



MES College of Arts,
Commerce & Science

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
proudly presents

Meraki

*To do something with soul,
creativity or love*

Edition 4

LETTER FROM THE TEAM

Hello MESites,

Here is the fourth edition of the English Club Wall Magazine, the Creative Corner named “Meraki” here once again to celebrate the creativity of young minds and the beauty of seeing art in everything.

This magazine is all about presenting a platform for our students where they can freely release the artist in them and showcase it to everyone. Art in any form is encouraged because to find beauty in anything is a great gift and should never be looked down upon.

The word 'Amateur' is often spoken as if it were a dirty word. 'Amateur' comes from the Latin word 'Amare' which means “to love”, to do things for the love of it, so, it is okay to be an amateur because it just shows that there is something that you love, that your heart is capable of doing something more than just pumping blood.

With that in mind, we hope that there will always be art in the world and we will all try to keep it alive as much as possible.

Hoping to comfort your minds with our vision.

-The Team of Meraki

ONCE UPON A TIME

15th May, 2023

WINNER

THE FARMER'S TREASURE: A TALE OF PERSEVERANCE AND REWARD

Every Story which we have heard in our lives through various medium has had a direct or indirect impact into shaping us as a wholesome human being.

When we were kids, it was often our grandparents who used to narrate us stories and if we belonged to Indian Households, we heard stories of Panchatantra, Tenali Rama, Akbar & Birbal and so on.

I heard this story in the dawn of one summer evening which had a huge impact in my life and so I thought of presenting the same for the Children's Book Week competition.

While preparing the PPT, I started thinking about the story numerous times and naturally the best way to bring up analysis of a Children's story is by wearing two lenses, one was the lens of an 8yr old kid and the other as a 21yr old adult.

Further I thought the best way to gain attention of the audience is to enact the entire story under 20 seconds because currently, the attention span of us human beings are lessened by the using of social media platforms such as Instagram Reels, YouTube Shorts etc.

The Story in few lines is:

Once there was a farmer who wanted to dig a well for his crops and animals. He worked hard every day but could not find water. One day, he hit a large rock and dug around it to find a treasure trove. With the money, he improved his farm and became

successful. The lesson is that hard work pays off, and we should never give up on our goals.

I advise the readers to gear up their lenses.

Point of view is a powerful tool which helps us humans analyze any situation which comes in our way.

From the lens of an 8yr Old Kid, the most fascinating part of the story would in-fact be that the farmer found a treasure while digging the earth.

Trust me even I was found digging the ground with a shovel, hoping to find a treasure in the backyard.

I reckon, the kid which resided in all of us would have done the same thing.

The other fascinating part would be that the farmer got to live a happy life after digging out the treasure which sounded like a dream life.

Now let us look at the story from the lens of a 21yr old adult, we would see that the story highlighted the value of hard work and dedication. The simple analysis was:

The story demonstrated the importance of putting in the effort required to achieve our goals.

In life, success often comes from unexpected sources, and it is essential to keep an open mind and be ready to seize opportunities as they arise through perseverance.

It thought us that difficult time comes and goes, but what matters the most is that I held my head high throughout the tough times.

It also gave us a deeper meaning that no matter how successful you grow in life, never forget to stay grounded (Humble) to others.

I started thinking, "As an adult how often we let ourselves quit when we happen to encounter tough times?" and what these

stories does incredibly well is that, it allows us (Adults) to rationalize these small elements from the story and allows us cultivate the message hidden in the story.

There can be a non-linear questions raised at the end of the story that “In life there is no guarantee that hard work and perseverance will 100% guarantee success to every other person. It may or may not “or “Life is not a steady curve for all and universe doesn’t treat everyone equally”.

These are valid questions which will arise in some minds and My answer would be

“What’s there to lose and even if you never achieved the fruits of hard work, in the end, the world would get a story of a human who never failed to give attempts even though life was unfair to him/her and in that battle my friends, Human won verses life”

-Vivek Ram G
3rd BSc (MSCs)



RUNNER - UP

JUMANJI

"Jumanji" is a beloved children's book written and illustrated by Chris Van Allsburg. Published in 1981, this captivating adventure has become a classic in the world of children's literature. Blending imagination, suspense, and stunning illustrations, "Jumanji" takes readers on an extraordinary journey filled with danger, excitement, and valuable life lessons. "Jumanji" has transcended its pages and inspired other media adaptations, including a popular 1995 film starring Robin Williams and a more recent film franchise. However, it is the original book that continues to captivate readers with its timeless charm and imaginative storytelling. The story begins when Peter and Judy, two curious siblings, stumble upon a mysterious board game called Jumanji. Little do they know that this game holds unimaginable powers. As they roll the dice and advance through the game, their lives are suddenly transformed. The game springs to life, and they find themselves in a perilous jungle world, facing challenges they could never have imagined. One of the book's strengths lies in its ability to resonate with readers of all ages. Children are drawn to the adventure and excitement of the story, while adults appreciate the underlying themes and messages. "Jumanji" explores the unpredictability of life, the consequences of our actions, and the power of collaboration. Through the challenges faced by Peter and Judy, readers learn about courage, resilience, and the importance of working together to overcome obstacles. "Jumanji" is a captivating children's book that transports readers into a world of adventure and suspense. With its engaging storyline, breathtaking illustrations, and meaningful themes, the book has left an indelible mark on the literary landscape. Whether you're a child or a child at heart, "Jumanji" promises an enchanting

and unforgettable reading experience.

I still remember watching the movie Jumanji with my dad when I was a kid and now I'm a 19 year old Adult yet I find Jumanji astounding and it's still one of my favourites. Now the movie has a series starring celebrities like Dwayne Johnson and Kevin Hart where a book has turned into a blockbuster movie franchise bagging awards, which tells us that the book is so amazing and interesting that people want to develop new versions of that story and to be very honest all the 3 versions of the story had such extraordinary storylines by which it got amazing reviews by audiences around the world. The movie had breath taking visuals and the CGI work was too good where I personally enjoyed those crazy computer graphic effects. The black and white book of Jumanji by Chris Van Allsburg was narrated so well between fantasy and reality with this story about a game that comes startlingly to life. His marvellous drawing work in the book is so beautiful that makes us feel like the house is taken over by an exotic jungle. Beyond its thrilling premise, "Jumanji" offers valuable themes and messages. It subtly explores the themes of unpredictability, the consequences of actions, and the importance of teamwork. These themes are presented in a way that sparks readers' reflection and can initiate meaningful discussions. While "Jumanji" is primarily aimed at children, its appeal extends to adults as well. The book's layers of complexity and open-endedness allow for multiple interpretations, making it a delightful read for readers of all ages. It encourages imagination, critical thinking, and a sense of wonder, which are qualities that resonate with readers throughout their lives.

In conclusion, "Jumanji" is a remarkable children's book and a movie series that continues to captivate audience of all ages. Chris

Van Allsburg's seamless blend of storytelling and mesmerizing illustrations creates an immersive audience experience that transports people into a world of adventure and suspense. Beyond its thrilling premise, "Jumanji" imparts valuable life lessons and encourages the exploration of imagination. It is a testament to the enduring power of storytelling and the timeless appeal of a great adventure.

Kshitij K Mallya

Rohit Y V

2nd B.Com A



RUNNER - UP

THE STAR CHILD

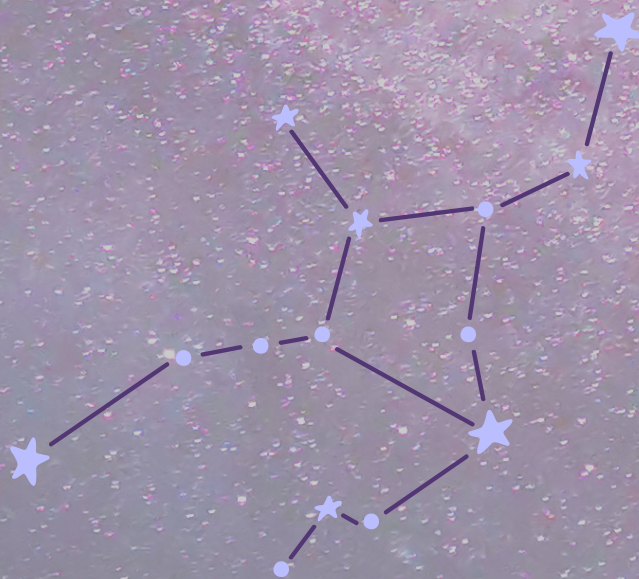
At its essence “The Star Child” is a tale about the journey of self-discovery and the exploration of the unknown. The story follows the Star Child, a tiny flame of vapor, as he becomes enamored with the beauty of the blue ocean and green land of Earth and decides to take the form of a human child to experience it fully. The elders of the Star Child provide him with guidance, warning him of the challenges he will face and the human emotions he will encounter on his journey.

The theme of exploration is evident in the story, as the Star Child must learn how to navigate a new world and take care of himself. He must learn to move his body, use it, and take care of himself. The story emphasizes the importance of learning new skills and adapting to new situations as a crucial part of the journey of self-discovery. The Star Child’s journey is also a testament to the changing nature of time. The quote “Change is the only constant” is alluded to throughout the story, as the Star Child experiences the fleeting nature of time as he journeys through life. The story serves as a reminder that time is always moving forward, and we must learn to adapt and embrace change as it comes. The Star Child's journey is not without its challenges, as the elders warned. He encounters a range of human emotions, from pleasure and joy to fear, disappointment, and sadness. These emotions serve as a reminder that the journey of self-discovery is not always easy, and we must learn to navigate the highs and lows of life. The story also explores the theme of selfishness and sacrifice. The elders warn the Star Child that he may become so engrossed in the river of life that he forgets where he came from and the sacrifices that were made for him to embark on this journey. However, as the Star

Child matures and questions the existentialism of life, he realizes that everything he has experienced was a part of the journey he chose to undertake. He comes to the realization that he couldn't have made it so far without both the joys and the struggles. As the Star Child's time on Earth comes to an end, he must say goodbye to the beautiful world he has come to know. In this moment, he realizes that the elders' warnings were true, but he is glad he embarked on the journey. The story concludes on a poignant note, emphasizing the importance of taking risks and embracing the journey of self-discovery, even if it means saying goodbye to something beautiful.

To sum up "The Star Child" is a beautifully crafted picture book that tells a story of self-discovery, exploration, and the changing nature of time. The story's themes of selfishness, sacrifice, and the highs and lows of life serve as valuable lessons for both children and adults. The story reminds us that life is a journey full of unexpected twists and turns, and we must learn to embrace both the joys and the struggles that come our way.

-Jay Karan
1st B.A.



Poems

INTREPID HEART

You ought to be by my side
So that my world doesn't collide.
It's a sweet melancholy that
I'm hopelessly hoping for the apricity.
Oh love! Clutch me into your arms
To calm down my storms.
Or teach me again
The art of enduring the pain.
My heart becomes intrepid
When I blend you in my poems
Because I'll say things that i can't repeat.

-Pallavi M. Hattarki
3rd B.Com B



DAWN OF A NEW INDIA

The land of Rama and Krishna will again rise,
As we move forward to reclaim our skies.
We'll forge a new developed India, so bright.
It'll be place where all the dreams ignite.
We'll unshackle the chains of servitude,
With courage and unwavering resolute.
Until we erase all our colonial traces, we'll continue our fight;
we'll vanquish the darkness and embrace a new light.
A tapestry of cultures, a magnificent legacy,
We take pride in our roots with fervour and ecstasy.
A glorious history, so old, so grand,
I bow down to pay my respect to this ancient land.
From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, we are one,
A feeling of brotherhood, that can't be undone.
In this strength of unity, lies our might,
Together we'll soar, reaching insurmountable heights.
By instilling in us a sense of duty and setting our hearts ablaze,
we'll write a new of chapter of India's futuristic days.
Let's work together to make our dreams come true...
To reclaim this country's title of 'Vishwaguru'.

-Keshav Anand

3rd B.A.



THE UNWISE OWL

In my childhood,
I've been taught stories
Of the owl in the woods
The owl they said, is the wisest
of all
All the animals in the woods,
Would go to the owl to make a
call.

I grew up with the phrase
"The wise owl"
Stuck in my head, that I
thought:
Like an owl my life must be led.
I admired doubtlessly the bird
And trusted in everything I
heard.

Later in life, I was lost
And aimless about the direction
I must follow.
I felt hopeless, as if nothing
made sense anymore.
Then, I remembered the
forgotten saying,
"When you're lost,
Find the wise owl".

I jumped out of joy!
After all I found my solution
For all my problems,
I have an owl to rely upon!
I ran to the jungle
And was surprised to
Have such an easy access to an
owl!

I immediately started
questioning the owl.
I asked "I feel so directionless
Mr. Owl; I don't know what I
will become"
"WHO" said the wise owl.
I felt the power and
righteousness in his words.

I rephrased my question,
Yes, you're right Mr. Owl,
"Who will I become in the
future?"
I was disappointed this time,
As the answer still remained
"WHO".

-Charitha M.
3rd B.A.

I SMILE

I smile!

Just to be blessed with all those cheers,
Not chased by any fears,
To be honest, I'm blessed to the core!
And not feared of getting backstabbed anymore...
I wanna scream to the top of my throat
But shhh! Don't let it out
I'm carved from millions of beautiful pieces
Back into my life to achieve my dreams with all those inspirations
I'm climbing the mountain of my dreams...
Just need a hand to help me up on those difficult steeps
My thoughts are making me fly; my silence is making me shy...
Whenever i find a little pathway of happiness and light,
There I sneak into it and embrace the joy and blessings of my life.

-Yukthi B.

2nd B.Com



Write-Ups

PUT BOUNDARIES TO CUT DRAMA!

How many of us are just tired of friendship dramas?

Generally, we tend to crib over friendships and the toxicity that follows. Off late, I've been observant of some friends who tend to pass on a very subtle trait that may be harmful in the long run. This article is about building a translucent wall in your friendships.

Friendships neither have limits nor rules. But, this can result in toxicity, mental and physical energy drain, stress, or even irritation. To save ourselves from these, we need to build barriers or what I call "translucent walls" in the bond. These can be simple which can have a larger effect on the relationship.

Certain things cannot be controlled and it can be stressful to think of them. Instead, focus on the things that can be controlled or stopped. Concentrate on the ones you control and let go of those you don't. There are several ways of protecting your peace like cutting off friends, limiting yourself from going out or even quitting social media. Apart from this, friendship barriers or building a translucent wall is one of the ways to get through mental saturation.

You are free to control the things that you aren't comfortable with. A subtle note is just right to put things to place. If not, a strong blow will surely make or break the bond.

I'd say, a bond is created with limitations. Each one of us will have to limit ourselves to certain exposures. This can be to maintain a peaceful mindset or to save the bond. In my research, I've come across a few boundaries that would be helpful to keep track of friendships.

I have had certain friends who were either clingy, needy, over-expressive, or even irritating. These are the barriers that worked for me. I'm sure most of us have faced similar things. I wanted to put them down for you. Read it through.

1. Being over available - Natural tendency of humans is to share a shoulder to cry on. Some people might take it in the wrong way. You were just there for the person but they assume you to be their best friend and try to impose things over you. This may include what you eat or wear, where you go and even the people you'd want to talk to. They start assuming things and get disappointed easily. To avoid such a thing, be sure to be available just when needed.

2. Be professional - Your office pays you for the work you do and not for the comfort you give to other people. You need not worry about talking to your colleagues post-work hours. Certain cases are acceptable but not always. Many people confuse the corporate approach and continue the same even after working hours.

3. Rejection is not bad - In case you don't like something, tell them about it in a way they'll be able to understand. In case they don't, stay away and try to deal with the situation safely. Be open to saying a "NO".

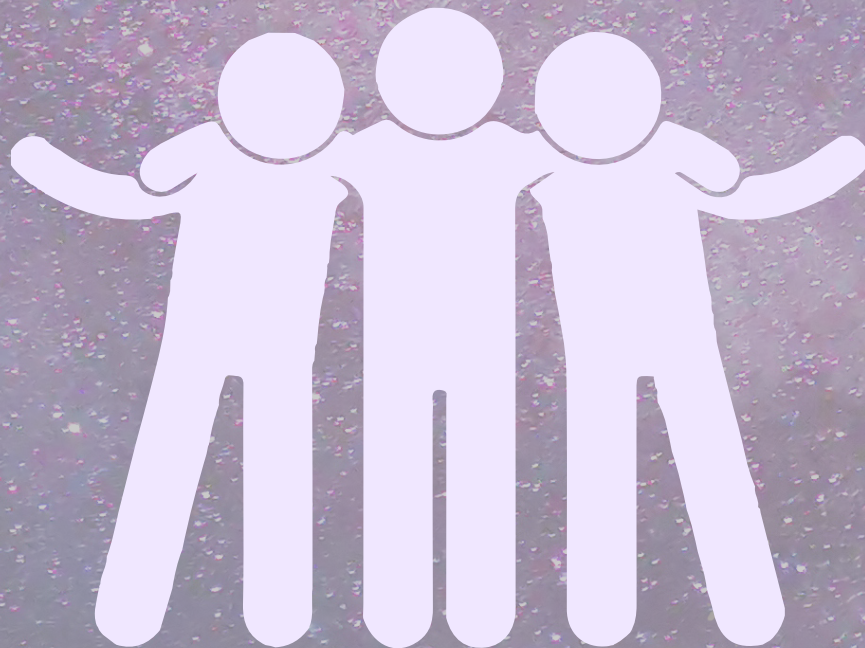
4. Be specific about what you want - Any friend would try to impose certain things on you. If you like it, think and if you don't, think harder. It's you who decides things for yourself and your friend. Prioritize your choice over the others. You matter to you more than your friend. Listening to them is a slow poison. So be aware!

5. Physical barrier - Imagine you hate being touchy but there's that one friend who hugs and kisses you. Tell them the first time they do it. If you don't, you'll regret it. Why would you want another

thought to stay on your mind when you can clear them at once?
The key to all these boundaries is effective communication. Every effective communication follows trust and understanding. Define your love language, and expression and communicate it with your friend. Communicating cannot just be verbal but non-verbal as well. Let your actions speak. In case it fails, then speak up for your actions.

Maintaining a boundary with whatever you have will bring a better living for yourself mentally and physically. Tell your friends what's bothering you. If they fail to understand, they weren't your friends. Also, remember that not everyone is your friend. The dictionary has better words for them, for you to use appropriately

-Ashritha Sri R
Lecturer
Dept. of Journalism



STAYING ALONE TO GET STRONGER: A JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY

“If you want to be strong, learn to be alone”

Ever started loving your company so much that you prefer solo dates over a hangout with friends? Happy realization! You're on the right path. You need to stay with yourself to ascertain your needs and inclinations. The more you recognize yourself, the less you get hurt. You'll enjoy each moment in the present.

Let me tell you an experience of my own.

I had kept myself away from some of my close beings for some time. It was all the trust issues that gathered. I was at one anchor point where all of them met, but they left me completely isolated...

In the beginning, I would feel regretful for being such, being isolated. Later, I realized it isn't gonna work out and stepped out of the house. Since then, things have become good; I've been my favourite person to hang out with. Not that I don't like others' company but I love myself a little too much.

I would cry out for being left out and not considered. I would sit in a dark room and listen to sad songs. Sometimes I would lock myself up in the room and would not even eat. I invested in myself. I began dedicating sufficient time to staying organized and taking care of my mental health. Soon I got used to the setup of staying alone and concentrating on my academics. This was the phase where I went on solo dates and explore the world.

Studies have shown that staying alone boosts an individual's confidence. It strengthens one more than usual and will help them compete with their past self. Staying alone differs greatly from being lonely. And people who are alone, all by themselves, are

independent and are better at decision-making.

Here are a few things I learned to be unaccompanied:

- Positive mind-set - From being left all alone to learning to live all by myself, a positive wave approached me. I began doing things I thought I was bad at. Simple things like cooking, cleaning, and keeping things in an organized manner. I began to read and listen to positive authors.
- Kindness to self - While in a group, I would take the blame for something I have not done. I changed this attitude and helped myself understand it was not okay to be unkind to myself. I started investing in nothing but myself and loved myself.
- Ultimate self-love - Talking about self-love, I ate, sleep and exercise on time. I gave time for journaling, word search, and mandala arts. I still treat myself to a meal on gloomy days. These things might be simple, but it has made a tremendous impact on my life.
- Passionate liking - Most of the group considers the passionate liking of the group an ultimatum. While alone, to know the self at an intimate level. I could help myself with the materialist, worldly, and intimate sexual pleasures and likings. I discovered several things.
- Independence - As mentioned under liking, you have no barriers while you are alone. You can choose anything you wish to eat, wear or even watch. I found my passion in social media and writing blog posts. It opened a wide spectrum to me.
- Responsibility - With independence comes responsibility. With every purchase I do, I think of the necessity and the rate of usage it involves and only then invest. This comes only with time and independence.
- Belongingness - I finally found a place I belong. I made sure I was

well-treated and found a place to stay. It was and is still bliss to have that “me time” once a week. I feel loved and I feel a sense of belongingness.

You can start with a few little things. Dress up like you’re going on a date. Go to a Cafe or a Pub. Order something you love. Look around and spend time. All this is possible only if you are ok with being alone. That comes in when you begin to love yourself. Another reminder, people might come and go, but you are the one who matters to you. Prioritize yourself. Know your boundaries. Be limitless with yourself and not others.

Here are a few suggestions to start loving to live alone

Solo dates	Bike rides
Dress up	Career Development Programs
Playing with your pet	Journaling
Listening to music	Self-care: Beauty, Health
Practicing a hobby	Organizing
Going for a walk	and the list goes on

Don’t let this solo life eat you up! Be independent to an extent and know where to put a break. It is okay to stay alone at times, but not always. You need to have a state of mind to fit into both dimensions. Sometimes, it can kill you and keep you in deep thoughts that can destroy you. Make sure you consult someone who you can rely on or consult a professional in case of extreme conditions. Just make sure you are balancing perfectly!

So! Go ahead and enjoy your company.

-Ashritha Sri R
Lecturer
Dept. of Journalism

Snape and His Unwavering Devotion Towards the Object of Love

Snape's character arc in the Harry Potter series is a testament to what love actually means in its purest interpretation. To anyone who has ever read Harry Potter books or has watched the films, Snape is arguably the most complex and conflicting character in the entire series. We see a person live and die for the cause of love.

From the story of Snape, we learn that true love demands devotion and dedication something which has become lost due to the never-ending desires we have created in our modern world. Snape's love for Lily Potter turns him into a silent but dedicated protector of the "boy who lived" and the love ultimately redeems him as the bravest man known to Harry.

He loved Lily so much from the depth of his heart that he changes his allegiance to save James Potter, a Man who tormented Snape throughout his life, and Harry. He betrays Voldemort and his army of death eaters and becomes a noble savior of Harry by putting himself in mortal danger, he considers this as a way to honour the memory of Lily and to repent for the mistake that he committed by initially spying for Voldemort and telling him about the prophecy that he would die at the hands of a boy born at the end of July.

When James and Lily are killed by Voldemort but Harry survives, he becomes his protector and creatively teaches Harry all the skills that he needed to survive against constant dangers that would come in his journey, one example of this is the expelliarmus spell that he teaches Harry in a duel against Professor Lockhart in the chamber of secrets and this spell becomes Harry's signature spell which he ultimately uses it to kill Voldemort.

Snape's love for Lily helps him to overcome the hatred that he harbors against James Potter and helps him to see Harry beyond the physical features that he has inherited from James. He cares for Harry because of Lily but never makes it obvious which results in Harry never trusting him until the end. Sometimes we are hardest on the people we love, to teach them and mentor them.

True love calls for an action. This action eventually leads to his death but he never wavers, for Snape love is not about desire and acquiring something, for him love is a complete surrender to the beauty and he shows this by loving Lily long after she is dead, he knows that Lily is never going to come back, still he continues to love her and it tells us that love is discovered when existence feels complete when you want nothing except the pure feeling that love brings in the moment. Snape never expects anything and he never desires more and by this, he is able to appreciate what he truly has which is his love for Lily Potter.

Snape endures everything from pain, hatred, and loneliness to rejection from Lily herself, Snape was never complete in himself but he learns the essence of love by loving from a distance for life.

Love heals inward and cause of love heals and redeems Snape, He was bullied by James, and rejected by Lily for James which turned him towards death eaters and Voldemort but when it all comes to saving Lily and Harry he abandons his hateful cause and becomes a noble warrior.

Although he struggles with his self, hatred, and loneliness, love gives him hope. A hope which is predicated on the fact that in conflict between love and hate, love eventually wins. Therefore love is the ultimate redemption.

-Keshav Anand

"After all this time.....Always"

3rd B.A.

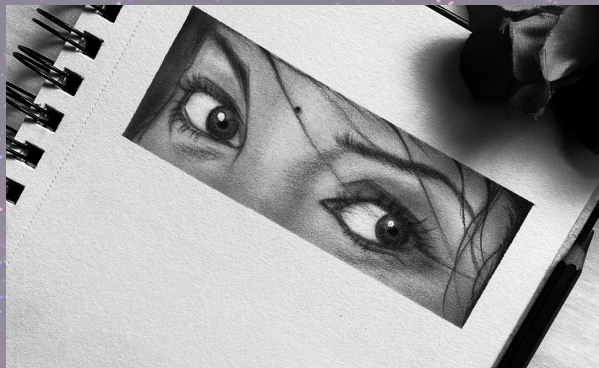
SUZUME REVIEW

The movie "Suzume" is a visually stunning and deeply moving piece of art. It is a hopeful story of love, loss, memories, resentment and gratitude masterfully woven into the fabric of everyday life. As I followed the protagonist through her extraordinary journey of self-discovery, I found tiny sprinkles of similarities between her journey and my own. I wasn't the same person going in as I was coming out and if that isn't art I don't know what is. It finally led me to journal and let my thoughts and tears flow which I hadn't been able to do in many moons.

At the end of the movie, I had been feeling like I was suspended somewhere in between being young and old, leaving my thoughts in utter disarray. But the movie made me realize that this is all a part of the journey. I am trying, learning to live with my regrets, failures, disappointments and slowly taking the course to self-acceptance. Although it seems like life has come to a standstill, it is constantly changing, one day at a time. In retrospect I am not the same as I was a year ago, I may have progressed only little from then but at the end of the day it is still progress. So, for all this and for carrying on day after day, hoping to get somewhere someday, I will be kinder to myself because I am doing the best I can. While in the midst of all these revelations it occurred to me that I had been focused on all the tough parts I had forgotten to look at all the wonderful aspects of my life which far outweighs the tough parts. I think in our strife to reach the goal, we often forget the journey itself and forget the people that make it bearable, enjoyable and worthwhile. I want to cherish and hold on to all of them who light me up with joy and delight.

-Monish M. 2nd B.Com A

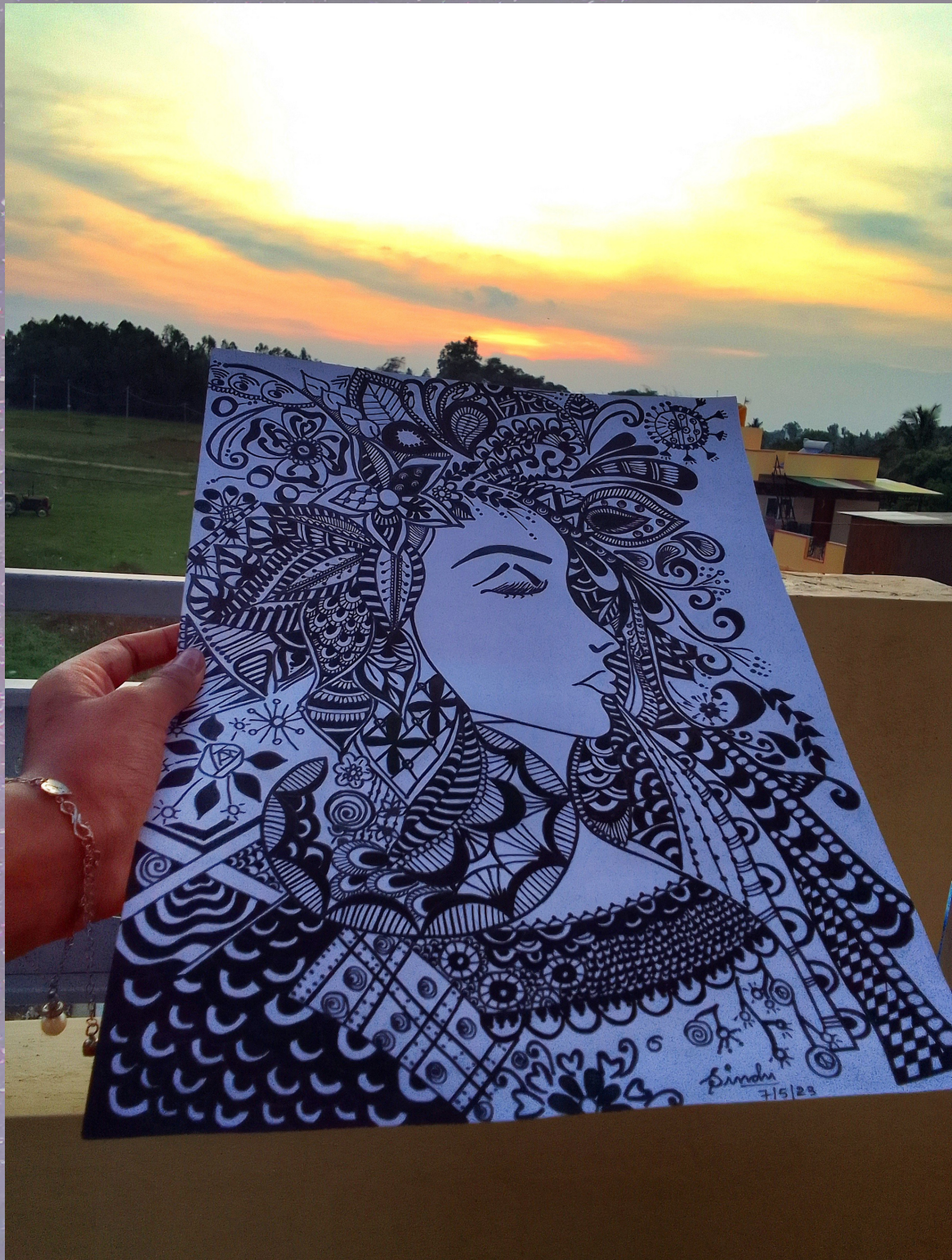
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-Chiranjeevi S.
3rd B.Com D



-Chiranjeevi S.
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-Adarsh Ulavannavar
1st B.Com D



Goa
"This summer let's have
some Vitamin-sea"



Old Manali,
Himachal Pradesh
"The hills are a perfect escape
from the chaos of the city"

-Pallavi M. Hattarki
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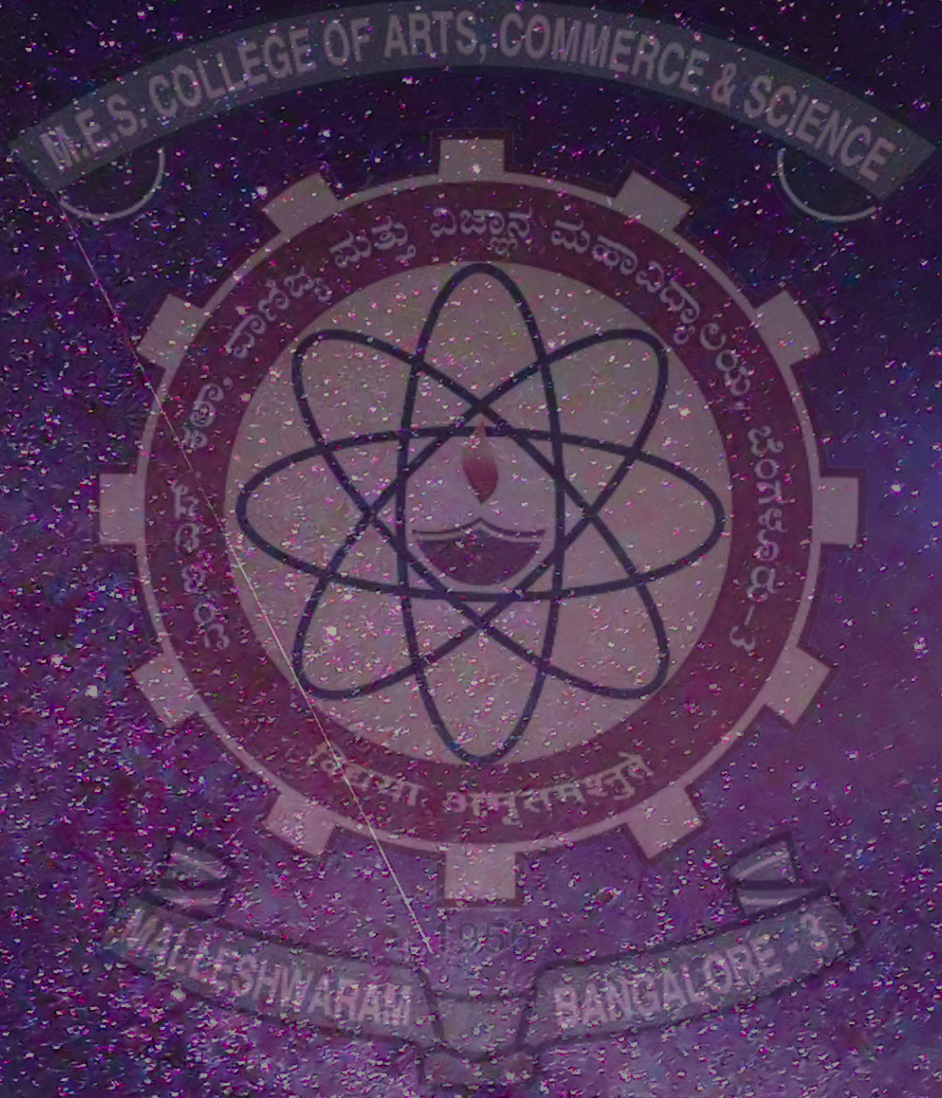
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