I prayed to nature for help and adopted solutions provided by nature. She recovered. Now she is 65, fit & independent to perform all her work. From that day till now, Nature is my teacher & I have learned that when we do not get any solution to our problems then we should 'Surrender to Nature'. I realized that our nature is our solution. I understood the power of FASEW. I learnt that 'F' stands for fire, it is received from Sun and Solar energy helps to recover us from deficiency of vitamin D3, Rickets, osteoporosis, as well as, from skin diseases; 'A' stands for air which works as a transporter that carries life-like oxygen needed by every human and animal and CO2 needed by plants; 'S' stands for space; 'E' stands for Earth which has the ability to create as it has water, minerals and soil and 'W' stands for water which plays a vital role to balance and maintain a healthy life and ecosystem.

I also realized that many technologies were inspired by nature known as bio-mimicry. Some of the striking examples being the body shape of the fish inspiring design of ship, mosquito proboscis providing inspiration for injection needle, elephant trunk inspiring Soil digging machines, flight of Bees inspiring flight of Drones, suckers of Octopus inspiring Suction machines and many more. I learnt that nature always operates on the principles of economy and efficiency while generating no waste and anything left over from one animal or plant is food for another species.

We, therefore, have to understand the value of equilibrium in an ecosystem and our innovations should not harm the ecosystem. I decided to work for our nature by respecting its power while believing in 'vasudhaiva kutumbakam'.



Shreya Khosla (Junior) St. Joseph Convent School, Jalandhar

The Selfish Giant

There was a lovely garden in the city where children used to play after the school. There was grass, flowers and peach trees which cheered the kids. During the spring, the plants bloomed with flowers whereas in winters, they bore fruits. The children were so happy playing there but their happiness did not stay for long.

The garden belonged to a selfish giant. The selfish giant had been staying with his friend for a year but now he had returned. He scolded the children for playing in his garden and so he raised a wall around the garden. He put a board on the wall: 'Trespassers will be prosecuted'. Now the trees, flowers and birds were sad as there was no one to hang around their twigs and listen to the bird's song. Trees stopped blooming while the birds stopped singing. Spring came in the whole country but did not enter his garden. There was still winter in the garden. Now, the giant was restless. He did not understand why there was such a long winter in his garden. The snow had covered the grass like a white sheet. There was a chill in the air.

One day the children made a hole in the wall of the garden and entered. They started playing. Now, spring came in the garden and the birds started singing. The giant woke up. He had not heard the birds singing for long. He thought that it was king's musicians but when he looked in the garden, he saw children playing there. It seemed like the trees were welcoming the kids by lowering their branches. The giant understood why the spring came so late. He saw a kid in the garden trying to climb a tree. The kid was so short to climb the tree and was crying. The giant approached the garden to help him. Everyone ran away when they saw the giant but the small kid did not go away. The giant went near the boy and took him in his arms and helped him to climb the tree. When the other children saw the giant, they went in the garden and started playing. The giant felt so happy and broke the wall so that the children could come everyday to play. He realized that the Nature is our best friend which provides us all the resources to live. We should fully enjoy the nature without disturbing its ecological balance. We should take care of our nature, keep it clean and prevent it from destruction. Nature is to be enjoyed not to be



APPRECIATIONS

Gurdip Sharma (Senior) MGN Public School, Adarsh Nagar, Jalandhar

The Peepal for people

It was Sunday and I was going to complete a task assigned by the science teacher. It was a project on collecting five different varieties of leaves. I opened my book to have a glimpse of different designs of leaves. "Hmmm!, I should start with this one," I said to myself. It was a photograph of a big leaf resembling the spade of cards that my parents would often play. I went out in the garden and examined each plant closely to ensure that I don't get a wrong find! Science had always interested me but this was becoming a hectic job.

I was beginning to lose my interest in it. Hopeless! I didn't even want to try my hand for the second search. Just when I was about to enter the door, my mother stepped out to pick some pudina leaves which she did only when she was to serve something delicious. "Would you like to accompany", she asked curiously. I never wanted to visit the garden again but then the smell of pudina always attracted me. I love to relish its chutney with freshly fried fritters. My mouth watered as the thought of the afternoon snacks captured my mind.

I immediately agreed and hopped towards the garden after her. "Why are you looking dull?" she inquired mysteriously while picking on the leaves. "Why didn't you sow all the varieties of plants?", I said in complaining tone and forwarded the book to her. "I want this", I said, pointing at the picture given in the chapter. "Oh dear, this is a leaf from a Peepal Tree and people do not plant it inside the house. It grows up to 30 feet which is taller than your own house!", she exclaimed. I looked at her with an awe and wondered if I could ever be able to see this plant. "But yes, it is available outside the Mandir because people worship it". I was further enthralled to discover that the trees not only hold economic and environmental value but also have religious importance.



Instilled with a new hope, I asked my father to take me to the Temple. Though surprised, he drove me to the place in the evening. Just near the temple gate, stood the majestic tree with its glossy leaves tossing along the soft wind. Though occasionally, but I did visit the temple with my parents then how is it that I missed to take notice of this magnanimous plant before? I looked around to see if there was any other such tree around. As told by my mother, there was none as far as I could see.

Happily, I picked some of the fallen Peepal leaves and came back home satisfied and full of enthusiasm for my further probe.



Jiya Seth (Senior) GSSS, Jawahar Nagar Camp, Ludhiana

प्रफुल्लित वातावरण

एक बार की बात है कि १९६२ ई , मे एक गाँव में जगदीश नाम का व्यक्ति रहता था। उसकी पत्नी का नाम सिवता था और उसके पांच बेटे थे जो अभी छोटे थे।उसका एक बहुत बड़ा घर था और उसमें बगीचे भी थे।बगीचों में उसने कई तरह के फलो और सिब्जियों के पेड़-पौधे लगाए थे जिनकी वह बहुत अच्छी तरह से देखभाल करता था।फलों और सिब्जियों को बेच कर वह बहुत धन कमाता था। पेड़ पौधों के कारण उसके घर के आस- पास का वातावरण भी साफ सुथरा था और वह स्वस्थ जीवन व्यतीत करते थे। कुछ समय बाद उसने एक-एक करके अपने सभी बेटो की शादी कर दी। सभी बेटो के दो- दो बच्चे हुए जिस कारण उनके रहने के लिए जगह कम पड़ गई और उसने घर के पीछे वाले बगीचे की जगह रहने के लिए घर बना लिया।जिसके कारण व्यापार में कमी आने लगी और आमदनी

भी कम होने लग गई। पेड पौधे काटने के कारण घर के आसपास का वातावरण बिगड़ने लगा और उसकी सेहत भी अच्छी नहीं रही।जगदीश ने अपने पोते और पोतियो को बताया कि उसके बगीचे में फलो और सब्जियों के पेड़-पौधे थे जो उसने अपने हाथो से लगाए थे। उन्होंने जगदीश की बात सुनने के बाद कहा कि हमे भी वह बगीचे देखने है और उन्होने जगदीश को पेड पौधे दोबारा लगाने के लिए उत्साहित किया। उसने बगीचे के लिए जमीन खरीदी और पेड़ पौधे लगाने शुरू कर दिए । उसके घर के आसपास भी कुछ जगह खाली थी, वहां भी उसने फलो (आम, आडू, जामुन और अमरुद आदि) और सब्जियों (टमाटर, लहसुन, आदि) के पेड़ पौधे लगाए। वह और उसकी बेटे बगीचे की अच्छी तरह देख-भाल करने लगे और कुछ समय बाद फिर से धीरे धीरे उनका व्यापार घर से ही शुरू

होने लगा।जगदीश की पत्नी ने भी बकरी,गाय और भैंस पालन शुरू कर दिया और दूध बेचने लगी जिससे उनकी आमदनी और बढ़ने लगी। घर के आस-पास का वातावरण भी पहले जैसा साफ सुथरा रहने लगा और जगदीश के स्वास्थ्य में भी सुधार होने लगा।जगदीश ने अपने बच्चो और पोते पोतियो को समझाया की हमें अपनी जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए पेड़ पौधे नहीं काटने चाहिए बल्कि जरूरत पड़ने पर रहने के लिए बहुमंजला ईमारत बनानी चाहिए जिससे वातावरण भी प्रफुल्लित रहेगा।

शिक्षा: प्रफुल्लित वातावरण ही जीवन की असली आमदनी है।

Ankita Jha (Senior) DRV DAV Centenary School, Phillaur

Time Travel by Nature

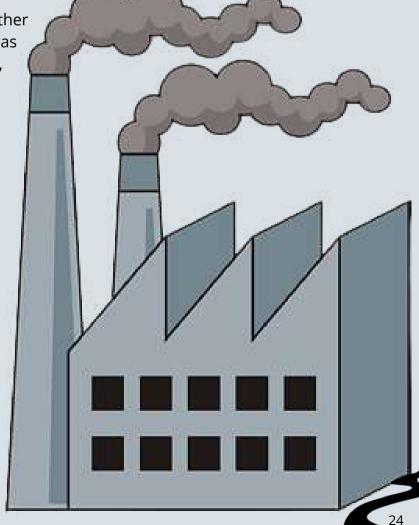
When Sapna opened her eyes, the breaking news of lockdown was being flashed on the television. The lockdown had started. Sapna was 8 years old. She lived with her grandfather who was a gardener. So her attraction towards the environment was natural. But this lockdown had snapped off her relationship with nature. She was very upset. She went to her courtyard and was roaming around and then what she saw was unbelievable.

Suddenly the whole courtyard was filled with fog. A strong beam of light appeared and a man wearing lot of jwellery entered her garden through a blackhole. She was totally shocked. She gathered some courage and asked "Who are you?" The man replied "My name is Yudhishter. I have come from the past with the help of kaalchakra. Sapna could not understand but she had watched some episodes of Mahabharata so she recognized him. She asked him for the reason of coming into the future. He told her that he had come there as he wanted to see the future earth. Sapna told him that she would help him in his mission.

They both went to the city. Yudhishter asked her about the black smoke and Sapna answered that it was coming from chimneys of the factories. Yudhishter was surprised. Then he asked about the flowing black water. Sapna told that the polluted black water was from the river Ganga. This made him very surprised and when he came to_know that people themselves are

responsible for polluting the river, he became upset. He told her that once mother Ganga was very pure and clean. Sapna was asked about the reasons which made air, water of Ganga and the land impure. Yudhishter told her that the unsatisfied





and greedy nature of human being is responsible for such a devastation. Sapna further asked for solutions to these problems. He told her all our solutions were derived from nature and at present are in nature. We only need to understand the importance of nature and take care of it. Sapna could not understand but suddenly the big black hole appeared again. Yudhishter said that he had to go now and he entered into that black hole and disappeared. Sapna heard her grandfather who was waking her. She opened her eyes and came to know that it was a dream. But when in the evening she heard that the vaccine for corona virus had been made with the help of medicinal plants found in Himalayas she understood the last wordings of Yudhishter. She decided that she would make every possible efforts for turning the earth a better place to live.

Priyal Arora (Senior) DRV DAV Centenary School, Phillaur

प्रकृति का सौंदर्य अनंत , हर समस्या का समाधान तुरंत

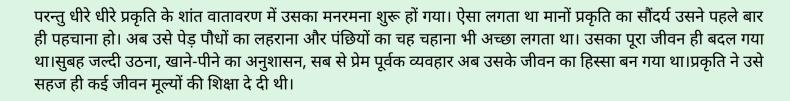
आदिकाल से ऋषि मुनि कई तरह के यज्ञ और तपस्या कर के वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान करते थे। प्राकृतिक जीवनशैली को अपनाकर अपनी हर समस्या का समाधान प्रकृति से ही ढूंढ लेते थे।यथार्थ रूप से हम प्रकृति से अपनी हर समस्या का समाधान पा सकते है। प्रकृति मानव जगत के लिए पूरी तरह से समर्पित है।यद्यपि प्रकृति को शब्दों या कहानी में बांधना प्रकृति के परोक्ष है, तथापि सभी के समक्ष प्रकृति के उत्कर्ष का एक उदहारण प्रस्तुत है।

यह कहानी है दिव्यांश नाम के एक व्यक्ति की। दिव्यांश एक अच्छी नौकरी के पद पर नियुक्त था परन्तु उसका स्वभाव इतना चिड़चिड़ा था की लोग उसको देखते ही काना फूसी करने लगते थे। खानपान की गलत आदतों की वजह से उसका पेट भी उसके शरीर को बेडौल बनाये हुए था उसके पीछे से कोई उसे मोटांश और कोई पेतांश कहता था। मोहल्ले में भी छोटी-छोटी बात पर लड़ना और ऊंची आवाज में बोलना उसके स्वभाव में शामिल था।

नौकरी से भी कई बार उसे अल्टीमेटम मिल चुका था, लेकिन दिव्यांश पर कोई असर ही ना होता था।घर में शाम को स्पीकर चलाता

तो मानों घर में कोई शादी हों।कोई रोकने आता तो उसके गले पड़ जाता। सबको डरा धमकाकर चुप करवा देता।इतना ही नहीं उसने अपने घर के सारे पेड़ पौधे कटवा दिए क्योंकि उसको लगता था कि पत्तों से सारा दिन घर में गंदगी फैलती है और पिक्षयों का शोर होता रहता है। उसने अपने घर को एक बंद डिब्बा सा बना लिया था।गली मोहल्ले में बच्चों को भी खेलने नहीं देता था।सब लोग उससे बहुत परेशान थे।

एक दिन अचानक उसे लगा की उसके कानों में कोई समस्या आ गई है।वह डॉक्टर के पास गया।वहां भी वह आदतन डॉक्टर साहब के साथ ऊंची आवाज में ही बात करता रहा और बाकी आए मरीजों के साथ भी गलत व्यवहार करता रहा । डॉक्टर ने उसको जांचा लेकिन डॉक्टर को ऐसी कोई बीमारी वाली बात नहीं लगी। उन्होंने कहा कि दिव्यांश तुम्हे दवाई की नहीं अपितु विटामिन 'एन' अर्थात प्रकृति स्नान की आवश्यकता है। वह घर आया तब उसके पिताजी अक्सर उसे समझाते रहते थे। उन्होंने उसे एक प्राकृतिक केंद्र में जाने का परामर्श दिया।वह वहां अनमने मन से गया।पहले पहल तो उसे विपरीत वातावरण में कुछ भी अच्छा नहीं लगा।



जब वह घर लौटा तो सचमुच अपने नाम के अनुरूप दिव्यांश बनकर लौटा। इस नए रूप में जब वह अपने ऑफिस गया तो वहां दोस्तों के साथ उसने अपने अनुभव बांटे और सबको अपना शुभचिंतक बना लिया।वही दिव्यांश अब सब लोगों के लिए एक मिसाल के साथ प्रेरणा का स्त्रोत बन चुका था।

प्रकृति ने अपने रंग में उसे रंग लिया था। सचमुच प्रकृति अपने सब तत्वों से हमें अनुशासन, सहनशीलता, आदि मूल्य सिखाती है।

Manmeet Kaur (Senior) DRV DAV Centenary School, Phillaur

हमारी मुश्किलों का समाधान हमें हमारी प्रकृति से ही मिलता है।यह कथन सर्वथा सत्य है।क्योंकि हम उस प्रकृति की ही संतान है। यह एक संवेदनशील तथ्य है जिसकी महत्वपूर्णता, उसके साथ सानिध्य कितना सुखद, समृद्ध और विकसित होता है, इसे एक कहानी के माध्यम से अपनी नयी पीढ़ी को समझाने का एक प्रयास......।

राहुल एक ऐसा भद्र पुरुष बन चुका था जिसने धनी और संपन्न परिवार में जन्म लिया था। जिसकी शिक्षा – दीक्षा विदेश में हुई थी। जो खुले विचारों का था।जिसे आसमान में खुले आकाश में उड़ना पसंद था।उसे अपना नाम और शोहरत ऐसा चाहिए था जैसा संसार में किसी और के पास ना हो।उसे वह हर कीमत पर हासिल करना चाहता था।इसलिए उसने निर्णय लिया कि कुछ भी हो जाए वह अपनी मंजिल हासिल करके ही रहेगा।

उसके वंशजो का भारत में बहुत ही सुन्दर और संपन्न वनो का व्यापार था।जब वह भारत लौटा तो उसने निर्णय लिया अपनी वह इन जंगलो को काट कर उस पर तकनीकी तहलका मचाकर विश्व को अपनी मुट्ठी में कर लेगा। इसके लिए उसने सभी जंगलो से प्राप्त होने वाली फलो, लकड़ियों, खनिज पदार्थों आदि का व्यापर बंद करके उसके स्थान पर अपनी इच्छाओ के महल खड़े करने का पक्का इरादा कर लिया। देखते –देखते उन सब जंगलो,

सुन्दर वनो ,चहचहाते पंछियों की आवाजों वाले सुरमय स्थान की जगह तकनीकी पिशाच ने ले ली। वहां पर तरह तरह की इमारतें, मॉल, सिनेमा हॉल ,

रेस्तरां बन गए।वह सुन्दर एवं शांत वन यहां पंछी चहचहाया करते थे, अब वहां पर केवल गाड़ियों के हॉर्न सुनाई देते है।वहां के शुद्ध वायु का स्थान प्रदूषण ले चुका है।वहां पर हर प्रकार का प्रदूषण है। हर कार्य मशीनों के के माध्यम से ही किया जाता है। मनुष्य तो जैसे कार्य करना ही भूल गए है।धीरे-धीरे काफी लोग बीमार भी पडने लगे है।अरे भाई!

ऐसा तो होना ही था जहाँ पर पर्यावरण के साथ खिलवाड़ हो वहां कोई कैसे

सुखी रह पायेगा ?

किन्तु राहुल बहुत खुश था क्योंकि वह अपने मंजिल को प्राप्त कर चुका था। उसे कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ता था कि उसके इस कृत्य से कई पशु – पक्षी बेघर हो गए है और अब तो वहां रहने वाले मनुष्यों के जान को भी खतरा है। राहुल खुश था पर दिन-ब-दिन वह भी कमजोर होता गया।एक दिन उसे अचानक सांस लेने में तकलीफ होने लगी और वह बेहोश हो गया।उसे डॉक्टर के पास ले जाया गया तो डॉक्टर ने बताया कि उसे एक बहुत ही गंभीर श्वास रोग हो गया है जिसका इलाज केवल आयुर्वेद के पास ही है और उसे अपने आपको इससे बचाने के लिए शुद्ध वायु में जाकर रहना होगा।इसका कारण खान-पान की गलत आदतें और उसका दूषित हवा में सांस लेना है। यह सुनकर राहुल बहुत हैरान हुआ। उसे लगने लगा कि उसके सपनो ने ही उसे इस कगार पर लाकर खड़ा कर दिया है किन्तु ऐसा नहीं है इस सबका करना राहुल कि वह गलती है जो उसने प्रकृति के साथ खिलवाड़ करके की है।किन्तु अब राहुल को प्रकृति ही बचाने वाली थी।

इस कहानी से हमें सीख मिलती है कि पर्यावरण में ही हमारी सभी समस्याओं का समाधान है। इसलिए यह आवश्यक है कि हम पर्यावरण के साथ खिलवाड़ ना करके अपना और दूसरो का जीवन बचाए।

Agrima (Junior) The Christ King Convent School, Kapurthala

"Why are you so stubborn, you never listen to what I say!!"

"Fine I'll just leave!" I say as I run out from the door. I don't get why mom never understands me. Its as though she doesn't want to acknowledge my feelings....

I'm running and running, without a thought. My mind is clouded. This isn't for the first time that we're fighting. But now I can't bear this anymore, it disturbs my mental peace.

I keep on running until I reach the river bed. I can barely see anything, my eyes are still teary. I sit down on the damp earth and cry my heart out. No one can see or hear me here.

About half an hour later, I get up and headed towards the hill nearby. There are a couple of hours for the sunset so I have plenty of time to think about where I'll be spending my night. I'm certainly not going back home though.

I am climbing up the hill until I'm at the very top. The wind is brushing through my hair. Everything looks so beautiful from up here.

My mind starts clearing up. I'm no more sobbing. I sit on the edge, absorbing all the good vibes in. I look down. I can see houses at a distance. The river is glistening in a silvery hue. Far away I can see the mountains, covered in a white sheet, standing tall. The sun is dipping in the horizon. I lay down, seeing the yellow and red light filling the sky. I finally feel like my mind has calmed down.

My joy knows no boundaries when I hear a ruffling sound and sit bold upright. I get alert all of a sudden. I get up, looking for the source of sound. Suddenly a fawn runs out from the bushes nearby. I sit back and relax, its common here. I look back to see where it is going. There's another deer, seems to be the fawn's mother. The fawn runs towards the mother deer and the mother deer licks its face. I chuckle.

I'm reminded of mother suddenly. No matter how much I scoff at her, no matter how much I think she never understands me, at the end of the day it is only she who is by my side.

I again feel tears in my eyes. My behavior was wrong. I shouldn't have run away from her. She must be worried. Now that I'm back to my senses, I head back. I move down the hill, breathing in the air. The air, it feels like a warm bath, refreshing. I reach the river, wash my face and start walking towards the gate. I'm almost there when I stop. I take a look at back and smile.

"Thank you" I say in the air. I'm glad I ran all the way to the river, although it was childish of

me to run away from home. But now I'm finally at peace. I feel like a bird set free. I leave the woods, smiling. I breathe heavily before opening the door. I walk in, announcing my arrival in a low voice "mom, I'm home". My mom comes running towards me and hugs me tightly. "Oh my child! Where were you?! I was so worried about you sweetheart!" "I'm sorry, mom" I said, tearing up. "My child", she says before a flood of tears washes her voice away. As I get in bed that night, I reflect on the day's events. I smile to myself remembering that mesmerizing view, that fawn and its mother, if it wasn't for that sight I don't think I'd have had enough sense to come back.

I guess OUR SOLUTIONS REALLY ARE IN NATURE. I look out of the window, at the stars and the moon. I smile and close my eyes as I get lost into the world of dreams.





Pari Singh (Junior) St. Joseph Convent School, Jalandhar

Once upon a time there was a boy named Ryan. He was a very naughty boy and so were his friends. He did not care about the nature that how important it was. He along with his friends used to destroy trees, disturb animals and pollute environment by all means. His parents used to tell him that nature is very important for survival but he never listened. He just did what he enjoyed. He did not know that he will have to bear its consequences in the future. His parents wanted to teach him a lesson and make him understand the importance of nature. His parents also included their neighbours in their plan. As Ryan loved to watch movies, they decided to explain him virtually rather than any boring lecture. In this way, his parents also played very smart. They made a setup of their plan in a big hall. They wanted to show the future which would be all polluted and dusty. So they prepared the hall in that way. The neighbours were to play the character of the people from future. So in ten to fifteen days, they were ready with the show. The next day they took Ryan with them and told him that there was a surprise for him. Ryan was clueless about what was happening. After they reached the location, they sat on the chairs laid for them in the hall. They told Ryan that there was a very interesting program organized for him. Ryan was excited. As the play started, it depicted the dirty future of humans. There were no trees, no animals and no greenery around but only and only pollution and smoke. The people were carrying oxygen cylinders with them as it was necessary to stay alive. The shopkeepers were selling the oxygen cylinders in huge numbers. Ryan was shocked to see this. He was feeling very sad and tears came in his eyes. As the program finished, Ryan had a regret in his mind. He was very scared. His parents then explained him that it was exactly what is going to happen in the future if people like him will not care about the nature and keep on destroying it. Ryan now understood everything. He apologized to his parents and to God. From then onwards, he planted one tree everyday and took care of the nature as well as the animals around. He also told this to his friends. His parents now were both proud and happy as they were successful in their plan.

Moral - Take care of the nature. Do not take it for granted and always remember that our solutions are in nature.



Namya Malhotra (Junior) St. Joseph Convent School, Jalandhar

Long time ago there was a delightful, charming, alluring and mesmerising kingdom which was full of elegant surprises- the 'Rainbow Kingdom'. The sky was bright pink in appearance, there always appeared a very cheerful, vibrant and colourful rainbow in the sky. The rainbow was accompanied by stars at night too. The trees bore candies and chocolates instead of fruits. The stones were in shape of colourful doughnuts which were edible. There flowed a stream of rich melted chocolate. The fountains sprinkled gold, diamond and platinum. In place of water there were showers of white lotus from the sky. The flowers of marshmallows blossomed everywhere on which blue butterflies fluttered. This wonderful kingdom was ruled by King Harvey. He was very self-seeking, greedy and egotistical. He wanted to be the master of a very huge empire. Despite being the emperor of a huge empire he was not at all satisfied. He was always in search of more and more. He always fought with the adjoining kingdom.

He had heard about the beauty and majesty of the Indigo Kingdom. The Indigo Kingdom was divided into three parts - the royal castle, the fairy forest and the village. It was also no less than a heaven but was not as beautiful as Rainbow kingdom. King Harvey had made his mind to fight against king Jefferson, the emperor of the Indigo Kingdom. They fought and King Jefferson was defeated by King Harvey. The fairy forest was the most powerful thing in the Indigo Kingdom. The forest was strewn with beautiful flowers that looked like stars. The forest was full of peach trees which blossomed into beautiful white and pink flowers and bore golden and the sweetest fruits. The fairies lived in that forest with pleasure, delight and peace. The forest was spread over a huge land. The fairy forest was magical and humans could get anything they wished for but only at one condition that the person's whose wish would be completed should not be greedy. The greediness of King Harvey lead him to that forest he ate one fruit but he was not able to fulfill his wish. He got very angry and ordered his men to kill all the fairies and clear the forest.



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The fairies were caught and put into prison. That night when the king was soundly asleep, a soul appeared in his dream. It was soul of the forest. It reminded him of selfless service of nature. The forest soul began, "Since the origin of the Earth, nature has always provided its selfless service to man. Nature is your creator. We never ask you anything except love. We give the solutions to your problems, we provide you with food, water, shelter and in return you only harm us. What we have done....what's our fault? We are the solution to your each and every problem. We are only the reason of your existence. We are like your parents. Please don't cut the trees and kill my precious fairies". It said a few more things and then disappeared. The King woke up and realized his mistake. He released the fairies, gave King Jefferson back his Indigo Kingdom and continued to rule his Rainbow Empire.



Richal (Junior) St. Joseph Convent School, Jalandhar

Rahul, a cute boy with chubby cheeks, large black eyes and a round face looked very smart. He was standing in front of mirror getting ready. "Rahul, come fast we are getting late", said his father softly. "Father, I am coming," said Rahul, coming down from stairs. Then, the whole family sat in the car. His father started the car and took it out on the main road. "Please drive fast, father. I am getting bored," complained Rahul. "My dear, I can't drive fast as it is breaking the traffic rules. Moreover, these rules are for our safety," said his father wisely. Then they reached a mall. His father parked the car in parking zone and went inside the mall with his family. The first section was of furniture. Rahul saw a beautiful sofa set made up of wood. He complimented, "Father! Father! See what a beautiful sofa set. I have an idea. I will make my house of wood." "But from where you will get the wood?" said his father surprisingly. "I will get wood by cutting millions of trees," said Rahul lost in his thoughts. "Rahul, that's not good. We should not cut trees as trees are very useful." "Father, nature is not useful. Stop caring about NATURE," said Rahul interrupting his father. Then they stopped their discussion and bought other things and went back home. Rahul straight away went to his room and started planning about his dream house. "Rahul come and eat your dinner. Its too late," called his mother. He came and ate his supper and went to sleep. In his dreams, he saw his dream house made up of wood; his friends tearing pages, cutting trees, throwing flowers on each other. Rahul also joined them. He tore as many pages as he could, he picked the axe and cut the trees and then, enjoyed the flower party in which he and his friends threw flowers on each other. Then, they saw that there is no tree, no flower. Later, he and his friends went in his dream house and sit under the air conditioner. Suddenly, the power went off. All became very sad. Then, they went outside. No wind was blowing. They saw butterflies, insects and birds coming to them and crying for food and shelter. They felt sad, ashamed and realized their mistake. Then, they had problem in breathing. One of his friend brought oxygen cylinder. After sometime, the cylinders were finished, so, Rahul and his friends started shouting and crying. Rahul shouted for help. Then, his parents entered his room and woke him up and asked his problem. "Father you were right. Nature is important to us. We should care for nature. Nature gives us many things. The solution to our problems are given by nature," said Rahul. His father was too happy to hear this. He happily said, "Yes Rahul! Yes! You are right."



Harshita Bhagat (Junior) St. Joseph Convent School, Jalandhar

एक समय की बात है राजौरी नाम के गाँव में रामू नाम का एक युवक रहता था।वह बहुत गरीब था, लेकिन ईमानदार था।वह एक छोटी सी झोपडी में अपने माता-पिता, पत्नी और बच्चों के साथ रहता था।वह टोपियाँ बेचता था।उससे जो भी आमदनी होती. उसी से उनका घर चलता था।एक दिन उसकी पत्नी उसे आकर बोली, "अजी सुनते हो, आप ये कब तक टोपियाँ बेचते रहोगे। इससे हमारा गुज़ारा नहीं हो पाता।आप कोई अच्छी सी नौकरी ढूँढिये। " रामू ने अपनी पत्नी की कही बात पर थोड़ा विचार किया और अगले दिन नौकरी की खोज में चल पड़ा।बहुत गरीब होने के कारण उनके पास कोई वाहन नहीं था। इसलिए रामू ने अपनी यात्रा पैदल ही आरंभ करने की सोची।थोड़ी देर पैदल चलने के बाद वह बहुत थक गया और आराम करने का सोचा।उसे सामने एक बहुत बड़ा और घना पेड़ दिखा।उसने उस पेड़ के नीचे आराम किया।थोड़ी देर आराम करने के बाद उसे एक कोयल की मध्र आवाज सुनाई दी।उसने कुछ देर कोयल की मीठी वाणी को सुना और अपने –आपको तरो ताजा महसूस किया।उसने फिर स्फूर्ति से अपनी यात्रा आरंभ की।आगे चलकर उसे एक लोहे का काम करने वाले की दुकान मिली।उस दुकान का मालिक बहुत कठोर और निर्दयी था।जब रामू उसके पास काम मांगने गया तो दुकान के मालिक ने उसे कहा ," ऐसा लगता है की तुमने कभी नौकरी नहीं की।तुम मेरे क्या काम आओगे।तुरंत निकल जाओ मेरी दुकान से।" रामू को क्रोध तो आया पर वह कह भी क्या सकता था। वह निराश होकर द्कान से निकला और आगे चल पडा।थोडा आगे चलकर उसे भुख लग गई।उसे एक पेड दिखा जिस पर आम लगे हुए थे।उसने जाकर उन आमों को तोड़ना चाहा परन्तु वह बहुत ऊँचे होने के कारण वह असफल रहा।उसी पेड़ के पास कुछ पत्थर पड़े थे।उसने पत्थर उठाया और आम की ओर फेंका।पहली बार वह असफल रहा परन्तु दूसरी बार मारने पर आम टूट कर नीचे आ गिरा।उसने आमों का आनंद लिया।वह आम बहुत रसीले और मीठे थे।उसने इतने स्वादिष्ट आम कभी नहीं खाए थे।उसने सोचा कि वह कुछ आम अपने परिवार के लिए घर जाते समय ले जाएगा।आम खाते खाते उसे सामने एक आम बेचने वाले की दुकान दिखी।उस दुकान के बाहर एक बोर्ड लगा था जिसपर लिखा था – रसीले आम-५०/-किलो; अम्बियां-३०/-किलो; आम काआचार -४०/- किलो।जैसे ही रामू ने यह पढ़ा,उसने निर्णय कर लिया कि वह आम बेचने का कारोबार शुरू करेगा।वह बहुत प्रसन्न हुआ और कुछ आम तोड़कर तुरंत अपने घर कि ओर चल पड़ा।रास्ते में उसे अपना मित्र, शीतल मिला।जब रामू शीतल को आम का कारोबार करने की बात सुनाई तो वह बहुत खुश हुआ और उसका मनोबल बढ़ाया और उसे प्रोत्साहित किया।शीतल ने रामू को काम की शुरुआत करने के लिए आर्थिक तौर से मदद की।उसने रामू को कुछ पैसे दिए।उसके बदले में रामू ने उसे कुछ

रसीले आम दिए दोनों बहुत खुश हुए और अपने घर घर पहुंच कर जब रामू ने अपने परिवार को उसके फैसले के बारे में बताया तो सभी ने उसके फैंसले का मान रखा और उसका साथ दिया।सभी ने रामू को गले लगाया बधाइयाँ दी।रामू के उनको मीठे आम खिलाए। सभी आम खाकर बहुत प्रसन्न हुए।इस तरह रामू ने सिर पर टोकरी उठाए आम बेचने शुरू कर दिए।इस कारोबार में उसे बहुत मुनाफा हुआ और उसने एक दुकान खरीद ली।अब उसके घर की हालत भी ठीक हो गई थी।इस तरह एक आम के पेड़ के नीचे बैठे एक विचार ने उसकी जिंदगी बदल दी।बाद में वे खुशी खुशी रहने लग गए।

शिक्षा- हमें अपने हल प्रकृति में ही मिल जाते है और प्रकृति हमें जीवन जीने की कला सिखाती है।



