

The Golden Print



Issue 5

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A student's initiative

Content

New intriguing articles

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Christmas: A walk through time

By: Shlok Sudame Grade 11



The history of Christmas is a fascinating journey through time, culture, and religious tradition. Christmas, as we know it today, is a holiday filled with festive decorations, gift-giving, and feasting. But the origins of Christmas date back to ancient times, and its evolution has been shaped by a variety of factors, including religious beliefs, cultural practices, and historical events.

The earliest recorded celebration of Christmas can be traced back to the Roman Empire, where the festival of Saturnalia was observed in December. This festival honoured the god Saturn and was a time of feasting, gift-giving, and revelry. It also marked the winter solstice, a time when the days were short and the nights were long. It was a time when people looked forward to the return of longer days and the promise of spring. Over time, the celebration of Saturnalia merged with other pagan traditions, such as the Germanic Yule festival, creating a rich and varied tapestry of customs and beliefs.

The Christianization of Christmas began in the fourth century, when Emperor Constantine declared Christianity the official religion of the

Roman Empire. The early Christian church sought to establish a holiday to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, which was believed to have occurred on December 25th. The date was chosen to coincide with the existing pagan festivals, in an effort to convert people to Christianity. The birth of Jesus became the focal point of the holiday, with new traditions and customs emerging to honour this event.

In the Middle Ages, Christmas evolved into a time of merrymaking and feasting, with elaborate pageants and displays of wealth. The celebration often lasted for 12 days, culminating in the Feast of Epiphany, when the wise men were said to have visited the infant Jesus. During this time, the traditions of Christmas grew to include the singing of carols, the decoration of evergreen trees, and the exchange of gifts. These customs reflected a blend of Christian and pagan traditions, as people sought to find joy and hope in the darkest days of winter.

The Reformation of the 16th century brought about significant changes to the celebration of Christmas. Puritans and other Protestant groups rejected the holiday as being too closely associated with pagan customs and excessive revelry. In England, Christmas was even banned for a period of time. However, the traditions of Christmas were too deeply ingrained in the culture to be extinguished, and the holiday persisted in various forms, as people continued to find joy and hope in the celebration of the birth of Christ.

The modern celebration of Christmas is a blend of ancient and more recent traditions. The 19th century saw a revival of interest in Christmas customs, as writers, artists, and musicians rekindled a sense of nostalgia and sentimentality for the holiday. Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" and the music of composers like Adolphe Adam and Franz Gruber helped to popularize the idea of Christmas as a time of family, love, and goodwill.

Today, Christmas is celebrated around the world in a variety of ways. Some traditions, such as the lighting of the Christmas tree and the singing of carols, are shared by people of many different cultures and religions. Others, such as the Italian custom of La Befana or the Swedish Yule Goat, reflect the unique heritage of specific regions. Christmas has also

become a commercialized holiday, with an emphasis on shopping and consumerism. Despite these changes, the spirit of Christmas endures, as a time of joy, generosity, and hope.

In conclusion, the history of Christmas is a complex tapestry of religious, cultural, and historical influences. From its ancient pagan roots to its modern-day incarnation, the celebration of Christmas has provided people with a sense of joy, connection, and meaning. Whether one observes Christmas as a religious holiday, a cultural tradition, or simply a festive occasion, its enduring appeal reflects the universal human desire for love, peace, and hope.



Early Life of Jesus Christ

By: Ananya Rathi Grade 7

Once upon a time, a boy named Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. His father was a poor carpenter. He was raised in Nazareth and read the Jewish Scriptures while growing up. At the age of 30, he was baptized by his cousin, John the Baptist. He travelled with his 12 apostles around the Roman empire. He taught his followers to love your neighbour, enemy, and God. He also taught his followers to forgive others no matter how evil they are. He asked them to not repay evil by evil. Then, due to his teachings, he began gaining popularity. This began to threaten the authorities, and was starting to make them jealous. They began to spread rumours about Jesus, and eventually his trial was held. He was then crucified on a cross for false allegations by Pilate. He was entombed nearby. But after 3 days, his followers found his tomb empty. From then on, it is said that Jesus resurrected from Death. He appeared to his followers for 40 days before finally ascending in heaven.



By: Shlok Sudame Grade 11

To what extent is breaking the law justifiable?

In a world where the laws are improperly regulated and mostly riddled with loopholes, breaking the law can have justifiable reasons. Anybody can simply break a minor law, a misdemeanour, a violation, and prove themselves innocent at ease. In such cases, the government will be forced to intervene, but even then, the actions take will be scarce. Generally, if the law has too many gaps and holes it is not a major issue for potential criminals to bring themselves to the proper rights, thus resulting in them being proven innocent. The law, whilst having been set properly, is not always concrete, and hence the undoing of such can be justified.

There are also cases where people believe an act to be wrong, but do in fact have beneficial purposes. The deforestation of multiple habitats is illegal in certain places, but this is not always for the betterment of society's advancement.

With a population growing at immense rates, we rely on more and more buildings and resources. If not for the construction of more living spaces, poverty will skyrocket, which in turn, will have negative impacts as it will burden the government and drain financial resources. Deforestation will negatively impact the environment, but it will also benefit society, if done at a controlled rate.

Media and entertainment play major roles in the spreading of awareness. Every day, numerous people are falsely accused of crimes, or penalised for doing the right thing. Should person be jailed for breaking into a house to save child? The media allows for the spread of such news, to help people understand the severity of the law and how it may give negative implications. Entertainment shows us movies and shows on the lives of

serial killers or other felons, to get an insight on their reasons for doing what they did. Whilst such crimes are not justifiable there are a select few who had true intentions.

Finally, the topic of technology arises. Are certain acts that can be considered 'cyber-crimes' be justified? With the internet full of dangerous and explicit activities and people, parents want to protect these children. Is hacking into your child's phone an act of data and privacy invasion, or is it merely for the greater good. Such cases should be considered carefully, as long as the parents had no ulterior motive to pry. With the knowledge that the act was done to protect them from online terrors, it should have solid reasoning for occurring.

The whole debate on how justifiable breaking the law is comes down to the act committed, and the implications it had on the general public. Murder for good is still murder, theft for purpose is still theft. There is a very fine line between what stands as correct, and what stands as the great issues of today's world. With that being said, the law is in place for the betterment of society, and abiding by it definitely has positive implications.

How far is tourism in space viable?

By: Om Mirashi Grade 11



Space- a vast, unknown expanse. The universe is roughly 13.8 billion years old yet we have barely explored past the reaches of our own Solar System, with only 12 people having ever stepped foot outside of the Earth. It is quite difficult to think of the universe in scale: The diameter of the earth is approximately 0.042 light seconds. The diameter of our solar system itself is 1.5 light years. So, it would take us 1.5 years to travel across our solar system assuming we achieve the ability to travel at the speed of light. Furthermore, the diameter of the milky way galaxy is 105,700 light years. That is a very intimidating number in of itself, but even more frightening is the fact that the diameter of the known universe is 93 Billion light years, and it is ever increasing.

For the purpose of even considering the viability of space tourism, we will make two assumptions.

- 1) Humans have the ability to travel at the speed of light
- 2) Wormholes can be used in practicality for intergalactic travel

First, let's explore what a wormhole is. A wormhole is a hypothetical structure

connecting 2 separate points in space-time. This will allow us to travel to vast reaches of outer space. Now that the assumptions are out of the way, we can finally begin to answer the question of: "How far is tourism in Space viable?"

We cannot explore mercury; the temperature is too high. The air pressure and temperature of the atmosphere of Venus is enough to kill us. That is already 2 out of 8 planets in the solar system ruled out for tourism. Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun, a barren red desert-esque land. Sure, in the future it may be possible to step foot on Mars, but you would still have to have a space suit on, since Mars' atmosphere consists of 95% carbon dioxide, and only trace amounts of oxygen. The rest of the planets in the

solar system are a different case. The rest of the planets are known as Gas Giants. They have no true surface, and consist of a mass of swirling gas. You cannot land on Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune or Uranus.

However, if we can travel at the speed of light, it would only take 80 minutes to travel from the Earth to Saturn. So, a 2 hour 40 minutes round trip to be able to see the rings of Saturn. That is plausible given the assumption that we can travel at the speed of light. However, the cost would be monumental. The resources required are immeasurable, and the damage to the environment irreparable.

Outside of our solar system, there could exist any and all sorts of planets. A completely water-drowned planet, a desert planet, planets with primordial life on it, all may be out there somewhere but we are limited in our knowledge of the universe. These endless possibilities mean the tourism business would absolutely skyrocket in space. There could be a one-year space expedition, or a week-long solar system expedition for the mega-rich, but for the common folk, let's just say space travel is nigh on impossible. There are those, stuck in an endless 9-5, who cannot even dream of leaving their country. There are corners of the Earth, which may look mesmerizing and totally alien to some. These people will never have the opportunity to traverse their planet, then how could we consider space tourism a viable option when the Earth itself is so vast and unexplored.

Demigod Debut: Exploring the new Percy Jackson series

By Rutuja Patil Grade 10

On 20th December 2023, Disney+ delivered avid book fans an early Christmas present. After almost two decades of a long-suffering wait for a satisfactory and, more importantly, accurate adaptation of Rick Riordan's bestselling book series: Percy Jackson and the Olympians, fans were treated to a seemingly perfect comedic adventure-fantasy show brought to their screens. As a dedicated fan of the book series, I undoubtedly had expectations that I hoped would be fulfilled. Following the disappointments of earlier attempts at adaptation in 2010 and 2013, fans were primarily hoping for a canonical and faithful representation of Riordan's original writing. Beyond that, the collective desire was to see the vivid world of Percy Jackson brought to life.

Stemming from the first two episodes, there has been overwhelming acclamation from viewers worldwide. Based on the first book of the series; the Lightning Thief, the first episodes of the first season superbly depict the initial chapters of the book. With phenomenal screenwriting, clever dialogues, applaudable acting, and strikingly impressive sets and visual effects, this TV franchise seems to be off to a remarkable start.

The episodes follow the tale of the demigod Percy Jackson and his journey to Camp Half-Blood and learning about his ancient Greek heritage. Percy Jackson and the Olympians admirably portrays Percy's struggles at school and how his immortal roots affect his daily life before and after discovering his parentage. Upon finally noticing that some superior beings are involved in his life, Percy is introduced to a shocking, new world with mythical creatures, gods, and life-altering quests. Riveting secrets about his best friend, Grover, his teacher, Mr Brunner, and his Mother, Sally, are divulged. Ultimately, after suffering a heart-wrenching loss, the first episode concludes with Percy victoriously reaching Camp Half-Blood, a haven for demigods like him. The next episode portrays life at camp and the incredulously dangerous tasks Percy must train for as a demigod and a hero. He befriends senior campers Annabeth and Luke and makes a rival out of Clarisse, daughter of Ares.

To a great degree, the show manages not to deviate from the books entirely. Within the two episodes that were released, there have been only a handful of additional details or changes from Riordan's writing. This may be predominantly due to the author's hands-on involvement in the process of the show's production. From producing to casting Rick Riordan has been an integral part of its creation. A few minor details or events from the books have been omitted or 'watered down' for a more child-friendly experience, especially since the age demographic for the show may not be able to tolerate violent scenes. For instance, many viewers noticed that Percy's abusive stepfather, Gabe, seemed substantially kinder and less aggressive in comparison to the books. In addition, a violent attack from a hellhound was also omitted from the adaptation. Nevertheless, the essence of the books has not been hampered and has been rather successfully delineated by the show.



Walker Scobell is the embodiment of Percy Jackson thus far. The young actor has done an exceptional job of portraying Percy's mannerisms, humour, and actions. Aryan Simhadri, who plays Grover, has won over the hearts of many. He has mastered the skill of playing a satyr and is without a doubt one of the reasons why this adaptation is being so well received and commended. Actress Leah Sava Jeffries has been outstanding, however, given her limited screen time, there is much yet to uncover about her version of Annabeth Chase. The chemistry among the cast collectively and the dynamics between each of the characters were truly spectacular to witness.

All in all, the Percy Jackson and the Olympians TV show is shaping up to be the perfect onscreen adaptation of the idolised book series. With accurate scenes, loveable cast members, and an inexplicably fantastic special effects team, hopes are high for the coming episodes. The show appeals to both long-time fans as well as newcomers who are entranced by the idea of Greek gods and legends in real life almost as successfully as Riordan managed to do with his storytelling nearly 20 years ago.

Live performances vs. cinematic films: Which is more appealing

By Rohan Paranjape Grade 12

A theatre's weakness once used to be the movie theatre. Today, movies have nearly killed the theatre. Every classic play seems to have a movie adaptation. Hamlet, Grease, you name it. Comparing live performance and movies, which is better?

Objectively, a recorded film is easier to make than a live performance, mainly due to the ability to retake scenes and hone each expression to perfection. Many believe this causes a movie to be less impressive of a feat. Human beings always appreciate the difficult more than the easy. We do not appreciate a born-millionaire as much as a single parent who can juggle 2 jobs and 3 kids without missing a single beat.

When it comes to raw visual appeal, it is a tough judgement. If a highly detailed adrenaline filled action scene from the Matrix or a colourful and lively musical performance from the Blue Man Group takes the win is hard to decide, and comes down to personal preference for the most part.

A movie provides a larger scope, and although it relies less on talent and perfection at any given time, it can have more potential to have a magnificent result. A highly action teased movie such as the Matrix could never be replicated live to nearly the same effect as the CGI and bullet time 360 slow motion shots.

If cinema Hamlet and the original theatrical performance were shown to someone who doesn't know what Hamlet is without saying which is which, the greater probability is that they would select the movie due to its better immersion and perfected cues, as well as its realistic CGI effects.



<https://www.istockphoto.com/photos/theater-mask>



<https://www.dreamstime.com/illustration/cinema-clap-film-reel.html>



Unveiling Excellence: Embrace the Power of School Activities

By Krishiv Tikarya Grade 9

As we journey through the halls of education, it is easy to get lost in the routine of classes, lectures, and exams. However, there is an incredible world of growth and opportunity awaiting us through active participation in school activities and projects. Let us explore why diving into these experiences is a must for every student, propelling us toward a brighter future.

1. Crafting a Holistic Path:

School activities and projects offer a kaleidoscope of experiences that enrich our lives beyond the textbooks. These endeavours encompass art, sports, community service, and more, each contributing to holistic development. By participating, we uncover hidden talents, cultivate confidence, and discover passions that make us unique individuals.

2. Breathing Life into Learning:

The magic of projects lies in their ability to transform theoretical knowledge into practical applications. Whether it is unravelling complex scientific phenomena or delving into historical research, projects bridge the gap between the classroom and the real world. This hands-on approach fuels curiosity, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for our subjects.

3. Sharpening Skills for Tomorrow:

In the heart of activities and projects, lies a treasure trove of skills that set us on the path to success. From effective communication and teamwork to problem-solving and critical thinking, these experiences hone abilities essential for both academic and professional pursuits. They are the building blocks of a well-rounded skill set.

4. Weaving Bonds and Building Bridges:

Collaborating with peers on projects cultivates bonds that transcend the task at hand. The friendships formed during these endeavours extend beyond the classroom, becoming a supportive network that lasts a lifetime. Developing healthy relationships not only nurtures mental well-being but also provides a strong foundation for future personal and professional connections.

5. Navigating Challenges and Growing Stronger:

Projects present challenges that test our mettle and push us beyond our limits. Overcoming these obstacles promote resilience, determination, and the ability to persevere in the face of adversity. Every challenge conquered contributes to our personal growth, building a mindset that thrives on learning from failures.

6. Igniting Passion and Fuelling Curiosity:

Participating in activities brings the thrill back into learning. It transforms education from a passive process to an exhilarating adventure, where curiosity is ignited, and passions are kindled. Whether it is experimenting in a lab or crafting a piece of art, these experiences breathe life into our academic journey.

7. Celebrating Achievements:

Victory in activities and projects serves as a canvas to showcase our accomplishments and talents. Whether it is winning a debate, showcasing artwork, or presenting a scientific discovery, these achievements boost self-esteem and confidence. They also add to our repertoire, making our resumes stand out and opening doors to future opportunities.

In conclusion, school activities and projects are a gateway to self-discovery, skill enhancement, and personal growth. They mould us not only for academic brilliance but also for the myriad challenges' life holds. This canvas of experiences is where we discover our passions, amplify our strengths, and prepare ourselves for a world that demands creativity and adaptability. Let us seize these opportunities, knowing they are the stepping stones that shape us into resilient, empowered individuals ready to conquer the world.

The advancement of technology and the human race

When one imagines the world in a hundred years, the key word that comes to mind is technology. Classic examples include flying cars, space travel, teleportation and everything that you could expect out of a utopian novel. Technology, even historically, has always been to aid one of these three: Cheaper, faster, or better. After the things which have become obstacles in the development of mankind, such as computer viruses, or weapons of mass destruction, it is crucial to ask whether further technological advancement will lean towards benefit or deficit.

Healthcare is a field that has been of much focus when it comes to technology. Imaging such as X-ray or MRI has been a major boon to doctors worldwide. Robotic surgery simplifies intricate operations. It is useful for development to happen in this field. Cure for cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and other life threatening, life degrading or even terminal diseases should be found. Without a doubt, the medical field will progress further, to the betterment of society.

At the moment, space travel of the current small scale seems unnecessary. But this lays the foundation for traveling further distances faster, cheaply, more reliably, and live there for longer. This could not only help with the problem of overpopulation, it could help in furthering technology by obtaining rare materials; raw materials that are scarce on Earth may be found in abundance on other planets.

But not every technology is made with such a clear cross-hair towards development. The previous examples consider all humans united and working towards a common goal. Humans exhibit selfish and territorial behaviour. They scoff at people with a different mindset, leading to difficulties in working as a group. Nuclear weapons, computer viruses, bio-viruses could all bring our global systems to a screeching halt. Technological advancements have a big scope, but development is opposed by human tendency to hate, therefore it is not possible to predict yet whether the human race will benefit from technological advancement or not.

By: Rohan Paranjape Grade 12

POEMS

Topic – Sustainability or Refuse, reduce, reuse & recycle

By: Students of Grade 7

1. Our World – Nishita Phukan

One day the world will stop turning
Forests and fossil fuels, we are burning
Global warming is frightening
We need to start planting

We need to reflect
The earth is what we need to protect
We can stop the world changing
By doing some saving

Our earth is crumbling and melting
And we are not helping
To save our planet we need to start recycling
To make our earth enlivening

The planet is your
The planet is mine
Make a difference
By doing what's right.



<https://www.livesmallridefree.com/>

2. Reuse, recycle, reduce, refuse – Ananya Rathi

Reuse, so that items can last,
To avoid filling rubbish bins fast.
Find another way to reuse,
Let's all become more green, choose...

Recycle, don't waste these items,
We can give trees new blossoms.
Repurpose whatever we can,
To take an environmental stand.

Reduce the use of too much paper,
Throw away less to become happier.
Reduce our emissions to save the air,
Let's turn the tables to show that we care.

Refuse what no longer serves its purpose,
We can save the environment's resources.
We can equip with refusing plastic,
Stopping the temperature from being drastic.

3. For a Better Future – Anushri Nayak

In our country where there is a goal,
A place where everyone has a role.
A place where everyone is equal,
An no one does anything illegal.

No empty stomachs, food for all,
Learning is essential for big and small.
Doctors will treat you if you're ill,
Clean water flowing, a refreshing thrill.

Poverty and hunger must cease,
And pollution will decrease.
Decent work, growth that is fair,
Innovate a future that we will all share.

Work together hand-in-hand,
For a better future in water and on land.
In these lines the saga ends,
This is all that India intends.



4. Sustainability – Neev Ladani

The earth we live on
We need to maintain
Yet its limited resources
We scurry to obtain

From this approach
We must all refrain
Or we will be left with a life
We will fail to sustain

The industries revolution
Altered our fate
As factories & mines
Grow at an alarming rate

All that it gave us
Made us feel great
Without for a second realising
We're approaching hell's gate

It's not too late
To hit the break
Take a cycle to school
You could even carpool

Use what you need
Don't splurge like a fool
This is our last chance
To make earth cool.



Photography



Lisbon, Portugal

Pankhudi Gupta (Grade 11)



London, United Kingdom

Shlok Sudame (Grade 11)



Porto Turistico di Capri, Italy

Rutuja Patil (Grade 10)



Portugal

Pankhudi Gupta (Grade 11)



Kashmir, India

Anushka Jaiswal (Grade 10)



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