**STRUGGLE**

When I was born,
I struggled to enter the universe;
I had no cloth on my body,
And no money in my purse.

When I stood first on my feet,
I struggled to make balance;
Then I had to twist my tongue,
To break the silence.

When I first read ABC,
I had to sacrifice my play time;
My mom told me that,
It is must to see the sunshine.

To answer a question in the exam,
When I first used my pen;
I had to write a lot,
To get ten out of ten.

I had a lot of fun,
In my college days;
But had to work very hard,
To complete my doctoral phase.

I had degrees and medals,
In my hand;
But had no job,
Without a political stand.

As I got married,
I had to separate my kitchen;
And the same cycle of struggle started,
For my innocent children.

Anant Chhabra
IX-F

---

**LET HER TRY**

A silent tear falls from her eyes
As she fell on her knees and cry
No one can see her painful life

Because it is not shown in her hazel eyes
Dejected, Rejected
Unappreciated and not respected
Alone and so desolated
She never ever felt so hurt
Trying so hard to get back on top

Every time she tried
They pulled her back
Right back from where she had started
Nobody sees the pain inside
Because she wears a mask to hide

All the scars
And all her fears
Now all she could do is weep and cry
Dignity lost, together with her pride
There is no one by her side
To even let her try.

Yashasvi Aggarwal
IX
**VALUE OF READING**

What life makes is only an organism,
But reading is like a prism.

It creates spectrum by dispersion of light,
And takes the reader to a new height.

Reading makes you know some more,
And makes you wiser than before.

Start reading books today and now,
It will tell you why, when and how.

Library offers books for free,
And is a selfless donor like a tree.

Read to make your knowledge vast,
And help our India develop fast.

---

**Morality: Precious Yet Underrated**

Morals are certain which are taught to us since childhood by our teachers, elders and parents. These help us to differentiate between right and wrong. Purpose of moral education is to develop virtues, decency and manners which are needed in one’s personal and public life.

Moral education is an ancient practice, which came to our society through our ancestors long before there were educational institutes. Nowadays many institutes impart moral education. Stories, fables etc. are used as a way to explain and deliver the right message. But today it seems as if morality is lost in people. It seems people of the universe have learned the art of manipulating. This has generated a desire in people to accumulate wealth and everything including education has been adapted to achieve this.

In present time there is a great need for moral rehabilitation because qualities like tolerance, love for justice and respect are aspects of humanity required in a peaceful society. For this a child should be taught at an early stage about morality and humanity. Also educational institutes like universities, schools, colleges etc. should integrate moral education and curriculum because new generation is the foundation of futuristic India and whatever we sow today is actually what we are going to reap tomorrow.

---

Pavni Aggarwal
X-A

Radhika Madaan
IX-F
Stress or tension has become an integral part of our daily life. A little bit of stress is unavoidable and good too. But too much of stress may be counter-productive and would in due course impair both our physical and mental health. And such stress stalks everyone including the children and adults. Education should be a joyous experience but if too much pressure is put on children, they feel stressed out.

It is the duty of parents, schools, colleges, universities and the administration of such institutions to make education stress free. They have to modify education with the students as the centre. All efforts should be made to sustain the trilateral interaction among the three—the students, the teachers and the parents. Students should be provided with modern tools as well as the moral and spiritual strength needed to face challenges of modern day living. Cheerful and stress free environment in the classroom is essential and healthy for students. It makes lessons more interesting and helps in better understanding. Parents and teachers should not compel students to study for long time.

They should take breaks regularly. Exercise and meditation will also help to reduce stress.

Parents and teachers should appreciate the efforts of students and not the outcome. Doing well academically is not the means to success but excelling in other fields is equally important. Stress free mind is important for the healthy growth of an individual and that of a nation. Stress is an evil that can be dangerous. So, students must eliminate this six lettered word from their life and live happily to make progress and live their dreams.

Rudraksh Goel
IX-C
“Only a patient bird can learn to fly.”
A father told, seeing his son with tears in his eyes;
I will tell you a story,
That you should always store in your memory
“A broken winged bird unable to fly;
Grovelling in the dust,
Try to reach high,
But failing, despite so many tries,
Fluttering and uttering silent cries,
Is nobody there for my rescue!
To paint my life with a glorious hue?
Many tears I have shed all this long,
So often I have heard a melancholy song.
I am weary of this world, this struggling life,
And then he realised,
Life is nothing but a maze, for there is strife,
Tears and frustrations beset my way,
“You are no good” does someone say.
Do not expect an act of humanity from any,
So full is this world of treason and felony.
And though dejected I am not yet broken,
My faith in patience is unfathomable.
As I am sure that one day I will become invincible.

Shreya Garg
X-B

You give me birth,
But is it really of some worth?
It is better to have no life than to be killed slowly day and night.
I am not given education which is my right;
And people say my country’s future Is bright.
I am not respected,
And even then patience is expected.
In my country a girl is Worshipped like a goddess.
All these things are hopeless,
All your love and affection is fake,
Please watch your actions for God’s sake.
I shall have to die one day,
But I am murdered every day.

Shreya Dhanda
X-E
Every person has a different perception towards life. Some have positive perception while others have negative. People who find positivity in everything are successful in leading a happy and prosperous life. But those with a negative outlook keep finding faults with things and are very irritated and depressed every time. Once upon a time in a village some masons were building pillars. A monk who was passing by saw them and asked them what work they were engaged in. The first mason answered with utmost frustration that he did not know. The second mason answered that he was not concerned about whatever was being constructed. He was doing his work and getting a suitable wage. Third mason answered that he was building a temple. “When I work with my instruments and give shape to the bricks and stones, I find as if I am making the statue of God. I really feel pleased, peaceful and satisfied.” The monk resumed his journey but on the way kept thinking about all the three and their perception. He was happy that he could learn a very important and precious lesson of life.

Palkin Bhatia
X-B

One day the head of a very wealthy family, the father, took his son on a trip to a village with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live. They spent a couple of days in the house of what would be considered a very poor family. On their return from the trip, the father asked his son, “How was the trip?” “It was great, Papa”. “Did you see how poor people live?” the father asked. “Oh, yes” said the son. “So, tell me what did you learn from the trip? asked the father. The son answered, “I saw that we have one dog and they have four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a huge pond. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. We have a small piece of land to live and they live in fields that are beyond our sight. We have servants to serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow them. We have walls around our property to protect us; they have friends to protect them.” “Thanks papa for showing me how poor we really are!”

Prerika
X-B
One must have come across Thomas Fuller’s well known proverb “A Stitch in Time Saves Nine.”

It effectively means that we must attend to things well in time, so that we can save ourselves from a lot of trouble later on. Just as it takes only a spark to start a fire, which if not put out in time can cause great devastation. Similarly, the minutest problem, if not attended immediately, could lead to a major catastrophe. As one immediately attends to a small hole in one’s pocket with a stitch, which if left unattended could develop into a tear, leading to nine stitches at a later date. Yet again, a delayed action can cause serious misunderstanding and even loss of friendship. Thus taking the right action at an opportune time is even more important where relations are concerned. A wrong action committed knowingly or unknowingly should be apologized for immediately. It is so in all spheres of life.

For e.g. if we do not study, then at the time of examination we will be unable to cope up with the situation. In small things or in great, in one’s household or in one's business, in all circumstances, promptness in action leads to profit; delay to loss.

The motto of Benjamin Franklin was “Never leave till tomorrow what you can do today”. So to incorporate this belief in our lives, we all must attend to even minor problems immediately and not postpone action for a later date because tomorrow never comes. This is a sound piece of advice which is relevant even today and would always stand us in good stead in our life.

Dhwani
X-C
ABILITY

Ability is to look at a blank page,
And create a poem,
Ability is to stare in the face of fear,
And come out stronger than before.

Ability is to walk into a room of strangers,
And come out of it with friends.
Ability is to admit you are wrong,
When you are wrong.
Ability is to get up undeterred,
When you fall.
Ability is to stick to hope when everything seems lost.

Ability is a simple word, with a complex meaning.
For many, ability is never found, but for all ability is within.
Ability stares everyone in face at one time or another.

Whether your ability is, how well you lead troops,
How well you flip at dancing,
How smart you are at school,
But each one of you has the ability for sure.

Anubhav
X-A

JOURNEY TO SUCCESS

Getting success is not easy
It involves getting busy
There is a loop of failure
Of which you need to be aware.
If you learn from it
You never get challenges and impediments may get decimated.
Be aware of your weakness; and make it a reason for your brightness.
Setting goals should be your target
And achieving them should be your habit.
Building self-confidence should be your motive
It helps in eliminating negative
Keep your strength prime
This will make your character shine.
Be positive to the situations
Don’t throw your tantrums
Instead take up a challenge
And face it taking a pledge
Then you will be able make it to a place called SUCCESS.

Jahnavi Godara
X-E
Why do you want to be someone else? When you could be better by being yourself.

Why pretend to be someone you are not? When you have something they haven’t got.

Cheating yourself of the life you have to live,
Deprives others of that which only you can give.
You have much more to offer by just being you,
Than walking around in someone else’s shoe.
Trying to live the life of another is a mistake,
It is a masquerade, nothing more than fake.
Be yourself and let your qualities shine through,
Others will love you more for being just you.
Remember that God loves you just as you are,
To him you are already a bright shining star.
Family and friends will love you more too,
If you spend time practising just being you.

Niwanti
X-B

What is peer pressure? Since peers are the people around you who are of same age, same status and peer pressure is when these people make you do something that you might not do otherwise like smoke, drink etc. You may not even realize that you are being influenced by your peers. But have you ever bunked tuitions just because your friends do this; let someone chit you off in class even though you know it wasn’t fair; bought a branded piece of clothing just because it is popular; wasted time on social networking sites because your fellow mates do it.

As you can see peer pressure is of various types and sizes. If you ever feel a victim of peer pressure, just ask yourself once, “If I had my own way, would I still be doing it”? If the answer is “no”, you should again examine the situation.

Heena
X-D
Bribing is rampant in India. It has become endemic to our society. A vast majority of individuals in the country have either given or taken bribes to get some sort of work done—getting a driver’s license issued or get a seat in a reputed college. ‘Money-under the table’ is the thumb rule followed by all and sundry. Scams and cases of accepting bribes from people are telecast when you switch on a news channel or pick up a newspaper. This world is dancing to the tune of money. If you have money, only then you can enjoy life and if you don’t have it then you need to face a number of problems. Money has become more important to humans so much so that they have forgotten about humanity. This has given birth to the evil practice of accepting or giving bribes. People believe that only corruption can help them survive in this world that worships mammon. To get any official work done, you need to grease the palm of the govt. officials at each and every step. If you refuse to pay them, your file will lie pending and requests will fall flat on deaf ears. If you give bribe, then you are nurturing this evil parasite. The best way to put an end to this evil practice is to take strict action against it. Yes, we can eliminate it. What we need to do is just live in unity and learn to say ‘no’ to each corrupt officer. We need to create a group of polite people. Strict punishment should be given to a corrupt official. CBI should work efficiently. Always think about the next generation. If you really wish to have corruption free India, then we all need to put concerted efforts.

Aarushi Dhanda
X-A
There are four kinds of people around me these days: People who love football and are genuinely enjoying the Fifa World Cup; people who are being paid to love football and talk about it; people who want to love football and those who say, “Why haven’t ‘acche din’ arrived yet”?

I have as much interest in football as a tiger would have in fresh vegetables. One of my favourite things about the world cup is the song. Every year, it has some variation of the word ‘ole’ — which is probably the catchiest word to our brains. It is ‘ola ole’ or ‘ola ola’ or ‘ole ole’!

I imagine that with a budget of $15 million, the money will have to be spent somewhere and so the promotion of it has been as subtle as a football to the face. That’s why, souvenir shops are filled to the brink with key chains and mouse pads that scream “I LOVE BRAZIL”. People who dress up in their favourite team jerseys and watch the game are just like people who love to read Chetan Bhagat’s novels. Both are equally made fun of though.

So my guidelines to identifying the four kinds of people you may meet in the world are as follows:

First, you can identify a true football fan by the dark circles they sport these days.
Second, those being paid to talk about the World Cup can be identified because they have already scored all the freebies they are supposed to be talking about.
Third, those people who want to love the World Cup will be hanging with those who are being paid to talk about it.
I am in the last group, those who are still wondering about the existence of “acche din”.

Anirudh Sharda
X-C
MY DRIVE TO THE FIELDS

One day with my cute smile, I drove half-a-mile...I reached a field that reminded me of a glide.

Sweet blooming flowers, I enjoyed for a few hours
Plants and Animals living around, to them I was really bound

Farmers working in the fields, were enjoying cool swings
That moment was much more beautiful than diamond rings

The sounds of noisy tractors, reminded me of some cartoon characters

Thinking of what my friends miss, I was feeling so blessed

Was I the only one, Alone??
I was thinking, driving back home.

Kanishka
X-D

POOR CHILDREN

A VICTIM OF HEARTLESS SOCIETY

Tears brimmed eyes scan the garbage, In search of cans and food.
The eyes that never saw, The sight of play ground or school.
The dry chapped hands that only felt, The touch of hammers and rags.
The hand that only knew, How to clear and scrap;
And not to write and draw.
The touch of the feet that have never felt, A carpeted floor.
The feel that only knew, The prick of thorns and rocks.

A child, child like us,
Who should have gone to school,
Who should have read the books,
And eaten ice cream on hot summer day,
Instead of picking through the trash;
Or weaving carpets with fingers that,
Were meant to hold pencils and pens,
A child with childhood stolen away.

Priyam Singal
X-D
Are we cowards?  
Or we have no shame.  
So we really care,  
To ever take this blame.  
We have adapted ourselves,  
So well in this corrupt place.  
That vicious cycle moves on,  
But we don’t have the guts to face.

We say “corruption chokes,”  
Then why do we tolerate it?  
We say “corruption kills”  
Then why do we breed it?  
Corruption helps,  
To set the culprits free.  
It blindfolds the law.  
And still we shamelessly see.

It widens the gap,  
Between the poor and the rich.  
Still we continue the same,

Without any hitch.  
And this has become,  
Our way of life.  
To adjust without showing,  
The signs of strife.  
And so we just keep moving on,  
Without giving a break and think;  
To reconstruct society and reform our vitiated minds.

Is it that no business runs without it?  
Or is it that who is going to care!  
Don’t you want to put an end to it?  
Or, is it that you don’t dare!  
Many questions in this little brain,  
Are all unanswered.

Samyak  
X-B