



**Bal Bharati**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
Sector-12, Dwarka

*"Language is the blood of the soul into which thoughts run and out of which they grow."*

~Oliver Wendell Holmes

Dear All,

The era of the COVID-19 pandemic has been a largely unsettling and distressful time for all. While we often allow adults the liberty to express their grief and anxiety, we tend to simplify the reactions of children, neglecting the emotional weight they might be carrying. It needs to be emphasised that children too undergo a range of complex emotions and must be provided an appropriate channel to express themselves. Language is the medium that can bridge the gap between emotion and expression. It is one of the oldest ways through which the most ingenious of minds have sought to acquaint the world with lofty ideas, deep philosophical inquiries, noble truths and the inner recesses of the human heart.

As the renowned linguist Noam Chomsky has asserted, **"The fact is that if you have not developed language, you simply don't have access to most of human experience"**. Providing suitable scaffolding to children through creative reading, writing and vocabulary activities builds their linguistic acumen. Being invested in the wide variety of literary works by notable novelists and poets allow children to feel a sense of solidarity as they find their sentiments being echoed by another voice. Learners are encouraged to take inspiration from the intellectual stimulus they are exposed to and pen down their personal thoughts, struggles and triumphs.

*The Cape of Good Hope* **is an amalgamation of learners' tryst with the joys** of language learning and linguistic expression. We believe that the inventive works of prose and poetry composed by our students shall evoke delight, amusement and pride in the readers.

Warm Regards

(Suruchi Gandhi)  
Principal



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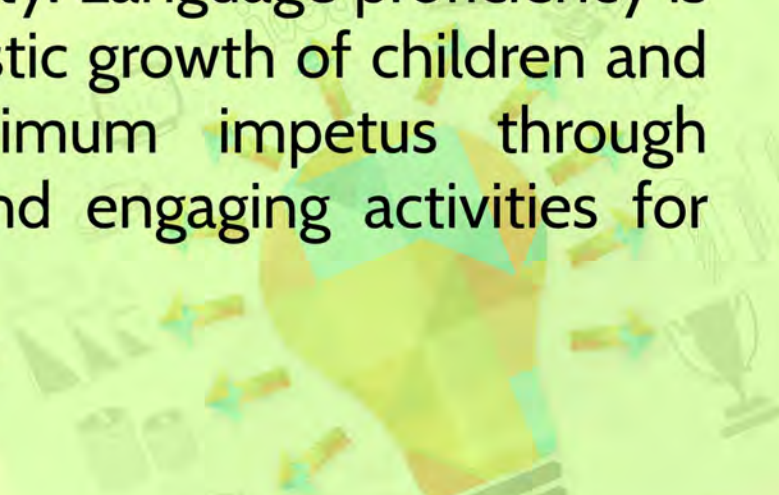
## THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE



**“The conquest of learning is achieved through the knowledge of languages.”** — Roger Bacon

In recent times, English as the globally recognised international language, has attained the status of a universal currency through which the transaction of field specific knowledge takes place. Domains of intellectual study from scientific theories to historical progress of a civilization, as well as creative manifestation of thought in the form of prose or poetry, are all accessible to us through a precise command over English language. Besides, linguistic competency can foster communicative faculties, social skills and creative thinking abilities, equipping learners with the requisite life skills and aiding the development of personality. Language proficiency is a key element in the holistic growth of children and is therefore given optimum impetus through innovative pedagogies and engaging activities for children.

**(Suruchi Gandhi)**  
**Principal**



# THE TREASURE WALL

## A VERY MERRY EXCHANGE

There is no doubt about the fact that a rich vocabulary is needed to express one's inner thoughts. Moreover, the knowledge of finer nuances of the language help tone the effective usage and fluency. Students were introduced to a new word, which could help eliminate the usage of 'very' from their everyday interactions. The activity equipped them with a host of new words, acquainting them with the dynamic abundance of English vocabulary..

Reading has always been a way of diving into a world of fantasies and indulging oneself into a language's literature. As such, we continue with our journey of good reading. Providing learners with an opportunity to dive into the world of book can spark their latent interest in reading. Selected favorites have been "Wuthering Heights" by Emile Bronte, Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea" by Jules Verne and "The Time Machine" by HG Wells.



Selected words to replace very:  
very complete—exhaustive  
very large-- mammoth  
very angry--ferocious  
very important-- critical  
very quiet-- serene  
very crowded--cramped  
very empty-- vacuum



**very afraid**  
Say

**fearful**

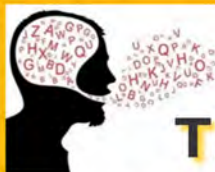
- very accurate
- very afraid
- very angry
- very annoying
- very bad
- very beautiful
- very big
- very boring
- very bright
- very busy
- very calm
- very careful
- very cheap
- very clean
- very clear
- very clever
- very cold
- very colorful
- very competitive
- very complete
- very confused
- exact
- fearful
- furios
- exasperating
- awful
- gorgeous
- massive
- dull
- luminous
- swamped
- serene
- cautious
- stingy
- spotless
- obvious
- intelligent
- freezing
- vibrant
- cutthroat
- comprehensive
- perplexed



## I SPEAK WHAT I HEAR



Pronunciation has been a very important part of spoken English and will continue to be so. This has led to teachers encouraging students to discover new words and learn their pronunciations. The new mode learning, during the current situation, made way for audio links to be circulated by the teachers. They were encouraged to read and write passages built around such new words for honing their practise.



## THE CURIOUS CASE OF C'S



COVID 19 has become a part of our existence now. Life seems new and different and not the same anymore. Our everyday conversations reflect the nuances of the pandemic as well it's mighty impact. A very interesting thing to be noticed is that these conversations have a lot of words beginning with the letter "C" i.e. China, continent, country, cases, crisis, Corona, cough etc. Noticing this sequence of alliteration, students were given the task of writing paragraphs with as many words beginning from a letter as possible. Not to say the least, students thoroughly enjoyed participating in the activity.

# COVID TIMES



## BLURSDAY

Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 — 5:40 PM

Today was...well another day. Lately I've been noticing how everything is the same, the same routine and similar schedules. I think that I had paybhaji yesterday, but was it yesterday? Or was it two days ago and to be honest I really do not know. Monday and Thursday, what's the difference, essentially nothing. Sometimes weeks have passed on and it seems like days. Everything is just getting all mixed up for me, considering I don't even go out anymore, thanks to the Corona Virus. There are no plans to meet friends, no bus getting delayed, no thinking of who am I going to sit with...there's no difference. I wake up sit at the same place every single day always in online class at the identical times, have identical plans every evening. Everything is plain, old and boring. I call up my friends but can't recall when it was the last time I called them, go for days without knowing the date. This Corona Virus is affecting me I cannot even differentiate between the days and weeks anymore. It is all so alike that I don't even feel like differentiating. Wow I'm



## DOOMSCROLLING



On a warm afternoon of December, 2020, Chris is sitting in his bedroom. Jake comes in to meet him.

Chris - Oh! Hi Jake!

(Gets up and hugs Jake)

Jake - Long time, no see, huh! You have become way taller.

(Looks at Chris' computer screen)

Jake - Hmmm, seems like someone is enjoying himself with some horror movies.

Chris - Yes, of course. Why won't I be? Past few months have been quite busy - writing articles for a magazine; solving sanitary and internet crisis and managing school work. It was all a headache. It was devastating and horrible!

(Becomes frustrated)

Jake - Why say so? It was not that bad! Just a few hiccups here and there. But all worked out.

Chris (Mockingly) - Says who? The ultimate perfectionist and manager? You don't know how difficult it has been.

(Jake sits down besides Chris)

Jake - Then tell me. I am all ears.

Chris (sighs) - Okay, so listen. Getting up at 7 in the morning to attend online classes; solving the same technical issues a thousand time a day; managing my passion; writing a bible for homework. Ugh! It was all too much. Impossible. It asked a lot out of me. And this stupid virus does not seem to be going anywhere for at least few more months. Staying at home all the time has made me claustrophobic. Sometimes, I just felt like screaming out in agony.

(Cover his face with his palms)

Jake - Hey! Why are you so depressed? Look, the situation is not as bad. You are not weak; you will get out of this phase. Okay? You are not looking at the positive side.

Chris - And what exactly is the "positive" side?

Jake - During this lockdown, you have become more of "you". You could work out on your passion. Who knew you would be earn some money by writing for a magazine? And literally, the time you spent with your family in this lockdown was the BEST. Wasn't it?

Chris (stutters) - Y-y-yes

Jake - And look at you! Those nutritious foods have made you way more beautiful

Chris (blushes) - Shut Up!

(Both chuckle)

Jack - And you have me and your family watching your back. We are there for you. Never be afraid of such things for you are smarter than you think and stronger than you seem. We will together get out of this situation, together. Be calm and cool!

Chris (smiles) - Thank you, jake! You helped a lot! We will be fine! Affirmative. We just have to be patient and this havoc, too, shall pass.

## WHAT'S TRENDING?

Trends are the trend of today. One has to be up to date on what is cool and what's not. Hence presenting another trendy set of words-overrated and underrated, because sometimes the "cool" things are not deserving of their title and then there are things that don't get as much love as they should. Students presented their unpopular opinions in front of the class and made way for a heated debate.

## WEB OF WORDS

"All things are bound together. All things connect." - Chief Seattle  
To think that each word in existence is related to uncountable other words in some sense, is mind boggling much like a conversation with a best friend, ("how did we arrive at Trump from chocolate?"). The human stream of consciousness works in mysterious ways but can it be followed? Does a pair of absolutely unrelated words exist? Students answered these questions and many more as they strung up clearly related words in a limited time.



## TETE-A-TETE

Conversing is hard. It is an integral part of human interaction but not many are privy to the art of conversing. What happened when students were asked to direct the conversation in a certain way so as to make others guess a particular word? A happy chaos ensued as they spoke to their peers, honing their conversation skills along the way.



## BREAKING NEWS!

Breaking news!  
Breaking news!  
Breaking news! The chant that has echoed in our living rooms since the beginning of the pandemic has become too familiar. So much so that it became a running joke. Students of class 10 also became journalists for a day and reported on the controversies of the fictional world "breaking news" style.





# Think About It

## **Q.1 If you could have a cup of coffee with any one fictional character. Who would it be?**

Elizabeth Bennett, the main character of *Pride and Prejudice*. She is known for her sharp wit and strong morals. Avid readers describe her to be centuries ahead. I would love to have a cup of coffee with her and discuss her feminist and strong ideals that worked in the 18th century and how they relate to the 21st century.

Ishika Acharya, 9th – D

Clay the dragon, from *Wings of Fire*. He is strong, brave, and has a great moral compass. I would like to meet him to see how he managed to accomplish all that he did. (I would also like to see how he plans on drinking coffee, you know, since he's a dragon)

Sanidhya Barara, 9th – D

Voldemort, because I would like to ask where his nose is.

Sambhav Sharma, 9th – D

Isabella Linton, a minor character in *Wuthering Heights*. She was known for her cunning, wit, ambition, selfishness and obsession with Heathcliff. However as a reader I always felt there was something about her character that was never pointed out. A victim displayed to be the villain, she is one of the most complex characters. I would love to get her views.

## **Q.2 If I could make one letter in the English alphabet phonetically consistent, it would be.....**

It would be the letter 'z' as it really wouldn't make much of a difference and wouldn't cause people any trouble. I'm good that way. No need to thank me.

Ananyaj Gupta, 9th – D

I challenged my friend to give me a phonetically consistent sentence and every time he tried, his "A"s would mess up. So, having experimentally proven it, I would change the A and make it phonetically consistent, to mess with people the most. Cuz I'm evil that way.

Sanidhya Barara, 9th D

If the letter "E" is made consistent, it should make people jumble up their sentences the most; maybe even make them speak one word per minute. Thus, I would like to make the letter E phonetically consistent.

Sambhav Sharma, 9th – D

**Hope is a waking dream.**

# THE HOME OF HOPE

*DUSK TO DAWN*

*The streets are empty,*

*The nights are cold.*

*The same streets which had crowd aplenty,*

*Now the silence is written in bold*

*The darkness has taken over,*

*Light is nowhere to be found.*

*The people are in discomposure,*

*Inside these walls we are all bound.*

*But, far away inside a lamp,*

*There is still light.*

*For our breaking hopes, it is the cramp,*

*In the times of despair, it brings delight.*

*Stand strong, these times shall end,*

*From this situation, we must cope.*

*We ought not let our strengths bend,*

*For there is still 'HOPE' and not an 'END'.*

*– ALABHYA (VIII B)*

**Hope is a passion for what is possible.**



# THE HOME OF HOPE

## The "GLOBAL WORLD CRISIS (COVID-19)"

With the tiny microscopic being driving the whole world, nothing seems impossible. 2021 seems the only hope to overcome this new normal. After the spread of Covid-19, almost everyone lost it all. But the only thing constant was hope. What is hope? Why do we only hope during difficult situations, what is the use of hope and why it is so important? To have hope means to want an outcome which can make your life better. Hope is the most important thing during this difficult situation. The pandemic period also showed us the true meaning of communication and thanks to technology that we are still able to contact our loved ones via video calls, texts etc. If there was no language we never would have been able to communicate. It helps us to express our feeling, needs, desires and wants. It's not like the lockdown only affected our lives in a negative way but also gave us an opportunity to look at the brighter side. It gave us a chance to know more about our family members, friends and most importantly ourselves. The lockdown period made us self-sufficient. At the end I would just like to say that it's the faith of not losing hope and that's all that matters.

KRISHNA PURDHANI (VIII B)

They'll burst forming bubbles of rain.  
All hail the hail which destroys the charm,  
Rendering the purpose of summer in vain  
If I'm winter, I'll have blooming beauties of spring.  
The cold chilly air as my canker.  
The flowers will rot, oh they will die,  
In death, they take from me my amber.  
If I'm monsoon, I'll have a radiant rainbow.  
The grey fog will flaw the flow.  
Storms will butcher the radiance,  
The gloom will spread to the sun's glow.  
I'm doom, I'm destruction and I am my downfall.  
Lately, I call myself the Jack Frost.  
But with the cold will come the sweet snow,  
Beneath the flakes I will be lost.  
The grey storm will be overrun by white.  
The hail, the warmth of summer will slay.  
I'm summer, with dark clouds of monsoon,  
With wind the clouds just flew away.  
-SHATAKSHI MEHROTRA (XD)

IS IT JUST A LANGUAGE?  
Emotion is a whisper- a  
beckoning beyond,  
Language is a host along  
the lake, beneath the  
trees,  
Ten thousand dancing in  
the breeze,  
hope is the place where  
everyone wants to go  
English is the feeling that  
carries you through,  
It allows you to broaden  
your world, and unfurls  
you more pearled,  
-Prisha Sharma 8-D

# THE HOME OF HOPE

The Cape of Good Hope – not only was it the only ray of light for the European sailors to discover Asia, it is a philosophy we should live by every day. When he was on the brink of perishing, Bartolomeu Dias took a perilous decision and commanded the ship's crew to take a risk for the greater good. And not only was it beneficial for the European Traders, it unlocked the gateways of trade which we still use to this day. Dias' sacrifice wasn't in vain, he was indeed a saviour for the whole global economy. But how does this apply to our daily lives? Hope isn't a feeling of expectation or desire, it is a feeling of trust, a feeling of belief that something magnificent will happen, something which keeps us motivated throughout. 'The Cape of Good Hope', is an underlying metaphor that signifies an indication, which is in turn a result of our hope that something even better is approaching. And as they say, we should never lose hope, because God has a plan for each and every one of us.

One should never give up, because we are alive, we have our dreams and in the end nothing is impossible. A caterpillar in the inspiration of becoming an elegant butterfly, struggles out of the cocoon, without even thinking about the difficulties which lie before it, never losing hope. The essence of success isn't just a result of hard work, perseverance and discipline – it requires a pinch of Hope, because it is hope only, which keeps us going, which makes us believe that we are capable of achieving beyond our imagination, which keeps us sane when we try to lose it. Because miracles happen, because we believe, we hope. –MEHAK MEHRA (XD)



THE BIRDS OF HOPE ARE EVERYWHERE, LISTEN TO THEM SING 9

# ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FACULTY- CRAFTING LITERARY GENIUSES



Nandita Nath



Rohini Gautam



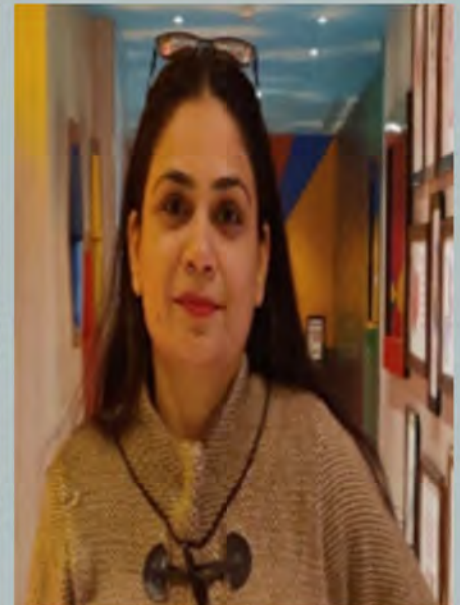
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