

Kaleidoscope

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Various Hues Of Deepanam



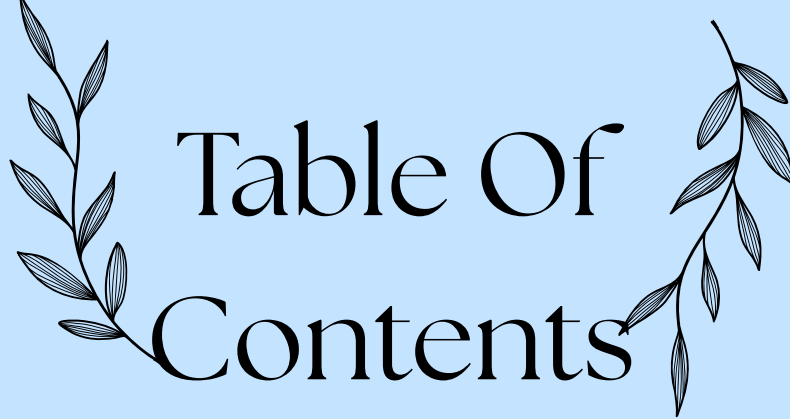


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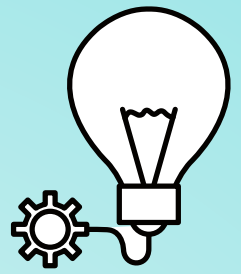
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Fopes opinion:

-A Memory or experience that changed your life



My experience happened about 10 years ago, when I was only 3 years old. My sister, my mom, and I were visiting a friend back in Colombia. Let's call our friend María.

She had a beautiful, gorgeous house. It was unbelievably big, and part of it was still under construction. Even though the house wasn't completely finished yet, it already looked amazing. María also had many cats walking around the house, and there was always delicious food on the table.

Outside, she had a pool that was still being built. Instead of water, the pool was filled with sand and dirt because the construction wasn't finished yet.

At that time, I really wanted to become a mermaid. I loved the idea of swimming like one, and with my three-year-old imagination (and probably my last two brain cells working), I decided to jump into the "pool."

Of course, I didn't think about the fact that it was full of sand.

So I jumped in... and immediately got my head stuck in the sand and dirt. My tiny body was upside down, buried in the sand for what felt like a very long minute.

Luckily, my mom quickly noticed what had happened and ran to help me. She pulled me out of the sand before anything worse could happen.

And the funniest part was that I didn't even cry for 0.00001% of a second.

But after a moment, reality finally hit me. We can all imagine what happened next... I started crying a lot. Thankfully, after three sweet snacks, everything was fine again, and I stopped crying.

Looking back now, it's actually a pretty funny memory from when I was little.

Moral of the story: Never jump into a "pool" full of sand and dirt. -Salvador

"At that time, I really wanted to become a mermaid."

So, my favorite experience was the first time I surfed. It was approximately four years ago. I was my now-mentor's first student and it went pretty well because I had a bunch of classes, and then I went to Bali.

There, I went to surf and the waves were huge—like, massive—but I was like, "Oh well, what could happen?" So I paddled in, which was already its own mission. Then I looked at the waves and took a smaller one; it was quite fun but very scary. I got wiped out, but I got back out there.

Then, my 10-year-old self thought it was a good idea to take this massive wave. It was huge and powerful, so I started paddling for it. By then, the wave got bigger and it was too late; if I stopped, I was 100 percent going to get "washing machined," so I was like, "Oh well," and went for it.

I was so scared. I got up and I saw the nose of the board starting to sink into the water and I was like, "Oh no, I'm going to nosedive." And then I did. Then I was just in the washing machine and, yeah, I couldn't do anything.

I eventually managed to get out and got a breath, but it wasn't over yet. I got my board—which was broken—and tried to get back to the beach. I finally did, but then I stopped surfing for 2 ½ years. I don't know why and I regret it so much, but I started again last year.

Now, I'm there every weekend. I am so grateful I started again because my surfing got better and I even got to meet the national team and train with them! That was an amazing experience. My parents have to bring me there every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

-Milo

"my 10 year old self thought it was a good idea to take this massive wave like it was huge and powerful"

It was my first-ever school trip with Deepanam. The trip we were going on was to Yercaud, which was, I think, five and a half hours away. The bus ride was really fun and, I guess, relaxing, since I was listening to music with my friend and just daydreaming.

The thing I was daydreaming about was my future dream job, which was being a singer, and I was doing that until we finally reached Yercaud!

The trip was super fun. We went on walks to waterfalls, went to viewpoints, ate good food, and had super crispy vadais. We also had a room with twelve beds for our whole class.

There were some tough moments on the trip, but we got through them and made the best of it.

Okay, now for the part that changed my life. On the way back, we did the same thing—listened to music.

Then this one song came on; it's called Better Together (it's a World Cup song). But something was different. I wasn't daydreaming about being on a stage singing to thousands of my fans. I was dreaming about being on a football field—scoring goals, passing, and playing against my favorite football players.

And obviously, it took me time to fully realize that I wanted to become a footballer, but when it happened, it felt so amazing.

-Yam

“I was listening to music with my friend and just daydreaming.”

Traveling is something that people think is really fun and exciting. They say it gives them experiences, and that is true. When you travel, you get to see places like beaches and mountains, and you see things that you do not see every day. Traveling gives you a chance to get away from your life and meet new people.

Traveling is not always easy. When you go on trips, you can get really tired, both in your body and in your mind. Sometimes things happen that you do not expect, and that can make your trip difficult. For me, getting motion sickness is a problem. When that happens, it is hard to enjoy the trip because I am trying to feel better.

This can also affect the people you are traveling with. If someone in your group gets sick, you all have to change your plans. When you travel with others, you have to try to stay healthy so you do not ruin the trip for everyone.

I have learned a lot from my travel experiences. Now I know that I have to take care of myself and get rest. I also know that not everything will go as planned, and that is okay. Traveling means seeing places and dealing with problems that come up, and that is just part of the experience.

Traveling is still really fun. It is not always easy, and you have to be ready for that.

~Ayish

“Traveling gives you a chance to get away from your life and meet new people”.

A football tournament is an exciting event where every teams competes against each other and showcases their skills, and teamwork. Playing in a football tournament is an unforgettable experience filled with excitement, joy, and teamwork. From the moment. Each match tested our skills, stamina, and teamwork. There were challenging moments, like when faced strong opponents and also we had deal with nervousness, these things made us stronger and more focused. The best part was the teamwork we had. we supported each other through difficult moments. We played against anainagar FC, city S and more. Some match were easy compared to others, one went all the way to penalties. we won. In the end, playing in the tournament taught me confidence, discipline, and the true spirit of sportsmanship. It was truly an experience I will always cherish.

-Uday

I remember that on October 11, my mom was sleeping when a dog started barking. She heard the barking but kept sleeping because she thought the dog would stop in five minutes. However, the dog did not stop. It continued barking for about ten minutes.

Finally, my mom woke up and went downstairs. The dog slowly stopped barking and then ran ahead, as if it was showing my mom the way.

At Mahalakshmi, a lady saw my dog lying there. She thought my dog was just sleeping, so she patted her, but my dog did not move. The lady took a picture and sent it to Isha, my mom's friend. Isha then sent it to the librarian who works downstairs our building.

The librarian quickly ran upstairs and called out, "Sashka! Sashka!" My mom opened the door, and the librarian told her the very sad news: Elsa had passed away.

My mom then told my sister and me that our dog had died. We both started crying. I couldn't believe that she was gone. But deep inside of me i know she is in a better place now

Mila

*"I
couldn't
believe
that she
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But deep
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me i
know
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a better
place
now".*

Video games most people look at them as something that you use to just while away your time and get things over with but for me they're so much more I remember playing Snake IO when i was four something years old and had just died to some bot and was on the verge of tears but when I clicked play again I felt the rush of seeing how everything came together but it wasn't permanent I didnt think this when i was four but it made a nice base for how I'd progress as a person, almost a year later I played Terraria my all time favorite game till date. I progressed through the game and eventually came to a road block. I tried fighting a boss for the first time and lost . I hadn't prepared at all. I summoned the boss by accident and there was no way I was gonna beat it if I had no prep. It was pointless I thought, then I spent a year just doing nothing on the game I'd over prepared. I just played the game I had fun yes, but I still didn't feel like I'd achieved something or was capable of it, I'd built an arena 10 times bigger than necessary and

Done every possible arrangement and then I gave it my best shot and succeeded the feeling that I felt after that was so liberating and gave me a new perspective on effort

-Raaya

"It felt so liberating and gave me a new perspective".

INQUIRY



Why Do You Come to School?

Students gave honest and varied answers that revealed different motivations: *Learning and Growth (The Idealists):* Many students expressed a genuine desire to learn and grow: "to discover new things and find my potential," "to learn," "want to grow," "sense of understanding," and "to be educated to achieve a goal." Some saw school as preparation: "get ready for exams later in life" and "learning will help in the future."

Social and Relational (The Connected): For many, friendships are central: "build friendships," "spend time with friends," "learning in arts and friendships," and simply "for fun."

Experience (The Explorers): Several mentioned "experience of school life," "learning experience," and "experience AV schools" - valuing the overall experience beyond just academics.

What Does It Mean to Learn?

True Understanding vs. Memorization: The most powerful insight: "Truly understand instead of memorize" and the contrast with "shut your brain off memorize."

Students clearly distinguish between real learning and just going through motions.

Growth and Discovery: "To expand and grow," "discover what you didn't know before," "try something new," "know yourself better." Many see learning as transformation, not just information.

Life Preparation:

"Not just subject oriented but practicing life before I go out in the real world," "to be independent," "learn to deal with life." Many see learning extending far beyond academics.

The Challenge: Honestly acknowledged: "Learning is hard," "is to listen, pay attention" - recognizing what learning actually requires.

Every Aspect: "Every aspect of life" - some students see learning as all-encompassing, not confined to classrooms.



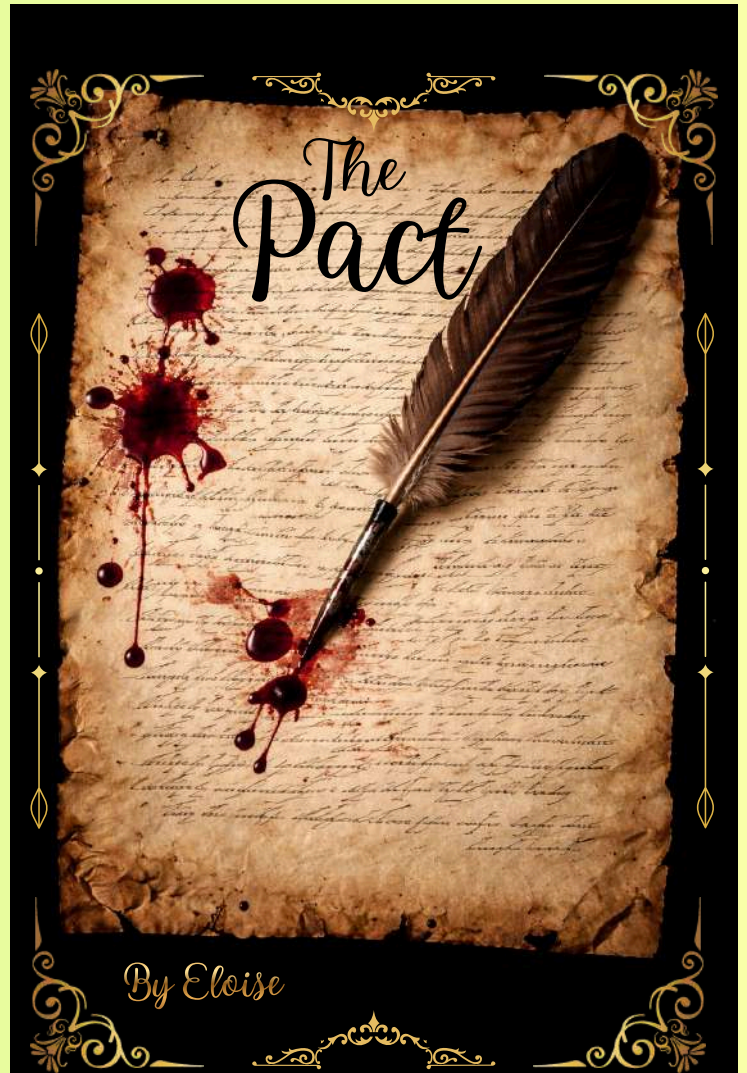
Nanowrimo

National Novel Writing Month
2025

The Pact

“Mom, Dad, when are we arriving? It’s been hours since we were in the car!” Lina was, in fact, really impatient to see her friends; 1 month and 2 weeks was long, and she had no way to communicate with them.

“Hang on, sweetie, we are there in 10 min.” Alice, Lina and their parents were coming back from their holiday in France. Being stuck in the car for 4 hours, the girls had time to watch 2 movies and talk a lot. They were now out of ideas and growing increasingly bored.



Six word memoirs

Everything that is easy was hard

Life sometimes isn't fair to you

Everything gives a brand new experience

Light reaches to farthest of depths

Its weird not to be weird

Every dream carries a story behind

Work hard dream big and believe



A flame that could never burn.

He's honest but his life, a lie

Its dark, cold but I'm numb

Three paths, a choice, Thats life

A blade hard cold bathed in moonlight

-Vaibhavi



Broken windows cause alot of blood

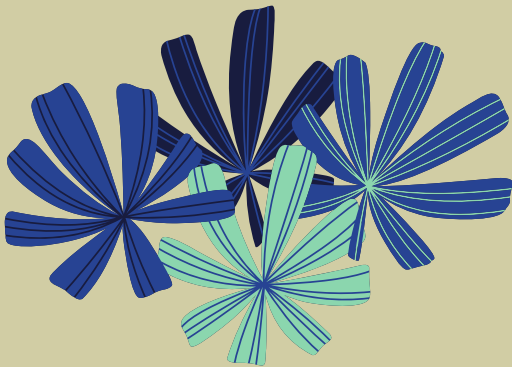
Read a book on the moon

Rob a bank with a mask

Life is short make it count

Take a leap forward, don't look back

-Ayish



Friends on a walk haunted dead house

Forever lost but always has location

Old people in young places cry

Eraser in pieces pen all dry

Clock ticking, sweat, Brain humming

-Leoni

I am allergic to early mornings.

Trust is like a golden seal

Bread, jam, butter and orange juice.

Let the wind carry you now.

I saw a ladybug, it flew away.

The sky is made of blue.

Bim, bim, bi, boom, paf, Meow!

-Anjali

BUS CRASHES, THE DOG FALLS ASLEEP.

Holding your hand but not anymore.

MATH IS GREAT but not always.

-Aditi



Children's Mental Health in Auroville: Teens Connect Podcast

Our guest is a French psychologist who has lived in Auroville for over ten years, working with children and teenagers at Deepanam School and at Matram, Auroville's mental health centre. Psychology is her second career – and the story of how she got there says a lot about why she's good at it.

How She Got Here

She started out teaching emotion classes at a local school – what feelings are, how they show up in the body, how to handle them. But many of the kids were carrying difficult things from home. "A lot came with heavy stories – some violence, parents being alcoholic," she says. That pushed her to train properly. She studied art therapy in Chennai, then completed a master's in psychology through a French university. Looking back, she can see the thread was always there: as a teenager she had already asked her parents to host underprivileged children for the holidays. "It took me time to put aside what I had been told to do and choose for myself what I really wanted."

"It's like, If a kid is play-doh, a teenager is clay, an adult is cement. It's easier with the younger ones."

The Work Itself

A typical week includes team meetings, individual sessions with 10 to 12 children, and group emotion classes twice a week at Deepanam. No two days are the same. For children who struggle to talk about their feelings, she uses play therapy, drawing, puppets, and storytelling – indirect ways in. "What you tell as a story is often related to what you are living," she says. She also teaches emotional literacy in class, because research shows that children who have more words for their emotions find it easier to manage them. The hardest part of the job, she says, is not the sessions themselves – it's staying present. "You have to be in good physical and mental condition to give that quality of attention." The best part is the connection. "Every session is new and unexpected. It's almost like meeting the soul of the person directly. It's magic."

"Even if you don't become a psychologist, studying it is always a win. It helps you understand people, any job, any life"

For Anyone Thinking About It

Her advice to students considering psychology is simple: go for it. Even if you don't end up practising, the skills – understanding behaviour, listening well, creating space for others – are useful everywhere. "It's never lost," she says. "It's always a win."



Haroun And The Sea Of Stories

Reflections on Six Months of Theater-Making

THE HARDEST PARTS

Staying Focused

"Concentration was pretty hard because I needed to be concentrated in all scenes."

"I had to focus when I was tired and I had to wait for my scene to come."

Managing Chaos

"For me, the hardest part was trying to get everybody to calm down. It was just so chaotic at first."

"It was hard for everyone to get attention during practices, making it hard to learn everything together as a group."

Learning Lines

"The hardest part was to memorize the lines on the given day."

"Having the motivation to practice, memorize lines and get the costume and props was a persistent challenge."

Quick Changes & Technical Challenges

"I needed to change my costume really, really fast."

"The hardest part for me was pronouncing the word 'magical.'"

Finding Courage

"This was my first play, and I really don't like to speak in front of an audience. I had to make sure that people could hear me, and it was hard."

"Facing emotions and lack of confidence..."

getting into character and not feeling embarrassed... finding the courage in me."

Balancing Everything

"Sometimes it became really boring at the end of the month. I was really stressed about the exam and other stuff."

"It was hard for me to skip other activities, but it was fine."

THE MAGICAL PARTS

Watching It Come Together

"The magical part for me was how the whole play came together. In the beginning, we practiced specific parts, and then in the end we managed to pull it all together."

Supporting Each Other

"After all the hard work, we managed to get it done, and especially during the end we all looked in and out for each other. I think it shows our dedication, even if we can't always show it."

Discovering Ourselves

"The magical part was that I could memorize everything without trying."

"The magical part for me was to watch others, especially the other actors who had experience, and they were quite good at it."

The Moment on Stage

"When the play started, I was waiting for my scene. I felt so excited to go on stage, and when I was on stage, I felt free."

"Everything went so smoothly. When I realized we did the play so well and everybody was happy and laughing."

Mastering Our Craft

"I think one of the magical parts was when I learned how to do my dialogue with the birds. I did it so well. It was like a song."

WHAT WE LEARNED *"I never heard applause so energetic."*

"We learned about teamwork and the importance of punctuality."

After the Show

Before the Show

"We learned about teamwork and the importance of punctuality."

"I learned to be patient and wait for my time to come and concentrate."

"If you expect something from the others, you need to show them that yourself."

"We learned to shut up when someone is talking."

"I learned how to express our voices and body language... I learned how to really step into the character."

"I realized that I like playing a funnier and less serious character."

"I realized that nerves are not bad."

Conclusion

Over six months, Faith and Hope students faced challenges with discipline, patience, fear, and self-doubt. They learned to support one another, to persist through difficulty, and to trust in the creative process even when the outcome seemed uncertain.

They discovered that "the whole play came together" not through individual brilliance but through collective dedication. They learned that hard work pays off, that nerves can be managed, that confidence can be built, and that the applause of an appreciative audience makes every struggle worthwhile.

Most importantly, they learned about themselves—their capacities, their courage, and their ability to transform not just into characters on a stage, but to move an audience to laughter and applause.

As one student wrote with beautiful simplicity: "I never heard claps so loud."

the sound applause of an audience moved by their work—will stay with them far longer than any single line they memorized or any costume they wore. Students realizing they can create magic.

And that, perhaps, is the most magical part of all

–Mahavir

"It was so relieving after we finished."

"I felt that there was a big weight lifted off my shoulder. I felt calm and I could sleep better at night."

"I felt more confident on stage. Before, I used to feel a little shy and embarrassed, but now I feel confident and I enjoy acting."

"If you keep doing a thing for weeks, months, after all that hard work, you will feel good because you did really well."

"Hard work pays off."

"We learned how to interact with the audience and how to communicate with one another to solve issues."

"I was in a kind of trance where I didn't know how well I had done, but I heard other people saying I had done well."

"I didn't do much. I did my part, but I am still happy it's done."

Poetry

No one may speak against you, if they had not been in the same boat as you.

No one may disprove you, if they had not been there.

No one may call you a liar, if they have not lied.

No one may judge you, if they haven't been judged as well.

No one will ever have the same exact experience or point of view, as you.

-Ennio

"Echoes of Yesterday"

Memories drift like autumn leaves,
Quiet, golden, caught in breeze.
Some still glow in gentle light,
Others fade into the night.
Laughter lingers in the air,
Footsteps echo everywhere,
Moments lost yet somehow stay,
Hidden just beneath today.
A voice, a song, a distant place,
A fleeting smile, a familiar face—
All return when least expected,
Time undone, the past reflected
Though we move and seasons change,
Life grows wide and paths grow strange
Memories softly hold us near,
Whispering, "You were here."

-Eloise

Therapy session

Hey Nate,
How's life?
I don't know
It's alright
Said one of the most brilliant rappers ever
Sure man keep telling yourself that
I will man because it's true
He's helped a million people through
Through everything and more
His music is a therapy session
Because as you know he ain't gonna let you down
He ain't gotta stop til the tears drown
He's in it for everything we stand for
Come on man cut the crap this ain't a dis track
Yeah man your right this ain't like Stan or lose
yourself
I ain't hating I'm just having preferences
That man saved me more then any songs I like
That man is a idol
He stands for being yourself
Sure man stop being all cheesy this ain't a wedding
speech
Come on man cut em some slack
He ain't like Eminem Snoop dog or Stan
That man is Nate Feuerstein
Also known as NF
But hey man no hate but that man saved us
All while saving himself

-Aditi

Book Review: Rosa Parks (Biography)

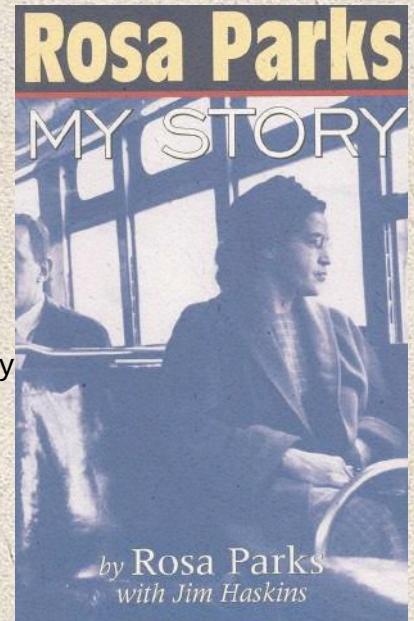
This biography book about Rosa Parks is actually really interesting and inspiring, even if you don't usually like history books. It tells the story of her life and how she became such an important person in the Civil Rights Movement, and I think that's pretty interesting, or good if you want to start reading history books.

What I liked most is that it shows she didn't just randomly refuse to give up her seat on the bus because she was "tired." The book explains that she had been standing up for equal rights for a long time, so that moment was actually a really brave and powerful decision. It made me see her in a completely different way.

The book is also easy to read, so it's not confusing or anything. It also explains what life was like back then, especially how unfair things were because of segregation, which helps you understand why what she did mattered so much.

One thing is that sometimes it feels a bit simple, like it could go into more detail. But I think it's still good, especially if you're just learning about her for the first time.

Overall, I'd say Rosa Parks is a good and inspiring read. It kind of makes you think about how even one small action can actually change a lot.



HOLES

Ok okay, yes, I know, Holes? Really? I know it sounds weird but trust me it's a really good book, just trust me.

It's about a boy called Stanley Yelnats (which is the same backwards as forward btw) who gets sent to Camp Green Lake (which, spoiler is not green, and does not have a lake) for stealing a pair of shoes which belonged to the legendary Clyde Livingston. Stanley didn't actually steal the shoes, he was walking and the shoes fell from the sky, (well technically he was passing under an overpass and then the shoes fell down on him) Stanley had the options of either going to juvie, or go to Camp Green Lake (like I said he got sent to Camp Green Lake).

At Camp Green Lake, all the boys who were sent at Camp Green Lake were sent to get disciplined by digging, holes. Six feet wide and six feet deep (which technically is impossible in real life but in books anything can happen right?). The Warden (who's in charge of the camp) says that they are digging holes to be disciplined, but Stanley knows that they're looking for something...

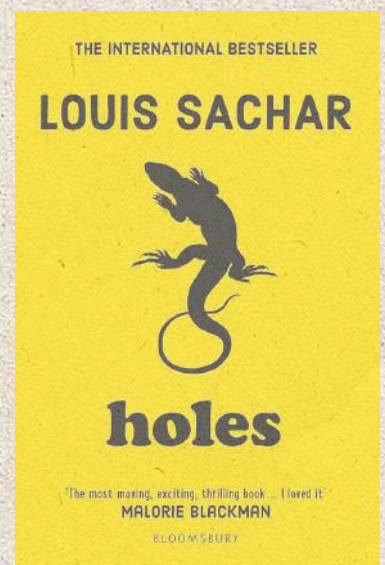
The book weaves together Stanley's present struggles, flashbacks of his family's "curse", the history of Camp Green Lake, and the legend of Kissin Kate Barlow (famed for kissing her victims after she kills them and robs them ㅍㅍㅍㅍㅍㅍ). I think that

Louis Sachar (the author) blends it all in really well.

I think Stanley's family curse isn't just a type of plot I think that it's like your actions define what happens in the future, so choose wisely or smth.

As per me this book is a 5/5!

- Chhavi



Our Trip to Yercaud

Our trip to Yercaud was three days long, 30, 31 of March and 1 of April.

Day 1:

On the first day, we all gathered at school at 6:30 am sharp to start the trip. At the beginning we were all super excited and hyped up for the trip. Even though it was early in the morning for most people, we were all still filled with excitement. But as the journey kept going, we all got a little tired and a lot of us kept asking when we would reach.

We also made two stops on the way to buy snacks and to stretch our legs.

After about six hours, we finally reached the hilly region, so the roads were steep and we kept making sharp turns, which made people a little uncomfortable. But the view was beautiful, and I really enjoyed that part of the trip.

Once we reached we were all super tired but that didn't stop us from fighting over the dormitory upstairs and the dormitory downstairs. The dormitory upstairs had more beds and it was less colder at night. But the bottom dormitory had fewer beds and was a lot colder at night.

Well so basically we both wanted the top one but in the end Mahavir intervene and we got the top one because it had more beds and we were a lot more people compared to the guys.

After we all got settled in we had a buffet lunch which was way a little too spicy for a lot of us. But the ice cream we bought afterwards was good and helped.

Once we were all done we had 2 hours to just chill in the rooms before we went for a walk outside the property we were staying in to a boat house where we all went pedal boating. We all split into groups of four and we had exactly 30 minutes and even if we were a mint late we would have had to pay for another 30 minutes so it was a little stressful and basically we were just circling the dock for the last five minutes, but the experience was amazing and I surprised myself by really enjoying pedaling.

After that we were a little tired so Bhakti got us raw mango and roasted corn with chilly powder:) After that we continued our walk and we went to this little view point where we could see a lot of the town.

Oh and before we came back we also got crispy potato chips for snacks.

Once we came back we all had dinner which was simple idly, dosa and parota.

And after dinner we all played mafia in our dorm.

Day 2:

On the second day of our trip after breakfast which was the repeat of the dinner of the night before we went to a waterfall!

It was a 3km walk down hill which was fun, but by the time we got to the place where we were supposed to climb down a steep flight of stone stairs we were all a bit tired and a few people were a little scared because there were monkeys.

But we made it down the stairs alive, but once we got to the waterfall we were a little disappointed because it was mostly dry:(

But me and a few guys decided to climb down the waterfall which was really fun and after a long time I felt alive going down the waterfall. The waterfall was mostly dry but there was still a big enough stream that we had to jump over. There were also a lot of boulders and fallen trees we had to climb down.

Once we joined the rest of the group, after about 30 minutes we all took a group pic and decided to head back.

The walk or more like the climb back up was a lot more tiring and all of us were tired and hungry but we still had fun going uphill, listening to music and we totally did not throw flowers at each other.

After we came back to our dorms we took a shower and got changed. We went to this dosa place for lunch which had good crispy dosa. After lunch we all went by bus to a beautiful view point where we could see the seven hills. The ride there was 20 minutes. It was a little windy when we reached but the view was gorgeous. And there also we totally did not through flowers at each other:D

Once we took pictures we decided to head back, but the teachers decided to walk that last bit back but some people didn't want to so they were dropped back by the bus while the rest of us went for a walk.

On the walk we got potato chips again and we all got goli soda! And we also visited the chocolate factory where we tried a bunch of free samples but only like two or three people actually bought something:)

Dinner was pretty much the same as the last night and after dinner we all played a few rounds of mafia like the night before.

Day 3:

On the last day we were all a little sad because the trip had come to an end so quickly:(After breakfast, we all packed up our things by ten O'clock. After we were done, some of us wanted to buy coffee so we went for a walk to the coffee place where some people got coffee beans. Once we came back we checked our rooms one last time then we got on the bus around eleven O'clock to start back.

On the first half of the ride a lot of us just slept and it was mostly quiet.

We had lunch around two at a restaurant on the way, they served curd rice, chapati and normal meals.

After lunch we all had a lot more energy and we wanted to still enjoy the last of the trip so we all played truth or dare and games like that for the rest of the journey:D

I really enjoy this trip to Yarcaud and have made so many happy amazing memories and more then the place itself the trip was more enjoyable because of the people:D

-Vaibhavi

