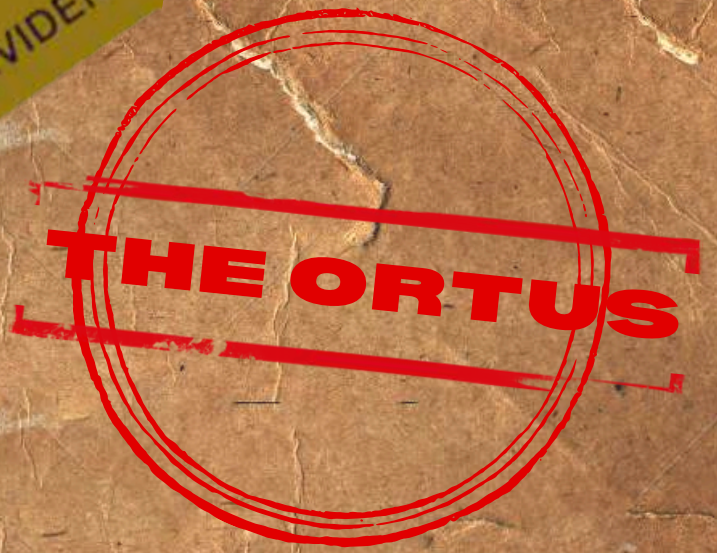


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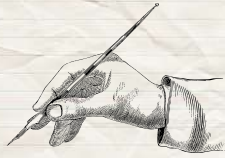


UNSOLVED MYSTERIES



VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1

SUNCITY SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIA



Aanya Kapoor
pg. 1



**Daksh Arora
and
Aanya Kapoor**
pg. 2

The Bhangarh Fort



Anmol Srivastava
pg. 6

Digital Art



Keyur Kumar
pg. 8

**We Didn't Start The Fire
The Odd Phenomena of
Spontaneous Human Combustion**



Naisha Chawla
pg. 9

**The Universe
Unknown, Unsolved, Unexplored**



Anmol Dhingra
pg. 12

**Voynich Manuscript
A Codex of Mysteries**



Yuvraj Arora
pg. 14

Advertisement



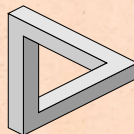
AddictAid Initiative
pg. 11

The Girl in Red



Renaae Chatterjee
pg. 20

Freedom's Illusion



Sara Sobti
pg. 19

The Lizzie Borden Case



Kaira Manchanda
pg. 17

ENTS

Advertisement



ScreenSanity Initiative
pg. 22

The Fermi Paradox



Vivaan Mehta
pg. 23

The Disappearance of Amelia Earhart



Angad Batra
pg. 24

Book Review A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson



Avni Singh
pg. 27

The Unsolved Mystery of MH370



Aditya Singla
pg. 28

The Chilling Disappearance of Madeleine McCann



Vaanya Rai
pg. 25

Unter den Masken



Aanya Kapoor
pg. 30

El misterio de la naturaleza



Daksh Arora
pg. 31

Waffle Recipe



Soham Arun Kashyap
pg. 33

Trivia



Aditya Singla
pg. 34

Impressions



Zoya Sharan
pg. 32

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to yet another thrilling edition of the *Ortus*, Volume 5 Issue 1. This issue's theme is 'Unsolved Mysteries'. Through this issue, we put on our investigative caps to uncover hidden gems of creative writing and imaginative thought, at the same time, defeat the evil forces of dull, uninspiring thought and ennui.

In this issue, we will shed light on such mysteries that still baffle investigators, try to find hidden evidence and most importantly, evaluate different perspectives. It is our hope that we are able to pique your curiosity about the intriguing world of the mysterious through this edition.

This magazine has all the chilling mysteries from across the world that have not been solved even after decades, from the Fermi Paradox to the disappearance of Madeleine McCann. We had a lot of fun trying to solve these mysteries and creating this edition and hope you enjoy reading it.

Lastly, as the editor of this issue, I had the unenviable task of deciding which contribution stays and which gets left out. This, I assure you, was not an easy task because we were inundated with contributions, for which I would like to express my gratitude. I hope I have been able to do justice to my role as the editor-in-chief.

So, embrace your inner Sherlock and get ready to discover the hidden truths. Happy reading and let the mysteries unfold!

Aanya Kapoor

Aanya Kapoor
(Editor-in-Chief)

#1

BULLETIN

- DAKSH ARORA & AANYA KAPOOR

IA MAYHEM

The students of Suncity School International Academia planned an exciting extravaganza called The IA Mayhem - Summerfest'24 on Tuesday, 14th May 2024. We invited the students of class 9 (CBSE) to share the culture of learning, innovation and open-mindedness that we experience everyday as students of International Academia. A number of creative events, namely:

1. Rising from...rising to
2. Giant Leap Forward
3. Guess the Celebrity
4. Escape Rooms

were lined up for the students, which tested their skills, knowledge and linguistic prowess.

'The Bakesale' organised by the students of International Academia for the students of class 9 (CBSE) and teachers turned out to be the 'icing on the cake'. The money collected from the sale was utilised for a good cause.

The event provided a wonderful platform to the participants to showcase their talent and highlight the values of inquisitiveness, self-belief and creativity that is nurtured in them as part of the International Curricula followed at Suncity School-International Academia.



BULLETIN

- DAKSH ARORA & AANYA KAPOOR

GAIA SYMPOSIUM

The students of Suncity School International Academia organised the first ever Gaia Symposium - The Online Climate Action Summit on 22nd and 23rd August 2024.

More than 70 students from different countries: India, Mauritius, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Japan participated in this unique competitive event. The Symposium created awareness and opportunities for students to discuss the challenges the world faces in combating climate change through unique events tailored to the IGCSE and IBDP learners' profile. Six experts from various fields were invited to judge the three events: Earth's Advocate, Sustaina Sparks, and Climate Canvas.

The Gaia Symposium was a successful collaboration that highlighted the importance of creativity and international cooperation in addressing global climate challenges.



EARTH'S ADVOCATE

- **Purpose:** Encourage students to critically think about Climate Change, aligned with the IBDP Theory of Knowledge (TOK).
- **Focus:** Acknowledge multiple perspectives, employ analytical, critical thinking, and communicative skills.
- **Panel Interaction:** Judges will ask one question to each participant after their presentation.
- **Audience Participation:** Other participants can send questions in the chat box to the judges for potential use.



#3

BULLETIN

- DAKSH ARORA & AANYA KAPOOR

CAS Trip

CAS, short for Creativity Activity Service, is a core component of the IBDP. For our annual CAS trip, the students of International Academia and CBSE went to Kanechi, Himachal Pradesh from 3rd to 5th October 2024. The trip allowed us to harness our creative skills and serve the community. The fun we had on the trip was complemented by serious work, as we engaged with the local rural community members to expose ourselves to a different culture and way of living. We also visited a government-run school, where we participated in games, conducted educational activities, participated in the school assembly, exchanged thoughts on global warming, and even donated books.

The activities during the trip helped us improve our time management, decision-making skills and taught us the value of teamwork. The days ended with sessions where we reflected on the learnings of each day, in the form of a group discussion with the instructors. The trip helped us connect with nature without any technology around, truly an experience we will always remember.



BULLETIN

- DAKSH ARORA & AANYA KAPOOR

ACHIEVEMENTS

ADYA SHARMA (IGCSE X):

Haryana States:

1500m freestyle - Bronze Medal

400m freestyle - Bronze Medal

200m freestyle - Gold Medal

100m butterfly- Silver Medal

100m backstroke- Silver Medal

4X100m freestyle relay- Gold Medal

Manav Rachna International School:

50m freestyle - Silver Medal

50m butterfly - Gold Medal

100m freestyle - Silver Medal

Shiv Nadar School CAS Summit:

50m backstroke - Silver Medal

50m - Gold Medal

100m- Silver Medal

ISSO Nationals:

400m freestyle - Silver Medal

Ryan International School:

Aanya Kapoor (Year 1), Daksh Arora (Year 1), and Avni Singh (IGCSE X):

Entrepreneurship Competition: Gold Medal

DAV Public School:

Yuvraj Arora (IBDP Year 1), Srijan

Seshadri (CBSE, XI-D), Ishan Agrawal

(CBSE, XI-F), and Abhinav Sood (CBSE, XI-A):

E-Colosseum- Bronze Medal

Shiv Nadar School CAS Summit:

Yuvraj Arora (IBDP Year 1) and Aditya

Singla (IBDP Year 1):

Hackathon - Silver Medal

Suncity School Football IA + CBSE U17

Team: Silver Medal

Pathways School Festival of Hope:

Soham Arun Kashyap (IBDP Year 1):

Astitiva Teens - Special Mention

Publications:

Aanya Sen Gupta (IGCSE X):

1. 'Mending What's To Be Mended'

2. 'Mid November'

3. 'Salt & Honey'

Aditya Singla (IBDP Year 1):

Research Paper- 'Sustainable Aviation

Fuel: The Future of Aviation' in the

International Journal for

Multidisciplinary Research (IJFMR) (E-ISSN:2582-2160)

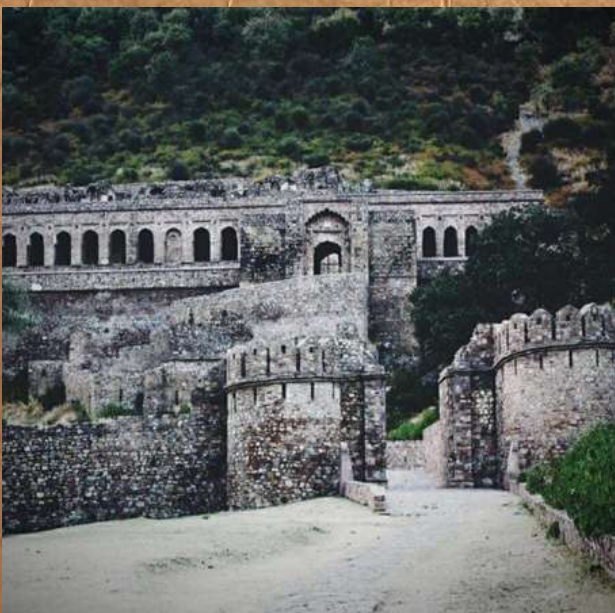
THE BHANGARH FORT



- ANMOL SRIVASTAVA

Deep into the mountains of the Aravalli, somewhere in Rajasthan, India, you can find the Bhangarh Fort- a place surrounded by mystery and thrill. Built in the 17th century by Raja Madho Singh, this grand fort was once part of a thriving city but has now been reduced to a scary, haunting legacy of history.

Bhangarh Fort is more than just a supernatural fort. The preservation of its temples and memorials give insights into the architectural prowess of the artisans of the time. To protect such fine artistry, three fortifications and five massive gates were constructed, which added to the glory of the fort and the town.



History:

The beauty of the fort does not lie just in its architectural elegance. It comes from the legends that find a way into every corner and crevice of the fort. One of the most common stories is about a tantrik (occultist) who fell in love with Princess Ratnavati and started using black magic to entice her into falling for his charm. When the princess outsmarted him, he went mad with anger and placed a curse over all of their lands that caused them to forever lie deserted.

Mystery:

Those who have dared to enter the fort at night have said that they got goosebumps and even felt the presence of ghosts inside the fort. The natives, too, narrate stories of haunted echoes and inexplicable sightings coming from the fort. The Archaeological Survey of India has banned the entry of visitors after dark, which only adds to the element of mystery surrounding the fort.

#6

Bhangarh Fort continues to enthrall people all over the world, despite the fact that the precise causes of the fort's downfall and the eerie folklore are still unknown. The fort's creepy ambience and interesting history make it an appealing location for anyone who dares to venture into the unknown.



DIGITAL ART



- KEYUR KUMAR

THE CRIMSON DAWN



**SECRETS UNRAVELED, LIES EXPOSED
NO ONE LEAVES UNTOUCHED**

#8

WE DIDN'T START THE FIRE

THE ODD PHENOMENA OF SPONTANEOUS HUMAN COMBUSTION

- NAISHA CHAWLA




In the somber hours of the morning of 2nd July, 1951, a particularly helpful neighbour reached the doorstep of the widowed Mary Hardy Reeser, in St. Petersburg, Florida, to deliver a telegram, only to find the doorknob of her home a tad too warm to the touch. Perhaps, only a commonplace encounter for the tropical weather of Florida? After all, it takes little more than a day of sun to heat up a metal doorknob. Except, the discovery to-be-stumbled-upon by a certain Pansy Carpenter was to unveil a fresh and mortifying ordeal. Shortly after, fire fighters discovered the remains of Mary Reeser in her old arm chair - charred to near-completion, leaving behind only her spine, an apparently shrunken skull, her left foot (adorned a silk slipper), and the springs of her chair in the black ashes.

The supposedly unprovoked fire which consumed the body of Mary Reeser left no trace of evidence of its ignition behind. Yet, what was truly notable in the case was the unperturbed state of the furniture around the room, the ceiling laden with smudges of soot and the white, clean sheets on her bed. The corner in which her remains were found caught enough heat to destroy the chair and ingest the body but the paint on the wall right behind her was neither cracked nor scorched. Light switches towards the ceiling had somewhat melted but outlets at table-level or below were undisturbed. Pansy Carpenter had hollered at two painters working close by, after first coming in contact with the hot-knob, to investigate the house as she left to call the fire department and Dr. Reeser, Mary's son. The initial descriptions of the house were that it was full of smoke and heat yet no fire was present. The fire department too, shocked as they were by the curious case, were unaware of how to deal with the situation.



#9

As the news hit the headlines, theories started to formulate amongst the public. The most interesting of these theories was that of spontaneous human combustion.



Spontaneous human combustion is the pseudo-scientific phenomena of a human body catching fire with no apparent external forces causing its ignition. The most plausible explanation of spontaneous human combustion has been summarised in the "wick effect," a situation wherein partial or total destruction of a human body occurs as the clothing of the victim soaks up melted fat and acts like the wick of a candle. In Reeser's case, too, FBI investigators ruled out the possibility of spontaneous human combustion, as her rayon acetate nightgown was most likely ignited from a cigarette she was smoking, causing the inflammable substance to meld with her bodily tissues to sustain the fire.

"Once the body starts to burn," the FBI wrote in its report, "there is enough fat and other inflammable substances to permit varying amounts of destruction to take place. Sometimes this destruction by burning will proceed to a degree which results in almost complete combustion of the body."

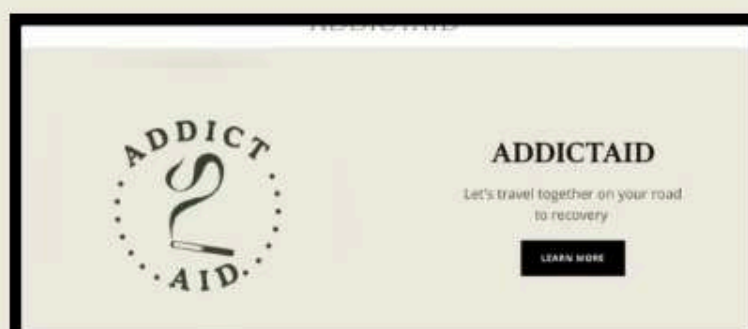
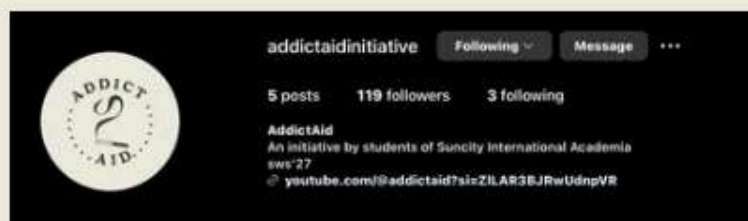
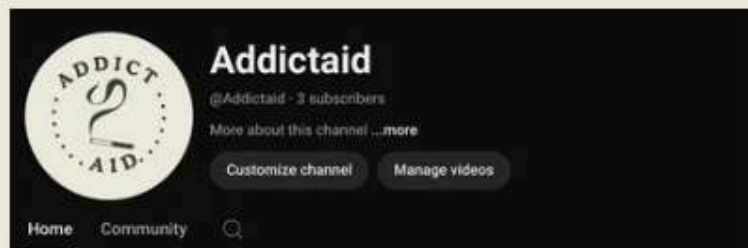
The wick effect, alone, however, cannot account for the discrepancies met in recorded cases of the subject matter. A typical fire reaches to around 2000 Fahrenheit while cremation of the body's remains would have required the fire to reach 3000 Fahrenheit for at least a few hours. Additionally, the neighbours did not notice any smoke arising from her partially opened windows on the night of her death.

Can a person be so inebriated under the influence of sleeping pills that they wouldn't notice being burnt and scream for help? Why would only a handful of objects in her vicinity burn along with her? While spontaneous human combustion may not be an imminent threat, the mystery shrouding its existence continues to fascinate people several years after.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ADDICTAID INITIATIVE



**Stay Smart, Stay Strong:
Choose Life, Not Drugs**



THE UNIVERSE

UNKNOWN, UNSOLVED, UNEXPLORED

Physics has answers to everything, right? Why your tea cools down, or why the straps of a bag make it easier to hold it? Hey, Physics even knows how to make faster cars and how to send rockets to the moon. But, come on, there must be something it doesn't know... something more philosophical?



The surprising truth is, Physics doesn't even know where most of the universe is, but to be fair, neither does anyone else. How can the science based on motion, matter and energy, not know where most of the matter and energy in the universe is? Here is where the story of dark matter and dark energy comes in.

- ANMOL DHINGRA

You know how galaxies spin, the same way the Earth does? If we go by only the number of lights-emitting stars in those galaxies, the mass is too little to keep them spinning with the speed they have. With the amount of mass in them, galaxies would've flown apart long back...but that hasn't happened yet, isn't it? So, what is it keeping them together?

It's an invisible glue, called dark matter, that is postulated to keep them together by creating the required gravitational force. As of now, scientists and physicists have a very elementary understanding of what the concept of 'dark matter' entails, but it is still believed to make around 30% of everything in the universe. Dark matter, unlike the regular one, can't be seen and touched, and that makes it even more fascinating. Scientists believe that it is the force keeping the entire universe together. But there's more to the story, about the lack of understanding that physics has about our universe.

There exists an arch-enemy of dark matter, a mysterious entity that does exactly the opposite (twins separated at birth maybe!). To understand what this entity does, we need to know that ever since the Big Bang, the universe has been expanding, and it has been doing so really fast. Our human understanding would make us think that this rate of expansion would eventually slow down, or at least simply remain constant. The truth, however, only reminds us that the cosmos doesn't conform to our logic. The universe isn't just expanding, it's expanding faster and faster.

Scientists theorize that this expansion is linked to dark energy (told you, they are twins!), which is responsible for pushing everything apart. We really don't know what dark energy is, or how it works, but at the same time, we do know that it makes up a staggering 68% of the universe. It could be something which is a part of the very fabric of the universe, or it could just be a calculation mistake, but the true nature of dark energy is one of the biggest unanswered questions of Physics.

All this reminds us of how little we know about the universe that we are a part of. It's almost as if, by hiding nearly 95% of itself from us, the universe is inviting us to explore, appreciate, and look deeper into its unsolved mysteries.

VOYNICH MANUSCRIPT

A CODEX OF MYSTERIES

- YUVRAJ ARORA



For more than a century, cryptographers, historians, and academicians have been perplexed by the Voynich Manuscript—a mystery book written by hand that comes from an unknown place. This document, which is full of unusual patterns, strange symbols, and bizarre drawings of unknown flora, has gained international recognition as one of the most well-known unsolved mysteries. Its roots may be traced back to the early 15th century, and since its discovery in 1912 by a Polish book merchant named Wilfrid Voynich, it has sparked a variety of ideas, from clever codes to intricate frauds. The meaning and purpose of the Voynich Manuscript remain unknown despite the tireless efforts of some of the most brilliant minds in linguistics and cryptography.

Wilfrid Voynich bought the 240-page vellum manuscript—a kind of parchment made from animal skin—from a Jesuit library in Italy. Voynich discovered, upon closer examination, that the document included strange, frequently unidentifiable images and writing in an unusual script.

The writing of the Voynich Manuscript, sometimes called "Voynichese," is the key to unlocking its mysteries. It is unlike any recognised alphabet or writing system. Scholars have been conjecturing whether the text contains a sophisticated cypher or a completely new language since it was found.

According to some academicians, the document could be an illustration of a medieval cypher that was employed to safeguard confidential data. If this is the case, deciphering the cipher's rules will be necessary to unlock the text. Some people think that the author may have fabricated the language in the document for symbolic or personal reasons, rather than using it as actual language.



The idea that it is a hoax, concocted in the 15th century or by Wilfrid Voynich himself, to attract attention and profit, is among the most widely held beliefs. This idea holds that the unusual script and images in the text are intentional attempts to look both mysterious and meaningless. Some contend that the text's unpredictability suggests it was never intended to be comprehended, making it one of the most effective hoaxes in history.

Because of the manuscript's complexity and the fact that it has been carbon-dated to a time far earlier than Voynich's, many academicians, however, dispute this notion. They contend that it would have been extremely difficult to pull off such a complex hoax, with hundreds of pages of coherent pictures and symbols, and that it was unlikely to be done for purely deceptive purposes. Another widely accepted idea holds that the document is a representation of a long-lost language or code that has never been discovered. According to some linguists, the Voynich Manuscript could be an illustration of a polyalphabetic cypher, which conceals writing by using numerous alphabets. Some conjecture that it might be an abridged or shortened version of a recognised language, which would account for why it has been so difficult to decipher.

The manuscript's pictures are just as mysterious as its words. The astronomical designs appear to reflect celestial entities or occurrences that do not coincide with anything documented in traditional astronomy, and the plants do not correspond with any recognised species. There are figures on some pages that resemble zodiac signs, yet even these seem to combine aspects of the familiar with unusual and foreign forms. The text includes, what is referred to as the "biological" portion, which consists of pictures of naked women, some of whom appear to be submerged in tubes or pipes. Numerous interpretations have been made of these drawings, ranging from depictions of unidentified medical operations to alchemical rituals.

Why is the Voynich Manuscript still unsolved after all these years? Its distinctiveness could be a reason. It contains no patterns from related writings, which are necessary for most successful codebreaking attempts. Furthermore, the document may have been purposefully created to defy interpretation, given the tremendous intricacy of the language and images.

Another theory is that the link between the text and the images—rather than the text and the drawings alone—is what gives the book its significance. According to some academic theories, the manuscript may have served as a type of mediaeval puzzle that required interpretation rather than direct reading in order to be solved, or it may have served as a mnemonic device for remembering information encoded in the pictures.

Seeking to be understood as a forgotten language, a complex cypher, or something else entirely, the document persists in defying explanation, tempting those who try to piece it together. There is always hope that the Voynich Manuscript's key may one day be found as technology develops. It will continue to represent human curiosity and the attraction of the unknown until then.



THE LIZZIE BORDEN CASE



- KAIRA MANCHANDA

"Forty whacks with an axe," the rhyme goes, but did Lizzie Borden swing the blade?

Allegedly, on a peculiar night on 4th August 1892, Lizzie Borden killed her stepmom brutally with an axe. All signs pointed to Lizzie as the murderer, despite the gruesome nature of the crime and all the evidence against her, Lizzie was acquitted, leaving a legacy of mystery that has fascinated true crime enthusiasts for over a century.

A Christian girl named Lizzie Borden lived in her house with her sister along with her stepmom and her father, Andrew and Abby Borden. The family did not get along. However, the parents were noticeably rich, so, it was natural for Lizzie to wonder where that inheritance would go and who was going to get the money. Lizzie had a hunch that her stepmom would end up getting all the inheritance and property. She knew she had to do something.

Allegedly, on 4th August 1892, Lizzie waited until her dad left the house, quietly went upstairs and killed her stepmom with an axe, stabbing her 19 times. After the extremely brutal murder, she then waited for her dad to get back and did the same thing to him. Fortunately for Lizzie, the only other person in the house during the time of the murders was a maid named Bridget Sullivan and for some mysterious reason, in the trial, she stood by Lizzie, and they both ended up getting off scot-free and living the rest of their lives not having to go to jail; no consequences at all.

This is still an unsolved mystery to this day and there is some evidence that shows why Lizzie may have been the person who killed her parents. For example, a couple of days before this happened, Lizzie told her friend that something was about to happen to her father and she attempted to buy cyanide at a store. Another rumour doing the rounds was that Lizzie's dad had killed her pigeons with a hatchet, which instigated Lizzie to choose an axe as the murder weapon.

Bridget Sullivan was the maid of the Borden house. She was not treated very well and was made to live in the basement. She was present in the house during the murders, which made her a prominent suspect, but she claimed that she was cleaning the windows while the murders took place and the doors to that room were locked, so she said she didn't hear a thing. During the trial, she testified to Lizzie's innocence. Ten years later, she was seen in Montana, where she had bought a ranch and filled it up with horses, which raised eyebrows. No one knows where she got all that money from.

Oddly, the police started investigating the murders two days after they took place on 6th August. After the murders, Lizzie's best friend, Alice Russell, who was visiting her, walked into the kitchen and saw Lizzie go into the closet and pull out a blue dress that had dark stains on it. Lizzie said that she'd never wear it again, so she proceeded to put it in the stove and burned the dress. Alice suspected the stains to be blood. But, the woman who made the dress claimed that those were paint stains and not blood marks. Conveniently, after the trial, Lizzie did buy that seamstress a house, raising suspicions that she was paid money to defend Lizzie.

There was a lot of money involved in the Lizzy Borden, which was the main motive of the killings. Lizzie Borden's trial began in June 1893, and it became a media sensation. The all-male jury deliberated for only 90 minutes before returning a verdict of "Not Guilty." The lack of concrete evidence, along with societal disbelief that a woman of Lizzie's status could commit such a brutal act, likely influenced the decision.



FREEDOM - AN ILLUSION

- SARA SOBTI

In the dark night when everyone was asleep,
She was awake witnessing her own defeat.
She spent countless days and nights, saving lives and working
hard,
Only to have monsters tear her apart.

78th year of independence they say,
But what is freedom when fear comes our way?
We walk, breathe, LIVE nervously,
Wondering what they'll do and when we must flee.

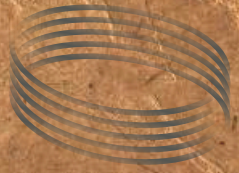
The scrubs that once represented care and might,
Became a reminder of fear and violation of rights.
The stethoscope that listened to heartbeats dear,
Now echoes with the sound of silent tears.

A world where monsters wear the face of men,
Sexual assaults, a pain that never ends.
Meant to protect but instead they violate,
Leaving scars that never seem to fade, reminders of that day.

When will we be safe, when will we be free?
Independence Day, a mockery to me.
Freedom is just letters with no meaning,
A hopeful dream, much more fleeting.

Children, teenagers, adults, elderly too,
Hell even a baby, no one is free from this cruelty.
Rape's dark shadow omnipresent, a fear we can never escape,
When will it end? When will we find a safer place?

When will we be safe, when will we be free?
When love and justice reign, and monsters cease to be.
Then scars will fade, and tears will dry,
And freedom's true meaning will touch the sky.



THE GIRL IN RED



- RENAAE CHATTERJEE

It was an usual mundane Tuesday morning in school. The day commenced with a mind-boggling Maths quiz which was definitely made to fail everyone in class. It was followed by the never-ending history class about the ancient Indus Valley civilization. Overall, it was an extremely tiring day. After I completed my lessons for the first half of the day, I headed to the cafeteria for lunch.

Larry, the popular student of the school, started arguing with the teacher, which attracted the attention of everyone in the cafeteria. I had always found Larry extremely exasperating and had no intention of associating with him. I ignored the allure of the scene and continued munching on my 50-cent dry bagel, each bite being blander than the last one. In the midst of the chaos, I noticed a girl of my age whom I had never seen before.

She was not wearing the regular school uniform which was a mandate for everyone. She was clad in red and had blonde hair, cat-like eyes, and a quirky yet inviting smile. She subtly raised her hand and signalled to me to follow her casually. I would never follow a stranger but I felt a compelling urge to do so with her. Besides, I would do anything to get away from the the unpleasant smell of the food.

I silently walked behind her with a minimum distance of 1 foot between us. She entered the lift and so did I. I asked in a warm tone, "What is your name?" She stayed quiet. I was confused as to why she did not respond but I tried breaking the awkward silence between us by asking another question. I asked in an inquiring tone, "Why did you call me here?" She smiled at me but this time, it made me feel uneasy. I suddenly realized that her skin was getting translucent, a sight that sent chills down my spine. I lifted my hand to touch her skin, wanting to confirm if what I was seeing was real.

As soon as I touched her arm, she disappeared into thin air. A split second later, the lights in the elevator went out, and it began plummeting straight down. I tried screaming at the top of my voice, but I could not feel myself anymore. I blacked out and fell straight to the ground.

After a few hours, I felt conscious and tried opening my eyes. "Sam! Sam!", I heard the school guard's voice. I jolted awake and saw the security guard's hand which was trying to reach out to me. I grabbed his hand and was jarringly pulled from the lift, which had 'malfunctioned'. The school guard apologized for the inconvenience and told me to grab my backpack as it was time for dispersal. I rushed to catch the bus. As I sat leaning towards the window of the bus, I pondered about the bizarre encounter I had with the mysterious girl.

When I reached home, I was met with a rare sight—my mother was smiling. Over the last few weeks, she had been going through a lot at work so I was happy to see her smile after such a long time. I chose to keep my day's events to myself for now.

I sat comfortably beside my mother, who was going through an old photo album. I peeked-in to look at the photos. On the 7th page, I saw a familiar red dress. I told my mother to turn back. As she flipped the page, I was met with the same girl from earlier. I could hear my heartbeat as I asked my mother in a shaky voice, "Who is she?" My mother's smile faded, and her eyes clouded with confusion. "I don't know, Sam. I thought you might remember her," she replied in a casual manner. The unease settled in the room, and I was surrounded by bitter silence. I felt the weight of an unsolved mystery hanging in the air, making me question everything I encountered today.



GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES SCREENSANITY INITIATIVE



AN INITIATIVE FORMED BY THE STUDENTS OF
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIA TO EMPOWER TEENS, COMBAT
CYBER BULLYING, AND TO SPREAD AWARENESS ON THE
SAME

CONSIDER FOLLOWING US ON



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#22

THE FERMI PARADOX



- VIVAAN MEHTA

The Fermi Paradox raises a compelling question about the existence of extraterrestrial life: if the universe is vast and potentially filled with intelligent civilizations, why haven't we encountered any? Named after physicist Enrico Fermi, who famously asked, "Where is everybody?", the paradox highlights the contradiction between the high likelihood of alien life and the lack of evidence supporting it. Key points include the sheer scale of the universe, with the Milky Way hosting billions of stars and potentially habitable planets, and the vast time-frame of 13.8 billion years, which allows ample opportunities for civilizations to develop. Despite this, searches for extraterrestrial signals have yielded no confirmed contact.

Various explanations for the paradox include the Rare Earth Hypothesis, suggesting complex life is exceedingly rare; the Great Filter, indicating significant barriers in evolutionary development; and the possibility that advanced civilizations self-destruct before making contact. Other theories, like the Zoo Hypothesis, propose that extraterrestrial beings observe us from afar, while technological limitations may hinder our ability to detect signals.

Despite these unanswered questions, the search for extraterrestrial life continues, driven by missions to explore Mars and other celestial bodies, as well as advanced technologies employed by organizations like SETI. Each discovery adds to our understanding of life in the universe, reminding us that while the Fermi Paradox remains unresolved, our quest for knowledge and connection drives us ever forward in the exploration of the cosmos.



#23

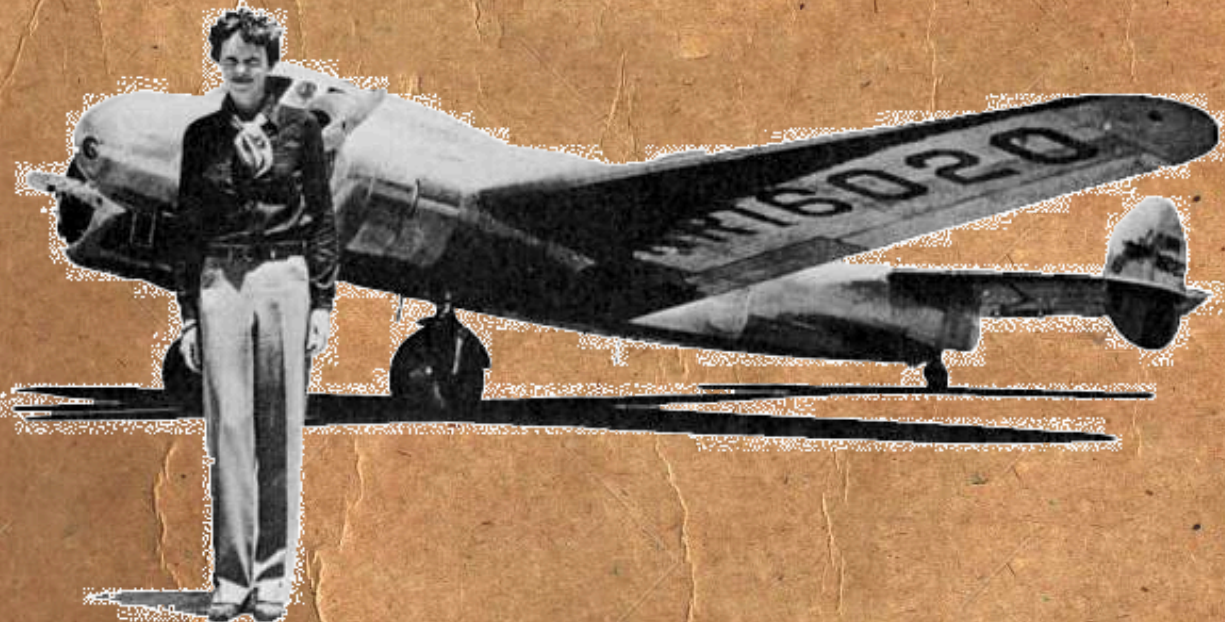
THE DISAPPEARANCE OF AMELIA EARHART



- **ANGAD BATRA**

Human curiosity has always been piqued by the unknown, especially when it comes to unanswered mysteries. These puzzles pique our curiosity, stump our logic, and frequently resist solutions that make sense. History is full with mysteries that have never been answered, ranging from ancient civilizations to unexplained paranormal activities. These are a few of the most fascinating riddles that still confound both specialists and amateurs.

The pioneering aviator Amelia Earhart disappeared in 1937 while trying to complete a circumnavigation of the earth. Nothing definitive has ever been found to explain what happened to her or her navigator, Fred Noonan, despite many searches and ideas. Were they left stranded on a distant island, or did they crash into the Pacific Ocean? What became of Amelia Earhart?



#24

THE CHILLING DISAPPEARANCE OF MADELEINE MCCANN

- **VAANYA RAI**



Said to be one of the most intensely reported missing persons in modern history, Madeleine McCann's case of disappearance still haunts many after 17 years. Madeleine was then, a 3-year-old girl and the oldest of her two younger siblings. Her parents, Gerry and Kate McCann, were both wealthy professional doctors. Gerry and Kate described their daughter as any other parent would describe their infant. A calm but loud and cheerful young girl, always smiling and happy. The world, however, is a cruel place sometimes, isn't it?

At the beginning of May 2007, the McCann family went to Portugal along with their friends to celebrate Madeleine's fourth birthday. They stayed in the "Ocean Club" resort and, like any family, were having the time of their life.

On 3rd May 2007, the night of the disappearance, Kate and Gerry went to a nearby restaurant with their friends while Madeleine and her younger siblings were asleep in the apartment. At 2030 hours, the couple left for dinner and would occasionally visit the apartment and check on the kids. The restaurant was at least 10 minutes away and no roads or routes were visible due to the pitch-black night. At 2105 hours, Gerry noticed the position of the apartment door was different from how it was left the last time he checked, he went inside and examined the room only to see all three kids sound asleep. At 2130 hours, a friend of the McCanns offered to check up on the kids. Again, all was well.

This is how fast someone's life can change, just 30 minutes and the lives of the McCanns never were the same again.



#25

At 2200 hours, Kate went to check on the kids only to discover the apartment door fully open. As she entered, she was stunned to see that Madeleine's cot was empty while the other two kids were sound asleep. The apartment window was slightly open and this is when she was sure that Madeleine had been taken away. Frantic searches began and a report was filed. The Portugal police were not really serious about the whole case and were as slow as sloths to get moving. Nearly 4 months later, the parents of Madeleine were added as suspects. What parents would ever want their child to just disappear for no reason? That too just a 3 year old. If they were responsible, this case would not have even lasted 17 whole years. However, speculations arose which held the parents responsible. Why would any parent leave their young children alone in an apartment at night in a strange country?

The night Madeleine disappeared, she was sleeping with a stuffed toy which smelled like her. Soon after Madeleine disappeared, Kate washed the toy to remove the scent. Why did she wash it off? Wouldn't that have helped locate Madeleine? The McCanns had rented a car in the country which was said to have blood stains inside. The apartment they were living in had a fridge which was not working. What is extremely suspicious is that rather than contacting the resort to fix it, Gerry took it to a landfill by himself and threw the fridge away. However, even after all of these speculations, there was no proper evidence that could prove them guilty. Over the years, many suspects were tracked, but none of them were found guilty. Many little girls who resembled Madeleine were also looked upon but again, there was no proper evidence to prove that it could be her.

There were two more children in the apartment but why was she the only one taken? Why her? If the parents are responsible then why did they do it? If they aren't, then who has taken Madeleine? Is she still alive? If so, where is she now?



BOOK REVIEW

A GOOD GIRL'S GUIDE TO MURDER BY HOLLY JACKSON

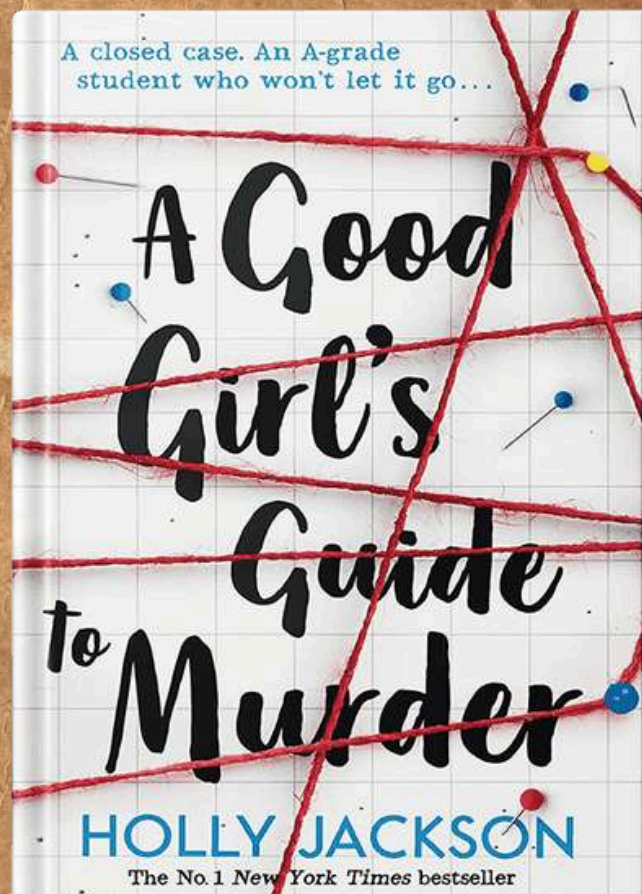
- AVNI SINGH



A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson is a young adult mystery novel centered on the investigation of the death of Andie Bell by the protagonist, Pippa Fitz-Amobi. The protagonist, Pippa Fitz-Amobi, takes up a case presumed to be solved but is covered by a series of intricate lies and complexities spread throughout the whole town.

The book explores themes like false assumptions and inaccurate or manipulated narratives, which are also true in real life. Through Pippa's investigation, we learn how wrongful accusations can lead to the destruction of a whole family, as it did with the accused- Salil Singh's family. Although their son died, the Singh family was forever ostracised and were labelled 'killers'. As the mystery unfolds, we can also see the emotional toll that solving a mystery can have on the people solving it and their immediate environment.

In my opinion, *A Good Girl's Guide To Murder* is a must-read. It highlights how such cases affect each person living in the town and how each outcome can drastically change the future of some.



#27

THE UNSOLVED MYSTERY OF MH370



- ADITYA SINGLA

Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 mysteriously disappeared on 8 March 2014, as it flew from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. The Boeing 777, with 239 passengers and crew on board, suddenly vanished from radar screens during its journey. Despite extensive searches across vast stretches of ocean, no conclusive fate for the aircraft has been established. All that is known is that theories abound concerning the incident, from mechanical failure to much more controversial explanations, but no definitive reason has emerged for the disappearance of the plane.

The last radio contact with the plane came when the convicted radio telegraphist said, "Good night." The pilot was heard to reply at 0119 hours local time, "Malaysian three-seven-zero." At 0121 hours, just two minutes later, the transponder ceased communicating with the ground radar. What followed was a deeply troubling turn of events since MH370 made an unprecedented turn back over the Indian Ocean. Military radar would track the aircraft for another hour while it flew westward across the Malay Peninsula. It was 0222 hours when the plane vanished from radar; that was the last time that MH370 was ever seen. The plane is thought to have continued flying for much longer, according to satellite information, before it ran out of fuel and made its final descent into the Southern Indian Ocean.



#28

The search for MH370 became one of the most costly and complicated endeavours in history, moving from an initial focus on the South China Sea to the Southern Indian Ocean, an area distinguished by wilderness and that had never been mapped. In July 2015, a major breakthrough occurred when, hundreds of miles from the presumed crash site, a piece of the aircraft's wing called 'a flaperon' was discovered, washed ashore on Réunion Island.

In 2018, the search ceased officially after scanning almost 120,000 square kilometers of ocean floor without any results. A private company called Ocean Infinity conducted an additional 90-day search with state-of-the-art deep-sea technology but was not successful.



UNTER DEN MASKEN

- AANYA KAPOOR



Überall um mich herum sehe ich Gesichter,
glücklich und voller Freude.
Aber ich weiß nicht,
Was steckt hinter der Show?

Unvergossene Tränen und gebrochene Herzen
oft hinter den Masken verborgen.
Gib ihnen den Mut
um alle Aufgaben zu erledigen

Enthülle die Wahrheit und lass die Fassade fallen.
Während wir voranschreiten,
lass deine Vergangenheit los.
Denn begraben unter deinem Kummer
und verloren in deinem Schatten
ist das Licht, das dir gibt
die Hoffnung für morgen.

Denn ungelöste Geheimnisse bleiben bestehen
mit Emotionen, die uns jeden Tag umgeben.
Lasst uns unser wahres Selbst entfalten
denn das ist das größte Geheimnis
was ungelöst bleibt.



#30

EL MISTERIO DE LA NATURALEZA



- DAKSH ARORA

Mas allá de nuestra expectativa
Existe la belleza de la naturaleza
Montañas gigantescas, llegando alto.
Los ríos empezando un viaje muy largo
Cerca de los Valles al océano

Las llanuras, los bosques
Dan espacio y cosas para vivir
Un tapiz verde, lleno de vida
Desde las rosas hasta los cactus del desierto
Cada uno cuenta su propia historia

En fin, el río encuentra la costa
Con vientos pacíficos y una escena hermosa
Es una que nunca termina
Sus profundidades desconocidas, sus secretos vastos

Esto continúa por siempre
Sin impacto de las acciones de hombre
Eso es el misterio de la naturaleza
Que nunca podríamos resolver

IMPRESSIONS

- ZOYA SHARAN



#32

WAFFLE RECIPE



- SOHAM ARUN KASHYAP

Ingredients

- Salt
- Eggs
- Vanilla Extract
- Baking Powder
- Flour
- Butter
- Nutella
- Milk

Step 1:

First, add the milk and Nutella to a high-speed blender. Blend for 20 - 30 seconds until fully combined. It should resemble chocolate milk.

Step 2:

Then, whisk together the flour, baking powder, and salt in a large mixing bowl.

Step 3:

In another bowl, whisk the eggs, then mix in the Nutella milk, Vanilla, and melted butter.

Step 4:

Add the wet ingredients to the flour mixture, and whisk gently until a batter is formed; some lumps are OK! Do not over-mix - it will make the waffles tough. Add 1 - 3 Tablespoons more of milk if the batter is too thick.

Step 5:

Heat a waffle iron and lightly grease it with non-stick spray or butter—once hot, spoon batter into the iron. You can even drizzle extra Nutella on top of the batter and use a spoon to swirl it. Close the waffle iron and cook until golden brown and the center is cooked through.



#33

TRIVIA

- ADITYA SINGLA

1. What is the name of the ghost ship found abandoned but intact near the Azores in 1872?

- A. Flying Dutchman
- B. Mary Celeste
- C. SS Ourang Medan
- D. Carroll A. Deering

2. This clay disk from ancient Crete contains mysterious symbols that have never been deciphered. What is it called?

- A. Linear A Tablet
- B. Phaistos Disk
- C. Minoan Cipher
- D. Cretan Enigma

3. Which of these is NOT a proposed explanation for the Bermuda Triangle disappearances?

- A. Methane gas eruptions
- B. Alien abductions
- C. Rogue waves
- D. Volcanic activity

4. A scientist is testing a new quantum teleportation device. She steps into the machine, presses the button, and vanishes completely. The machine shows no signs of malfunction, but she never arrives at the designated location. What could explain her disappearance?

- A. She was teleported into a parallel universe
- B. The machine disintegrated her instead of teleporting her
- C. She was stuck in a time loop
- D. The machine teleported her to the future

5. In 1947, a pilot reported seeing nine mysterious flying objects moving at incredible speeds over Washington, marking the first widely reported sighting of UFOs. What was the name of this pilot?

- A. Chuck Yeager
- B. Kenneth Arnold
- C. John Glenn
- D. Richard Byrd

SPOT THE MURDERER!



1.



2.

#35

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

AANYA KAPOOR
IBDP Year 1

CO-EDITOR

DAKSH ARORA
IBDP Year 1

LEAD DESIGNER

YUVRAJ ARORA
IBDP Year 1

QUALITY ANALYST

ADITYA SINGLA
IBDP Year 1

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

SOHAM ARUN KASHYAP
IBDP Year 1

TEACHER IN-CHARGE

ARUN ARORA
Faculty of English, Suncity School International Academia

SPECIAL THANKS

SHILPA B. SUCHDEV
Head, Suncity School International Academia

RUPA CHAKRAVARTY
Director, Suncity Schools

CONTRIBUTORS

ANMOL SRIVASTAVA
X-D (CBSE)

KEYUR KUMAR
IGCSE Year 2

NAISHA CHAWLA
XII-C (CBSE)

ANMOL DHINGRA
XI-D (CBSE)

KAIRA MANCHANDA
IGCSE Year 2

SARA SOBTI
XI-D (CBSE)

RENAAE CHATTERJEE
XI-C (CBSE)

VIVAAN MEHTA
XI-D (CBSE)

ANGAD BATRA
XII-B (CBSE)

VAANYA RAI
IGCSE Year 2

AVNI SINGH
IGCSE Year 2

ZOYA SHARAN
XI-D (CBSE)

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