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#### WHY STRANGER THINGS DESERVES ITS POPULARITY

Over the last year or so, Netflix has initiated what has been coined as the 'hit and miss' approach. All that means is that Netflix has, over the past year, invested a lot of time and money into basically anything labeled SCRIPT. The positive result of that policy is that up and coming creators are given a chance on a level playing field with mega studio productions. The negative result is that not a lot of them seem to have deserved it, and Netflix has been guilty of producing a seemingly never-ending stream of not especially high quality content, leaving Netflix in financial turmoil. However, for all the examples of iffy shows and movies Netflix has produced over the last year, and will undoubtedly continue to produce, there have been some absolute gems, one of the most famous of which has been 'Stranger Things', created by the previously unknown Duffer brothers. Now Stranger Things has received a lot of praise without a lot of explanation, so I can't say I blame people when they come to me and ask what all the fuss is about. That said, I do think Stranger Things deserves every bit of praise it has received, and my reasons don't involve "you should just listen to what I have to say because I'm Aaron Paul."

Stranger Things is one of the most perfectly balanced nostalgia pieces ever made. It's rare for me to see a show or film set in the 80s without my uncles and aunts getting irritated and throwing things. It's just incredibly difficult to hit the right tonal note with that time period because of how personal it is to my parent's generation, for example. The few exceptions have spent so much time and attention on striking that note that the nuance of the piece is oftentimes lost, and you don't get the right balance. Stranger Things does not fall into that category, however. The Duffers have managed to strike a chord that resonates with the adults of the world of today, as well as balance that tone out with the youthful energy of a cast from my generation. Because of that sensitive and nuanced voice the show manages to find, adults can find something that pulls on their heartstrings, and kids see something they relate to in the forms of the themes discussed in the show, making for an incredibly demographically diverse production, that almost anyone will find themselves responding to on a surface level at a bare minimum.

One of the most striking things about the show, from more of a theoretical standpoint, is that there is almost no time wasted during the course of the show. Season 1 has 8 episodes of about 45 minutes each, beaten by season 2 with 9 episodes of about the same time. Firstly, it's good to see that Netflix hasn't given the Duffers a time cap. A lot of popular shows in the world, Sherlock, for example, don't ever manage to reach their full potential because of time caps. The second Sherlock's 4 and a half hour BBC 1 time cap expires the director is forced to the second state of the s

We've barely scratched the limit of our content depth? Well that's too bad isn't it?" The time cap is unfortunate, but the biggest difference between the Duffers and the directors of Sherlock are that the directors of Sherlock tend to make a bit of a mess with their on screen time management, whereas the Duffers waste almost no time. I noticed this in season 1, so I paid close attention in season 2 and I found that almost every shot, every frame that made it into the show was valuable, be it in character development or exposition or anything. Each and every shot is well placed and relevant. Every minute on screen is important. You'd be hard pressed to find many unnecessary shots in the show, which really speak to the Duffer's intelligence as filmmakers. Of course it also speaks to their dedication to their work, and it's refreshing to see a couple of guys who are willing to sift through the mountain of footage they have at their disposal and be disciplined with what goes in and what doesn't. The relatively less amount of content also makes it less time consuming as compared to other shows, and the way they've crafted it such that every shot has value keeps the show from dragging, making it an easy watch.

The Duffers have written the show without keeping to a specific genre. To the best of my knowledge, Stranger Things is listed on Netflix as a Sci-Fi Thriller. Despite that, it is described by many if not most as a horror show, and yet justification exists that supports putting it in the drama section. The way the screenplay is written, as well as the way the show is shot is characteristic of a horror piece, while on the other hand the so called 'jump scares' are mild at best, making the show more agreeable for younger kids, or adults who don't do well with scary visuals and sound effects. The themes and issues they focus on are very well rounded, so the horror aspect of it, however mellow, is offset by a compelling story and characters. Because the show avoids sticking to the conventionalities of any specific genre, it opens up the demographic, giving more people something they can relate to or connect to.

These are just a few of the many reasons, technical and otherwise, why Stranger Things deserves every ounce of praise it's gotten over the last year and a half or so. I think the most relevant reason is probably the balance of nostalgia and present day relevancy, because in the end a show can be as good technically as it can be, but without compelling characters and a compelling plotline that your average viewer can relate to and escape to, no show can hope to get the reception Stranger Things has received. All we can do now is hope season 3 is as good as the last 2.

#### ANOTHER RAP STAR SUCCUMBS, IS CULTURE OF RAP TO BLAME?

Rap is ubiquitous. The word hip-hop is practically synonymous with popular music by this point. It is no longer only the music that gives the voiceless a voice, but instead a huge commercial industry, dominating every sphere of culture. Gone are the days where hip-hop concerts would be shut down by the police for their controversial lyrics that addressed drugs, police brutality, and gang life.

And so it was no surprise that the recent death of Lil Peep (real name Gustave Åhr), a rapper that had begun making waves in the underground scene, made global headlines. Aged a tender 21, the rapper died of a suspected overdose on Xanax on the 15th of November, the common anti-anxiety pill that has now become the face of what has been called the "prescription drug epidemic". Amid tributes to Åhr and the collective mourning of his sizeable fan base, a heated and intense discussion has begun: where has the continuously increasing use of opioids and other clinical drugs as recreational substances come from? How responsible is hip-hop for glorifying them? And most importantly, who is to blame for Lil Peep's needless death?

Of course, it's not only among rappers that this trend has been seen - only a few weeks ago, the President Donald Trump himself declared the crisis "a national emergency", indicating the problem is much bigger than previously imagined. But hip-hop, as a style of music, has historically always discussed drugs, whether it be dealing and distributing them (see "Ten Crack Commandments" by Notorious B.I.G, a humorous song about just that) or doing them. "Hustling" was an integral part of hip-hop culture back in its inception, being born out of the African - American community, who were impoverished and marginalised and often resorted to crime as a way to get by. Crack cocaine, weed, methamphetamines, and alcohol were commonly mentioned in rap lyrics, and with the explosion of the genre, the controversy that initially surrounded them soon faded away.

However, a simple listen to some of the currently trending songs on hip-hop charts will prove that it's no longer those drugs that are name-dropped. Instead, it's medicines like percocets, cough syrup, and Xanaxes. "I just poured a 8 in the liter, put some jolly ranchers in, made it sweeter", slurs rapper NAV, referring to purple drank (a cough-syrup based drink used recreationally) on "beibs in the trap", a popular track of 2016. He casually makes similar references throughout the song, his garbled voice reflecting his heavy usage of the substances. In fact, the predominant subject of many of his songs is indeed prescription drugs, with him proclaiming that "when I'm sober I just don't like who I am" in another one of his songs. Like NAV, Lil Peep openly used narcotics, and it so happens that shortly before his death, he recorded a video of him taking six pills of Xanax, along with concentrated marijuana proudly boasting his accomplishment. A few hours later, he was found dead on his tour bus. The first question that comes to mind for many is: why? Why would people take medication, that does not provide as effective a high, to intoxicate themselves instead of recreational drugs? The most likely answer is self-medication for severe psychological pain. Self medicating is common for people who are depressed, but cannot quite pin down why and know no good way to examine and confront their feelings, taking refuge in drugs. It does not help that medicines such as Xanaxes are easily obtainable at any pharmacy and can be purchased with little difficulty.

Many of Ahr's songs talked of suicide and mental illnesses. His attempts at calls for help on social media and his songs is well documented, as is the case for many rappers. But most of the time, these are ignored or not taken seriously, with many understanding them to be a part of the rapper's persona instead. "Everybody I know numb it with drugs", he crooned on the last song he released before his death.

Some argue that hip-hop endorses these dangerous substances. A slew of articles published after Ahr's death seemed to think so, condemning everything from the media to the ready availability of drugs. But this diverts from the central issue: their mental health. Rather than be shunned and called out, attention and help should be given. Rappers, often coming from troubled homes and poverty, may find it even tougher to face their problems than regular people, explaining the epidemic in the industry. "He was going to change the world with his music. He already had", said Post Malone, a popular musician, of Ahr's death. With opioids killing 64000 people a year in the USA, striking at the heart at the issue is essential rather, than blaming external factors. It threatens to cause hip-hop and society as a whole to crumble, and we can do with avoiding unnecessary deaths.

# **CREATIVES**

#### BETRAYAL

She changed. She divulged a secret: Her illness. She was about to end her own pain.

> A secret as perilous as this, It broke her heart. It killed her dreams, Wrenched her apart. It held her weak, bitter, and old.

> > Everything collapsed.

The world grimly handed her a gorgeous day to die. To journey through demise. To stare into grim reaper's eyes. But this would have to be for the last time.

And when the darkness disappeared, Rays of dawn finally appeared. He stood in the shadows, Looking at her hollow eyes. Recalling a thousand empty lies. Honouring a lover's sacrifice.

> But he smiled. HITANSHI BADANI GRADE 10



KASHISH SHAH GRADE 10

3/7/19 a thankyou note

last night I whispered a secret, thankyou note to the universe for allowing the stars to align and our paths to cross by sending me happiness along with warmth in the form of you and your laugh SRISHTI SANGHAVI GRADE 9



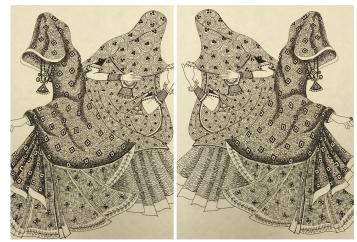


Krish Bajaj 9B

#### PHOTOGRAPHIC PALLOR

(11.11.17)





Shreya Goenka 10C

#### El Dorado

A poem written as three continuous Haikus..

There she stood gleaming

like El Dorado in her

graceful golden garb

pandemonium

as she twirls and turn around

I will be resolute

Rowdily I risk

it all and play this raucous

roulette of romance

BILAL MOIN GRADE 10

A dozen cheesy Polaroids, Perennially at war with light, Hang like tinsels from a Christmas tree: Vibrant, yet they fight-To remain as substantial as before; A new hue dissolves With every tick of the seconds hand, Still, the Earth revolves Mechanically around the Sun.

Does The Universe not care to understand?

Is it not known so blatantly That these pictures are fading with Time-From moments, into mere memories?

> PRISHA MANGAT GRADE 9



Shreya Goenka 10C

#### The Gale

Lay your body down on the tracks And curl yourself into a ball The gale blows hard with swooping winds And with it, it takes all.

Women and children and men as well No one is spared from the disaster So make sure that you come to church And devote yourself to the One; the Master.

Surrender your soul, repent your sins And pray that He'll forgive When Death rains down on men and women It makes sure that nobody lives.

Pay a visit to the confession chamber And meet our parish father, don't fret! He is God's messenger himself The divine connection, he'll have you set.

Leave all your troubles at his door; Your reprehensible crimes and issues He'll give you due deliverance And console you with a box of tissues.

But on your way out, you mustn't forget That you must pay your fee To truly be absolved of all your sins Fill the box marked "donation" with money.

Lay your body down on the tracks And curl yourself into a ball The gale doesn't discriminate except against those Who pay their dues to the priests down the hall.

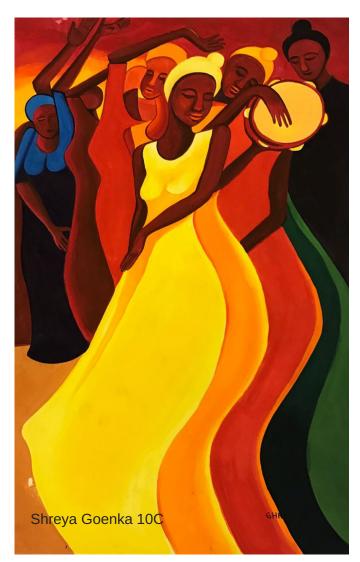
Aaditya Warrier Grade 10



Muskaan Ghai 10C



Viraj Mehta 10C





# SPOOF ADVICE?

Please help. There's this girl that I like. She screams at me saying she doesn't like me and she runs away from me when I try to talk to her. How do I help her overcome this shyness that is obviously concealing her true feelings for me?

Young love can be confusing. Our resident psychologists have concluded that screaming is almost as romantic as murder. Try wooing her by intentionally pushing her and then shouting 'I've got the girl touch!'. If the next time she's forced to sit next to you she holds up her shoelace and screams 'Crosses!', then you're definitely on the right track!

#### I am in the 4th grade. I have made academics my tip-top priority. However, I only got a 99/100 in my last test. Will this ruin my chances of getting into Harvard?

College admissions can be hard and intimidating. As we all know, fourth grade marks are not as important as what you get in your LKG exams, but they're still one of the first things colleges look at. We're sorry to say that your life is now over. We hope your parents have a lot of money or have forced you into social services because you're not going anywhere... except Australia.



#### I am in the eighth grade and am interested in MUN. I am going to take part in DAIMUN but have no idea what I'm supposed to do.



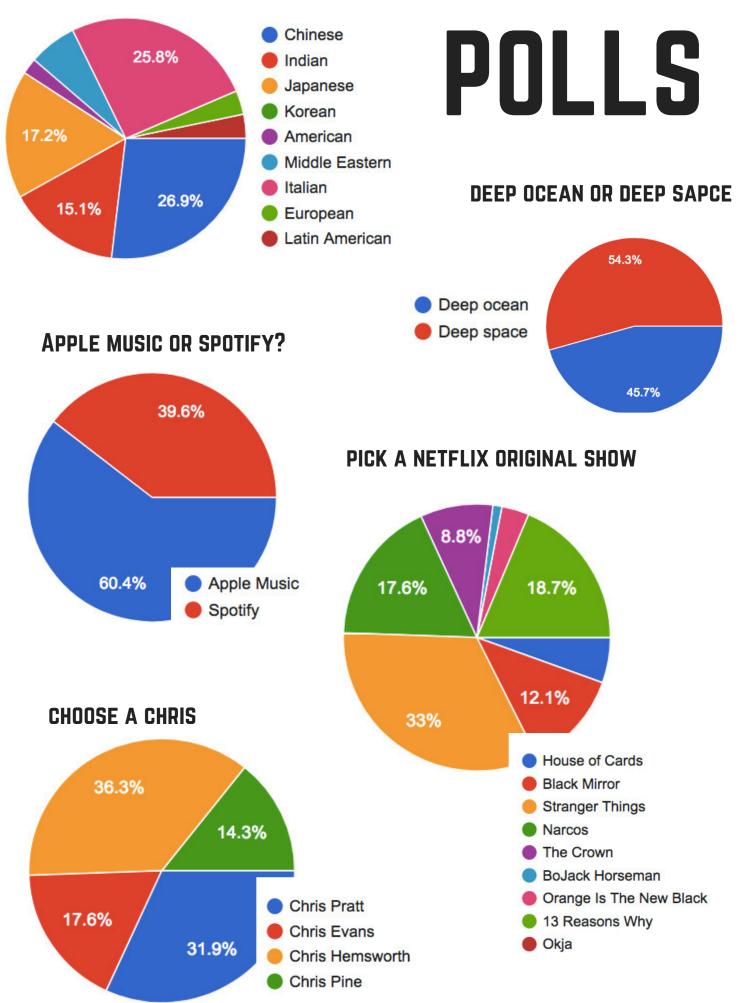
MUN is a great experience of cooperation, diplomacy and maturity. Here at DAIS, sometimes entire committee sessions have lasted without shouting matches. There have even been cases where the logistics have cooperated with the delegates and sent chits to the intended recipients . If ever in doubt, simply yell out our tried and tested MUN key phrases such as 'We must think about the economy', 'We must consider the long-term effects', 'Arrey tell the USA to shut up', or even 'this resolution is like Swiss cheese, it's full of holes'. Combine those with a voice that sounds like you know exactly what you're talking about, when in reality, you did an hour of research in between listening to music and doodling. You now have yourself a best delegate!

## HUMANS OF DAIS



"When I was in 8th grade I became responsible for the house and my family after my father passed away suddenly. One day he was talking to us about our studies and our futures, and the next day, he was no more. I lived in a joint family, but being the oldest sibling I had to start looking after several things. I began working after finishing my 10th-grade exams. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to study after that. Which is why I wish the best for my kids. I give them the most I can, in terms of health and love. My husband passed away last year, and so I cannot leave this job until my children start working themselves. They're still young, in 7th and 8th grade. My elder one loves English and aspires to become a lawyer someday. I feel really sad that I don't have the time and the means to tutor them myself. But time doesn't permit in a day that begins at 4:30 and ends at midnight. I love to read. I read on the train to and from school, and sometimes even in school when I'm not busy. As a child, I enjoyed playing kho-kho very much. It seems like a different life altogether when I think about it now. My only regret is that I should have attempted further studies while there was still time. I know my children are strong and will fend for themselves, but sometimes I wonder if I'd have been elsewhere, had I been more educated."

#### **PICK A CUISINE:**



## NOT ALL HEROES WEAR CAPES

On August 30th, 2017, most of Mumbai was submerged after hours of rain, brought on by raging storm clouds. Amidst all the chaos in the city streets, were two Dhirubhai Ambani buses: Route 'Y' and 'Z'. Stuck in an immobile jam near Sion and Kurla, we had made little progress in completing our routes, having taken three hours to cover what would ordinarily have taken fifteen minutes. After hours of a remaining maddeningly still, the decision was made: We were turning around, going back to school. DAIS had about seventy boarding students that night. This article is a tribute to every head, teacher and staff member who contributed to the safe-keeping and comfort of each child while simultaneously ensuring a remarkable experience for them.

At around eleven-thirty in the morning when announcements for an early leave from school were called out, arms, papers and spirits flew up with joy. Everyone departed with glee, anxious to get back home. Little did the students know that within less than three hours, several of them would be stuck in the centre of a massive traffic jam caused by Mumbai's greatest downpour since 2005. Extreme boredom and deafening music drained the batteries of our devices rapidly. In no time, some became hungry, thirsty or desperate to use the washroom, while the others celebrated every time the bus moved a single meter. After a couple of thousand phone calls from distressed parents, we were informed that the buses were to return to school.

After another hour's ride back, involving some skillful maneuvering and navigation from the bus drivers, we at last arrived at our destination. As the front gate had been rolled back completely, the buses drove straight onto the front courtyard, avoiding the pillars and the playground. An unforgettable feeling of utmost gratitude came over the otherwise worn out students as we drove straight onto school grounds and pulled up right next to the auditorium for the first time, ever. Cheers and screams of joy from the younger members of the group, and sighs of exasperation and exhaustion from the older ones concluded leg one of this adventure.

We were greeted by about 30 DAIS teachers as we disembarked - all members of the school's disaster council. After we had been counted and accounted for, we were ushered immediately to the canteen for food, and after eating were taken back to the auditorium. Those with laptops desperately checked the status of the weather with friends at their shoulders, while the younger kids played on the judo mats that had been laid out for them. It took longer than expected for the older section of the students to realize that the ever-reliable tech-support, Jackson was still at school. Debates soon ensued as to which movie to

watch on the cyclorama. Limited with the restriction of finding something amusing and age-appropriate, the next two hours were passed with a backdrop of Disney and Pixar's "Megamind". Dinner came and went, and before long the boys and girls were separated for bed. But as expected, sleep had not yet entered the minds of the seventy-odd students.
Instead, we all chose to make the most of what had turned from a unfortunate complication to a rather enjoyable night.

Parents who had decided to brave the storm outside arrived and whisked away students at the dead of night, and people left at regular intervals. In a show of true professionalism and kindness, our founder and chairperson, Mrs. Nita Ambani arrived at the school. "Not that I have any illusions that this will convince any of you to behave slightly better," Mr. Impey said with a grin, moments before her arrival, "but Mrs. Ambani is actually here." A moment later, into the room came Nita Ambani, coming around to each group in turn and taking in each of our perspectives on the incident. She left only after promising to send blankets for the remainder of the night. Of course, it was closer to 2 am before people started surrendering to their eyes, and finally turned in. As the sun began to rise, the last few stragglers were taken home at long last, and, after a full 24 hours for some at school, the crisis was over.

It had been a turbulent day with numerous developments reminding us all of how powerless we are in the face of nature's wrath. However, only through adversity do the real heroes emerge. And that day, all those who were stuck in school overnight witnessed true heroes in action- our school's crisis control team. Their level of planning and organisation in the face of unpredictability was incredible. Each child was looked after with unbelievable care. Complain as we might, about school and our huge workloads, we are hugely indebted to our school, for being there for us in our hour of need. On behalf of all students, thank you heads, teachers and staff members. Your actions and your strong drive to support us all will never be forgotten.



Thank you, very much.





## interviews

#### What will you miss most about DAIS a year from now?

How close-knit the school is; how students and teachers alike will pick up phone calls at 2 am to sort out a Sports Day mishap; how despite the rigor of IB and the prospect of leaving for college, everyone is united by their love for the school that's defined their lives for so long - something I see in our graduating class. - *Prasidh Chhabria* 

Well, besides all the friends I have had here for over 14 years and all the teachers, I think collectively I'm going to miss the familiarity and the comfort that comes with this school. Since I've been in this school for so long, I think it's a very unique feeling to know each and every person in an environment like this – whether its someone from the housekeeping, a teacher or smiling at a junior in the corridor. All of this is very comforting ad something I often speak about to new students. So yes – something I will miss the most is being in an environment where everyone knows you and you know everyone, like it's one big family! - Aashna Sundesha

I think I'll flash back to every single detail in seven or eight years from now, forget just one. But if I was to single out one specific thing... the art room is something that's very precious to me even though I'm not an art student, because there's something so calming about it. I hope to study in a similar environment someday. It's like that organised chaos that your student life at Ambani is - the art room represents that. -Nandini Kejriwal

#### What is your favourite memory from DAIS?

The work of Student Council, through every school event or initiative, reflects the undying school spirit and the commitment of perhaps the most passionate group of people I've had the privilege to work with. We've enjoyed working through the extended school day, from 6:30 am to as late as 10 pm. Every moment reminds me more and more of why I love this school; it's never truly felt like "work". - Prasidh Chhabria

"I honestly can't think of one single favourite memory. Of course one of the proudest and life changing memories was the day I found out I was becoming Head Girl because I don't think I've ever cried that much before. During that whole experience I gained so much support from all my friends and even people I didn't know. But also so many memories from primary like when I got to take the class pet home in the first grade or even learning about digestion by eating a Monaco biscuit!" - Aashna Sundesh I'd go with the alumni event, where I was fortunate enough to be selected as the presenter. I heard people say, "I need to get home to my child so I'll eat quickly," and it was such a surprise for me to see that life goes on after DAIS. It was bittersweet and painful for someone just about to leave school. Honourable mention to every single day in the council, and also the time Miss Tareporevala and some other teachers dressed up in the school uniform and danced for us on Children's Day. But every single day has been amazing - that's a cliché but it's 100% true! - Nandini Kejriwal

#### What advice would you give to any student of this school?

Firstly, from my regrets I would say have fun. I know it's easier said than done and when you are under academic pressure do study but also remember to set aside some time to do something you actually love doing and do it. The same way you force yourself to study, do something that is not studying. It's every easy to get caught up in academic competition but it is also really important to ensure that you don't get drained out. The second thing is specially for those people who have been here for long – while it's amazing to be as comfortable as we are in our own friend circles, I would advise everyone to interact with their seniors, their juniors, talk to new people and step outside your comfort zone. This will be really helpful in teaching you things about yourself and making you realise things that you wouldn't have realised if you were too caught up in your own routine all the time. - Aashna Sundesha

Rely on the school. In the ICSE, I didn't do seven tuitions and lots of papers. I went with my gut feeling, took advice from my teachers, and scored fairly well. In the IB, I just relied on how the school recommended I should present myself, and I made it to my dream school. You can trust DAIS to harness the potential they see in you. Don't give in to the rumours that say the Ambani environment is "snobbish". You'll find a circle of friends that are appreciative of you, and teachers who will make sure to ask you for inputs during discussions. Keep an open mind, and just give it a little time. Lastly, avail of every opportunity. There's over 36 events to show off your talents. I could not have been the half the person that I am had I not been in the council, or taken part in as many events...the crux of school life lies in these opportunities, and you must put yourself out there. That's the essence of Ambani - you're not just an excellent student. You're given all these opportunities that you need to make the most of. - Nandini Kejriwal

#### Boy Didn't Wear Belt to School, Went on to Fail in Life

Indargeet Singh, 15, of class 10C at the Dhirubhai Ambani International School tragically forgot to wear his belt to school last Wednesday. Since this unfortunate occurrence, his family has disowned him, his girlfriend dumped him, he didn't get into university, his credit cards stopped working, and he was eaten by a shark.

Before his untimely demise, our ground reporters were able to get a hold of him by telephone. "I'm so sorry", said a clearly distressed Singh. "I don't know what I was thinking! What on earth made me think I could dare to dream or learn to excel without my belt? They are crucial to the fabric of our society! I was wrong, so wrong! Please forgive me! Plea-ARGHHHHH". It is believed that this is the moment a shark jumped out of his toilet and ate the crap out of him. Evidently his pleas for forgiveness went unanswered.

Afterward, however, his family was only too happy to comment. "Frankly, he got exactly what was coming to him," said Indargeet's father, while his mother nodded profusely. "Idiot boy. Clearly all the things we taught him went in one ear out the other. Didn't wear a belt? Capitol punishment was made for these crimes!" While his ex-girlfriend refused to answer questions, she did yell back at our reporters that next time she'd make better dating choices than "A little peasant who thinks he's cooler than belts".

#### Girl Found Doing Actual Work on Library Computer, Later Checked into Mental Hospital

Jasmindar Shah, 13, of class 8C of the Dhirubhai Ambani International School was found yesterday doing actual work on a library computer. This shocking discovery was made around break-time when fellow classmate and serial procrastinator Arvind Khan was on his way to watch some Netflix and play some video games when he spotted Shah on a computer. This is what he saw. "I was walking down there, minding my own business, you know, procrastinating, when I see Jasmindar over on the corner computer, the one I normally use. When I got closer, I saw an Excel tab open, but there weren't any teachers around. Turns out that was the only one open, and she was actually doing an assignment!"

Concerned family and friends have had her admitted into a mental hospital, where she reportedly is sitting quietly doing her math homework. "I'm not sure why everyone won't meet my eye", said Shah. "All I was doing was some work in the LC when-", at that moment Shah was cut off by everyone else in the ward's hissing and shouting. "I genuinely wonder if we're safe with her in the same room", said schizophrenia patient Sonali Modi. "I'm not gonna lie, I fear for my health. Someone I trust tells me sincerity is contagious."

Meanwhile, class 8C is holding a silent vigil in honor of a dishonorable classmate gone over to the light side.

This is the first issue we are are publishing and we hope you'll really liked it. To get your articles featured in the upcoming editions that will be released on a monthly basis email your work to us we would love to include this. This magazine reflects our school life and wouldn't be complete without all your contributions. We intend on making this a regular school publication and that will not be possible without your

a note from the team

support.

#### student accounts you must follow:

Instagram: @thebombayshutter @thinkinglens @theseizedsecond @araiyavocals @\_oak\_and\_olive\_ @prishamangat

email us if you want your account mentioned

## Perspective

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