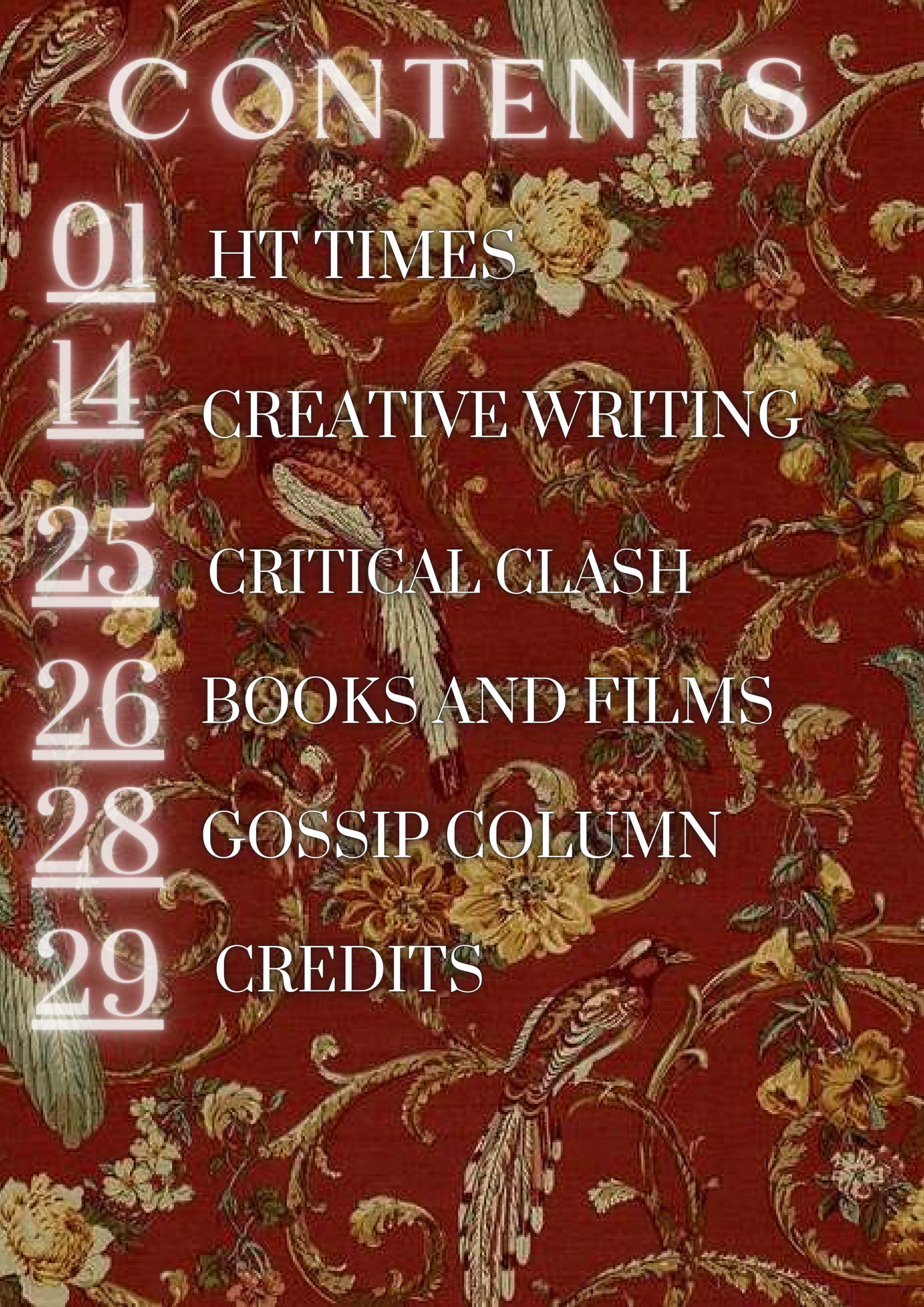


BENEATH THE PURPLE ROOF

OCTOBER 2023 - FEBRUARY 2024



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FOREWORD

From the Editor's desk

Dear Readers,

It delights me to address you in my first publication as Editor-in-Chief. I am sure that I have been able to encompass an interesting yet informative newsletter for you. I thank the entire Edboard team for their hard work and Sonia ma'am for her constant support. I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I enjoyed editing it! I wish the entire senior school luck, for their upcoming examinations!

Happy Reading!

Aneesha.

From the Teacher Editor

Dear Readers,

This issue of BTPR comes to you after a long wait. The delay was circumstantial. But now we are ready with the updates on the events that have taken place at school from October 2023 to February 2024. The amazing exhibitions, the enthralling performances, the exquisite artwork, the excelling on the fields and the relaxing Winter Break, we have not fallen short on anything!

Presenting to you this edition of the BTPR surely leaves us contented.

Mrs. Sonia Singh

HOD English & Teacher Editor

HT TIMES

*AN INSIDE SCOOP UP OF ALL THAT'S BEEN GOING ON
AT HOPETOWN.*

INTER SCHOOL HINDI ELOCUTION

Middle School students organized an Inter-School Hindi Elocution Competition, 2023. The schools that participated were: Wynberg Allen School, Welham Girls' School, Shri Ram Centennial School and Kasiga. Srimati Shakunthala Jagrani and Mrs. Nootan Chaturvedi judged the competition. The competition had three segments: Grade 7 students presented a group poem, Grade 8 students delivered solo pieces, and there was a stand-up comedy performance. Wynberg Allen School emerged as the overall winner



INTER SCHOOL FOOTBALL



From the 16th to the 19th of August, the under-18 girls' football team of Hopetown participated in the CISCE regional tournament held in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, where teams from Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh competed. The event highlighted remarkable sportsmanship and skill. Our journey included an exciting semi-final win and a tough final match, leading to our well-deserved Bronze medal. 6 of our girls have made it to the National Football Championship to be held at Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

On the 4th of September, our students chose some interesting portfolios of controversial personalities and debated on the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019, emulating the Indian Parliament. The debate was mind-boggling as each delegate presented surprising points and information. All were amazed by their mimicry skills and accurate portrayal of the Indian Parliament. Overall, it was a enlightening and knowledgeable experience that helped us better understand the agenda. The best speakers, Mannat Dhall and Shreya Sharma, were awarded for their exceptional performances.



FILM MAKING WORKSHOP



From the 13th to 15th of August, Hopetown conducted the Film Making Workshop for Senior school students. Mr. Rahul Pande, the resource person, discussed filmmaking, the basic camera angles, lenses, types of shots and axis. The demonstration and activity helped students understand the theory and practice behind the shoot. At the end of the session, the students decided on a topic for a short film, discussed their ideas and shot a film.

JANMASHTHAMI

Every year, on the auspicious day of Janmashthami, the young students of Hopetown come together to celebrate and honor Lord Krishna. The air is filled with the melodious tunes of Bhajans and prayers sung by the students in praise of the deity. This year, the cute and adorable dance performed by Grade 6 students brought smiles on everyone's faces. As the event came to an end, an Aarti was performed, and the divine aura became even more prominent. The prasad, consisting of the mouth watering Boondi, was distributed, marking the culmination of a day filled with devotion and celebration.



SHRAMDAAN

Shraamdaan, a voluntary contribution of labor, is held annually on the 2nd of October to honor the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. It is a day for the Hopetown community to come together and commemorate the values of selfless service and sacrifice that Gandhiji stood for. On this day, the senior students of Grade 12 take the lead in serving lunch to the entire Hopetown community. This event serves as a platform for the students to contribute to society and instills in them a sense of responsibility towards the community at large.



PARASAILING

On the 5th of October, Hopetown, witnessed a memorable parasailing activity organized by Squadron Leader Kaushik. The event was a thrilling experience for all the participants as they got a chance to soar above the picturesque landscapes and feel the rush of adrenaline in the air. The exquisite beauty of the forest beyond the school walls was breath-taking, and in the distance, clusters of buildings brought in the urban view. Even after landing, a sense of light-headedness persisted in the participants as if air had been poured into their very bones!!



FOUNDER'S

This year Founder's Day was celebrated on the 15th of October, 2023. The day began with the PTM. A fete was organized in the Sports Field where all enjoyed a delicious lunch. This year we also had several stalls coming to our school such as the Silent Bakery, the Silent Stitch, project Urkund and several others after which everybody proceeded to view the exhibitions. The Photography Exhibition, the Art Exhibition, the Robotics Fair and the Department Exhibitions were thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all. In the evening, the Cultural Program 'Utsav' mesmerized the audience.





DUSSEHRA

On the 24th of October, the Country Garden at Hopetown came alive with a bonfire celebration for Dussehra. To make the event more memorable, the French Exchange students from the Doon School also joined us. The festival commemorates the victory of good over evil. Asmi narrated a fragment of the great epic in French to educate our French friends, who were visiting our school, about the story of Ramayana. Our talented Odissi dancers performed an Odissi dance depicting the story of Sita-Haran and Lord Ram's triumph over Ravana. This year, we all pledged to sacrifice one of our bad traits in front of the auspicious Bonfire. We then relished an excellent soup and danced enthusiastically with our fantastic French friends from Lille.



ENGLISH ELOCUTION

Grade 6 amazed their audience with their impressive poetry recitals, both as individuals and in groups. The students exhibited excellent coordination and voice modulation to deliver their emotional performances. The final piece, I Met my Teacher on a Saturday, had the Foyer roaring with laughter. Overall, the English Elocution was a truly remarkable showcase of the students' recitation abilities.





FRENCH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

12 students from France, Lycee Ozanam visit Hopetown Girls' School.

As Stephen R Cowley rightly said, "Strength lies in differences and not in similarities".

From the 21st to the 31st of October, Hopetown Girls' School and the Doon School collaborated to organize a French Exchange Program with the students of Ozanam School in Lille, France. It is a brilliant tactic to introduce a new culture and experience a different country and its people. When 12 girls and 2 teachers from Ozanam School arrived at Hopetown, they were exposed to new traditions and beliefs. They learned a variety of skills such as Craft, Pottery, Cooking, Sports, Music and more. Our French friends were taken to various destinations in Dehradun such as Mussoorie, a Buddhist monastery, Rishikesh where they observed the Ganga Aarti and a few other locations around the city. They were delighted to see the vibrance of customs, practices, rituals and beliefs here. On campus they indulged in different Indian forms of Dance, learned Hindi, sang Indian Classical songs, and tried Athletics, Yoga and Basketball. They attended our Independence Day and Dusshera celebrations and the Ashtami Havan. While experiencing the array of occasions and events that took place, they faced challenges too, such as, eating our cuisine and understanding our culture. However, they did not mind our spices and relished the array of masalas, dance forms and hot sultry weather! Most importantly they made friends with our girls and exchanged their own values and traditions with us. An exchange such as this taught us to accept, respect and understand that differences are to be celebrated because it is only differences that make us value our similarities. Their trip ended with a trip to Agra.



DISTRICT ATHLETICS

On the 4 and 5th of November, Hopetown participated in the District Athletics Meet. They won 9 Gold medals, 6 Silver medals and 4 Bronze medals. The overall Runners-up Athletics and the March past Trophies and also the Under-16 Overall Championship were awarded to Hopetown Girls' School.

Navya Vohra won the Trophy for Best Athlete in under 18 category.



CHILDREN'S DAY

On the morning of November 14, Hopetown Girls were all filled with excitement as they boarded the buses and headed to L.P. Villas. Upon arrival, they were greeted with a delightful outdoor breakfast, offering a wide variety of delicious food options- from Chocolate Pudding to Chole Batture. After enjoying a satisfying meal, they arrived at school to be greeted with the cheerful sounds of their teachers as they welcomed them. Under the Purple Roof they sat captivated by the amazing performances, which began with a humorous commentary and proceeded with a song, rib-tickling poetry by Chand ma'am, a glamorous fashion show, awesome dance and a hilarious skit, all put up by our beloved teachers. The joyous atmosphere was contagious, spreading throughout the foyer and inspiring everyone to embrace the simple pleasure of being young. Following the heart warming performances, we witnessed an intense basketball game between teachers and students, where the students emerged victorious and received prizes for their achievements. Finally, a dance party lifted everyone's spirits and took away any worries of the days to come.







INVESTITURE

THE NEW COUNCIL

School Captain - Rhea Radhika Sarin
 Discipline Captain - Ahana Puri
 Sports Captain - Aafia Fatima
 Cultural Captain - Kashvi Agarwal
 Mess Captains - Ananaya Jindal and Bazilah Khalid
 Emerald House Captain - Jigisha Sachdeva
 Sapphire House Captain - Sanchi Bhatia
 Ruby House Captain - Tisya Grover
 Diamond House Captain - Kayra Keyal
 IAYP Captain - Anoop Kaur Sekhon
 Environmental Captain - Hunar Agrawal
 Art Captain - Anushka Agarwal
 Global Affairs Captain - Sarah Hussain
 Photography Captain - Jigisha Sachdeva
 Service Captain - Saima Mansoorie Khan
 IT Captain - Ahana Puri
 Editor-in-chief - Aneesha De
 Athletics Captain - Navya Vohra
 Swimming Captain - Prachi Bhansali
 Badminton Captain - Anoop Kaur
 Basketball Captain - Aashna Kalra





HUMANE INTERNATIONAL [GEP]

On the 25th of November, Humane International paid a visit to Hopetown Girls' School to educate about the effect of slaughtering animals for food. Mrs. Nayanika Gogoi and Mr. Siddhart made everyone present aware of the treatment meted out to domestic animals for their commercial use and how in the rearing process, a large volume of greenhouse gases are generated, which in turn influences climate change. Everyone realized the value of the meat on their plate and how essential it is for one to consciously appreciate their food and at the same time be conscious of the environment around them.



PSYCHOLOGY WORKSHOP

On the 25th and 26th of November, Dr. Navin Kumar, a professor of Psychology from Delhi University visited Hopetown to bring out the reality of the impact of AI technology on our lives today. He talked to students regarding the adverse effects of social media and how it impacts the well-being of teenagers and young adults.



IH BADMINTON (MIDDLE SCHOOL)



On the 27th of November, the school witnessed the Middle School Inter-House Badminton Competition. It was a nerve-wracking experience for the viewers, as the girls played the rounds enthusiastically. After a challenging Competition, the matches ended with a tie between Emerald House and Ruby House.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

On the 14th of December, Christmas was celebrated enthusiastically at our school, before the school closed for Winter Holidays. The celebration began with the story of Christmas and the meaning of the word 'CHRISTMAS' being narrated to make the girls aware of the reason for celebrating Christmas. The foyer lit up with various performances that covered melodious and cheerful Christmas carols, a hilarious Christmas play featuring the 'Avengers' and an enthusiastic dance performance. However, the event came to an end with all the students crowding Santa Claus excitedly collecting candies showered on them.



THE FRENCH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

12 students from Hopetown Girls' School visit Lycee Ozanam in France.

From 30th November'23 to 13th December'23, 12 students from classes VII, VIII & IX experienced the exquisite French culture when they visited France. The integration of the students in French life was completed by their stay in the French host families, whereby they were privileged to get acquainted with the French culture, tradition, etiquette and cuisines. The students were fortunate to attend a French School and get valuable guidance from an expert Language Trainer. During the classes, special attention was paid to the reading, writing, and speaking skills. The students visited Historical monuments that helped them to learn about the History of France. The highlights of the trip were the visit to the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Seine River on the Bateaux Mouche, a tour of the Versailles Castle and its world-famous gardens. The visit to Disneyland enthused the students and they enjoyed the thrilling rides. Special attractions was visit to the Amusement Park, the Louvre Museum and the Montmartre Artists' Locality. Lastly, a visit to the Beaux-Arts Museum and a visit to the biggest and most reputed shopping arcade in Paris – the Galleries Lafayette left the students awestruck. The 12-day stay in the heart of France helped the students savor the rich cultural heritage and modern lifestyle of France. The memories of the trip will always remain in their hearts and will be cherished forever....



STAFF INSET

The Staff of Hopetown Girls' School attended the following Workshops from the 28th of to the 30th of January'24, before the school reopened after the Winter Break:

- 1.Principles of Collaboration conducted by Ms.Rajani Nair.
- 2.Comprehensive Sexuality Education conducted by Ms.Lavanya Singh.
- 3.Chat GPT conducted by Ms.Shivani Pradhan and Ms.Shobhna Anand.



INDIAN ART FAIR



As Joseph Chilton Pearce rightly said, “To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong.”

On the 3rd and the 4th of February, Grade 9 and 11 Art students attended the Art Fair in Delhi. They had the chance to witness one of Asia's biggest and most diverse Art Fairs where they explored several artists amongst 108 exhibitors, including 72 Galleries and Art Institutions. They had a chance to meet eminent Artists and also speak with artist V.Ramesh who gave them an insight into his techniques of painting. The girls were delighted to see the BMW installation which reflected colorful lights representing the themes of ‘Forwardism’ and ‘Through the Looking Glass’ by Shashikant Thavudoz.

On the 4th of February, the girls visited the National Gallery of Modern Art where they witnessed the stunning works of several Indian artists such as Nandalal Bose, Amrita Shergil, Rabindranath Tagore, M.F. Pithiwalla, Raja Ravi Varma, Hemen Majumdar and several others. Exceptionally stunning was the sculpture of the ‘Triumph of Labour’ by artist D.P. Roy Chowdhury.

IIMUN WORKSHOP

On the 7th of February, Mr. Gaurav Arora conducted a workshop at school that was organized by Public Speaking Club. The aim of the workshop was to provide the audience with a better understanding of the MUN procedures and expose the participants to a diverse range of perspectives, cultures, and viewpoints. The interactive session was both engaging and informative and left the audience with food for thought and genres they had never explored before. The workshop played a vital role in encouraging student involvement in global issues and encouraged them to broaden their horizons by participating in upcoming competitions.



FROM PAGE TO STAGE



From Page To Stage, a solely Middle School-organized Inter School event was held on the 8th of February. The Schools that participated in various Competitions were: Kasiga, Unison World School, Doon International School Riverside, Selaqui International School, Mondrian High School and Oasis. Following 7 Competitions were conducted and judged by:

‘Unplugged’ judged by-Mr.Divakar Ganguly and Mr. Deepak Thapa
‘Le Art de Pondre’ judged by- Mr.Indrajit Roy, Ms.Sarita Uniyal and Mr.Suresh Das

‘Disney with a Twist’ judged by-Mr.Mahaveer Singh and Ms. Shobhna Anand

‘Lipan Art’ judged by- Ms. Asmita Dhyani and Ms.Rekha Tomar

‘Drama’ judged by- Mr.Srinjoy Ghosh and Ms.Maya Narula

‘Slam Poetry’ judged by- Ms. Sonia Singh and Ms. Megha V. Jaiswal

‘Choreography’ judged by- Ms. Sadhna Lenka and Ms. Mona Shukla

After a tough competition, Unison World School emerged as the overall winner.

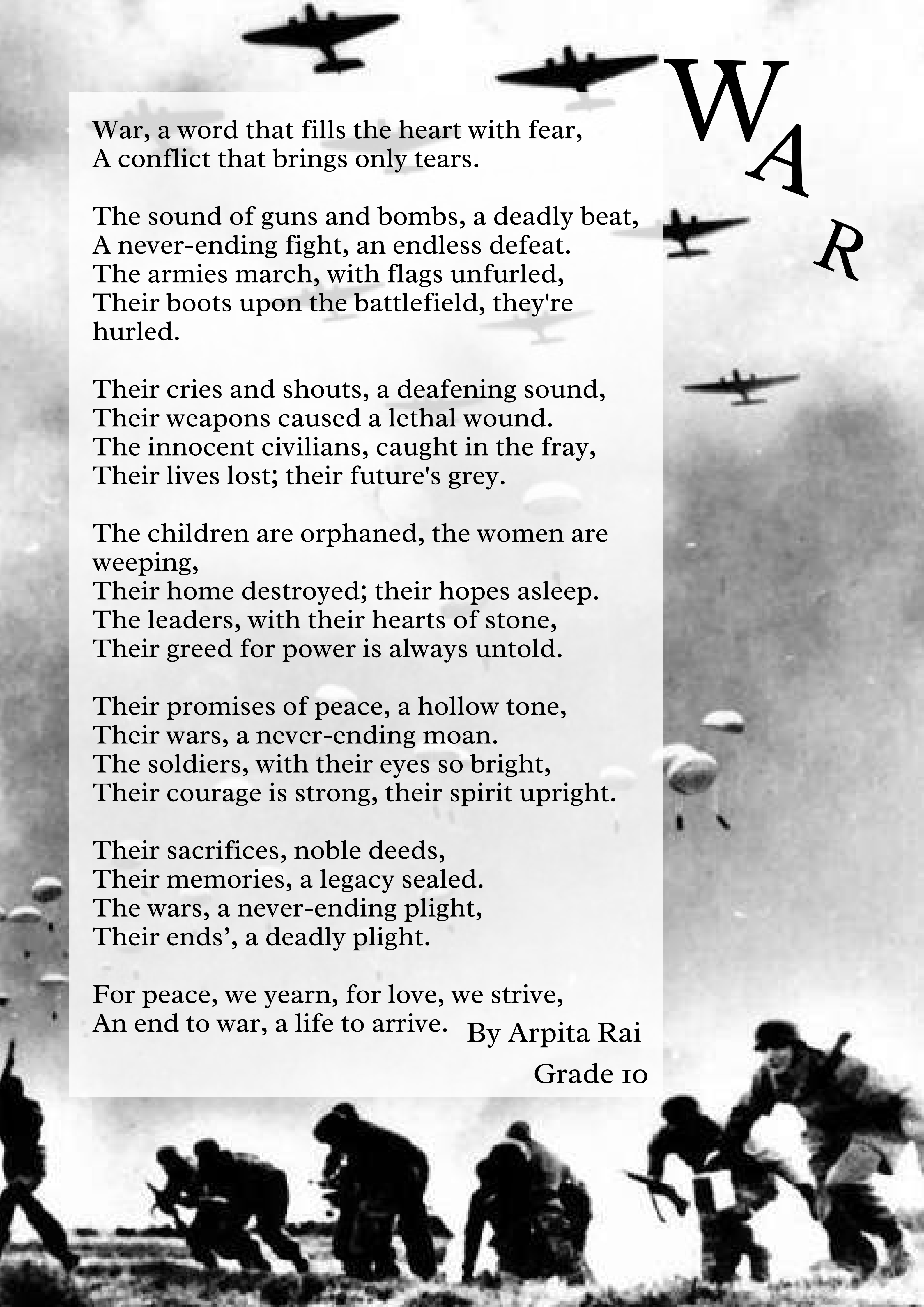
FECUND

CREATIVE WRITING

The one we lost

*Now I'm rummaging through the pages
of long forgotten memories,
begging for unspoken words,
from the bottomless treasuries.
It is in that cruel phone call,
I seek comfort,
but the signal bars me
from reaching the end, I refuse to diverge.
Life should rather be borderless,
seamless and intertwined,
to the memories we long forgot,
in that cold glass of dark-red wine.
Letters after letters I writ,
the receiver, unknown,
all ended up curling up on that corner,
of my damned bedroom,
on that dead floor.
seeking for remembrance of her long lost life,
all material things
having to hide.
Cried for her demise,
cried when we moved on,
without batting an eye.*

By Tarni Anand
Grade II



War, a word that fills the heart with fear,
A conflict that brings only tears.

The sound of guns and bombs, a deadly beat,
A never-ending fight, an endless defeat.
The armies march, with flags unfurled,
Their boots upon the battlefield, they're hurled.

Their cries and shouts, a deafening sound,
Their weapons caused a lethal wound.
The innocent civilians, caught in the fray,
Their lives lost; their future's grey.

The children are orphaned, the women are weeping,
Their home destroyed; their hopes asleep.
The leaders, with their hearts of stone,
Their greed for power is always untold.

Their promises of peace, a hollow tone,
Their wars, a never-ending moan.
The soldiers, with their eyes so bright,
Their courage is strong, their spirit upright.

Their sacrifices, noble deeds,
Their memories, a legacy sealed.
The wars, a never-ending plight,
Their ends', a deadly plight.

For peace, we yearn, for love, we strive,
An end to war, a life to arrive. By Arpita Rai
Grade 10

IF TOMMOROW I WERE TO DIE.

If tomorrow I were to die,
I would prepare a grand funeral-
One with fairy lights and dancing skeletons.
I would promise my parents better grades another
time-
I would yell to my teachers and friends-
Of how much I would miss them.
I would call my crush to tell them-
How I would never make it again.
Then I would sob and sob and cry,
Until I had died.
Until someone broke open the bathroom door,
Until I tumbled down on the hospital floor,
Until I overdosed on a variety of pills
And bunked my lectures and drills.
Till I danced and danced and cried,
under the pale blue moonlight-
Naked and like a child.
Without a care in the world and the concept of life.
I wish I would die tomorrow so that I can live again-
Like a child.
As a creature with no concept of shame or lies.
If tomorrow I were to die,
I would once again want to live as a child.

By Aneesha De
Grade II

ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

The Israel Palestine War- “It is void to state that in the situation of Israel and Palestine, you “cannot” assume sides due to “lack of information”!”, a common saying we hear in arguments from both sides. It must be noted that when a war is waged, it not only involves armaments, but also lives, and when one life is questioned, you question an entire community. Hence, I proceed with caution in this article, for I may not suffice to the amassment of information the media provides, it is also important to note that the media may not always be “neutral”, one must read through various verified sources to finally formulate their opinion about such crucial incidents. Israel-Palestine, a conflict that had been waged numerous years ago and the lack of information about it in the present generation is shameful. Thus I will pen down the History and current scenario of the conflict.

At the beginning, just like any other dispute over land, the Great Britain came into the limelight regarding Israel. The land that had been once controlled by the Ottoman Empire, then came to the hands of the Britishers, who, according to them “resolved the situation”. Both the communities had been burning with resentment, and hope- hope to receive what both sides believed was theirs. Various diplomatic efforts were made, none proved to suffice, the Great Powers were then arguing on how to draw the lines on the map of Middle East. Originally, the land belonged to the Arab Muslims with 90% of the population constituting of them, but, due to excessive immigration of Jewish population to the Middle East (due to Holocaust), both Israel and Palestine argued for “their” land. Although it had been mentioned that the land won’t be divided upon religious prejudices, the statement failed to hold true. The UNGA passed resolution 181- in which it stated the formation of a separate Arab and Jewish state. Meanwhile, Jerusalem, the religiously significant capital was governed by international law. The Arab population rejected this proposal, as it was a scam towards the majority population who rightfully owned the land. This leads to tension between the two communities. In May 1948, Israel declared its independence, which infuriated the Palestinians and other Arab forces. As a result, a war between the two began. At the end, Israel gained control over the majority of land, except the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Palestinians were hence sent into Nakba- a common word amongst the community which means catastrophe.

During the six day war in 1967, Israeli forces took command of the Gaza strip, West Bank, and the Palestinian East-Jerusalem, driving the Arab population in misery. At the Munich Olympics, Palestinians took charge of the Israeli athletes’ dormitories and killed 2 while taking the other hostages, who were also murdered soon after. On the sacred Jewish day of Yom- Kippur, a group of Arab nations with Egypt and Syria as their head, took charge against the Israelis. They initially gained some control, but were once again driven off by the stronger Israeli force, with it’s support from the United States, leading to massive amounts of death on each side. Camp David Accords is a peace proposal between the Egyptian Prime Minister and the Israeli Prime Minister, initiated by Jimmy Carter- the then U.S. president.

Palestinian self-government ideas were laid down along with peace proposals but were turned down by Israel. The intifada, or a Palestinian uprising initiated civil disobedience movements, clashes, riots etc., against the Israelis residing in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, once again causing many deaths on both sides. The fifth prime minister who tried bringing peace between the two countries through the Oslo accords, failed as he was killed by Yigal Amir. Yigal was a Jewish extremist who was against the proposal and said that he worked “on the orders of god”, who told him to not give away his holy land to the Palestinians. Israel called back its troops from Gaza in 2005, in the proceeding year, Hamas won the legislative elections. Now, Israel placed a 16-year-old blockade on a Palestinian enclave, home to over 2 million Palestinians, hence, limiting the mobility of goods and services to the Palestinians.



Israel was the key player, leading a humanitarian crisis in Gaza, as said by the UN. Most of the population even now resides in refugee camps. Israel's oppression is termed apartheid against the Palestinians. The Trump Administration recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and shifted its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, infuriating the Palestinians. This led to the Al-Aqsa Mosque situation, in which the Israeli police raided the mosque, one of the holiest places for Islam. Infuriated Hamas retaliated, with Israel attacking back again, leading to one of the worst wars between the two since 2014.

In 2022, the Palestinians raised terrorist attacks, killing about 14 Israelis. Israel retaliated and killed over 140 Palestinians in West Bank, the highest since 2005, Israel says that it carried out its actions due to the killing of 29 Israelis. Netanyahu was elected once again, and continued Israel's expansion on Palestinians, killing various important figures such as Yusuf Muhasein. In January 2023, the Israelis attacked Jenin, killing Palestinians, beginning a revengeful war. Slowly, the war progressed into something bigger, once again dividing the world into factions and leading to immense unhumanitarian actions. This war has been going on since January 2023, with no end in sight. At this moment, we must question humanity and how it has become just an image of revenge and infliction of pain.

Right now, right at the place we read this, a child is being brutally murdered, a woman raped, a man beheaded. Now, are we still too far away from the conflict to take any steps and protect those who deserve a peaceful life like us? 44% of the Palestinian population is children and youth. Is it a fair war? A war where humanity looks at the economic benefits, countries support the war for their defence benefits, companies publicly stand up as neutral of the situation, yet some days later you find information of them supporting the illegal activities of the communities. In the 21st century- the age of modernization and open-mindedness lies the bitter truth of human greed and selfishness. Selfishness in you and me, who can sit so freely and refrain from voicing against these criminalities. No selfishness in either of the soldiers, only a forcefulness to take what society has forced them to believe, to belong to one or the other. It is at this moment that we question ourselves, whether we would be happy if our homes were divided and given to us, in the name of "equality". While you sleep, a child is dying of hunger, an oppressive group killing more and more in a tit-for-tat situation.

By Tarni Anand
Grade 11



REAL EYES REALISE REAL LIES



THE ILLUMINATI

Celebrities have impact, that is undeniable; yet there is a segment of the globe that believes that some faces have more power than others; perhaps! Is there a German secret organization that supports this power? Do people who discover the secrets of this place die? Is this organization controlling everything across the globe? Do people worship the devil? Are some of the world's rising stars part of this? So many questions but barely any answer.

Without a question, Ariana Grande's music makes the world a better place. And it is evident that life has changed dramatically since the publication of the 'Thank You, Next' music video. Fans couldn't help but notice a reoccurring trend in the dates Ari has chosen to release her music projects, and now Illuminati conspiracy rumours surrounding the singer are sprouting, which may have begun when specific imagery was shown in her 'God is a Woman' music video. It was pointed out that all of Ari's recent work, beginning with 'No Tears Left to Cry,' corresponds precisely with recent celebrity deaths. Avicii died the night before the release of 'No Tears Left to Cry', rapper XXX Tentacion died when Nicki Minaj's collab 'The light is Coming' was published, Aretha Franklin died on the eve of 'Sweetener's' release, and George H.W. Bush died when the music video for 'Thank You, Next' was released. It has also been noted that the great Stan Lee died just after 'Thank You, Next' reached number one on the charts. Has Ariana Grande sold her soul for fame?

Is Illuminati responsible for her fame? Unfortunately, no one can answer those questions yet and we will never get to dig deep as death is destined for whoever finds out.

Mannat Dhall
Grade 10



The Infamous *Madame Deficit*

Marie Antoinette was the Queen of France who was notoriously known for living in opulence while the peasants starved. Maria Antonia was born in Austria in 1755 as the Hapsburg Archduchess. As two of her older sisters passed away, she became the only choice for a political marriage to Louis Auguste, heir to the French throne. When she was married off as a symbol of truce, she was only 14. She became the queen in 1774 when her husband was crowned King. She lived a life of luxury, wearing elaborate headdresses, delicate foreign fabrics while throwing immaculately pompous parties. All this continued while bad harvest resulted in mass food shortages, wages were falling, and the cost of living had skyrocketed. However, she was the queen, and the abstention of glamour would make her loose popularity among her subjects.

Besides, she used her image to spread positive practices as well, such as commissioning a headdress that made the treatment of smallpox vaccine fashionable for all. Before blaming her for her lavish lifestyle, it is imperative to note that - no matter what she could do, she had very limited influence over her husband's political decisions at that time. France's financial crisis was more related to the country's outdated tax system and lack of an effective central bank. The tax burden was mainly carried on by the peasants while the nobility and clergy had numerous tax exemptions. This system had buried France's finances in debt way before the queen's arrival. Her personal expenses were merely a scapegoat for decades of financial negligence.

It was rumoured that she told her subjects to consume cake when there was no harvest and the subjects were starving, but these were only baseless rumours to degrade her from her haters. In fact, she frequently engaged herself in charity work and focused on eradicating poverty. In 1784, a thief forged fake letters from the queen to purchase an outrageously expensive diamond necklace. However, it was found out that it was fake. But by this time the masses had already believed in Marie's frivolity and negligence. Louis XVI was the real reason for France's poor finances, he vetoed several pieces of legislation and acted as an incompetent and ignorant king.

Both were accused of treason and in 1791, when they tried to flee to Austria to regain power and gather support, they were caught. Louis was beheaded for passing military secrets to Austrian contacts.

However, Marie was punished severely, although it was never clear whether she was guilty of treason or not. They kept her in a cell away from her son and accused her of incest. In the end, even as she was to be beheaded, her last words were an apology to the executioner for stepping on his toes. She lives to be a powerful symbol and an example of the appetite of the public to smear prominent women with their own fancies and frustrations.

Aneesha De
Grade 11



CRITICAL CLASH

Should one read Colleen Hoover?

FOR

I am going to mention in this article why I support Colleen Hoover as an author. If you are into reading contemporary novels, you must have heard of Colleen Hoover who writes for young adults. Honestly, I enjoy her writing simply because she brings the world's most odious parts of society to light, the major reason why her writing is not preferred by many. But if you read Hoover's writing, you will understand that although her writing is not preferred by many, her writing communicates to the audience what individuals often fail to speak.

Firstly, I need to say that people choosing a romantic book want a happy ending. But they want to work for it. The happy end is more emotional if the characters have a realistic backstory. The more they suffer hardships the better. In the majority of romantic contemporary novels, the suffering is minimal. Problems are not real. I believe that Hoover's writing deals with actual real problems- Infertility, drug addiction, domestic abuse among others. She chooses to entertain them in a romantic format but the trauma is well researched.

What I see that Hoover does differently is, delve into dark subjects. She does not brush off subjects simply because they're controversial. For example in 'All Your Perfects', she explores infertility. Here, she goes out of her way to depict how deeply this affects even the most ideal couples, couples deeply in love, how it affects women differently than men and how it can destroy the intimacy between two individuals. This is reviewed from both the male and female point of view. It is indeed a trauma for the couple, not just for the woman, even though the gravity of the incident is lived differently by the two. The book is moving and extremely emotional, the portrayal of thoughts and inner guilt is real and more importantly relatable.

In the book 'Hopeless', what draws someone's attention is the intimacy, the love story of two individuals. Their interesting conversations and even more interesting silences. The idea that a good neighbor can be a terrible parent is horrible but at the same time very possible.

I believe that the reason her books sell is not due to the sensuality of the relationship but due to the character's close connection with one another and their shared relationship. She understands what captivates her audience.

I want to conclude by stating that all arguments stated above do not suggest that this book is for teenagers or pre-teens. However, I believe if one indulges in reading Hoover, it is imperative that they understand that all characters and stories are purely fictional and from the perspective of the writer.

By Harshita Kanwal
Grade 11

AGAINST

While many applaud Colleen Hoover's writing, I am here to mention why I do not support Hoover's writing. Her works might put you in a trance with their compelling storylines, but beware! They're tainted with repetitive themes and the glorification of unhealthy and toxic relationships, making them a treacherous read that one should vehemently avoid.

Firstly, let's address the hackneyed tropes that infest Hoover's writing like an insidious plague. Her narratives often rely on recycled storylines, drowning in predictable patterns and worn-out clichés that insult the reader's intellect. From the brooding, damaged male lead to the innocent, naive female protagonist, these characters are nothing, but stale archetypes dragged from the depths of overused plots. Instead, readers are served the same regurgitated tropes, leaving them parched for creativity and substance.

Moreover, what's even more insidious is Hoover's penchant for glorifying toxic relationships under the guise of passionate love stories. Her narratives romanticize possessiveness, manipulation, and emotional abuse, presenting them as acts of undying love. The toxic behavior exhibited by her protagonists is disturbingly normalized, sending a hazardous message to impressionable minds. Are we to accept jealousy and controlling behavior as tokens of affection? Should we celebrate characters who thrive in unhealthy dynamics, painting them as the epitome of love? Absolutely not!

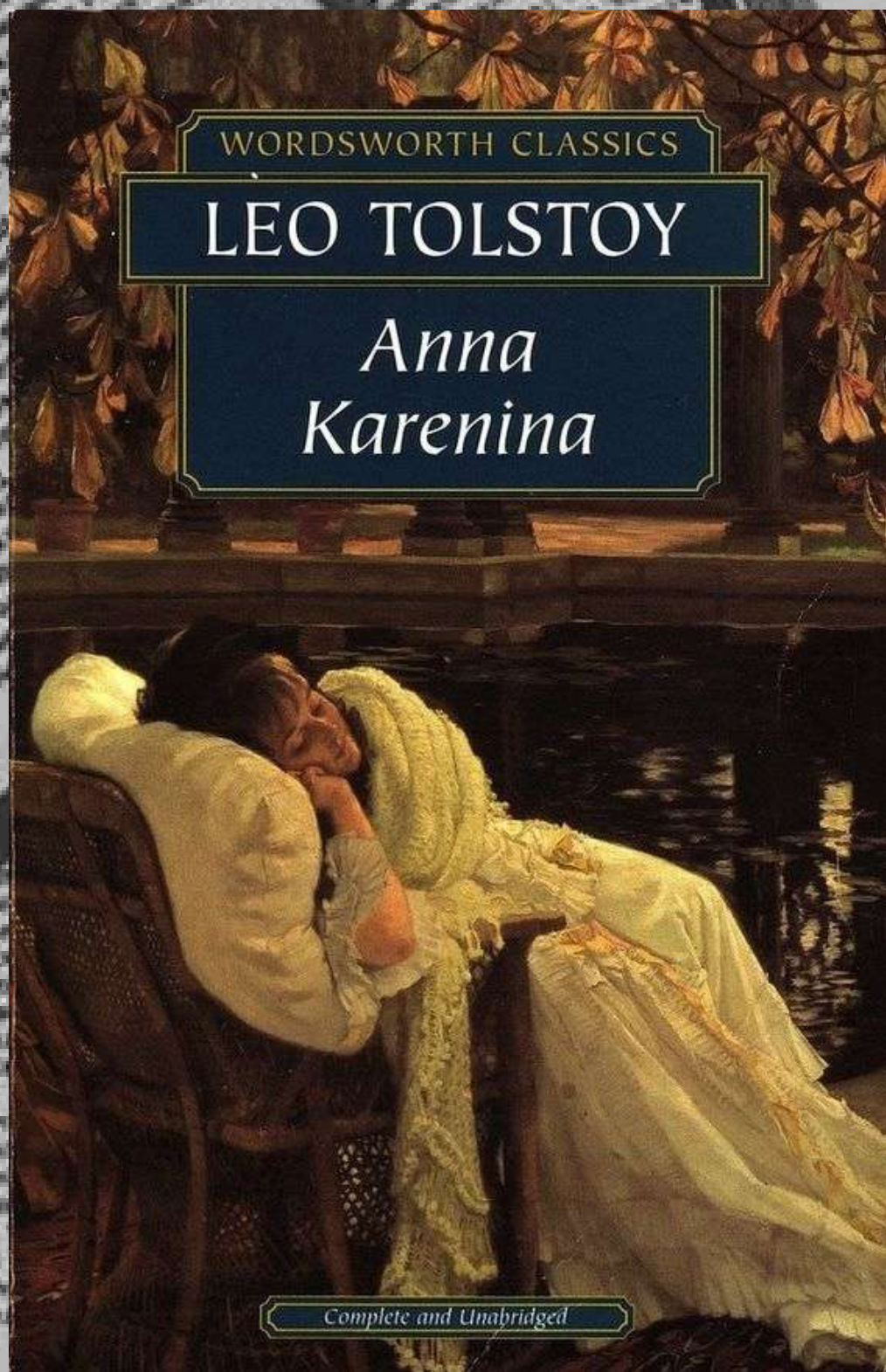
Let's not overlook the perpetuation of unrealistic ideals in Hoover's works. Her stories often propagate the notion that love excuses all faults, and that intense emotional turbulence equates to true passion. But where is the portrayal of healthy communication, mutual respect, and genuine partnership? Instead, readers have force-fed a distorted version of love, one that thrives on tumultuous drama rather than stability and respect.

Furthermore, Hoover's portrayal of female characters is often shallow and lacking in depth. They're pigeonholed into archaic stereotypes, portraying them as damsels in distress waiting to be saved by their brooding, flawed counterparts. Where are the strong, independent women who don't need a man to define their worth? By perpetuating these outdated gender roles, Hoover's narratives hinder the progress towards authentic and empowering female representation in literature.

In conclusion, reading a book authored by Colleen Hoover is akin to willingly subjecting oneself to a literary trap, ensnaring readers in a web of clichés and toxic relationships. Her reliance on tired tropes, glorification of unhealthy dynamics, and lackluster portrayal of characters make her works a perilous choice for any discerning reader. Rather than indulging in narratives that romanticize toxicity, readers should seek out literature that champions healthy relationships, celebrates diversity, and challenges the status quo. There's an abundance of enriching literature out there—don't let yourself be ensnared by the alluring yet treacherous allure of Hoover's toxic tales.

By Pragyamita Chaudhary
Grade 9

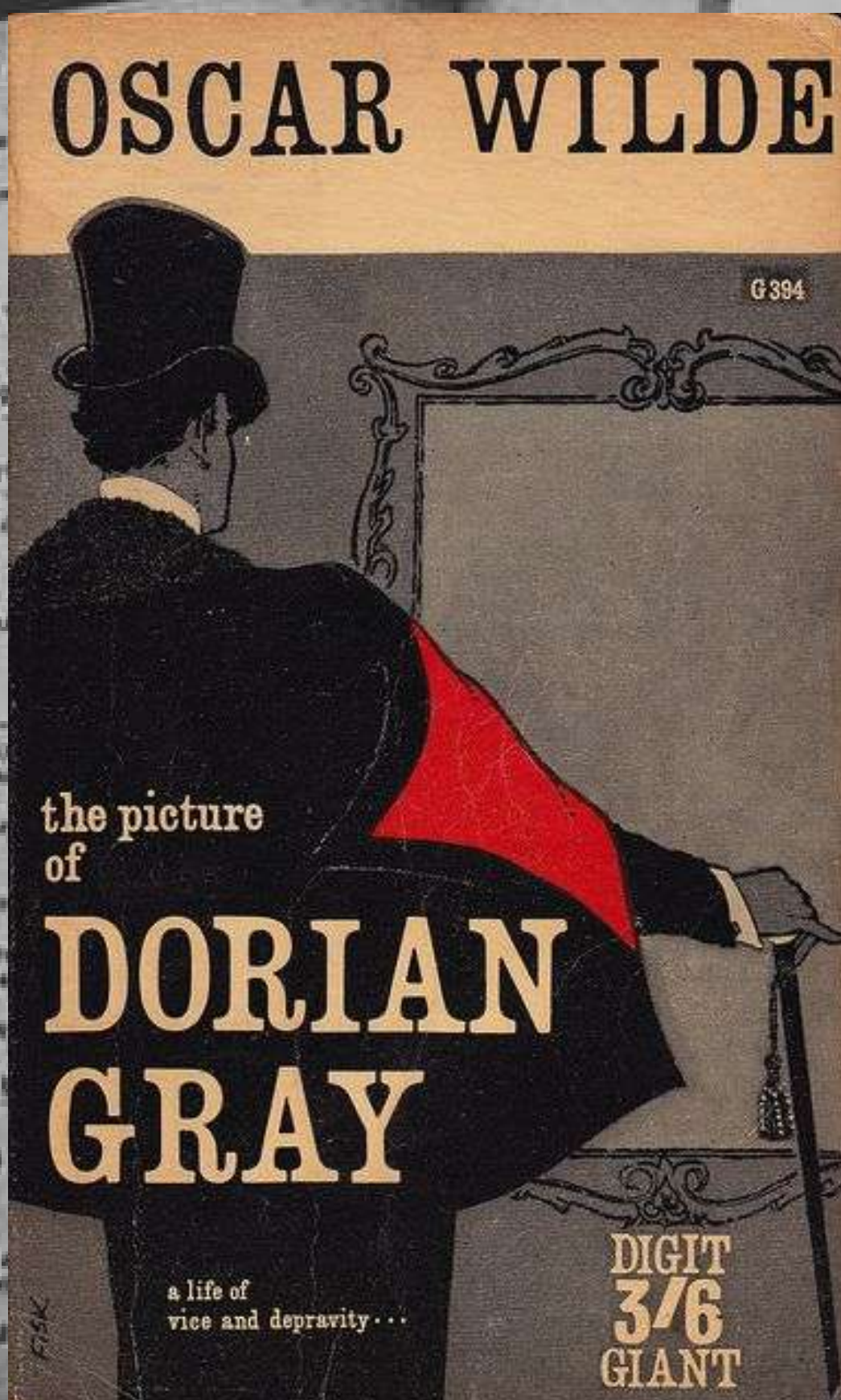
BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Anna Karenina

The novel tells the story of Anna Karenina, a beautiful and intelligent woman who is married to a wealthy and powerful government official, Alexei Karenin. Anna is unhappy in her marriage and finds herself drawn to the dashing Count Vronsky. The two begin an affair, which leads to scandal and tragedy.

Anna Karenina is a complex and multifaceted novel that explores a wide range of themes, including love, marriage, family, society, and morality. A novel notable for its realistic portrayal of Russian society in the 19th century, as well as its insightful exploration of human emotions and motivations.



The Picture of Dorian Gray

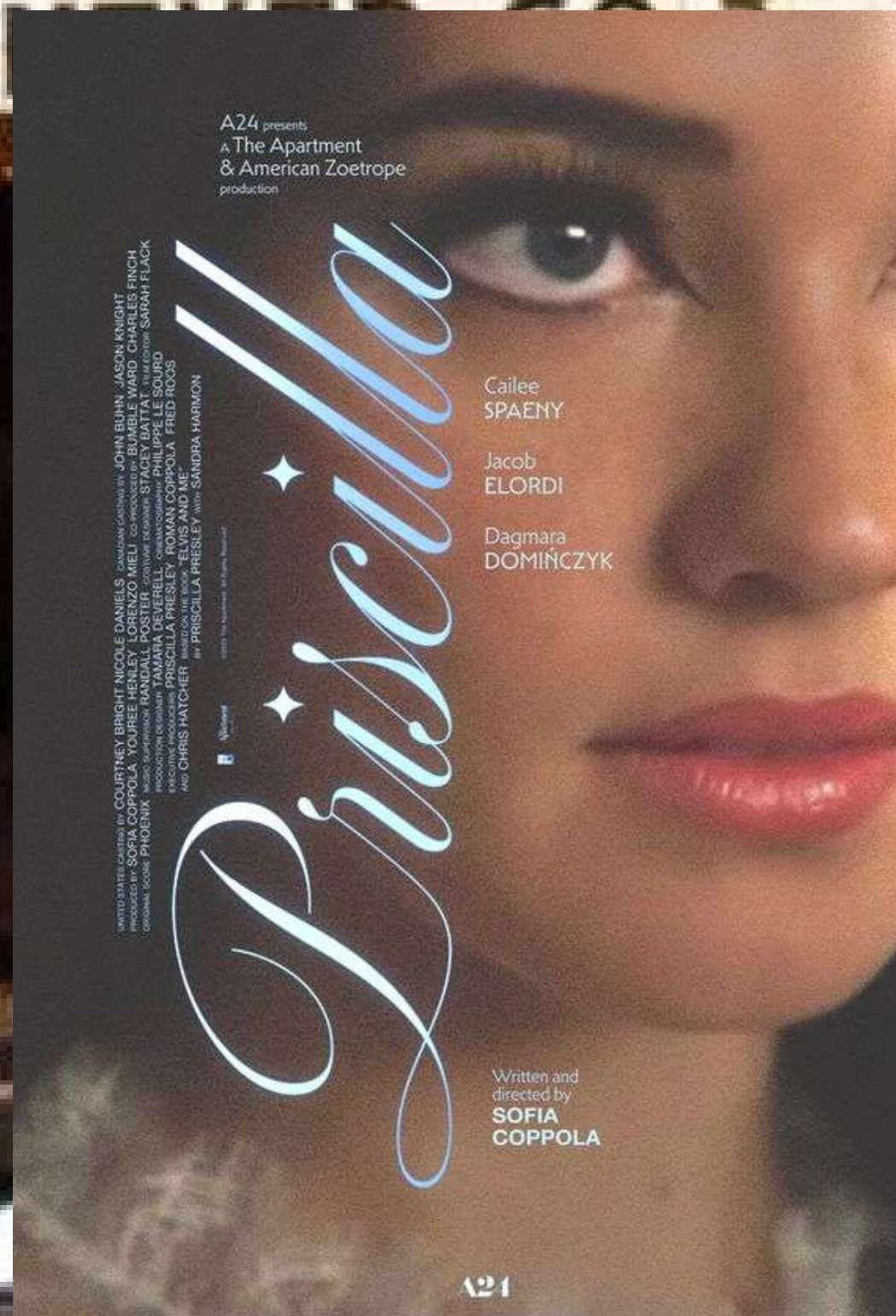
A beautiful young boy Dorian is the muse of Basil Hallward an artist, Basil paints a stunning portrait of Dorian that captures his youthful beauty. Lord Henry Wotton a wealthy aristocrat is deeply captivated by the portrait and introduces his philosophy of life to Dorian, which is to live to the fullest and to pursue pleasure and beauty at all costs.

Dorian is seduced by Lord Henry's philosophy and begins to live a life of debauchery. He uses his beauty to manipulate others and to get whatever he wants.

The Picture of Dorian Gray is a cautionary tale about the dangers of vanity and hedonism. At the same time, it is an experiment on the stereotype that society sets on male beauty. Oscar Wilde's most prominent works and a well-known classic.

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FILMS



PRISCILLA

In 1959, 14-year-old Priscilla Beaulieu is residing with her family in Bad Nauheim, Germany, where her father is stationed in the U.S. Military. At a party on the base, Priscilla meets 24-year-old renowned singer Elvis Presley, who has enrolled in the military at the peak of his fame. Elvis takes an immediate interest in Priscilla, and the two begin casually dating despite her parents' concern over their age difference and Elvis's celebrity status.

IMDB RATING-7.5/10

ROTTEN TOMATOES- 7.20/10



SPENCER

An interesting insight into the legendary icon, the queen of people's hearts, Princess Diana. Starring Kristen Stewart and Jack Farthing, Diana is fooled into a happy marriage and rolls into a real hellhole. Discover the truth behind Princess Diana's actual life.

ROTTEN TOMATOES-7.60/10



Lady Whistledown's SOCIETY PAPERS

Dearest Readers,

It is I, Lady Whistledown, returning after a prolonged season of silence. Let me bring to you the newest and freshest tittle-tattle.

Spotted by the warm Bonfire on the night of Dusshera, a Dosco twirling a French girl to the rhythms of a Punjabi song.

The Santa Claus on Christmas is yet to be discovered! Valentine's Day is being celebrated with joy as senior school broods over their single lives.

Someone in Grade 11 was shamelessly spotted sneak peeking at Ahaan Pandey on her laptop during class.

A tiny brawl broke out in block six among the students of Grade 9.

The new introduction of Choco lava cake in the tuck shop has set the school ablaze with flavour and delight!

Yours Truly,
Lady Whistledown

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