Back to School!

Kaleidoscope

The various hues of Deepanam

Homeschooling
Hi everyone,

It's a new school year and of course, that means new Kaleidoscopes. Our topic this month is 'Back to School'. There are many new people in the class this year—people who have come from different schools, different countries, who have been homeschooled... We decided to think about this and write...

The culinary critique is back for another year, along with the poetry corner and a monthly book review... We are proud to give you this month's Kaleidoscope

- Manya and Kavya
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Who We Are

I like my family!

Meena

I love my life!

Yashoda

Be with happiness.

Savitri

We are running the most dangerous experiment in history right now, which is to see how much carbon dioxide the atmosphere can handle before there is an environmental catastrophe. - Elon Musk

Ayan

Big things often have little beginnings.

Valentine

Manga and anime for life.

Moeni

Food for life.

Noor
There is nothing to worry about tomorrow

Fire burns brighter in the dark.
- The Hunger Games

It feels good to be lost in the right direction

They say home is where your heart is. Mine is among the stars across the universe

I love BTS and cats!!

Don't give up on your dreams, keep sleeping.

Silence isn't empty. It's full of answers.
Homeschooling has a very wide horizon, it may or may not be for you. It can vary from person to person, from ages, personalities and where you are. For me, my parents let me do my thing for the longest time. I didn't study, I just lived. I had a lot of freedom but like they say freedom comes with responsibility. I learned life skills I met interesting new people from all over the world. I learned to make connections with people. I traveled all over India living in different environments and societies. I found out what my hobbies were, I found out that too many options can be tiring. I realized the importance of nature; how quitting after trying is better than not trying at all and so much more. But I didn't ever have friends of my age to talk to, play with or just be with, and sometimes it became lonely. I was always scared that my peers would not like me that I never put myself out there. I was happy doing my own thing. But there was something missing for me. When we decided to come to Auroville I was ecstatic. I was counting the days till I started school. I put my fear behind and dove headfirst into school. It was everything I ever wanted.

I met so many wonderful people who were warm and friendly.

Homeschooling till now was great! It gave me the time to spend with my family which was an important factor in my journey. It also helped me figure out a bit of myself, but at this time in my life being with my friends at school is a change I needed. All in all homeschooling has left me with amazing experiences and memories.

Back to (home) school!

My six year journey of learning at home

-Aanya
Interview with Sangeetha Sriram
Whose daughter, Isha, recently started homeschooling again.

Q: HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN AUROVILLE?
A: We have lived in Auroville for a little over two years.

Q: HOW LONG HAS ISHA BEEN IN SCHOOL?
A: Isha was home schooled until she was eight, except for half a year when she attended Marudam Farm School in Tiruvannamalai. Since we’ve come to Auroville she has attended Deepanam.

Q: WHY DID YOU THINK THAT HOMESCHOOLING WAS THE RIGHT OPTION FOR ISHA?
A: Isha felt that she would like to continue homeschooling.

Q: WHAT METHOD ARE YOU USING FOR HOMESCHOOLING?
A: Right now we’re still figuring things out. Isha is attending many different classes including Sanskrit and Stem land in Isai Ambalam and a various array of sports. She is very interested in seeds and is studying germination. We are doing a project about them together and we are creating a website as well.

Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF HOMESCHOOLING?
A: It depends on where you are. Here, in Auroville, many children are doing the same kind of thing.

Isha has many friends so loneliness is not a problem. There aren’t many disadvantages. Isha helps with housework a lot, which I think is a good thing. When you’re in school you don’t get much time for this, but now Isha has willingly agreed to help. Homeschooling is very child specific and Isha likes that she has more space, more than she would have at school, to pursue her interests.

Thank you so much Sangeetha and Isha for making this possible!
MY HOME SCHOOLING EXPERIENCE

Let me tell you my story about how I came from Belgium to Auroville. Well it all started when I was born. My mom loves India since her father was from Maharashtra, her mother was from Belgium. When I was born they named me Noor. For long time I hated it and I wanted to change it as soon as possible. It was really difficult for me to have this name when your first school is a Catholic school. Yes my first school was a Catholic school, it was awful and I really didn’t like it at all and when you are in a Catholic school you have to go to church. Mine was in front of my school. The good thing about it was that we could go inside and start practicing our dances for the school, but I was really embarrassed because I was an Indian girl. Just imagine how awkward it was for me to have a darker skin color in an Christian school with white kids. All the people asked me so many questions. Here are some of them: Why are you brown? Why do you have a weird name? Why aren’t you from here (Belgium)? Why don’t you have an Indian accent? Do you speak Indian? And so on. When I came to India I was like “Whoa!” It was so nice and I felt like I was at home. Then I went to this school called Lycée Français. It’s a French school and I didn’t like it that much either. I stayed one year there and then I told my mom I couldn’t bear the thought of going there everyday anymore and I got out of the school. Then I went to this Indian school with an Australian concept to it but still it didn’t work out for me, but I stayed there for one year. In that period I had health issues and a back problem so I could barely do anything in school. I told my mom I was done with school and that I won’t go to school ever again she accepted it and let me learn by myself. In that time I was home schooling... Well it’s not really home schooling since I actually learned by myself (Because I didn’t want any help) I learned a lot. I did this for a year and recovered a lot from my two awful years. Loved it so much I didn’t want to have to do anything with school. Then Deepanam was presented to me and I was really... Uh, how to do I say this suspicious? Suspicious about everything. When I finally... went there to study I felt happy for once. I was in Grace group and there I found four people that I call my sisters everyday they are Moeni, Valentine, Anantini, Sua. Those people helped me so much and I thank them a lot. Thank you, sisters you’re all incredible people. Now it’s second year in Deepanam. Now I am in Faith and I love it. Thank you, to all the people who helped me.

Thank you for reading my story.

-Noor
BEING A STUDENT IN AFRICA

Well, from what I’ve experienced being a student in Africa is NOT easy. I mean schools until 5:00 and you’re always being pressured to do well.

There’s almost always exams and you have to study a lot, and the more you finish your homework on time the more it piles up. If you don’t finish your homework on time, you get even MORE! Teachers there are super strict and couldn’t handle the class well. The classes were suffocating. I don’t know how I even managed to go to school there for 8 years. Well, there may be some people who like it? But, I know I don’t.

- Moeni
Changing Groups

In Deepanam, there are 4 different groups, Light group (7 to 8), Peace group (9 to 10), Grace group (11 to 12) and Faith group (13 to 14).

Some people are new to Deepanam, and get sent to their own group according to their age, but some other were here last year, the year before that, and the year before that... And up to 6 years.

After 2 years in one group (if you start it from the beginning from the youngest age, that is. you change.

That could be really scary for lots of people, but it can also be nice, if you look forward to it, and think about the good stuff. You also change groups with some people you know, and that makes it a lot easier.

I have experienced all groups, from Light to Faith, although I have been only one year in each, my case was that I came without knowing English, and Peace group was full, so, even tough I was 10 and a half, I went to Light group so I could learn English and wait for Peace group to have space.

My experience there was good and they were all caring and I really liked it! Lots of kids come from kindergarten, and its really great how they can make new kids get used to new school, and I also got used to new country, new culture, new language... It was really nice of them.

After 6, 7 or 8 months, I learned English, so I went to Peace group, I was almost 11 years old, and back then there was only 3 groups (Light Peace and Faith) so I was in the right group. My experience there was really good! I made new friends, and I loved all the classes.

There was a new classroom, Grace group, I was one of the first children there! The teacher was Bhakti and to be honest, I was really scared, with new people, new classes, new children and a new teacher... But all turned out great! I spent a WONDERFUL school year once again and then I changed to Faith group, which is still new to me, but I am having a good time here. I've been here for 2 weeks only so I cant talk much about it yet, but I am sure I'll have yet another wonderful year in Deepanam.

-Valentine
I want to write about the school I went to in Korea. It is located in Taebaek in the East of Korea. Taebaek is 800 meters above sea level. The school has about 35 students. It is very small in Korea. There were 5 students in my class and I studied with the same children for 6 years from 1st grade to 6th grade. I studied subjects such as English, math, morality, Korean language, physical education, society, health and art at school, and my favorite subjects were art and physical education. But it’s not easy for me to do physical activity in Auroville, because this place is too hot compared to where I lived. English, science, morality and physical education were taught by each different teacher, and other subjects were taught by the homeroom teacher.

The school building was a two-story building with air conditioning and heaters. Because temperatures usually drop to minus 20 degrees in the winter and go up to 32 degrees in the summer. When I eat lunch, I sit on the floor. The floor of the cafeteria is warm, so it is good in winter, but too hot in summer.

After school, I learned Art, ukulele, piano, and traditional Korean instruments in the same school. The students played soccer or baseball during every lunchtime. The teacher and almost all the children gathered together in the playground.

It also had children who like K-pop such as BTS, Wanna one and Twice. They listened to songs, danced, and talked about idol groups during their breaks.

It snows a lot in winter where I used to live. On a snowy day, as soon as we get off the school bus in the morning, we run to the playground and play with snow until class starts.

I had a snowball fight with my school friends or made a snowman. I played soccer on the snow. Our gloves and socks always get wet after playing in the snow. Then, we hang socks and gloves around the warm heater in the classroom and dry them.

I loved the school so much. And I feel sad to have graduated from that school this year.

Here are the main differences between Deepanam and Midong

1. Deepanam- Students don't wear shoes at school
   Midong- Students wear indoor shoes.

2. Deepanam- The new semester begins in July /
   Midong- The new semester begins in March.

3. Deepanam- The school building is divided into several parts /
   Midong- One building is divided into two floors.

4. Deepanam- There are two grades in the same class /
   Midong- There is one grade in one class

5. Deepanam- The meals are different every day but they are the same every week
   Midong- The meals are different every day and different every week.

6. Deepanam- Grade 1 to 8
   Midong- Grade 1 to 6 only

7. Deepanam- Don't eat meat/full vegetarian...
   Midong- Eat meat every day.

8. Deepanam- It is hot to very hot all the time and sometimes it rains heavily
   Midong- It is quite cold in the winter too hot in the summer.

similarities:

1. Learn Math and Science.
2. There is a school bus to get us there.
3. There are activities after school
4. We are free to wear the clothes we want: no uniform.
Coming back to school

I am not a very adaptable person. So when I heard I was moving to Auroville, it took me a few months to get used to it. After that, I wasn't sure whether or not I wanted to go to school. I thought it might be too much of a change to go back to school. At first I was thinking of going to TLC, so I did a few trial days there. I liked it there but there were not many people my age and I thought I would have more chances of making friends in Deepanam. By this time I had heard about Kaleidoscope and since I really love writing, I thought that would be good. My mom also has some friends whose kids are in Deepanam (though not in Faith Group) and they had told me some things about it. My mom thought it would be nice for me to meet some of my classmates before I joined so I met Gayatri, who told me a lot more about Deepanam. When Gayatri told me that Mahavir gave everyone a book on their birthday, I was really surprised! And then I decided I absolutely had to go to Deepanam because I was not about to pass up a chance to get an extra book on my birthday!!!

By Manya.
Hi guys!

Welcome back a new year of school and a new batch of kids and magazines! I had a great first day of Deepanam school after two months. Now I am an 8th grader. When I went to school on the first day, I saw new kids in the classroom but no matter how much I searched, I could not find Kavya and Gayatri. They wouldn't be coming this week. The new students were shy but I tried to talk to them. I asked them some questions and I was pretty surprised to find myself engaged in a conversation! I asked them their birthdays and their ages and so much more. On Thursday, I didn't go to school, because I was sick and had a headache. Next day I feel much better, I came to school my classmate friend told me “Kavya came to school yesterday”. I was so surprised, that I wished I could've gone to school the day before. I was waiting for Kavya. I couldn't wait to see her. When she came to school and she saw me, we were happy and hugged. “long time to see” I said. She gave me some gummy bears. "Sorry about yesterday. I was sick." I said, and she told me that it was fine although yesterday when she had gone to school expecting to see us, she was pretty lonely when she couldn't find either of us. We had a good time together. but we can't wait to see Gayatri, she would be coming on Friday. Kavya and I went to school on Friday, we were waiting for Gayatri. Then, when she came to school, we screamed at her and had a good laugh. This year, I don't know how to feel about school. I miss last year's classmates. It was so fun and I really miss them. This is my final year. In magazine class, the teacher told us we were going to continue Kaleidoscope, but it doesn't feel right without the old team. I hope you can enjoy this year's Kaleidoscope series.
Interview of Bebe

About new creation

New Creation : Interview with Bébé (Bertrand CORTET)
bonjour Bébé, thank you for letting us ask you all our questions
for our School project.
1. when did the New Creation project start?
New Creation started in 1983 and was founded by André
(TARDEUIL) and Mary Babu his wife.
2. How many children are coming to the School everyday and
how many are staying in Boarding School?
45 children are staying in New creation boarding school
30 of them are going to primary School and 20 are coming
from outside daily to our School.
3. Where you are coming from?
I am coming from France.
4. when did you first travel to India?
I traveled for the first time in India in 2009.
5. why did you come to India?
I came to India to visit famous places like the Taj mahal and try
Indian delicious food.
6. Can you explain to us what is New Creation.
New Creation is a project part of Auroville which is helping
children from surrounding villages by providing them a nice
place to grow.
7. Why do you think New Creation is important?
It's only by working together with villagers that we can build
Auroville in true Human Unity.
8. How long can one kid stay in New Creation?
Vally, kids join New Creation at 3 or 4 years old and they can
stay until 18 or 20 years old.
9. how do you see the future of New Creation?
The future belong to the Mother only.
10. Do you enjoy what you are doing in New Creation and why?
I am very happy to be able to help those children and to do my
service to the Mother in New Creation.
-savitri
The new creation project

The project of children's hostel was created in 1983 by Andre Tardeil and his wife Babu to provide education, care and fundamental needs for the nearby village children. "The free progress" is an experimental school. Its objective is the discovery, learning and apprenticeship in freedom and autonomy. Then, the few families with many difficulties, begin to trust the team and the most deprived ask help to insure the daily needs. Of this experience is born the children's hostel, also called "boarding'. The main objective is to answer the fundamental needs for the children: water, food, clothes, education... while keeping links with families- in particular with visits on every Sunday and so maintain a bridge between the cultures of this community of Auroville and the Tamil village which surround it.

-Meena

Home is school

My name is Yeshoda I am 14 years old and I live at School. Indeed, if during the day I am going to Deepanam to study, I also spend the rest of my time in New Creation where I stay in the boarding School. I will describe my day to you.

I wake up at 5;15 am everyday. While the other children are sleeping peacefully, I go sit in front of Mother’s picture and I pray. I have my own way of praying : I listen to the birds singing. I can recognise most of them, like the Kingfisher, the Woodpeckers, Peacocks and Peahens, the seven sisters. Do you know them? At 6 am everybody wakes up. We all run to the bathroom to brush our teeth and take a shower. It is a fun moment, we laugh a lot and spray water at each other, I think it is the best way to fully wake up. After bath we dress up and plait our hair, sometimes I even add some white fragrant flowers. Then we clean the boarding premises. By 7:00 am it is time to have breakfast, hmmm I love breakfast ! We usually get some Jam, slices of bread and a cup of “Boost”, which is some milk flavoured with some energy powder so that we can run around all day. I leave from boarding by 8:00 am while talking with my friends we walk to the bus stop and by 8:10, 8:15 am, the yellow school bus picks us up on the main road.

I arrive in Deepanam school at 8:30 am with the other three girls from New Creation : Ashwita who is in Grace group, Savitri and Meena who are with me in Faith Group. At first we meet in the classroom and have few minutes of concentration, closing our eyes in silence. By 9:00 am we are already studying full subjects like English, Tamil, French, Maths, History, Craft... Then we have 10:20 am a break for snacks and recess. After the break we have some more class such as Genius hours which I like very much ; coding with Scratch. At 12:30 pm we have lunch followed by the longest break of the day. I like to eat idli, dosa, tomato chutney, curd, lemon pickle... After break I go to craft class or painting class while others may go to Capoiera and at 3:15 pm we go to the sports ground in Dehashakti and we play football, handball, ultimate frisbee and touch ball... I nearly forgot Basketball... and sometimes we also play my favorite : Cricket... All this until 5;15 when we take the bus once again to go home by 5:30... I said : "to go home", but I should have said to go back to School in New Creation. There, I will do my homework, help with the cooking of dinner and we have sometimes singing classes as well as Yoga classes. We eat dinner at 7pm. After dinner we go to the dormitory in order to sleep, but we often read some books and I usually fall asleep around 9pm. Some say that I snore but I think it is a lie.

-Yashoda
I go to Japan every year. So why was this year different? Well, first off, we went to Osaka instead of Haneda (Tokyo) airport. We stayed in Osaka for a few days. It was really beautiful. There was a place which was called Dotonbori where there were many shops. Osaka is known for its flashy signs with huge mascots and things hanging outside. We went there and ate takoyaki. Takoyaki is a ball-shaped Japanese snack or appetizer made of a wheat flour-based batter which is cooked in a special molded pan. It is typically filled with minced or diced octopus, tempura scraps, pickled ginger, and green onion. The takoyaki there was definitely the best I've eaten. I mean, Osaka is famous for it after all. We went to Hiroshima after that in a long bus ride. I can tell you one thing; I felt really solemn and peaceful when I visited the atom bomb dome. Pretty weird for my usual personality, I'd say. We visited Hiroshima because we'd done a play on “Sadako and the thousand cranes” just before. We'd also folded a thousand paper cranes. We put the paper cranes near the goddess of peace statue. Sure, putting them near the Sadako statue would be better but I felt that it was okay. It was pretty exhilarating to finally go to the place where Sadako’s statue stood, after seeing it so many times in books of all sorts. There was a “guide” that my mom started talking to who'd been in the bombing, who told us things no books could ever teach. There was an exhibition with clothes of the people who were killed, stories from people who’d lost a family member and photos of the after mass. It was also stated that it wasn’t really suitable for children and that there were graphic images. The stories I'd read were absolutely horrifying and heartbreaking. Stories about a kid who had gotten trapped under a collapsed building and told the person who tried to help to just go tell his family how much he loved them. A story about a teacher that threw himself over the children to shield them. How people ran to the river to stop the flames but ended up drowning. How they bled to death and died of sickness. The gene deformations and so on. I definitely don't have any regrets going there. I learnt more about Sadako too. How her body was, not infact buried or cremated, but taken away by ABCC (Atomic bomb casualty comission) for further inspection. (They'd researched even while she was alive.) Her last words were “It's tasty” After her family surrounded her and urged her to eat. She'd also exceeded her goal of a thousand cranes and had started another batch with a wish of “I wish father's debts disappear.”
Because she knew that hospital fees were expensive. She did not manage to finish that batch. Towards the end of her life, she started to make smaller and smaller cranes because her fingers became heavy and clumsy to a point she started using a needle to make cranes. Anyways, we also went to Miyajima which was really amazing. You have to ride a ferry there but if you ask me, I liked the ferry the most. The water was clean but not see through. Miyajima is a place where people believe that there is a god residing there and that it'd be disrespectful to the god so they built a shrine on water. The tide comes up to the main part of the shrine (Four seasons) and during low tide, the water draws back until the “Great tori”. It's really nice and there’s a zip line where you can go to the observation area and then trek up to the place where a fire of eternal love has been burning for centuries. You can go even further to a point where you can eat lunch and rest. There were deers and the town gave the whole atmosphere that you’d traveled back in time. We ate Okonomiyaki there which Hiroshima and Osaka are famous for. There’s a whole debate to which is better. I don't remember eating any at Osaka so I can't compare but they had really goof sweets over there. Hiroshima gave a really peaceful vibe and I really enjoyed my trip there. When we went to my grandma's house, I found myself missing Hiroshima.

The second reason I found this year different is because I wasn't in elementary school anymore. I started to go to middle school, which meant my train fare, aquarium tickets, zoo tickets and so on were more expensive. Middle school was sure as heck fun but they all seemed so... Distant. So serious. Even though I’d gone to the same elementary school with the majority of them, I didn't talk to many of them. They were probably stressed with the exams. The first week was just them, tests returns and what their scores were. The second week they were definitely more relaxed. Their English lessons were definitely more advanced than before and so were the rest of their classes. We didn't have snack, which was apparently a thing since elementary but damn the lunches tasted so good. The distribution was the same as elementary. There would be a different group each week that’d put the food into bowls and another group that’d take a tray of food to each individual. I honestly loved the lunch times because everyone would look so happy and funny things would occur. We'd also have some songs come on the radio. It went like this.

Monday: Japanese songs
Tuesday: K-POP
Wednesday: Mafumafu
Thursday: Girly Japanese songs
Friday: English songs

There are some funny incidents that I will add in. My homeroom teacher hated chikuwas. (A type of Japanese jelly-like food product made from mainly fish.) He basically refused to eat it. He’d go to extremes to not eat it. He'd roll it up in a piece of tissue while we weren't looking or would fold a small box and put it in there (All of this is done inside his desk) or he'd just straight up throw it in the bin. The class basically did whatever they could to tease him. He'd sometimes go out of class so during that time, a boy who was willing to risk his grades would serve the teacher a whole mountain of chikuwas, and so, after laughing hard as the teacher would put them back into the pot of chikuwas, then one day, his luck ran out. It was a day where you had to eat everything given to you on your own plate, finish all the food given to the class and then you get a star for eating everything. Now, the class ate everything given to us everyday anyways. What’s the issue? Well, on that day, there was chikuwa for lunch and the teacher also had to eat everything. Guess what he did? He went out of class just before lunch so we were starting to suspect something was going on. Turns out we were right. We heard the door sliding open and in came the math teacher who was a pretty humorous math teacher who would make fun of the math questions written in books and made fun of math in general. So he steps in and looks at us in horror and shouts “Aaaahhhh now I get it!” and we ask him what happened. He gives us a big goofy grin. “The moment I came in, I understood what was going on as I looked at your faces! Ahh today was chikuwa! I made a big mistake!” It turns out that our teacher went into the math teacher's class (class 1) and kicked him out saying that they should change classes for lunch. Why that was so well planned was because class 1 had no idea that he hated chikuwas and they couldn't exactly tell him to eat the chikuwa since he wasn't their homeroom teacher.
A few boys ran out to class one and came back saying they didn't make it in time. They then ran out into the hallway and screamed to every class that the teacher hated chikuwa before settling down and continuing lunch. The math teacher left after finishing his lunch and we were left without a teacher until our teacher came back with a sheepish face. Now our class was pretty quiet to a point it became a problem since no one would step up to answer questions neither would they say the greetings as energetically as the other classes. But when it came to our teacher? Boy were we loud. We all started screaming at our teacher. He fiddled with his fingers and explained that he couldn't eat oily things or he would start hiccuping. He said that the night before, he'd eaten a few oily things and stayed up the whole night, unable to sleep. We all told him that he could've told us that from the start so we wouldn't have tried to make him eat it. He sat down and it was almost the end of lunch time... Then the math teacher came bursting in, complaining that our teacher had not only left the chikuwas but also hadn't drunk the milk. We took this as a chance and asked the math teacher if our teacher couldn't eat oily things. There was an awkward silence and a pregnant cough. "He can eat oily stuff. He was stuffing himself with ramen and all. Why do you ask?" And so we started screaming yet again. Towards the end of my stay (week 5) he ate two chikuwas to make up for doing that. Then there was a story he told us during a pretty serious class about how he was soon going to turn thirty so he asked the social studies teacher if they could hang out or something. The social study teacher replied with "I'm busy with important things." hurt, he asked the maths teacher if they could hang out. The math teacher asked him why he wasn't going to hang out with the social studies teacher (they're apparently pretty close) and when he explained why, the math teacher laughed and told him that the social study teacher was right next to him, eating barbecue. Apparently the homeroom teacher felt betrayed. And while he was telling this, the social study teacher was awkwardly there. He asked the teacher many times if he could stop but the teacher refused to stop and the whole class was laughing. There are many stories like this but if I keep going on, it'd take forever. (cont.)
For this issue of the magazine the topics are back to school and homeschooling and I was not sure what to write about. I had gone to Germany this summer and Mahaver asked me to write about my experience. I agreed because I couldn’t come up with anything better. But honestly, I had a lot of fun writing this article. I hope you enjoy it as well.

My mom had told me that we might go to Germany in the summer and I was really excited, THEN she told me that it wasn’t for sure so I shouldn’t get too excited. Why did she have to tell me if she didn’t know for sure. But I was still very excited I might get to go abroad I mean the last time I went out of India I was three. So for a few months that was all I thought about but I couldn’t tell any of my friends just in case we didn’t end up going. Finally my mom told me that we were going I was so happy I went around telling all my friends. After that I didn’t care that much but it was still always at the back of my head. When summer break started I started counting down the days. And finally the day came!! My brother and I were super excited for the plane journey even though we were really tired. We had just come back from spending a week with our cousins, which was fun but tiring. And we took a night bus and it was a sleeper which was great very comfortable but I am sure you can agree it does not feel that comfortable the next morning. Then we tried to help my mom pack the bags, I say tried because my mom will strongly appose if I say I helped her. Then we took the metro to the airport and finished doing all the boring stuff. We were going from Chennai to Dubai then Dubai to Frankfurt. I was waiting in the airport and you should see the line of people going from Chennai to Dubai.
We finally boarded the flight me and my brother rushed to get the window seat I won I being five years older I could have picked him up and put him on the center then taken the window seat. Anyway when we finally settled down we started picking our movies the whole thing was so new and exciting. Most of my friends travel a lot to be fair they are going back to see their grandparents or something like that I get to go to Chennai for that. Circling back to my point they don’t really like plane journeys that much since they travel a lot and they told me that it was very boring. But I had a lot fun, my favorite part is when you take off. I love looking at all the houses becoming smaller it looks very pretty when you can’t see the garbage anymore. Me and my brother insisted on staying awake and watching movies. When we landed in Dubai we ran to the first chair we found and slept I don’t remember noticing anything about the airport or being excited just super tired like I did. When my parents went to France for ten days and I decided I didn’t need sleep. When my mom woke me up the next morning I was so confused I didn’t know where we were I didn’t remember how I got here then I brushed my teeth washed my face and finally woke up. I found that morning really fun I loved looking around I mean Dubai airport is HUGE. But I still had to wait so long to lie down on a bed turns out sleeping on a chair is not very comfortable. The flight to Frankfurt was very far from where landed so we decided to go there first and my parents bought themselves coffee and me and my brother NOTHING!!! then we finally boarded the plane I will spare you the details since this article is getting way too long and nothing that interesting happened. But something memorable was the breakfast. They had this croissant kind of thing that was filled with jam and it was so DELICIOUS. I was a sleep when my mom woke me up told me we were almost there. We landed and still had a long way to go, well not that long but that sounded really cool. We went to the railway station and I forced my parents to get food me food even though they were about to by me food in the first place, then we took a train from Frankfurt too Stuttgart which was one and a half hours long I just ate and looked around it was very nice we were passing by fields and they were really pretty and green when we reached Stuttgart we only had few minutes to run and catch the next train which was very stressful because my brother was tired and cranky and we had a lot of suitcases but we caught the train which was a relief because I didn’t want to wait for the next train this time I got on the train and just fell a sleep even though I did not want to because if I went to sleep when I wake I would be groggy and very useless but I went to sleep and that to on my arm I remember waking up in between and feeling so much pain in my arm but moving it hurt even more and I ended up going to sleep in the same position my mom woke ten minutes before we reached so I could wake up that’s when I realized that sleeping on my arm was a very bad idea. When we went out, Tom and Judith who were I don’t know what to call them so yeah they were waiting for us my mom had told me that we would have to walk home but luckily Tom had brought his car they also gave use a welcome basket it had a packet of gummies, a chocolate easter bunny and a huge Milka bar it was called toffee ganznuss I don’t know what that means but it had caramel and hazelnuts and it was really good it’s definitely my favorite Milka flavor. When we reached there, the sun was shining bright I assumed it was four o’clock I was too tired to look around when we got to the house I had in the car with my brother since he was asleep while my parents took suitcases up. Then we went up I was too groggy to really look all I remember from that day is the bedroom I saw two beds they looked very comfortable I was about to lay down but my mom told me to just wash your hands, legs and face and washing my face woke me up so I decided to help set some things such as connecting my phone to the wifi because that’s important. My parents left me and my brother at home and went out to the market my brother was fast asleep but I decided to watch something since it only seemed like it was evening but when I laid down on that bed and realized how soft it was hard to stay awake. The next morning I felt much better sleeping for a on an actual bed is all I needed. That morning was great we woke up I got to look around properly it was a shared apartment our room was huge it had a king sized bed and table and two cupboards but the second one was locked, which was annoying. We had sandwiches for breakfast and then this orange carrot juice which was really good man I really miss it. Then my mom went to the university for some stuff honestly that’s all I know. And the rest of us…………… I’m sorry guys this article was becoming too long you’ll have to wait till issue to read part two thanks for reading and BYE!!!!!
The Longest Whale Song by Jacqueline Wilson

My rating out of 5: 4.5
Age rating: 10+

Jacqueline Wilson is one of my favorite authors, so I strongly recommend reading ANYTHING by her.

The heroine of this book, Ella Lakeland, is 10 years old but the book is written so well that anyone feels like they are inside Ella’s head. As a character I think Ella is just such a real person she’s flawed enough that you don’t hate her for being perfect. The story is about what Ella goes through when her mom is in a coma.

She has a new baby brother, trouble at school, and doesn’t get along with her stepfather as well. One other thing I like about this story is that the stepfather is not a bad person. Ella’s stepfather Jack, though still not a character I personally like, is much better than most fictional stepfathers. Ella is obsessed with whales and hopes that whale song will wake her mom.

If you have forgotten what it is like to be 10 years old, you should read this book, because trust me, it will remind you.

-Manya.
If this cat stays in this form too long, if we don’t do something quickly, he’ll turn completely human with no turning back.

I’ll turn completely human if I stay like this for too long.

Um!?

What do you mean by “turn completely human”?

Please tell me I’m speaking human please tell me I’m speaking human please tell me I’m speaking…

I’ve cast a spell on you so you can speak human. It’s also easier for me since I don’t have to translate every word. Don’t worry, I’m safer with magic unlike my friend…

And to answer your question, it means that you can’t turn back into a cat.

No matter what you do after that happens, even magic won’t be of any help.
M-magic, huh... I can't... I can't use magic. I can't go back to being a cat. I... I'm going to stay human till I die?! No...

Of course we'll help you! Just because you can't use magic doesn't mean we can't. Don't lose hope so quickly.

Who said we wouldn't help? Before you get all shocked, I'd like to mention that I do clean up the mess I make. I'm not such a horrible person.

And just what do you mean by "I clean up the mess I make"? You never do! I have to! Don't bother lying.

You're going to help me?

You have our word, kiddo.

Thank you!

That smile had better be worth it...

A-ka-faka-jissi! He's so cute! OMG, why is he apolo... I mean, thanking us?? AAAAAA

As you might have noticed, my art style changed in the last 3 panels but... Here, you have it! Sugar in the Pet Shop S.
Petrichor

Petrichor- a pleasant smell that frequently accompanies the first rain after a long period of warm, dry weather.

That lingering smell
of growth and freshness
after the clouds fell
When all the wilderness is out
and about

The breeze is rippling the grass
as rain-speckled daffodils bob their heads
A humming bird flutters over me
its wings spraying droplets on my face
just as I look up and watch the swirling clouds race
A squirrel scampers down a tree
And all that time that earthly smell escapes into me

Or maybe,
The rain patters down on parched soil
as a chameleon puts his head up and catches a drop on his tongue
A snake lifts his head up in mild interest before returning back into its coil
A rumbling thunder rung

Oh, at this time of the year
the smell is everywhere
In the blooming jasmines;
in the whispering wind

Everything is bright and green
and Petrichor is no longer unseen
- Aiyana
Hi my name is Noor and here is my great friend and photographer Aanya and we are here to present you some restaurants in Auroville.

Today we went to eat lunch at Neem tree (Small tips for kids only: If you are writing a magazine with your class, then ask your teacher to do a food critique and go out of school and you wont eat school's food and you will finally be happy.) (Please don't do that I was just joking please don't do it your teacher will hate me.) Back to Neem tree, Neem tree is a nice place if you want to eat outside and be with the nature. There is a space where you can eat out side and inside. There is a big Neem tree due to the name. You can eat there for breakfast, lunch and dinner. We ate lunch there. Its called a Thali and as you can see, there are many delicious things on this plate. This Thali consists of rice, onion salad, lemon juice, chapati, apalam, sambar and another salad that is made up of tomatoes, onions, cucumbers and apples. One thing that I didn't like is that the rice was cold. The menu was great I could find north Indian food as well as south indian food a mix of both. The onion salad was good and I ate it with the chapati . I ate the applam with the sambar and there was a bit left so I just ate it with the rice. In total, it was great and I would recommend it 7/10

Thank you for reading our review! See you next time!

By Aanya and Noor.
What is climate change?

Climate change is a change in global or regional climate patterns. Climate change is not something that is only a recent thing caused by humans and it is not even always caused by a warming of the planet (global warming). Sometimes, it is caused by a cooling of the planet (global cooling).

Extremely fast climate change has happened before. For example, 250 million years ago there was the Permian mass extinction which wiped out 96% of all species at that time. Scientists believe that massive volcanic activity caused colossal carbon dioxide releases and global warming. This was reinforced by methane released from the ocean. When this happened the temperatures rose between 6 and 8 degrees Celsius. While this may not seem like a lot, 0.8 degrees Celsius warming since 1700 has caused all the climate change in recent times.

An introduction to climate change

What is the difference between climate change caused by humans and natural climate change?

There are two main differences:

1. Climate change caused by humans is happening much faster than natural climate change. It is going at a pace that is faster than life can adapt to.
2. We have control over human induced climate change. We can stop carbon emissions now. While we still have to live with the consequences of our past actions, that is better than going extinct.
What is the Greenhouse Effect?

Gases help retain heat in the atmosphere by absorbing long wave radiation emitted by the earth’s surface when it absorbs sunlight. This heats up the atmosphere. These gases are called greenhouse gases. They are carbon dioxide, water vapour, nitrous oxide, ozone, and methane. There are a few others too but these are the most important ones. When the amount of these gases in the atmosphere changes it causes climate change.

What are we doing that causes climate change?

1. Power Production, for example electricity. Power production is the current biggest producer of greenhouse gases because power plants burn coal or other fossil fuels to produce power.
2. Industrial processes. Industrial processes often involve the burning of fossil fuels to heat substances.
3. Transportation. Transportation burns petrol, which is a fossil fuel, to make cars and other vehicles move
4. Fossil fuel extraction, processing and distribution; Fossil fuel extraction, processing and distribution often involves the leaking of methane gas. Distribution is also a part of transportation.
5. Residential and Commercial. Cement production is a big problem. Not only do you need to heat the cement to high temperatures, and transport it, in the chemical process of making cement a lot of carbon dioxide is released from calcium carbonate.
6. Land Use change and burning of the forests. Land Use change and burning of the forests releases a lot of carbon into the atmosphere in the form of carbon dioxide. When the forests are gone it leaves a lot of bare earth which releases nitrous oxide into the atmosphere with bacteria. While earth normally releases nitrous oxide with the forest, when it is bare it produces almost double the amount.
7. Waste disposal and treatment. When food waste is dumped in landfill with plastic, anaerobic bacteria produces a lot of methane gas.
8. Agricultural byproducts. Pesticides and fertilizers produce nitrous oxide, livestock generate a lot of methane, and if crops are grown on land that used to be rainforest then it is sad because we have lost the rainforest. Rainforests are one of the richest ecosystems on earth.
See you next issue in which we will "taco" bout one of my favorite topics, food!!!