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A voracious reader or you just browse through them, you will always need books in your life, school books, novels, classics etc, but what if you were thrown into a universe where there was not a single novel or even a written word? How would you change? Read the article "A world without books" to go deeper into this topic. How does a book affect you? How much do you rely on a book? "You are what you read" the article will help your mind explore the importance of reading.

See how we react to hearing about the insanely big scale projects and their deadlines. Imagine being asked to come up with a story worth 20,000 to 50,000 words in a MONTH! In case you would like to take up this challenge of writing a book, we have made our own cheat sheet and we are ready to share it with you. If it’s helpful, you can also read about how each of us came up with our plots.

Most of us will be graduating from Deepanam next year. Read our thoughts about changing schools and taking big decisions. We also have a wonderful poem by Dunia that perfectly captures her emotion during the time we explored our high school options. One thing we will undoubtedly miss, is the diversity and synergy in our school. What would be the conversation when 10 different nationalities come under one small roof? Read "Auroville, a melting pot" to know about the beauty of unity.

All the ingenious illustrations and photos have been made by the students themselves. Gayatri has made the continuation of the comic strip with a twist in the story you wouldn’t have guessed. Last but not the least we have showcased some of the students best photography skills through the photo gallery.
A World Without Books?

Can you travel through books?
Are you a book lover?
Or not that much of a fan?
Do fantasy stories make you create an entire universe in your head? A universe, that you travel to in your dreams? Do you vicariously live through the characters? Regret their decisions like they are your own?

Have you read the last pages first?
Not being able to control yourself? Couldn’t help but read the ending? Mystery genre can do that to you. Every page can unveil a new possibility or confuse you further. Feeling betrayed yourself, when a character turns around and stabs someone in the back?

Could you give up these feelings?
When was the last time shivers went down your spine reading a horror story? When did you last scream and got really angry at the writer for killing your favorite character? Can you remember when you got butterflies in your stomach or smiled uncontrollably while reading?
It’s normal for us, students of Deepanam to see people of different nationalities unite in the classrooms. From an outsider’s perspective it might look unusual and unique, but for us it is normal to sit around the lunch table and learn about each other’s countries and lives. Even without speaking the same language, we manage to communicate. Even if we used to live in two opposite sides of the world, we manage to relate to each other and laugh together. All of this is part of our daily routine. We don’t feel like we are very different from one another, but only did I recently realize how amazing this actually is!

The youngest group in our school “light group”, currently has the widest range of students. Having a total of ten different nationalities come under one roof.

Me and my classmate were asked to take pictures of a small get together of the children and their parents. We sat at the back of the class witnessing each person coming, one after the other, standing up and introducing their country, showing us where it is located on the map. Giving a perspective of how distant or near it is from us. Then, they would bring a traditional or popular dish from their hometown. Each time the plate was placed on the table, all the kids would go running up and huddle around it to get a good look, you could see their mouth watering. From Kazakhstan to Mexico, there was a delicious plate of food from each country. It was so diverse! People were laughing and smiling throughout.

They were as different in looks as people could be, but all gathered together, there was something special in the air!  

-Vyomini
When we say the phrase "world without books", it is normal to not fully comprehend the scale of the issues that we will be faced with. The absence of written words would halt our evolution, but we won’t be able to imagine much about those times correctly. So, try to recreate, in your head, a life without novels. Not very easy, right?

When you get bored, you pick up a book to read, Fantasy, horror, mystery or even comics. There are endless types of stories.

How much of our personality is actually affected by these different genres? Would we have such an extensive understanding of things without them? Would our imagination be enhanced or deprived?

Think about it. Is it possible you would be any different? Or would you lead the same life, not phased? - Vyomini

If I had never even seen or touched a book in my life, I think I wouldn’t have as much imaginations as I do now. My grammar, spelling and vocabulary would also be horrible.

I probably would have been bored for the entirety of my childhood as I’ve never been the social type. Maybe I would start interacting with people more than I do now or I might isolate myself up even more. I’ve made many friends through discussions on books, so I suppose I wouldn’t have them either.

I also love drawing but there was a time where I had no inspiration. One day, I found this book series that I absolutely loved.

I searched it up on the internet and all the art works done by other fans came pouring down on me. I got inspired by them and started drawing again. If there were no books, I would’ve never searched it up and even if I did, I would’ve never found those drawings that would later on inspire me to draw once again. - Gayatri
Every author has his own style. They have a vocabulary of their own. Each of them have a very broad understanding about the subject they choose to write about. All of these points translate in their writings. There are different reasons people are attracted to books. It can be because of the emotion captured in it or the relatable story and maybe even the ludicrous events happening in it. What kind of book do you like to read? Does your way of talking change because of it? does your vocabulary improve? Usually the author or the genre you read the most really affects your personality and tells about your likings.

I like reading O. Henry’s short stories. I love how he manages to surprise me with his endings every time. He writes in the way that persuades you to think of an obvious ending but then completely changes the entire plot at the end. I also like that his stories are relatively shorter. I get bored easily. Don’t get me wrong, I do like reading but I somehow never manage to finish very fast. The first day I pick it up I won’t be able to stop reading, until I start to find it predictable or boring, and if it’s not finished till around the third day, it’s very unlikely that I will pick it up again anytime soon. I also really like when authors describe landscapes and views, since I like to draw, it is really inspiring to picture those beautiful scenes in my head. Even though I might not be able to finish an entire book, I still love reading, whether it be a page or a whole novel.
My favourite author is Rick Riordan, he has written the famous series, Percy Jackson. I was in fifth grade when I came across this book. A friend of mine had shown it to me and immediately after I went back home and asked to get this series. It is one of my favourites, as it is based on Greek myths with a modern twist to it and through them I learnt a lot of Greek history. The author has written the book in a way to keep the readers interested throughout. I remember that I finished reading the series in five days. My friend challenged me to read the next series, “The Heroes of Olympus” and see who finishes it first. I did not have the books and I knew if I bought it online it would take a minimum of three to four days, so I begged my mother to buy the next series the same day and she did! But my friend stopped reading it because it was a bit too difficult to understand, there are so many events going on in them that it might be confusing to understand but after I read it a few times I could understand. He has also written other books which include Egyptian, Roman and Norse myths with a modern twist to them. I love this about his books!

-Sana
We have a period in school called "creative writing". Now what exactly do we do during the hours assigned? It is not a class in which we take notes off the board or memorize poems. The easiest way to describe it would be, time given to us for completing our large scale projects, like this magazine, writing our own novel, creating our original play script etc. These are long term projects. It is not only for learning how to write but also for figuring out how to go about executing things on time, formulating the perfect synergy, producing good content, fulfilling duties and much more. Each project comes with new obstacles. In the beginning of the school year, there were some conversations within the teachers about us writing our own novels, but it wasn’t confirmed, so no one really thought much of it. Around the end of October suddenly, out of the blue, we were told to enter in an online challenge, in which we would have to finish writing a book in a month! Yes, you read correctly, a month! From the first day of November we were on the computers for two hours about twice a week, lunch breaks and any free time we could possibly get. For completing 20,000 words, which was the recommended amount. We would have to write about 600-700 words everyday. Now when you put it like that, it doesn't sound very difficult, it didn’t even to us in the beginning. But we were not prepared for what was coming at us.....
It was towards the end of October in one of the creative writing classes, where our teacher showed us two videos, in them, there were children talking about Nanowrimo. What is Nanowrimo? It is a website where anyone can join in and write a novel. It is a challenge to write a novel in a month held every year from the beginning of November to the end of the month. In the introduction clips we were shown, their English teacher had also signed up the students for it and the kids talked about their own experiences and how they had reacted to this challenge. In the beginning they also seemed confused but making up a story is not that hard at all! All of us were shocked by the idea of creating and writing our own novels consisting more than 20,000 words. Which is actually quite a lot, but it was something different which we had never come across, we had given a try at working on a monthly magazine, that had turned out great! Writing a book seemed like an even bigger project, but most of us seemed excited about it. We also got a lot of help and tips on how to write from the internet. Whenever I go on my account, the first thing that I can see is the count down to the end of the month, which seemed really intimidating and scary but once you know what you are going to write about, the word count does not seem to matter anymore. It is an amazing experience which I will not forget. Because of this challenge many of the students are planning on making a sequel to their first books!

-Sana
HOW TO WRITE A BOOK?

Step 1
finding your type of book

Have you ever read a book and thought of an alternate ending that would be amazing? Or while reading, thought of a different way to express it? That’s it! That’s all you have to do, think of what you would want to read, what you find interesting. Each one of us has a favorite genre, the one that you know the most about. For example: My favorite is fantasy. I love reading books with magic, mysteries and new creatures. You should choose the genre you are most familiar with.

Step 2
Finding the characters

This will be the person who you will relate with your soul, brain and heart. This character will be like your child, you will give it a name, body type, gender, hair, eye colour, characteristics - everything. It’s hard, it’s like you have responsibility for him/her. You have to live through them. This part comes quite naturally if you ask me. Once you have a basic idea of his/her personality, you pretty much end up knowing every single detail about them.
Step 3
Connecting the dots

You have a genre, a few character designs but don’t have a proper story in place. This part is the hardest. When you get ideas, you get just too many of them. You start thinking that you will put this and that and after he will come, but he can’t since he is like this. It gets very complicated since you have so many things you want to include that don’t fit together, but you know what is worse than that: when you don’t have any ideas at all, and when you get one but it’s exactly like in some famous book or movie that you have read or watched before. Try to come up with a definite end and beginning and then connect them in the middle.

Step 4
Mind to paper

Finally, you have reached the last step! Even though technically the book only starts now. You have to translate your story into words. It’s not that hard, all you have to do is motivate yourself to sit in front of a computer or a piece of paper and write it down. While writing your story, it will get a few changes but that’s for the better.
So, my creative writing teacher one day showed us this website called NaNoWriMo, he told us that we have to write a novel consisting of 50,000 words and just hearing that made my skin crawl, I had never ever written even close to as many words in my life! We started writing on the 1st of November and we had a deadline that was the 30th of November, the first day I was feeling very motivated and I struggled a lot to write 2000 something words, which I was very proud of, but the following days were just terrible, I started writing less and less, after around maybe two weeks our teacher found out that only adults had to write 50,000 words, the children’s program was just 20000 words, soon my teacher changed all of our goals to 20000 which was a great relief, I started to write more but also, yet again I stopped after a few days, I soon realized that I was not going to make the 20000 words so I changed it to 15000 and soon to 10000 where I kept it until the end. Even though I am guilty of bringing down my word goal, i still managed to write way more than I thought I would. I think the whole idea of NaNoWriMo is fabulous, if i was the head of a school board I would definitely add this in the syllabus.

Oh, and by the way, I challenge you all, our readers to write and be an author of your very own book!

-Lamo

One afternoon Mahavir( my teacher) showed Leah (my classmate) Storybird, where we can write stories. I wanted to try writing one! Except... I didn’t have any ideas. So yeah, on the same afternoon I attempted to start writing. In a few seconds of having Storybird in front of me, waiting for me to start something, I did. Not like a mad man who has so many ideas to write down but I had a few which were good enough. I started before the ywp Nanowrimo, so when we began, I just copy pasted my already started book called “light”

-Eva

You can get inspiration from anywhere. I was in the middle of writing my story but was not very satisfied with it. One day I got a nightmare, and when I woke up, I really couldn’t forget it. I decided to trash my entire story and change it to write about that dream. I started building my story step by step, my friend helped me along the way and we managed to catch up. So moral is, don’t be afraid to follow your gut because the story should come from the heart. And thanks to that nightmare I got mine.

-Dunia and Vyomini
It’s Weird,
I've Grown Up

it’s weird
how time can pass
so fast
it’s weird,
that we’ll become
Adults
it’s weird,
that I am
not a child anymore
a child,
who was scared
To be alone,
but now
I wish to
run away from noise,
I want to be alone,
I want to hear
Mom’s voice
When she was telling me
“Sweet dreams,
I hope you have a good night”
I miss those times,
but i have
Grown up
“Oh my god, you have grown so big!” or “You have grown so tall. I saw you when you were so tiny!” is something we hear quite often, from relatives and friends of our parents, but never do we actually realize it. Of course, the reflection in the mirrors shows us our physical changes but we don’t feel any different. I don’t feel like like a teenager, even though, I am told, at times that I do act like one.

Sorry to break it to any younger audience who thinks being a teenager is really cool. It isn’t. To speak truthfully, we would like to be younger again.

A few days ago we were allowed to go and see our high-school options. We got quite a few lectures about deciding our future and making the right decision. Let’s just say I wasn’t prepared to have this kind of conversation. I was dancing and jumping like an idiot at home just yesterday and now I am asked to make a decision that will affect my entire life. But I guess life doesn’t give a warning before throwing something at you.
I think the moment that I realized "I'm soon going to high-school" I got scared that I will soon go to college and then university. This idea really got to me, that my childhood is soon going to finish, but when I started thinking deeper about it, I understood that it's not that bad. I can learn so much! I should not be scared of what is going to happen. All of us are growing up. All of us have gone through this. I knew that I wouldn't stay a child forever, but I'm still kind of disappointed.

Everyday brings me closer to adulthood, not just me, all of us. I'm happy that my classmates are going through this with me. I guess that next time I will feel like this when I will have to go to college. Until then, I am still a child.

-Dunia
Why did he cast a spell on me? Is he a magician? Did he not want to harm me?

Oh right! I gotta get out of here.

He didn't have to, he was angry that I woke him up...

Well, I'll get going for now.

But, I'll be back tomorrow again.

Wait. I'll be back? "No thanks, He probably won't want me back either.

He doesn't understand me anyways.

Yawn.

Can in fact, understand coz he's a wizard.

Just pretend not to understand since he's too lazy to explain why.

Well, today was tiring. Good night.

Good morning.

Huh?!

I gotta find that sugar in the pet shop.

After a long thought, this will be our comic's name!

Why am I human?!
See you next issue!