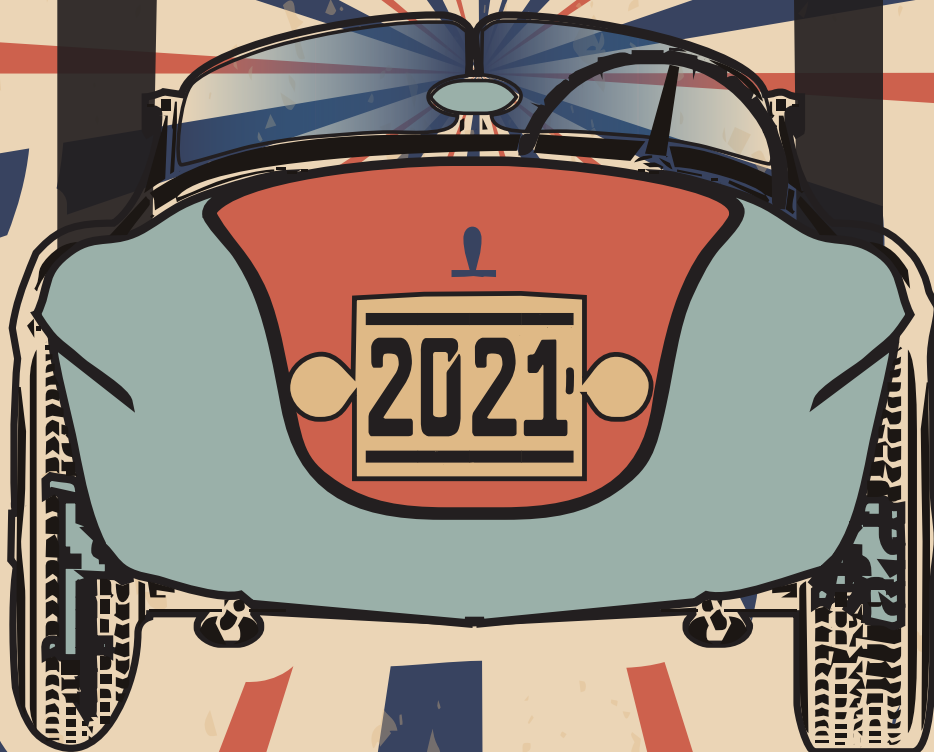


# THE ★ SHISHUKUNJ ★ GAZETTE

2022

Reliving, Reminiscing & Reflecting

DECEMBER 2021: A THROWBACK EDITION



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*“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language  
And next year’s words await another voice.”*

— T.S. Eliot

As we close a chapter of our lives and welcome the new year,  
we bring to you another page-turner with The Shishukunj  
Gazette!

Our theme this month is Reliving, Reminiscing & Reflecting  
as we go through the past year, and time travel through the  
last decades to see the world and society change yet remain  
the same. Throughout the clock, we see pages of the calendar  
turn, but some things we cherish forever— this issue is for  
those constants. For the ones who have been with you  
through it all, and for yourself, who has persevered for so  
long.

I would like to thank our Gazette Team for all the hard work  
and efforts they put into creating this issue, and to all the  
students who contributed— without you, this issue would be  
incomplete.

With this, I present to you, The Shishukunj Gazette: A  
Throwback Edition.

Enjoy!

—Anwasha Ghosh,  
Editor-in-chief

# AN ODE TO MY KALEIDOSCOPE

*Fr. Taylor Swift*

As my thumb scrolls through these pictures— a climactic gallery of the past year, every part of me feels all those laughs, tears, giggles and frowns like waves on the shore. With another roller coaster coming to an end, we all tend to reminisce, revisit and reflect before we embark on another unprecedented ride. With Spotify Wrapped and Zomato badges, we all traversed through the past year and wondered about how the seasons changed and took us by surprise. For instance, I traveled from Golden by Harry Styles in October to All Too Well by Taylor Swift this December and have not stopped listening to it since then. Amongst the myriad songs we listen to every day, some of them impress their mark on you. Never have I ever wanted a 10 minute song to not end but All Too Well (Taylor's Version) from the album Red, screamed nostalgia sending us on a trip to revisit our Kaleidoscope of the year.

*"Time won't fly, it's like I'm paralyzed by it  
I'd like to be my old self again  
But I'm still trying to find it"*

While Taylor passionately and intrinsically weaved her tale of love, loss, grief, separation and learning, she impressed on how it is human to feel all the hurt, shame and embarrassment while one is lost and confused. Her description of the repercussions of expectations turning traitor and happiness seeming ephemeral and a long lost treasure tell you're not alone. It inspires you to muster up the courage and face it all. The melodiously stitched masterpiece featuring drums and Keyboards is a warm hug. As she unveils her inner battle, you feel all those shades of love, care and life with her. Years later when she throws light on her memories and her Kaleidoscope, baring her soul out she validates how all those voids consuming you will be filled in gold as you grow. Her incessant effort and hope for a better fortune promised that everything will fall in place like autumn leaves do.

*" 'Cause in the city's barren cold  
I still remember the first fall of snow  
And how it glistened as it fell  
I remember it all too well."*

Every year ends with eyes filled with hope, visualising new expectations and wishes as we await new beginnings. While another year of experiences, success, learning adds on to the pyramid, it is paramount to know that every storm has a reason and gradually brings a new surge in you to get up and celebrate life after the rain. The storm that doesn't break you, just makes you stronger.



# The Evolution of Fashion

Remember the time of offline schools when getting taunted for an unironed uniform was a part of your routine before going to bed? Or the panicked face of that one friend on the school bus when it was too late to catch sight of his missing belt? Polishing shoes or combing hair in an orderly manner for school seemed an unnecessary task but when it came to parties, we spent hours talking to our friends discussing the clothes to be worn. Many people consider fashion to be an unimportant topic and yet they believe in the power of the first impression created by wearing a suit at a job interview.

“Why should a frivolous topic such as fashion be talked about when there are other important things in our lives?” - These kinds of statements made by famous men like Mark Zuckerberg trick us into agreeing with them but with just a little bit of extra thought we realize that millions of people scroll through Beyonce’s Instagram everyday to get styling inspiration generating billions of dollars for Facebook. If fashion was inane then why would a huge amount of money be tied up in its industry?

Fashion has objectively been this powerful since forever, not only at an individual level but at the level of society too. It’s just that it has been so involved in our lives that we could never feel the intensity of it. Both the present and the past prove how fashion and major world events have conversely affected each other. Here’s an insight into the world of fashion during the past 100 years :



## 1930s: Patriarchal Society



The beginning of the 1930s saw The Great Depression. Although the average man couldn't afford to partake in the world of fashion, many often enjoyed observing the style choices of those who could. The new man of the 1930s was conservative yet colourful, oversized yet practical and confident yet concerned about his spending on unnecessary clothing. His "larger than life" look spoke of his optimism for a recovering economy and his role as the patriarchal head of the household.



## 1940s: World War and Women Empowerment

On commencement of World War II, thousands of men were drafted into the war, thus leaving a huge need for more women to enter the workforce. These new positions required workwear clothing that was specifically designed for women's bodies. Not only were women proving that they could do typically male dominated jobs, but that their wardrobe didn't have to be so restricting either.



## 1950s: The Coming of Synthetic Fibres



Synthetic materials had become big business in the post-war era, driving further innovation in the 1950s. For daytime, the most common fabrics were in naturals, rayon, nylon and poly-cotton blends. As tasks around the house became increasingly based in technology, the concept of wash and wear fabric grew in popularity.



## 1960s: Politics and Elegance

First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy was the epitome of elegance in the early '60s. Her head-to-toe looks were absolutely pristine, including her iconic pillbox hat. She was wearing a pink hat and dress on November 22, 1963, as she cradled her husband in her arms moments after he was shot while riding in a Dallas motorcade. The cheerful femininity of Kennedy's pink suit and pillbox hat are ironic reminders of that tragic day.



## 1970s: Disco Funk

As famously said by Leonard McGill in the '70s, "Put a guy who keeps his body in reasonable shape in a pair of tight jeans, boots, and a muscle-hugging shirt and you've got a macho." For men, fashion in this decade meant bell bottom jeans, tie dye shirts, and military surplus clothing. Neckties became wider and bolder, and shirt collars became long and pointed at the "disco funk" which was all the rage.

## 1980s: Punk and Leather Jackets



This decade saw a rise in the influence of pop culture on fashion among common people. Eclecticism dominated much of the decade. The punk-rock aesthetic of the late '70s i.e. oversized leather sets, skin-tight trousers and lace continued to evolve and was honed on stage by Madonna, Annie Lennox and Boy George. Power dressing among women became popular. They started adopting menswear styles in a feminine interpretation for a classic professional appearance.



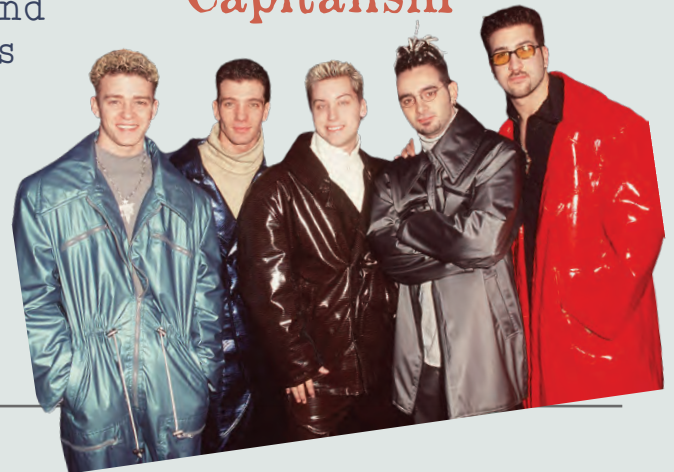
## 1990s : Impact of Television Shows and Cinema



The fashion in the 1990s was the genesis of a sweeping shift in the western world: the beginning of the adoption of tattoos and body piercings. This brought back the indifferent, anti-conformist approach to fashion, leading to the popularization of the casual chic look; this included T-shirts, distressed jeans, oversized hoodies, and trainers. Teenagers looked up to some television characters like Rachel from “Friends” and Cher Horowitz from “Clueless” for fashion inspiration. From a particular look to hairstyles, people tried to replicate it all.

Coco Chanel has famously stated, “Fashion is made to become unfashionable.” This decade stood as a perfect evidence of fast fashion and quickly changing trends that profited famous clothing brands. With increasing population and globalization, production of clothes rose to heights to meet the demand and the trends, but the workers were paid as little as possible so that the companies could inflate their income. This resulted in an enlarged waste generation.

## 2000s : Globalization, Fast Fashion and Capitalism



## 2010s : Body Figure and Skin Tone Positivity



With the evolution of style online, we experienced a lot of variety in fashion. There was no such thing as an “ideal body type” anymore and people who gave a controversial statement had to face the consequences. From Winnie Harlow leading a new wave of influence in skin type positivity to Billie Eilish fighting against negative comments on her baggy clothes, this decade saw inclusivity in fashion. Fashion became more about personal happiness and one thing was made very clear - fashion was never intended to make anyone feel weak but everyone powerful.



## 2020s : Breaking Barriers of

Thanks to pop culture icons like Elvis Presley and Freddie Mercury whose contribution to gender neutrality through fashion by wearing feminine looks, supported by today's celebrities like Billy Porter, Jaden Smith and Harry Styles has helped in changing people's mindset. Although 2021 is just the beginning of the decade, this fashion has a long way to go and is sure to stay. It was in the 80s when women were objectified for wearing the clothes that men used to wear and now it is men's turn to go through the process. We overcame that and hopefully we'll get through this too. After all it's just fashion and fashion has no gender.



We all wear looks that make us feel invincible - perhaps it's a colour that makes us feel like we stand out from the crowd or it's a style of clothing that makes us feel confident or a piece of makeup that makes us feel beautiful. We may be inspired by our idols or aspire to become like them one day. Whatever it may be, we all have our personal fashion choices that we associate

with important traits and they have the potential to help us feel like our best selves. Fashion makes us feel good about ourselves and how can we ever be productive unless we have faith in ourselves? To all those who say, "Dressing well is just for special occasions," I'd like to ask what if we consider life as an occasion? Then everyday will be meaningful if you just dress like it.

-Hrishubh Zatakia,  
XI-D





# MUSIC THROUGH THE DECADES

**1930s**

**2010s**



Music connects us all in unique yet intrinsically similar ways— through memories, emotions and people.

Whether that be dancing in your room with a plastic hairbrush pretending to be Taylor Swift at her 1989 World Tour singing for a stadium full of people who adore you, or bopping your head to your study playlist the night before a deadline trying to concentrate on the finishing of your assignment but ultimately belting out the lyrics in a moment of weakness and yet, unbridled joy. Music brings us closer to not only others— as you and that girl on the subway realise you're both listening to the same pop punk album— but music also connects us to ourselves, our emotions: listening to sad songs as you cry, reminiscing as that one song from 2008 hits your shuffle playlist, or blasting your designated anger song to let out all the frustration of a tiring day.

So, put on your Spotify Wrapped 2021 playlist and let's take a look at the evolution of music in the last 100 years.



### **1930s: Swinging Musicals, Dodging Depression & More**



The 1930s were shaped by the contrasting moods of the Great Depression and the glamorous beginnings of Old Hollywood.

Popular music was equally impacted by these forces and as home radios became more common, the music industry began to keep track of and measure the popularity of sheet music and records through sales. Musical films were an important part of popular music during the 1930s, offering a brief reprieve from the grim reality of the Great Depression and were an easy and affordable means of entertainment. These films opened a door to the glamorous world of Hollywood, showcasing song and dance numbers in front of a stylish background.

### **1940s: The Sound of World War II**

The 1940s sound mostly consisted of powerful ballads about lovers reuniting after the war and old-fashioned battle marches. One of the most famous songs of the decade was “There’ll Be Bluebirds Over the White Cliffs of Dover” which talked about peace and hopeful future after the war.

This decade also saw the rise of genres like Latin Pop, Country and other patriotic hits boomed through fallen spirits of the war.



### **1950s: Civil Rights or Civil Rock n’ Roll?**

The coming of rock and roll in the 50s was not merely a musical revolution but a social upheaval of unpredictable scope.

Rhythm & Blues (R&B) and Rock 'n' Roll popularized "black" music and many African-American musicians rose to prominence and enjoyed success, but while some were able to reap the benefits of their work, many others were forgotten or denied access to audiences through segregation. Others believe that the popularization of R&B and Rock 'n' Roll only helped to bridge the gap between blacks and whites and further the civil rights movement. Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry and Johnny Cash were the music everyone was listening to and set the precedent for generations to come.



### ***1960s: The Summer of Love***

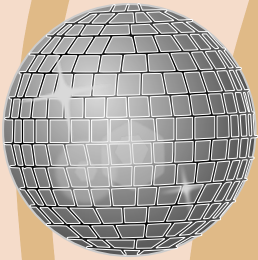
The 1960s is generally considered the greatest decade of music. The assassination of President Kennedy, the escalation of the war in Vietnam and the forward-progress of the Civil Rights Movement all greatly impacted the mood of American culture and the music began to reflect that change. The "British Invasion" also began around 1963 with the arrival of The Beatles on the music scene and the type of rabid fandom that followed them would change the way people would view and interact with music and musicians forever.

Set against this backdrop of one the most tumultuous times in history, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Aretha Franklin provided the music of this decade. The folk and psychedelic sound was inspired by the disillusioned youth. The Woodstock music festival in 1969 became a cultural touchstone as half a million people lived there for days, sharing food and shelter and were protesting the Vietnam war. The song "Times They Are-a Changing" written by Bob Dylan also became an anthem for the on-going African American Civil Rights movement.



# THE BEATLES





## **1970s: The Disco Movement**

Taking on the sound of disco, funk, soul and rock, the 1970s created a perfect musical bridge from the rebelliousness of the 1960s and the happy songs that are characteristic of the 1980s. Following the counterculture of the 60s, the 70s created a trend of relaxing music as well as dance music. “What’s Going On” by Marvin Gaye which was inspired by seeing the police attack anti-war protestors perfectly captured the unease at the beginning of the decade while the song “Imagine” by John Lennon about peace was a genre defining global hit whose legacy is still carried on today. The latter half of the decade marked a happier sound with ABBA, Elton John and the Bee Gees brought dancing with the disco craze.

## **1980s: There’s Something For Everybody**

The 80s did everything. They balanced the new wave, the growing punk sound, futuristic synth sound all while remaining to be one of the most colourful decades.

Music in the 1980s was all about image and with the advent and popularity of MTV, the images that accompanied artists became more important than ever. When it came to music during the decade, nothing was understated, not the sound, not the fashion, not even the charity. The 1980s reflected the beginning of a period of great income disparity and a focus on affluence was reflected in the music. There were also several new genres that popped up including, Hip Hop, New Wave and Hair Metal, all of which have influenced music today.



Led Zeppelin, Micheal Jackson, David Bowie and Prince all dominated charts. Queen song “Break Free” also became a queer anthem throughout the nation. “Black and White” by Micheal Jackson spurred change against racism. On 13 July, 1985 one of the biggest concerts in history was held at the Wembley Stadium. The Live Aid was a 16-hour globally telecasted concert that helped raise 127 million dollars for famine in Africa.



### ***1990s: Girls, Spice and All Things Nice***



This was the decade that brought back the boy band craze of the 60s with Backstreet Boys and N'Sync being in the news frequently. The 90s are usually considered an apolitical bubble in time, people discussed Britney Spears' love life more than they did with politics but there still were a lot of social consciousness brought on by music. Rage Against the Machine's "Killing in The Name" talked about police brutality and institutionalised racism. While, Spice Girls' "Wannabe" and Destiny's Child's "Survivor" celebrated female power and embraced third wave feminism.

### ***2000s: Hello? 9/11?***

The 2000s was a historically confusing time for both music and people. Against the backdrop of the horrors of 9/11 and the 2007-2008 financial crisis, the 00s saw the post-punk revival among teens alongside emo music.

Hip-hop became mainstream, and elevated black-storytelling with Nas, Jay-z, Kanye West, Snoop Dog taking centre stage. "Never Let Me Down" by Kanye West and Jay-z talked about racism as Eminem shot to success as well.

While Radiohead's "Idioteque" critiqued lack of action against Climate Change, Green Day's "American Idiot" was a response to the War in Iraq. Among young female artists, Taylor Swift saw the beginning of her career as she would continue to dominate the music scene in the 10s. The decade waved farewell with the death of the legendary Michael Jackson in June 2009.



**RADIOHEAD**



## **2010s: Shining Through The City With A Little Pop and Soul**

Pop music rose to cosmic heights in the 2010s with Lady Gaga, Justin Bieber, Taylor Swift, Beyoncé, and more. The earlier half of the decade saw One Direction's rise to fame, and members Harry Styles and Zayn Malik would continue to hit the charts in the latter half as well.

The 2010s revolutionised by the internet culture, was a decade of diversity and inclusion. Queer artists such as Hayley Kiyoko and Troye Sivan grew an accepting audience for themselves as "Girls Like Girls" and *Blue Neighbourhood* found its way to every teenager's playlist.

The rising genre of K-pop finally debuted on mainstream American television and in the hearts of millions with the South-Korean boyband BTS' performance of their hit song 'DNA' at the AMAs in 2017. BTS would continue to rage over the music scene worldwide, as well as pave the way for Asian artists around the globe to garner a stage for themselves.

The voices of protesters in Hong Kong singing, "Do you hear the people sing?" from the Broadway show *Les Misérables* would be a highlight of the historical turmoil the world faced, alongside the raging pandemic.



The world keeps changing, the earth keeps spinning but what people felt for music a century ago while dancing in jazz clubs is still the same to what you and your friends feel singing back with your favourite artists at a concert. Times change, lives go on but our emotions, our voices echo with the same love and passion that lit the first fire.

***"I'd borrow this music and tell you—  
People say the world has changed,  
Thankfully, between you and I,  
It's still the same."***

—Life Goes On, BTS

—Anwesha Ghosh, XI F

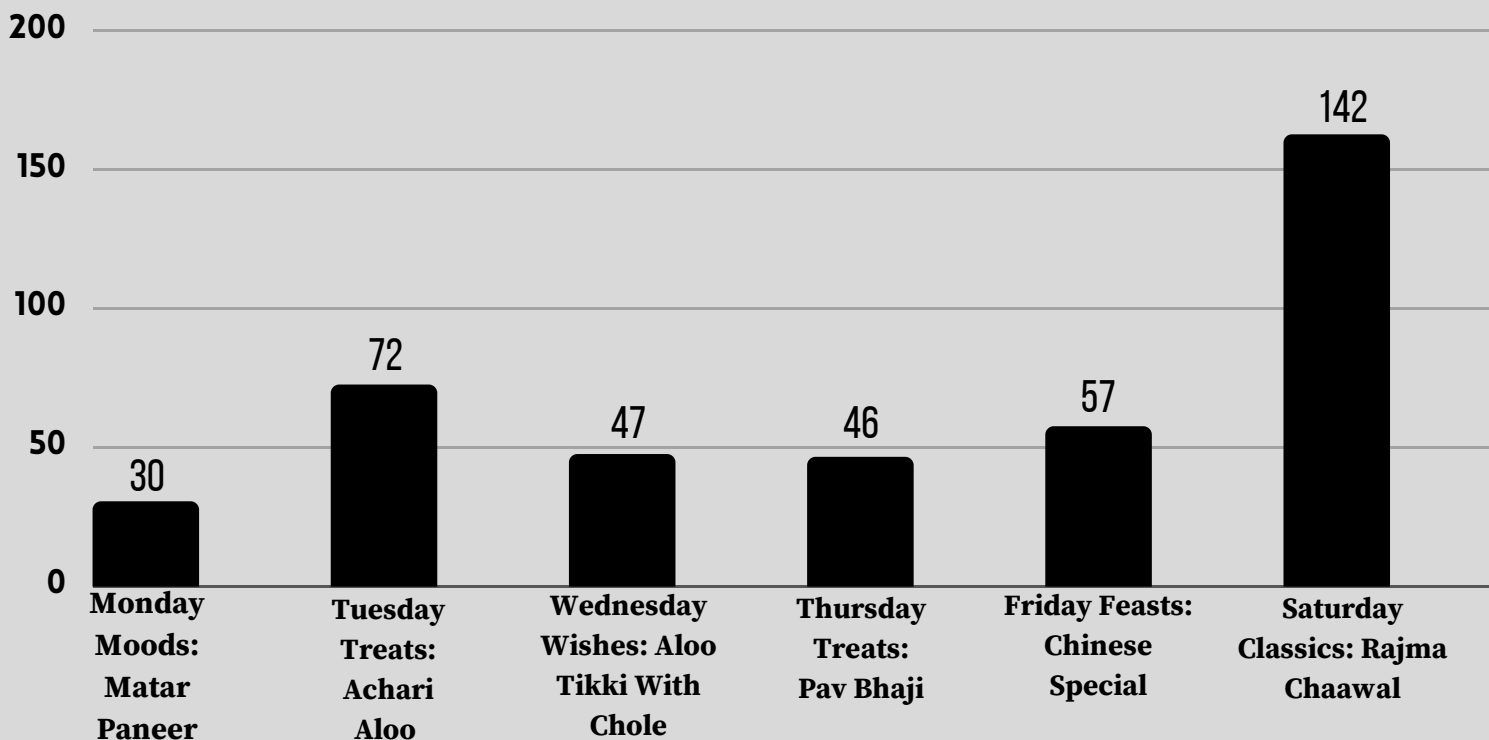


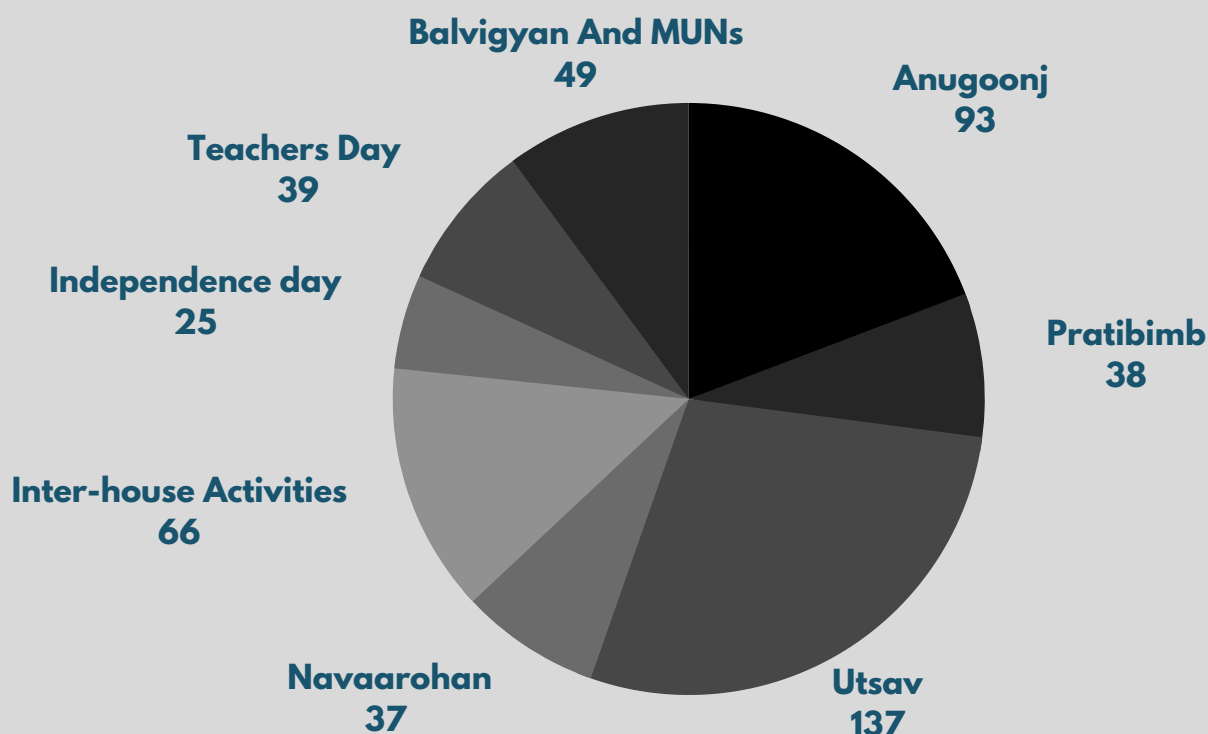
# STUDENT POLL

Even though in-person schools have been opened, not everything is the same. From the lunch hall chaos to our beloved school functions, there's a lot to miss!

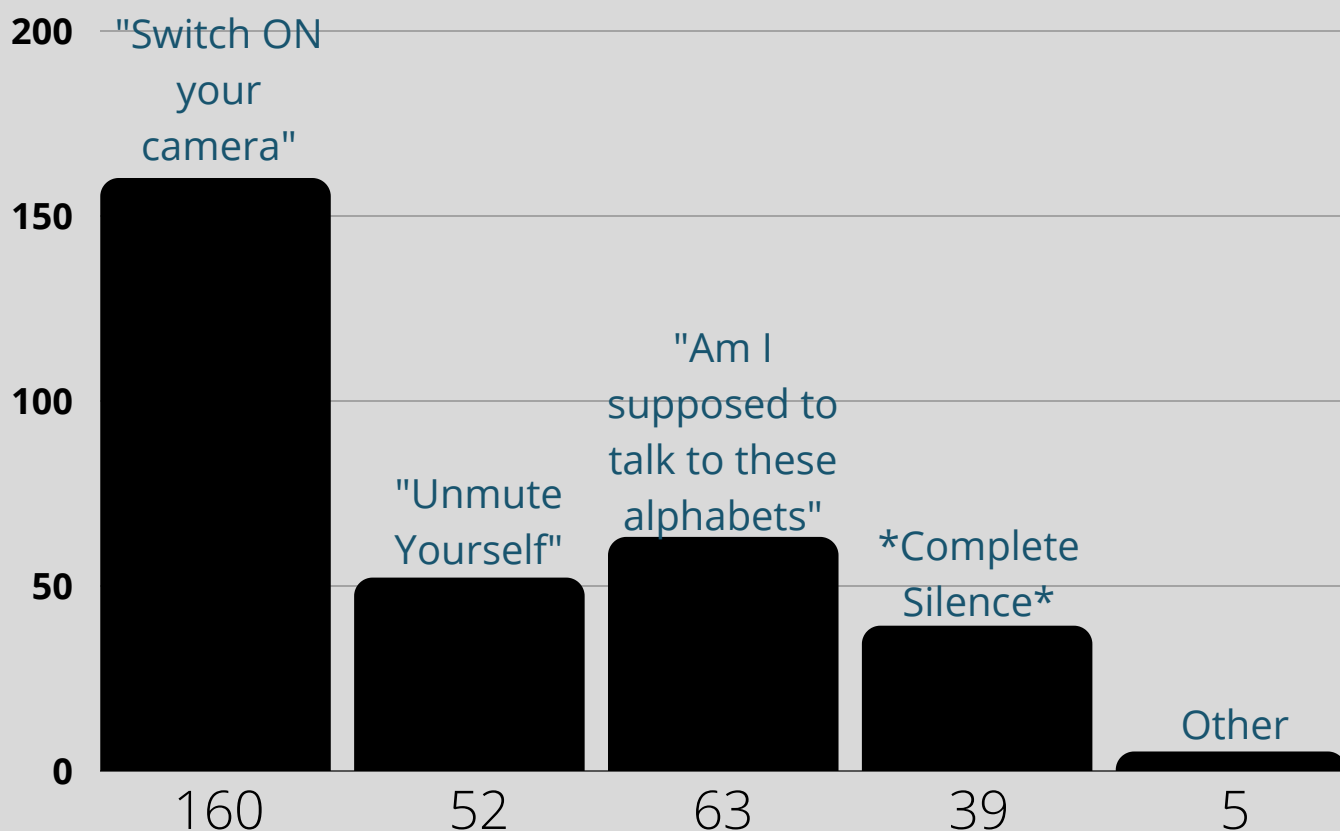
Our team took a short survey on some of these beloved things we missed and the fun times we had even during our online classes. With the gathered responses of almost 200\*^ students, here are the results!

## *Favourite School Meal*



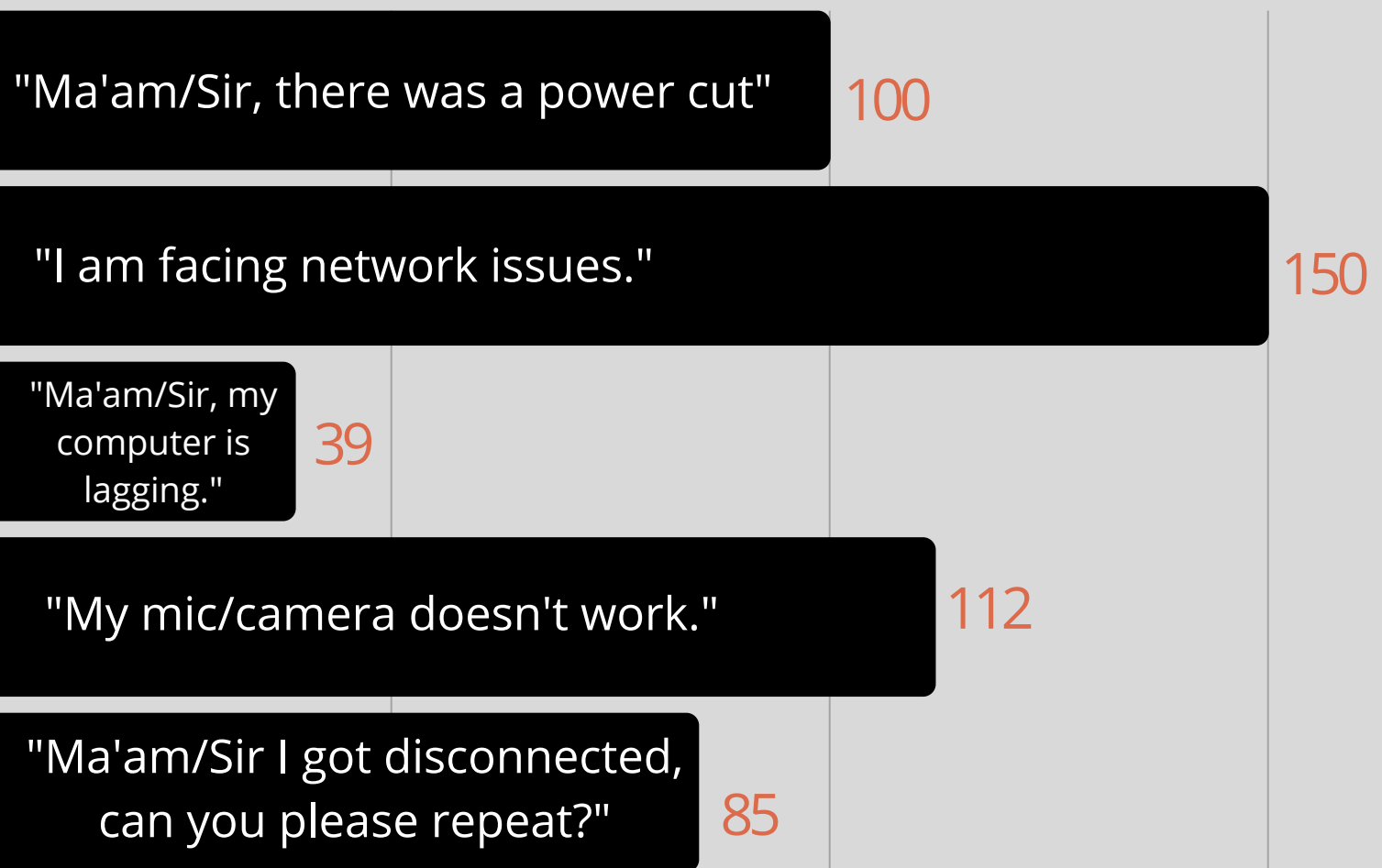


## *Most Heard Lines From Teachers In Online Class*





## *Most Heard Lines From Students In Online Class*



A lot can be learned from these simple polls, but more than learning— a lot we reminisce. From Rajma Chawal and Ice-cream on Saturdays to the Zero hours during Anugoonj season, the small pockets of joys we tucked ourselves away between classes, and the longing glances through Google Meet screens all reflect in these results. We hope you keep these little moments of happiness underneath your smiles, beneath your steps, and forever in some corner of your drawer— for you to pull out when the world weighs down on you, never forget what once made you smile.

\*Students were allowed to choose more than one option

^ Total responses=185



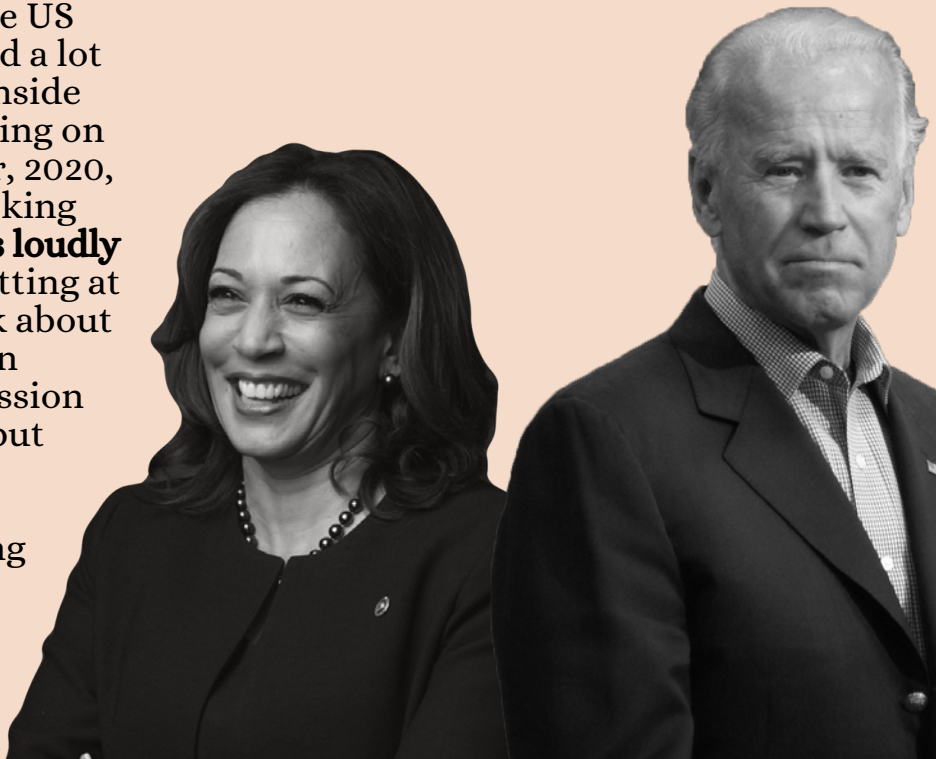


**BY HRISHUBH  
ZATAKIA  
XI - D**



My humble greetings to Covid-19 **[coughs]**, Elon Musk and a few Taliban leaders sitting at the back of this small room, I'm glad that you all are going to miss me. Considering my existence, I was pessimistic that this room is going to be empty but I'm extremely delighted to see that some people are bummed out now that I stand on this stage to give my **[reads smudged ink from back of hand]** 'Year of the Year' Award acceptance speech. On this auspicious day, I would also like to acknowledge the presence of the Covid-19's newborn son - Omicron.  
Way to go, kiddo!

I'm not afraid to raise my voice against all those who criticize me because if I were *that* bad, there would be a song named "2021 (*Taylor's Version*)" after me. Not only did I give Joe Biden the power that he has today, but also made Kamala Harris the first coloured and woman vice-president in American history. Needless to mention, I apologize for the storming of the US Capitol. I also might have wasted a lot of time keeping people locked inside their houses but I was just walking on the path laid down by my father, 2020, I'm sure he must be proudly looking up at me from hell **[2020 coughs loudly from the audience]**. I thought sitting at home might force some to think about the environment like my folks in Europe where sales of zero-emission vehicles surpassed diesel sales but little did I know that one of the precious gems this world could ever get, Jeff Bezos, was planning on traveling to space for 4 min by spending dollars worth 5.5 billion.



While people were busy relating to “*driver’s license*”, I sold a purely digital artwork for millions at an auction and made Bitcoin El Salvador’s national currency marking some great historic events **[2020 laughs]**. Something interesting kept popping up in the sports’ industry during my time - from the Tokyo Olympics to the ICC World Cup. Even after the world started opening up, some of the series like Wanda Vision and Squid Game managed to keep the public tied to their couches. Instagram users didn’t really care about Facebook changing its name to Meta because they were occupied in trolling Kim Kardashian for her Met Gala look. On one hand Twitter was obsessed with the “how it started vs how it ended” trend whereas on the other, the internet was laughing aloud at a lawyer saying, “I’m here live, I’m not a cat” after a zoom mishap.



Whether it be the lessons learned from the Israel-Palestine conflict or various natural disasters that our planet has faced this year, it took us some mistakes to gain new experiences.

We make new resolutions every year and nature knows it well that we’re all a bit too imperfect in keeping those promises. It has its own rough ways to enlighten us. All of us stopped for a while and thought about what’s important, we stayed hopeful all this time and sent virtual hugs to each other when no one was there to hold our hands and say “It’s going to be fine”.

Although I’m sure that no year will ever be able to top me, I wish 2022 does and not in terms of suffering but contentment. To conclude, I wish that we bring back the merry olden times while not forgetting the knowledge gained throughout the journey of pain. Let’s welcome 2022!

**[bows] [sound of back cracking]** Wow, looks like I am getting old, I must leave before you all start throwing tomatoes at me.

Thank you!



# 1984

## AND ITS RELEVANCE TODAY

George Orwell's evocative and captivating book- 1984, is a warning against totalitarianism wrapped in a chilling dystopia. The book is a depiction of a state where thinking differently results in torture, where people are under surveillance every second of the day, and party propaganda trumps free speech.

It leaves a perpetual impact on its readers such that it's almost impossible to read this book without relating it to current circumstances or to be reminded of it each time you read ever sprouting news of state censorship, authoritarianism or notice the use of doublespeak prevalent in the media.



It is not unusual for debates about propaganda, surveillance, authoritarian politics, or perversions of truth to drop a reference to 1984. It is perhaps so because this book puts into simple words common enigmas of the political landscape which we encounter almost everyday. For example, in the book, "doublespeak" is the obscuring, disguising or distorting of the meaning of a word. It can very easily be observed in the Indian political arena where people are quick to label others "anti-national" or "bhakts" to detach opinions or sometimes even facts, not by logical debate but by simply discrediting the information and very often the person expressing it as well.

More extreme examples of state censorship related to technology and totalitarianism can be observed in Saudi Arabia and China.

Saudi Arabia- an episode of a Netflix Series called Patriot Act which discussed the involvement of the crown prince Mohammad Bin Salman in the killing of Washington Post journalist, Jamal Khashoggi was removed from streaming in the country.

The people of China observe a draconian system of censorship where Youtube, Facebook, Netflix and most other common applications are banned.





The people are only allowed to use a few government approved and censored applications and significant pieces of Chinese history like Tiananmen Square (thousands of demonstrators protesting the government gathered at Tiananmen Square were open fired on by the government) fail to find a place in Chinese history books. The government is truly in control of the information. Or as George Orwell aptly put it in 1984 - Who controls the past controls the future; who controls the present controls the past.

Though no government has been able to or possibly will be able to have as much control as Big Brother has in the book, we do not have to look far from home to find resemblances to it.

The recent news of the alleged Pegasus leak (possible government surveillance of the people) which came as a shocking revelation and was discussed and debated at length by people, reciting what they think about it, which coincidentally ran parallel to what their respective news sources thought about it of course, now stands forgotten by most citizens. This predicament truly animates some of the phrases in "1984" like- Big Brother is always watching, Thought Police and Thought Crime.

And of course, the government controlled media and punishment for "thoughtcrime" has never been so conspicuously evident as today, when cases of journalists, activists and comedians that have been locked up and/ or died in jail occur frequently but sadly do not occur nearly as frequently in headlines.

The case of the forgotten student activists about to complete a year in jail under prevention and suspect but with no crime proved in court screams of Unperson, Thought Crime and Room 101.

George Orwell lived through and fought in the World War prior to writing this book, it was also the time where the world stood divided by the Iron Curtain. Many believe that the book is simply against communism because it talks of a socialist state but it is truly a warning against any form of totalitarianism, and an effective one at that. It can be interpreted in many ways, it is this open endedness that makes it a rare case of a very political book that is a favourite among readers irrespective of their inclination.

The book, written in 1949 is not a prediction but a stark, cynical and haunting glimpse to what could be.

---

**"War is peace.  
Freedom is slavery.  
Ignorance is strength."**

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# MIRRORBALL



*I want you to know  
I'm a mirrorball  
I'll show you every version of yourself tonight  
I'll get you out on the floor  
Shimmering beautiful  
And when I break, it's in a million pieces*

mirrorball, the sixth track off of Taylor Swift's eighth album, *folklore* explores the repercussions of wearing a facade around others to please them and losing oneself in the process. The dictionary definition states that a mirrorball is 'a revolving ball covered with small mirrored facets, used to provide lighting effects at discos or dances.' Here, Swift draws parallels between the fragile mirrors that concoct a merry vibrancy and a veil worn for the recreation of others, both of which when broken into a million pieces can make no difference at all and a mountain of difference at the same time.

The shattering of the mirrorball has another connotation- the breaking of hearts. In this way, it sheds light on the existence of such people whose brokenness is what makes them shiny, and it is what gathers the scrutiny of the paparazzi and makes subsequent bold headlines in distinguished newspapers.

*Hush, when no one is around, my dear  
You'll find me on my tallest tiptoes  
Spinning in my highest heels, love  
Shining just for you*

Swift underlines the fact that she is the best version of herself when she is alone, without having to worry about the perceptions and satisfaction of others. The pretty wrapping paper needs to be torn to unveil the precious present inside. Acknowledging her people-pleasing nature, she attempts to keep the others in the shadow of her true self.

*And they called off the circus  
Burned the disco down  
When they sent home the horses  
And the rodeo clowns  
I'm still on that tightrope  
I'm still trying everything to get you laughing at me  
I'm still a believer but I don't know why  
I've never been a natural  
All I do is try, try, try  
I'm still on that trapeze  
I'm still trying everything  
To keep you looking at me*

Now comparing herself to other entities of entertainment, namely circus animals and rodeo clowns, Swift describes the extent to which she can shapeshift in order to keep the illusion effectual. The tightrope and the trapeze depict the extremity of consciousness and signify her efforts to impress others. She is still stuck on being a charmer. She has never been a 'natural,' meaning that she has downright lost her individuality in the continuous process of restructuring herself. After the performers have left, the arena has been abandoned and the disco has gone up in flames, she is the only one standing there, persistently doing her utmost to keep the show going.

In all its vulnerability, this lyrical masterpiece points to the duplicitous nature exhibited by everyone— a different version around different kinds of people. "I'll show you every version of yourself tonight" refers to the reflective ability of the mirrorball; the multifaceted sphere can bring out these distinct characteristics in the surrounding individuals—the best as well as the worst. Acting in ways desired by the society stays put in the centre foreground while the theme of the malignancy of a relationship lingers in the background. "I'm still trying everything to get you laughing at me" is an allusion to the fact that she can sink to inglorious and exhausting levels to desperately try and catch the eyes of her partner. The song, therefore, serves as a subtle reminder to not misplace our originality in the labyrinth of 'trying to figure it all out'.

—Bheeni Jajodia, X-C

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# STUDENTS' CORNER

A year can go by in the quickest of flashes. And while each successive day may seem to differ just slightly from the last, when a year's worth of those days has passed, we find ourselves in a different place from where we used to be. Looking back at 2021 was like watching a movie, laughing while welcoming new characters, shedding tears while watching people leave. Isn't that what makes life significant, how each of us is like different stories trying to make a difference in each other's life by either being a part of it or by drifting away from it?

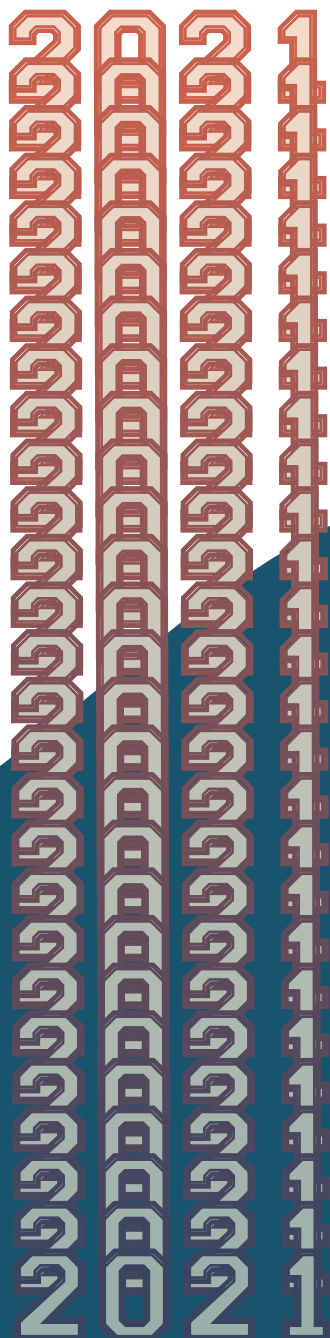
Life has a penchant for constantly changing directions. You never know whether the road leads you towards your destination or away from it. Time fled by in the blink of an eye yet it seemed like an eternity. Although I grew a lot as a person in the pandemic, it also came with a chilling air of loneliness, wrapping me in a coat of insecurity. Changes come with uncertainty and in these times people need something stable to hold on to. For me, it was books. Living and relishing in the world of fiction by being oblivious to my surroundings was my escape. Smelling the pages whenever I buy a new book, feeling the weight of them in my hands, reading my mind through the characters, unknowingly smiling on recalling my lines from those pale pages have all become my second nature. Time fled by, words written in ink became my thoughts and poetry, fictional reality.

Maybe it's me, all the way up in my head, watching the way the light hits planes of people's faces, the way my dad scrunches his nose whenever he smiles, the way my mom's eyes light up whenever I talk to her about my poems or the way my sister's face breaks into a tentative smile when she looks at my childhood pictures. It's these moments that make me want to capture them and print them in my mind in the hope to remember them forever. It is these small moments that make me want to live in the moment and enjoy it until it lasts, to find happiness even in the simplest of things.

2022 is another chapter of my life. As this story unfolds, I hope to become more confident, I hope that I start taking a stand for myself; I hope that I become bold and fearless, and lastly, I hope to be happier than before.

-Riya Sheth

X-F





# THE WARMTH OF *Winter*

Finally, winter is here and hoodies are back in my closet, and so are the cozy blankets on the bed! All I need now is my hot chocolate and Christmas movies late at night. Not to forget the Christmas adventures kids have in the movies like Home Alone.

For me, December is about the feeling of love and hopefulness in the air. It is that time of the year when I want to listen to Heather on repeat but also to Evermore. The rich winter food stock at home makes me want to get out of bed late at night just to snuggle back after munching.



Even though there sure are blue and grey days but only to await us the merry and bright days of the Christmas decorations. December is the month where one ponders upon the thought of how the whole year has been, it's the month when one evaluates oneself. It's a chance where one can decide on a new resolution for the next year or try keeping up with the past resolutions which I am sure most of us dropped in no time.

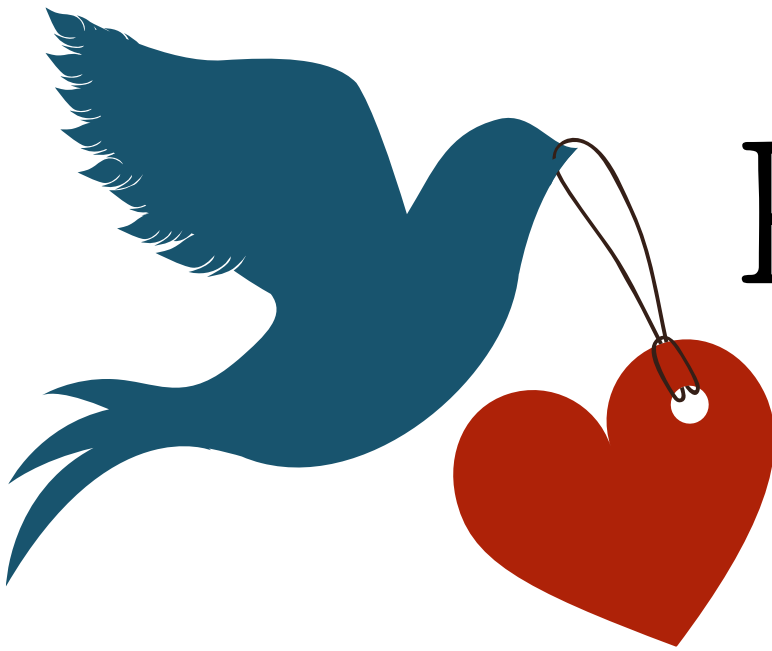
Christmas is not celebrated with the same enthusiasm at my place but this holiday has always fascinated me. It is something way more than presents, it is about the feeling of warmth and spirit from the people. One of the best parts is that my whole family is together in one room recalling those joyful memories or making some more! It is the comfort zone where I return to be rejuvenated, spending holidays with my loved ones certainly reassures me that everything is going to be fine, and no matter what these people will always have my back!

After Christmas, New Year paves its way through, everyone is now busy planning the New Year Party which of course is a big deal, it's a gift for making it through the whole year. It's a night full of delicacies, endless songs, and dancing. I feel that I now have a fresh start and I surely will take care of everything in my life. With every year I experience a drastic change within myself, I now wouldn't want to go to my past self. December tends to be one of the most eventful months, I am sure everyone loves to celebrate these two holidays with full enthusiasm until and unless we are stuck with exams. Now that would be a bummer!

-Kanan Sondhi, XI-D







# Rising in Love

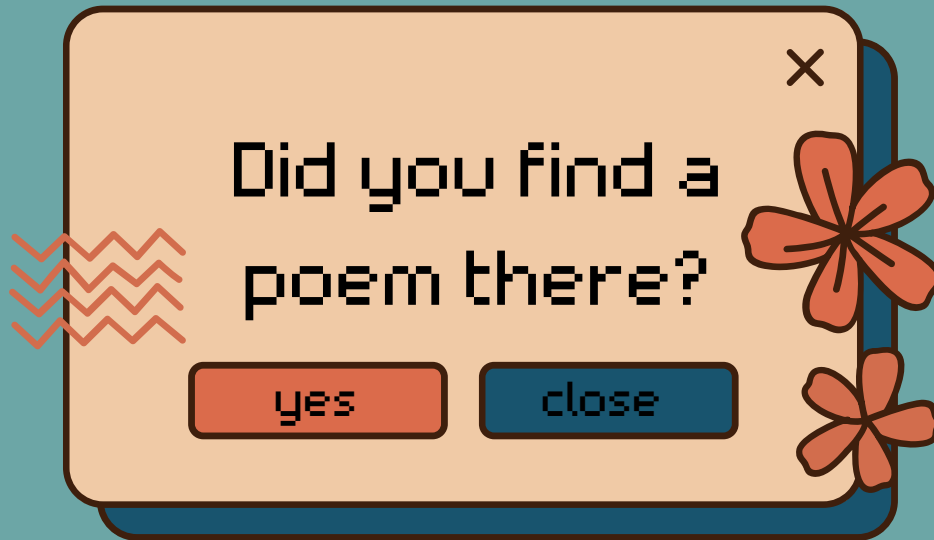
—DEEKSHA PARASHAR, XI-F

*Falling in love you remain a child; rising in love you mature. By and by  
love becomes not a relationship, it becomes a state of your being.  
Not that you are in love - now you are love.  
—Osho*

Love! Is there even a person who hears this word and does not smile? If the word itself is so powerful, it's natural that its being would be of the greatest power. To define love has been the hardest as well as the easiest thing. It's hard because in these times we tend to mistake love for infatuation which cleverly masquerades itself as love. It's easy because like breathing being in love is fundamental to us, intrinsic to us, and just like breathing it gives us life. In these times as Indians would like to call Kaliyuga( age of darkness) people are forgetting their fundamental nature and giving in to an identity that is not of their own making. We are giving up on our true identities of eternal souls and giving in to a socially constructed identity. Love, for me, is the purest feeling not bound in the captivity of reason. People mistake infatuation for love because, with this intellect which we have acquired throughout these years, we have picked up the activity of viewing things for their exact opposite just like the reflection

of a tree falling on a water. People mistake marriage for love and loving without being married to some kind of sin. Marriage is a social construct and love on the other hand has been, is, and will be, eternal. This is the common reason why people often blame love for hurting them because they have not experienced love in the first place.

The opposite of love is our own baser nature- those attributes which we have acquired which stand between us and ourselves. Ego, hatred, pride, jealousy, anger, fear, selfishness, etc which do not allow us to properly hear the calling which comes from our pure soul. Love will never cause you any harm because it is above the notions of self-interest. In love, we continuously strive to make the lives of the people we love better. Love is that fire that burns our heart and purifies it like coal in high heat turns into a diamond. By loving everything we become love, embody it.



Look for a piece of thought here and there,  
 Look for a poem here and there.  
 You can find it everywhere and in anything,  
 Because;  
 I found a poem in the fall of the leaves  
 And in the smack sound of stone heaps.  
 Oh! Lad where can't you find it?  
 In the flip of your hair?  
 In your brother's glare?  
 Dear, you can find a poem everywhere  
 For turning back and asking for forgiveness  
 Or maybe in mothers' gratefulness.  
 Either in your charming smile  
 Or in the hole in the tile.  
 Sure in a warm house with siblings  
 And even in the clings of the glasses.  
 Within the heart of the people eating rice  
 So in the Sun thrice  
 Go and fetch a poem from the nooks and  
 Ends of one's heart and soul.  
 Sure enough you're going to find a fistful of  
 them and fill the bowl  
 Now I guess you got it very fair,  
 That there is a poem everywhere.

# *A Requiem For The Fallen*

Mortals covered in scars,  
And disturbance is brought by wars,  
Time and time again,  
Throwing negotiations and peace to vain,  
Comes the hideous menace again to maul,  
Leaving but men and hope to fall,  
To their last breath they are filled with pride,  
"I was a part of my nation's epic stride!"  
With these words true patriots fall,  
Only to rise to a place above all,  
A place far better than here,  
Where there is no war's fear,  
To such braves who are lost to void,  
With all their dreams destroyed,  
Those who fall for us to live,  
I pay, to these martyrs of their  
motherland,  
All the respect I can,  
For this is the least  
one can do.

-Saksham Jain  
VIII C

# THE SHORE

The breeze, the shore,  
The sand, the wind's roar.  
The waves come and go back,  
Showing the world's two sides- white and black.  
The cool breeze fluttering my hair,  
Wandering in the world without despair.  
The boundless horizon, sparkling in the rays,  
The unending world, it portrays.  
The mighty palm trees dancing shamelessly,  
Their fronds swayed with the wind, in full glee.  
The rough sand particles holding together to make a  
child's castle of dreams,  
The whooshing of the wind- a loud silence it seems.  
Dipping my feet in the water is like a mother's embrace,  
It feels different near the shore- a serene place.

-Ridima Jaju,  
VII-E





I. All Too Well (10 Minute Version)- Taylor Swift

2. People - Agust D

3. Shut Up and Dance- WALK THE MOON

4. Call Me Maybe- Carly Rae Jepsen

5. One Way Ticket- Eruption

6. Silence- Before You Exit

7. Like Real People Do- Hozier

8. Shampoo Bottles- Peach Pit

9. Won't Stop- Lonely God

10. CWJBHN- Jake Scott

II. Emergency Contact- Haley Joelle

12. Bells in Santa Fe- Halsey

13. right where you left me- Taylor Swift

14. Eyes Off You- PrettyMuch

15. This Side of Paradise- Coyote Theory

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2022

**SEE YOU SOON**

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