



Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

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## The Dilemma of Young Writers

**Arjun Singh** | *Winner, Gombhar Speech Trophy Contest, 2016*

If you are a student of this School, then you— at one point in your six year slog – will certainly have been asked to write something apart from an examination. Unlike the exam, however, this collection of sentences will actually require a minimum amount of what we call “thinking”. It will require something called “effort” spent on writing it, for there is usually no place to copy from. And speaking of that, it will require you to produce something original, something actually unique; for, in this case, if you try to copy – then unlike in an exam - you may actually get caught.

Good evening to all present here, and as the Chairperson’s already told you, my speech will be on ‘The Dilemmas of Young Writers’ or as I’d like to call it ‘The Path to Writing a Senior’s College Essay’. Whatever the name, it’s about the effortless and painless process that we students face while putting finger to keyboard and writing an article that has as good a chance of being read as much as the Weekly itself: clearly, quite large.

It all starts with the request or the ‘friendly favour’ to write. Editors-in-Chief or the non-academic SC will usually allot them at lightning speed, either after dinner or while one is diligently studying later that night. “You! Write an article for me!” he politely says, in Hindi of course. This is remembered for as quickly as he took to say it, and a long period of thoughtlessness follows as one conveniently forgets the task. One-by-one the days go by until a New Word document is finally opened, long after the deadline has passed and with repeated extensions thereafter. By then, the impending duty – and in some cases, the senior – hovers dangerously over one’s head, and the entire process moves into an equally long phase, where work is actually done – making the writer just slightly more productive than before.

Unless you’ve kindly ‘offered’ the task of writing to a junior or, I dare say, one of your ‘more studious’ form-mates, a classic hurdle then appears. This is a tall one, where nearly everyone trips as their brains run the feeble course of “selecting a topic”. Keep in mind, you’ve most likely been instructed to write nothing that’s “clichéd and nothing that could be censored”, leaving you with a list of topics that’s ‘a little too short’. If you’re fortunate enough, the topic will have already been given to you – and will save you from questioning every ‘publications-guy’ you can find for “a suggestion”. Unless you want to burden yourself however, then it’s just like an ICSE project: keep it simple and stupid.

Once that herculean task is over, next comes the actual ‘writing’, or rather the lack of it. When you start, if you do that is, writer’s block arrives to red tape your thoughts as you type out each word: carefully if you actually care about the article or recklessly if you don’t. Every word is considered, sentences are added, deleted and re-added, and effortless hours are spent finishing the next paragraph. When asked about the progress, the article is always ‘just’ about done. It goes on and on and on until you finally finish. The happiness or relief you may feel is short lived, for on closer inspection you realize that the minimum word limit is far ahead, or if you’re like me, has been left far, far behind with a three useless paragraphs in between. It is then that the penultimate and dumbfounding step of extending (or, in my case, grudgingly cutting) the article now begins.

And now, after the battle is over, the article is submitted. While some may feel satisfied now, the feeling is usually absent, since the article shall instead be printed under the name of the ‘prolific and most-hardworking senior’ who supposedly wrote it. If not, the most one can usually take pride in is their name at the top, for

*(Contd. on Page 3)*



## Regulars

# Regional Laurels

The School hosted the **Annual TGELF Regional Harmony Competition** on **October 8, 2016**.

In the **'Reel-to-Reel' Movie Contest**, Akshat Jha, Aneesh Choudhary and Aaryan Singla stood **first**. In the **'Sense, Reason and Intellect'**, the **English Debating event**, the team comprising Rishabh Goel, Sumer Vaidya, Kushagra Kar and Gunvir Paintal was adjudged the **winner**. In the **chess event**, the team comprising Aryan Kasera and Sanjum Dhaliwal was also ranked **first**.

All the winning participants have qualified for the **National Round** to be held in **Gurugram** this November.

Congratulations!

## UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

*There are so less options.*

**Shreyash Banka**, unwise choice.

*You could have wrotten the answers.*

**Varad Mann**, academic counsellor.

*It may just collapse an aquifer.*

**HCY**, crushes grammar.

*What are your spellings?*

**Samarth Mehra**, learns to spell.

*I have no self-respect for you.*

**Kanishkh Kanodia**, disappointing.

*Pass the jug of rice.*

**Arjun Singh**, eats his words.

*There is no methane exist.*

**MPT**, scientific.

*What was your timing in shot-put?*

**Shantam Gilra**, falls short.

*Play football we must.*

**Karan Sampath**, kicks with (the) Force.

*"Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it."*  
- George Santayana

# Whiz Kids

The following boys participated in the **IPSC General Knowledge Test, 2016**, and secured a position among the **top 20%** of participants:

### Senior Category:

Priyanshu Raj  
Advait Ganapathy  
Shivendra Pratap Singh

### Medium Category:

Dhruv Gupta  
Bhavya Rajgarhia  
Ranvijay Singh  
Pritish Dugar

Kudos!

## THE WHO?

Who is Charles Lutwidge Dodgson?

**Sumer Vaidya:** An artist

**Divyansh Nautiyal:** An actor

**Amogh Tiwari:** A street dancer

**Aaditya Shah:** A historian

**Ishaan Kapoor:** A professional ballet dancer

**Charles Lutwidge Dodgson**, better known by his pen name Lewis Carroll, was a writer and mathematician. He is the author of the much acclaimed fantasy, 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.'

## Around the World in 80 Words

Pakistan pitched forward the idea of having a greater South Asian economic alliance, an alliance larger than the current SAARC. Pro-democracy politicians openly defied China's leadership at the swearing-in ceremony for Hong Kong's parliament. Haiti was devastated after the powerful Hurricane 'Matthew' ripped through the country. Defence Minister, Manohar Parrikar commended Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his swift decision-making role in India's surgical strikes against Pakistan. Donald Trump repeatedly criticized House Speaker Paul Ryan after he withdrew support from him.

## Dosco Doodle

### Racing Against Time

Ujjwal Jain



(Contd. from Page 1)

the article will likely (and sadly) not be read by most, who will instead flock to Page 3 and the Unquotable Quotes, or disturbingly never open the publication at all. The dilemma is now over, and this honorable veteran is cast aside, his next call of duty being for the issue of next term, or when another senior needs to get into college.

But while this whole ordeal is indeed a thankless task, it is something that we should, ironically, be thankful for. For it is these forced assignments that truly help us: they test our skills, they offer us the next improving challenge, and, most importantly, they allow us to learn something new. This is the way we become better writers, by going through this process over and over again; painful as it must be, but provident as it truly is. It is for this reason that, between the all brain-racking and exhaustion, I'm glad to have faced this plight, this dilemma throughout my school years, and for all its goodness and benefits, save for the college essay's, it is my solemn hope that you face it too.

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## For Peace's Sake

**Ranvijay Singh** *comments on the recent developments between India and Pakistan.*

As I write this article the situation in the Indian Subcontinent is getting ugly. Hatred and enmity between India and Pakistan has risen to a new level. Diplomacy seems to be at an end and war is now being seen as an option. A surge in patriotism is being seen in both nations and the hunger for revenge is now more than ever. Over the past few months the relations between the two nations have soured with multiple events causing this near break down of diplomatic relations. The attacks on the Pathankot Air Force Station by Pakistani Militants was the first among a list of many events which have led the two nations to a position where both have war in their minds. This list also includes the killing of Burhan Wani, the Uri Base Attack, the "Surgical" attacks by the Indian Special Forces and of course the usual cross-border terrorism and spying done by both nations. Pakistan has enraged India by its military follies, diplomatic lies and political drama and, unlike our media which would be blamed for being anti-India (as that is the new term for speaking the truth about your country), I will not hesitate to say that India has done the same to Pakistan.

The enmity between these two nations is somewhat a sub-continental legacy. Pakistan has always been seen as a threat to India. A country that is, in every spectrum, India's international rival and our stance does have a reason. After four wars, countless skirmishes and an ongoing proxy war the vacuum created by the lack of trust has been filled with the sense of hatred. Therefore it is very easy for us as Indians to follow this instinct of hatred and justifying the bloodshed we bring upon Pakistan by giving examples of what they have brought upon us as the same way Indian citizens get killed due to crossfire so do Pakistani citizens. There is no denying of the fact that Pakistan does harbour terrorism and that the killing of Pakistani militants is with no doubt justified but when reports of Pakistani military personnel along with Pakistani citizens being killed by Indian Forces start coming in this justification of bloodshed is hollow. We as Indians should not allow this to happen regardless of the fact that our citizens and soldiers have been killed by the Pakistani Military. This is no time for a tit-for-tat approach. We have to realise that when our soldiers enter their side of the LOC we are violating their sovereignty and even though there is confirmed presence of militants we have no right in doing so. Rather we should lead this path of normalisation of relations between the two nations through peaceful talks and negotiations. One might reason why after so many cross-border attacks that we must still care about their sovereignty and the sole answer to this is Peace. For the sake of peace.

***“ I think peace has always had a price and it's a price we must pay through diplomatic ways and not war. ”***

There is always scope to tackle the problem of militancy together rather than taking things in our own hands. You might say that we have had more than enough dossiers, discussions, negotiations and debate take place between India and Pakistan but I think Peace has always had a price and it's a price we must pay through diplomatic ways and not war. Rather than being proud about the fact that we infiltrated their borders, our politicians should try to get discussions going between the nations. Rather than holding rallies to shout anti-Pakistani slogans and putting up anti Pakistani posters we should aim to do away with the coldness between the two nations. One might say that we have tolerated enough and that India must now resort to bloodshed and war. But can giving up on peace really be the answer?

# The Week Gone By

CC Chengappa

World Mental Health Day. An occasion for people around the world to realize the impending problems of mental disorders. Our very own superhuman gave a talk to the school community on the prevailing issue of ignoring mental problems. It was very well received by Doscocs who enjoyed listening to disorders with the hope that they might (not) affect the senior members of our school community in the years to come.

Scoping season took a new turn of events as well, when a leading member of the S form race put out a strong message to his form mates and the school at large. The larger, more sensible and less desperate section of the school including Sc form appreciated the truth and sheer accuracy of the individuals take on the unnecessary race for school positions. We sincerely hope that there are more talks in the future which revolve around the truth behind the functioning of school.

Athletics took off and certainly seems to be the topic of conversation in school. Something that stands out every year is the passion and dedication which our boys show on and off the field. People can be seen practicing intently for their events right through the evening after the day is done. We wish our athletes the very best of luck in their respective events and hope to see a few records being broken.

News has just come in that the Finance Minister of the country will be the Chief Guest at our Founders this year. This move has certainly been received well by the school community which looks forward to enjoying the sight of Z-Class security on campus during the course of the event. Many boys even remember the high levels of security four years ago when policeman stood on top of the boarding houses on the main field with bamboo sticks to welcome the Vice President, much to the amusement of everyone.

Most of us are looking forward to going home next week. This is also the first time in many years that boys will be allowed to go home during *Divali*. Masters will not have to constantly open their doors to scores of hungry boys running after the food while boys will be allowed to go home, enjoy the freedom of bursting crackers and making valuable contributions to the environment. This the last week for everyone to relax and enjoy what many term the 'Founders Wala Smell'.

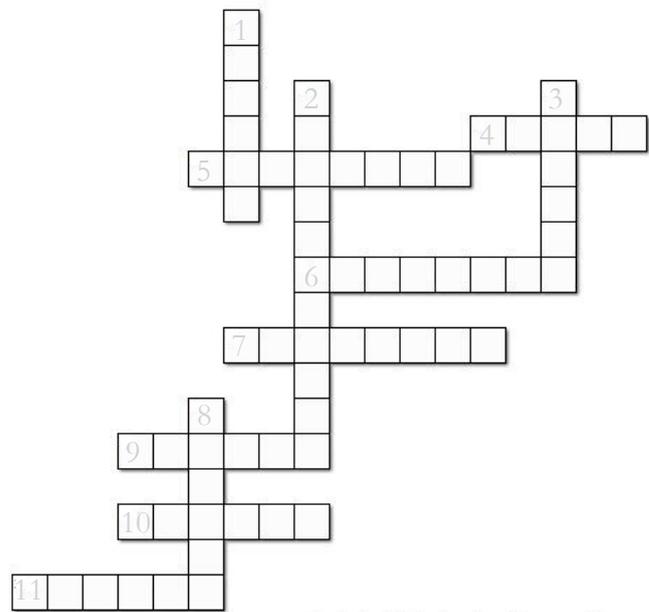


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# Crossword

Comic Universe



Note: All answers related to persons in this crossword refer to their surnames.

### Across

4. The author of 'Batman: The Killing Joke'.
5. This Marvel villain is also known as the Planet Eater.
6. This superhero forged Hellbat.
7. This character is a crossover between Batman and Wolverine.
9. Barry Allen's arch-nemesis.
10. Scarlet Witch's spouse.
11. The father of Batgirl.

### Down

1. This superhero holds the title for the most appearances in DC Comics.
2. Marvel's Deadpool was originally created as a spoof of this DC villain.
3. The name of the first human Green Lantern.
8. Captain Marvel's real name.

<b>Answers to This Week's Crossword</b>	
<b>Across</b>	<b>Down</b>
4. Moore	1. Batman
5. Galactus	2. Deathstroke
6. Superman	3. Jordan
7. Darkclaw	8. Batson
9. Thawne	10. Vision
11. Gordon	

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