



HELLO, TIDBITTERS!

It's Independence month! The 15th of August is when we were officially recognised as our own country, no more a part of the British Empire! What does that mean for the common people, like us? (Of course, you're not common, you're uncommonly special)

For us, we feel our Independence in our right to education. We feel it in our right to travel and work and live the way that we want, as free citizens of our country. Our freedom fighters fought for these simple rights that we enjoy, and for that they have our respect, always!

Please enjoy your freedom to read this paper, and remember to recycle it when you're done!

ARTEMIS ACCORDS

The Artemis Accords were established by NASA in 2020 together with seven other founding member nations, and now, 27 countries, including India, have signed up to be a part of this ambitious venture (project)!

WHAT ARE THE ARTEMIS ACCORDS?

The Moon, and Deep Space are very exciting for all of us right now. We have found evidence of water on the moon, we are continuously finding out new things about our neighbouring planets and about outer Space thanks to the new James Webb telescope, and there are people who even own land on the moon! (so if we ever settle on the moon, they already have everything planned).



Photo Credits: NASA

And with all this global interest in space, it only made sense for the countries to work together.

That is the basis of the Artemis Accords. It means that the countries that have signed the agreement agree to share information, to share the responsibility and then to share the credit of their findings in space. A part of this vision includes sending the first woman, and the first person of colour to the moon.

Of course, although the focus is on the moon at present, the Accords include almost all space exploration. This is a new way to ensure peace and cooperation between countries, and when you think of all the stars we're closer to touching, it's pretty exciting!

For more information about this, do visit the [NASA website](#), and look up [Artemis Accords](#)!



A VICIOUS CYCLONE

Cyclone Biparjoy, which recently hit Gujarat was part of a bigger cycle of events. Have you heard of the El Nino and La Nina weather cycles? They occur in the Pacific Ocean, but affect the whole world. El nino is when there's unusual warming over the Pacific Ocean, and La Nina is the opposite, when there is unusual cooling over the Pacific Ocean. Both events can cause extreme weather around the world.

Cyclone Biparjoy, the hurricane in Haryana and in some other parts of the world are believed to have been caused by El Nino. The recent heat waves we've been having are also because of El Nino.

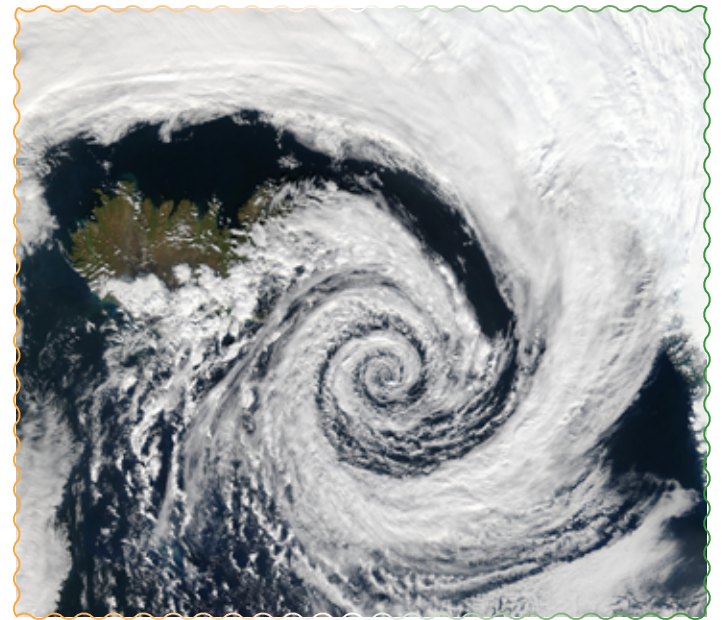


Photo Credits: NASA



Photo Credits: Reddit

FASTEST CUBER

Max Park, a 21 year old man with autism has broken the record for fastest person to solve a Rubik's Cube! Park solved a Rubik's Cube in just 3.13 seconds! The person to hold this record before him was Yiheng Wang from China, at 4.48 seconds.

In fact, speedcubing, which is what the game of solving Rubik's cubes really fast is called, has many different versions, ranging from smaller cubes to larger ones, and even different-sized ones, and Max Park holds six world records for different types of cubes!



Photo Credits: Optica

PROGRESS WE CAN SEE!

Greenhouses are glass houses that help plants grow better by concentrating (increasing) sunlight. And solar panels absorb sunlight and convert it into energy. What happens if we combine the two? Scientists made solar panels that are semi-transparent, and tried using them on greenhouses to see how it worked. As it turned out, the greenhouses with solar panels were actually better for the plants inside them! The plants grew faster, and were healthier than in normal greenhouses. The reason for this is that the new solar panels reduced the harmful effects of the sun, therefore making the plants grow better.

Scientists are working on something similar, which can be used on our windows, to help us generate electricity naturally!



GETTING IN THEIR HEADS

China has started to introduce AI headbands in classrooms. These fancy-looking headbands monitor children's minds - how attentive they are in the classroom, how interested they are, and then this is reviewed later by their teachers, parents and school management. A lot of people, including musician A.R. Rahman, have come out and spoke against this, because children should have access to their own minds, instead of a school trying to control their thoughts. Studies have shown that Chinese children already spend a lot of time studying: about 55 hours per week, so in a 5-day week, that's 11 hours per day!



it felt like it was controlling us.

MISSION MOON

One of the most exciting trilogies in India is not a movie, or a book. It's actually the launch of Chandrayaan 3, a rocket that we hope will make us the fourth country in the world to make a moon landing! The last time, 2019, didn't work out so well for us because the moon lander at the time, Vikram, malfunctioned (had a problem). This time also, the moon lander is called Vikram, but adjustments have been made to its systems to ensure the same problem doesn't re-occur. The launch took place on the 14th of July, and is expected to land on the moon on 23rd August, 2023.

On 30th July, ISRO launched yet another rocket on a mission partnered with Singapore to clean space junk. ISRO has four more missions planned this year. We wish them all the luck!



Photo Credits: Neo Science Hub



Photo Credits: Amazon

HOMER IN TAMIL

On the 12th of July, the Tamil translations of the epics Iliad and Odyssey were released. The original books were written by the Greek poet Homer, and talk about epic heroes and their battles. It's actually quite interesting, because it includes gods, and great journeys and superhero powers (just like the Aeneid by Virgil).

Translated by Prof. Marudanayagam, it's part of an initiative (a project) by the Chief Minister MK Stalin to translate different classics into Tamil.

If you're interested in a simpler version of these stories, there is also "The Children's Homer" by Padriac Colum, which would be an interesting way to learn about ancient heroes!



CLASSIC FOR KIDS: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM BY SHAKESPEARE

This whole story revolves around a bumbling fairy, Puck and his mistakes.

So, Puck has a magic potion that if he puts it on a person's eyes while they sleep, they will fall in love with the first person they see when they wake up.

There are four people who have come into the woods; Lysander and Hermia, who are in love and want to get married, Demetrius who is trying to get Hermia to marry him instead, and Helena, who loves Demetrius.

Puck is meant to put the potion on Demetrius's eyes, so that he will fall in love with Helena. Instead, Puck puts it on Lysander's eyes, and he falls in love with Helena instead. Then Puck, to make things right, puts it on Demetrius's eyes, who also falls in love with Helena. Both the boys are now trying to woo Helena, and leave Hermia feeling sad and jealous.

So now Hermia challenges Helena to a fight, and the boys decide to fight over Helena, and what has Puck done now?

Puck also puts the potion on the eyes of the fairy queen, Titania, who falls in love with a man with a donkey's head!

He does finally sort the whole issue out, and the two happy couples do manage to fall in love with the right people, and finally get married, and the queen does stop



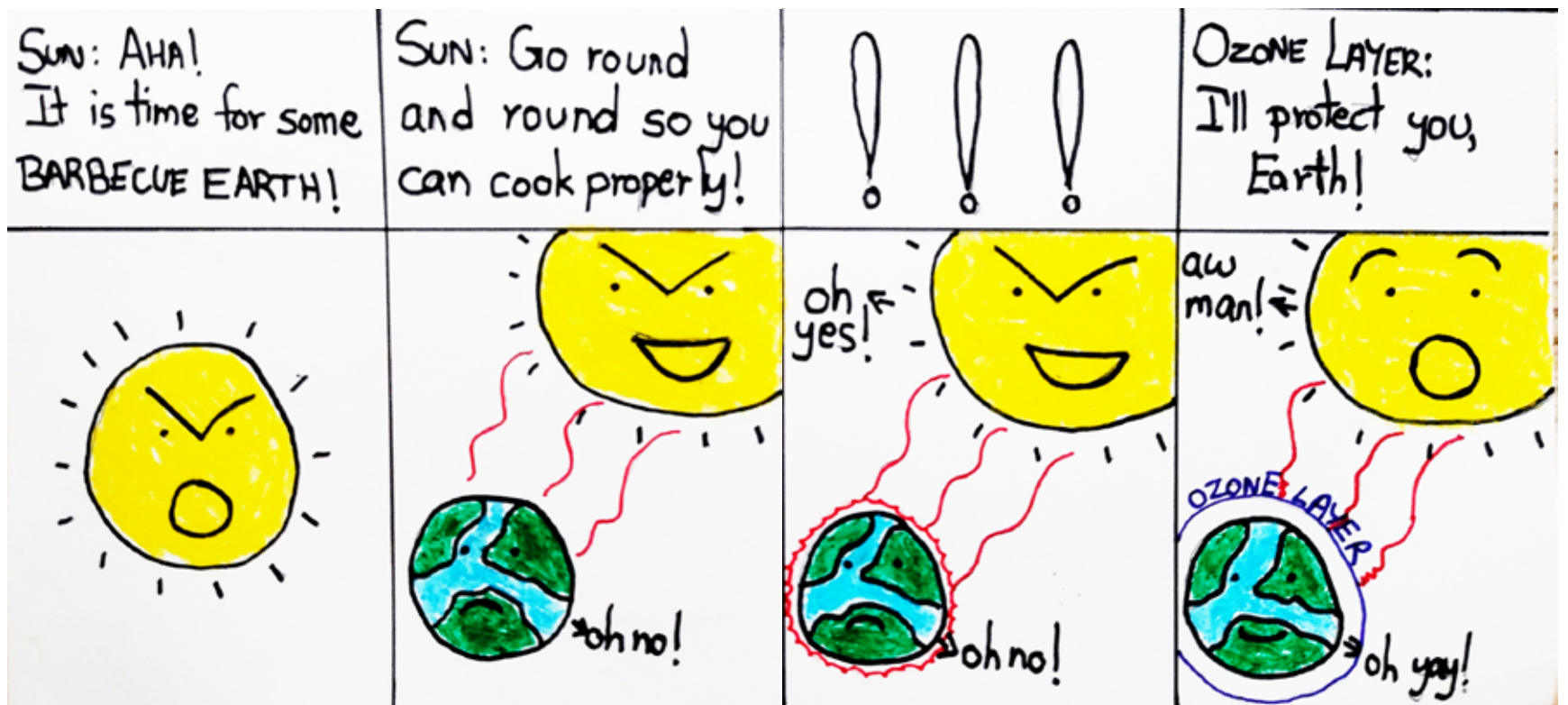
Photo Credits: Etsy

her crush on the donkey-head man, and go back to the king instead, so it all works out!

The play ends with Puck telling the audience to please think of the whole thing as if it was just "A Midsummer Night's Dream!"

COMIC

SPACE DRAMA





TIDBITS READING LIST

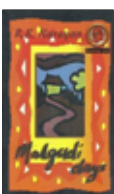
20 books that Tidbits recommends! Some of these books are classics, some are out of the mainstream, some are inspiring, some are very Indian stories, and unfortunately, some are left out. We promise to work on a more comprehensive list of books, on our webpage soon!



The Blue Umbrella by Ruskin Bond
Any Ruskin Bond book is worth recommending for that simple, nostalgic joy!



Gajapati Kulapati by Ashok Rajagopalan
Available in many languages, these fresh, fun stories about lovable Gajapati are perfect for kids!



Malgudi Days by R. K. Narayan
These tales about a quiet little village and it's people are just so heartwarming!



Mukand and Riaz by Nina Sabnani
A sweet, touching story about two friends who got seperated in a difficult time.



The Boy Who Asked Why by Sowmya Rajendran - This whole series, that explores inspiring Indians like B R. Ambedkar, and Srinivasa Ramanujan is so interesting and informative.



Wings To Fly by Karkulali and Sowmya Rajendran - A true story about an inspiring disabled athlete, Malathy Krishnamurthi



The Pigeon Has To Go To School by Mo Willems - This little Pigeon and his problems are relatable for little kids, and so fun to read!



Yaroslava's Flowers by Noel Parent
A very different story, about a little girl and how she discovers the healing powers of flowers.



The Sneetches by Dr. Seuss
Dr. Seuss is a classic, of course! This story is not only silly and fun, but also deeply meaningful.



Marvin K. Mooney Will You Please Go Now? by Dr. Seuss - Just a funny, rhyming rant about a guest who's obviously overstayed his welcome!



A Tangle Of Brungles by Shobha Viswanath - You can use this delightful story about a witch looking for her perfect partner to teach your kids what groups of all kinds of things are called!



Alice's Adventures In Wonderland by Lewis Carroll - A wonderful, imaginative journey written by a genius in abstract thought.



I Am Malala by Malala Yousufzai and Patricia McCormick - This story of Malala Yousufzai's struggle for girls' education is both heartbreaking and inspiring.



Wonder by R.J. Palacio
A touching story about how a boy with a disfigured face gets accepted in his school and community.



The Day The Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt - Poor Drew Daywalt has to deadly with all his crayons going on strike!



Stuck by Oliver Jeffers
Weird stories are the best - Floyd makes hilarious attempts at getting his kite unstuck from a tree. Cute, fun and exactly the right kind of strange!



Room On A Broom by Julia Donaldson
This poor witch cannot seem to keep her things from flying away! Luckily she gets help and makes friends on her way! Any book written by Julia Donaldson is sure to become a favourite!



Little Big Feelings by Campbell Books
Mental health books for kids that help them understand their own emotions and how to deal with them better.



Captain Underpants by Dav Pilkey
Another classic in funny literature for children, Captain Underpants and his antics are brilliant in their humour! For extra laughs, listen to the theme song!



Unicorn On A Roll by Dana Simpson
Comic strip about a girl with an imaginary friend, it's both heart-warming and funny!



ICONS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE



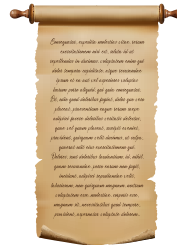
Olive Branch - The Olive branch was used in old roman stories and poems to signify peace. In fact, it has been used even in the Bible to denote peace.



Laurel Wreath - The ancient Romans were very keen on sports and games, and the winners of these games were usually crowned with a crown of leaves called the laurel wreath. That's why, even today, winners in games are said to have won "laurels"!



Harp - The Roman God, Cupid was often shown as playing the harp. The harp signified music about love in Rome.



Aeneid - An epic poem written by a poet called Virgil. It spoke about epic battles, gods, heroes, and brave adventures - almost like an ancient version of the Avengers!



Gladiator - The gladiator is a fighter, almost like an ancient Roman version of WWE, but, tragically, Roman gladiators usually fought till death.

THE EPIC FIGHT BETWEEN THE INDIAN SARI, AND THE ROMAN TOGA. WHO WILL WIN?

SARI vs TOGA



I'm wearing a beautiful sari, you're looking a little sorry

Worn by women

Roughly 9 metres in length

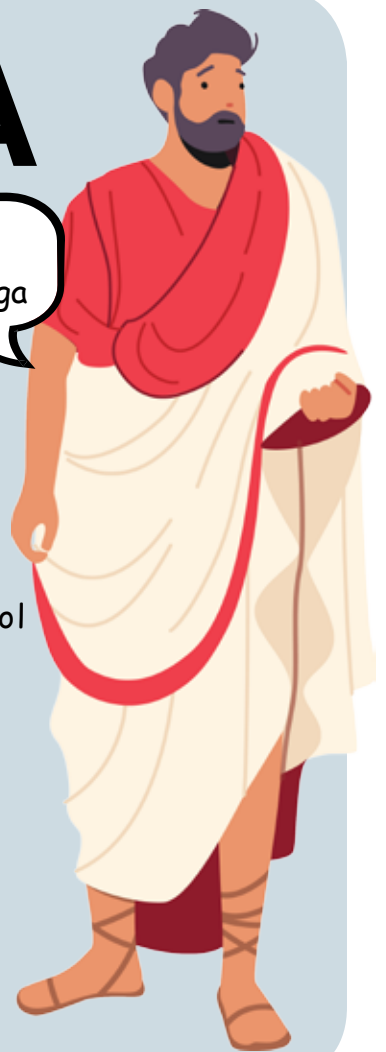
Draped tightly with folded pallu and pleats in front

Comes in various colours and patterns and materials

Can be worn casually and for work purposes

Invented 5000 years back

Still worn as a garment



I came, i saw, i wore a toga

Worn by men

Roughly 6 metres in length

Loosely draped to cover the whole body except right arm

Mostly made of white wool

Worn mostly for formal occasions

Invented about 2500 years ago

Nobody wears it, except for costume parties

Taking all these points into consideration, we will have to say that the sari wins this round for sure. It's longer, more creative, and is still worn even though it's twice as old as the toga. Sorry, Ancient Rome!



THE ORIGINAL MAZE



Photo Credits: Redbubble

One of the most popular mazes is the Labyrinth. According to legend, the Labyrinth is the home of the ancient monster, the Minotaur, who is human-shaped, but with a bull's head. Here's a representation of how the original Labyrinth looked. See if you can solve it and escape from the monster!

JUST JOKING!

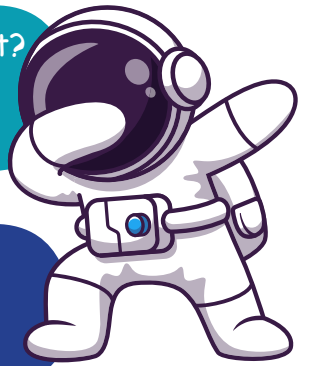
Why did the astronauts go to a concert?
Because they wanted to rock it (rocket)!

What do you call a happy fighter?
Glad-iator

What do you call a sad fighter?
Sad-iator

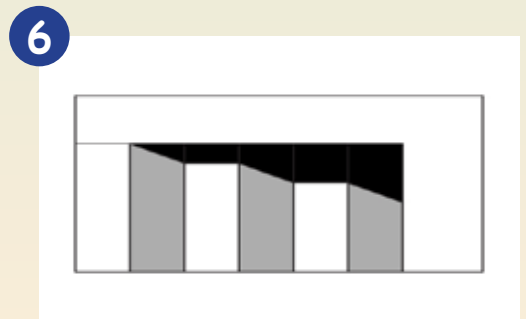
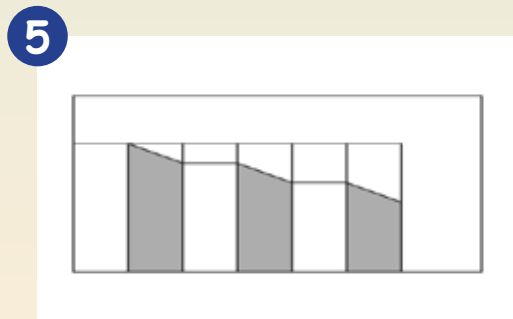
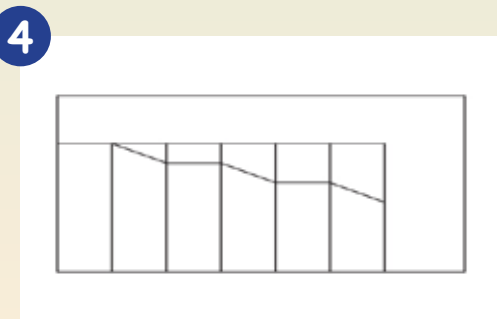
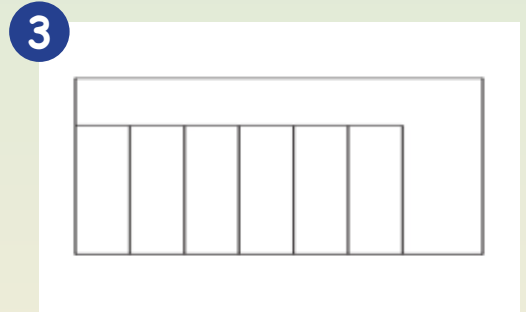
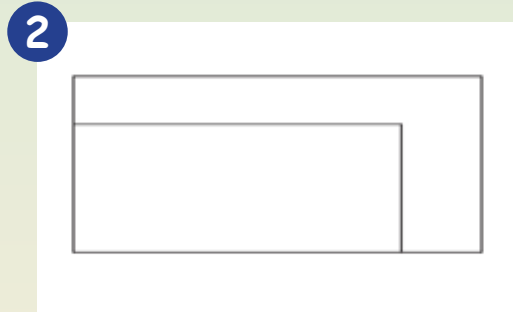
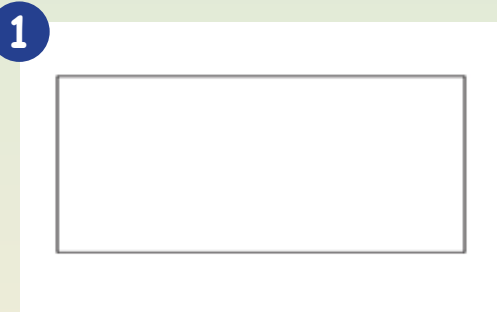
What do you call an angry fighter?
Mad-iator

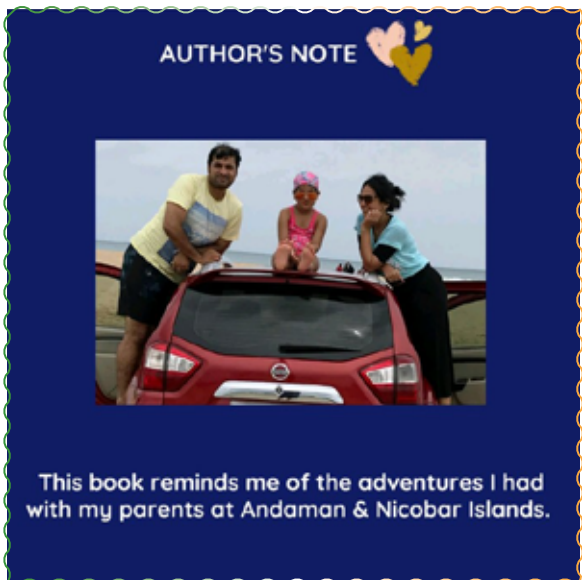
What do you call a fighter who is used to move energy from one place to another?
Radiator



ART SMART

3d drawings are so cool! Here's one that not only looks amazing, but is actually quite easy to do!





Story book created by Zahabia, age 8



Anvesha Siya, 10



Sometimes, there are things that trouble us that we might not always know how to fix. Just write to the fix it sister: Ask Akka, and she will answer all your questions for you!

Q: There's a girl in my school, who's a little older than me. She says really hurtful things, and sometimes I feel like crying. How can I make her stop?

Akka: Being bullied is tough and can be very hurtful. First, you should know that it's not your fault. It's not because of who you are, what you

wear, what you look like. Bullies simply act the way they do because they are hurting on the inside: they feel insecure and bullying makes them feel powerful. Here are some things you can do:

- 1. Ignore:** The bully WANTS you to react - so simply not reacting, or walking away, will help.
- 2. Be Assertive:** Just tell them to stop. Tell them the truth: it's not nice to hurt other people. But if they don't listen, or get angry, get help.
- 3. Use the 'buddy system':** If you're with a friend or with a group of people, the bully won't trouble you. So, if in need, go talk to someone else until they leave.
- 4. Talk:** Tell an adult if you need to, even if it feels scary to do that. A lot of problems become easier to solve if you just get help.

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