

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

*"I sketch your world exactly as it goes."* -Arthur Foot  
May 4, 2019 | Issue No. 2536



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# The Twisted Doorknob

Aryan Agarwal

I rested my elbows on my knees, which were oddly tired after sleep. The warm air around me brushed against the pores of my body lazily, and signalled the arrival of day. I had risen from my stationary posture of slumber, and sat upright. I sat solitarily in a cottage, situated in the forbidding woods in the hills. It made sense to me, to live alone; but in the company of the wave of trees that lay before me, upright like pencils. Their tips sparkled proudly through the window, in the glare of the sun. I wished I was a tree, in the broader sense of not being a human - carefree, alleviated from any sort of artificial pressures. These arboreal giants next to my cottage created a rough grey wall around me, with the bark peeling off like plaster. No one would think of coming here (which gave me a profound sense of security) but the area was inaccessible anyway.

The cottage was not too luxurious but comfortable enough for anyone to live in. The walls were polished oak planks and logs, the gleam of the wood disappearing in front of the door. A wooden table rested on four legs in front of the window, immediately on the right side of the door. The bed was simple, with a mattress and a pillow. It occupied one-third of the room and was nearly as long as the room itself. I had simple appliances, a kettle and a transportable gas stove, nothing

else. My surroundings provided for me but lacked any human company, which is uncharacteristic of society, but why did I need to be part of one? I had become self-sufficient and had lost faith in society long ago.

"Do you mind if I ask you something?" Ira said.

I permitted her to enquire with a gentle shrug.

**Look around  
you, people barge  
through doors  
but do not stop to  
admire the intricate  
craftsmanship of  
the door.**

"I understand that people may not have been nice to you, but is living alone the solution? It's almost like you're shutting everyone out." Her forehead wrinkled up; evidently, she was confused.

I smiled tiredly, "I knew you would ask. They irritate me. Existence has so many pleasures yet people create so many unnecessary, oppressive forces. Imagine that life is door after door after door. Look around you, people are barging through doors but do not stopping to admire their intricate craftsmanship." I said, with an

exaggerated look of disgust. "And society, it's counter-intuitive, but society is failing us."

"The way I see it, society is a structure that aids progress. I don't know how you think about it.", she said to justify her stance. Her eyes almost pierced through me, demanding an answer.

"Hate" I said, almost to myself.

"What about Hate?"

"It is greatly paradoxical, but pay close attention to me. We love some people, and we don't love the others. Mostly, we have our lives centred around the ones we love most. A husband's worries will evaporate after seeing his wife at the end of a long day; a child would feel complete and at home when she is in her mother's arms. You see?"

She nodded, suggesting that I move forward.

"But the second set of people are problematic. Think about it. If you had no connection with a person why would you care about them? This not-caring leads the way to all the dark qualities that reside within each one of us- selfishness, jealousy, malice, and indifference."

She rose from her chair, seeming unsettled. I could tell she wanted to ask me something, but did not.

I picked up my notebook to note this beautiful, radical idea I had conceived. Maybe if I became an author someday, they could publish it. But then would

*(Continued on Page 3)*

STROKES OF EXCELLENCE

The School participated in the **Earth Art** event of **Izhar-e-Hunar** held at Hopetown Girls’ School last week. The team **won** the competition. The individual results are as follows:

Pratham Bansal and Ujjawal Jain stood **first** in **Assemblage** and **Cartooning** categories respectively. Bhai Meer Singh and Arjun Wakade stood **second** in the **Paper Sculpture** category, while Shouryan Kapoor and Ameya Shawak came **second** in the **Painting** category.

Well done!

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES

The School was represented by 12 delegates at the **Selaqui MUN**, held on 27th and 28th of April, 2019. The School was adjudged **best delegation**. Following are the results:

Ipsit Kalra and Satvik Petwal won the **Best Delegate** award. Gurmehar Bedi, Shreyan Mittal, Yuvraj Sarda, and Aryan Bhandari won the **Most Outstanding Delegate** award, while Vivhaan Kothari, Ruhaan Goel, Armaan Rathi, and Ransher Mann received **Honourable Mentions**.

Kudos!

SUCCESSFUL SAVANT

Karan Sampath has been awarded the **Scholar’s Blazer**.

Congratulations!

“

“We all have two lives. The second one starts when we realize that we only have one.”

Tom Hiddleston

THE READER’S CHECKLIST

Which book are you currently reading?

- PKB:** Dozakhama by Rabishankar Bal.
- Ansh Raj:** Nectar in a Sieve by Kamala Markandaya.
- Yash Dewan:** The House of Spirits by Isabel Allende.
- Armaan Verma:** Fierce Pajamas: An Anthology of Humor Writing from the New Yorker by David Remnick.

CRACKING SUCCESS

The School Hockey team participated in the **DM Swing Memorial Hockey Tournament**, held from 24th to 28th of April at Oak Grove School, Mussorie. The team **won** the trophy by beating the hosts 2-0. Ajay Pratap Grewal was adjudged the **Best Player of the Tournament**.

Well played!

ELOQUENT ELOCUTIONISTS

A team comprising Agam Bhatia, Soham Aggarwal and Sriman Goel participated in the **Miss Saroj Srivastava English Debates** held at Welham Girls’ School from 25th to 27th of April, 2019. The team cleared the preliminary rounds, but **lost** in the finals.

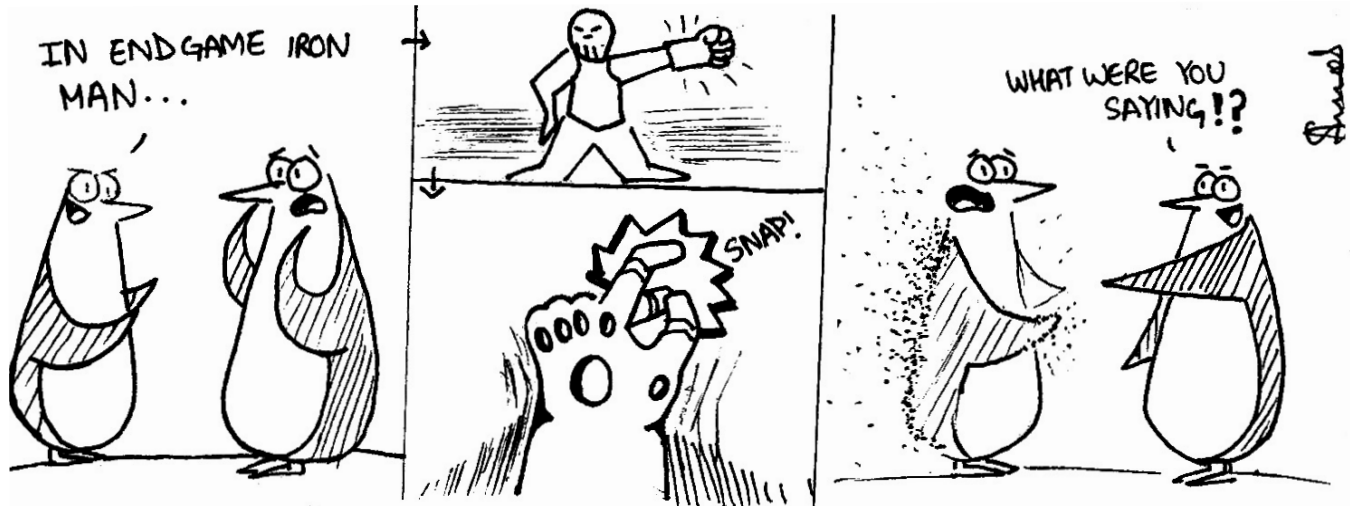
Well done!

Around the World in 80 Words

Japanese emperor Akihito formally stepped down from the throne, making it the first abdication in the world’s oldest monarchy in 200 years. The multinational corporation PepsiCo agreed to withdraw cases against Gujarat farmers. Nearly 800,000 people have been evacuated from India’s eastern coastal districts due to the approaching Cyclone Fani. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was sentenced to 50 weeks in jail for skipping bail. Barcelona beat Liverpool 3-0 in the first leg of the semi-final round of the Champions League.

Doosco Doodle

Spoiler Alert!  
Saatvik Anand



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it really matter, for what I think is something people never try to comprehend. I opened to the last page where I found some scribbles made by Neysa, my younger sister. It was an attempt to write her name. I remember I had scared

her with my anger then, but the inverted ‘E’ adjacent to a wobbly ‘S’ drew different emotions now. Something warm bubbled inside me, but I immediately tried to suppress it to preserve my stubborn appreciation of solitude. Yet, I longed to sit next to her now

and wanted to hear all about her day at school or maybe even the new bracelet she made. I missed her. I missed everyone, strange and familiar because perhaps this isolation wasn’t as peaceful as it should be.

I wanted to go home.

[D Form]

# A New Chapter

Aaron Fareed *fondly recounts his first day at School.*

As I woke up, I was greeted by a bright and gleaming ray of sunlight. The morning was illuminated, birds were singing and the flowers had bloomed. It was the time to put my best foot forward.

It was March 31, a day when a new chapter was to start for me. I was a Superhero with my cape billowing in the wind... “Aaron, Aaron, AARON! Wake Up!” yelled my mother. I woke up from my dream, a bit startled, but then realized my time had actually come.

Dancing my way to the washroom, I freshened up and put on my new clothes, polished my shoes and looked into the mirror with a cheerful face. I was super-excited. I hopped into the car to the magical world of The Doon School. When I reached School, I

felt like an astronaut successfully landing in space. At Doon, we were greeted by a long line of cars at the Chakrata Gate, waiting to get in just like us. The security ushered us in. My father and mother by my side, we walked up to my Holding House i.e. Foot House.

Then, I met my guide Kanhav Modi. He was kind and smart, and told me to put on my ID Card as I marched forward. I was so excited that it was as if the path itself was getting illuminated with my steps.

Lo! Stood in front of me was the humongous and alluring Foot House. I was shown to my dormitory and my Toye. Everything was marvellous. I met other kids there and we became mates in a few minutes.

After a few minutes, we had lunch. It was finger-smacking

delicious- Noodles, Ice Cream, Chilli Potatoes and more. Then we assembled in the MPH for the orientation. Time passed and it was time to say goodbye to my parents. The new chapter had now actually started.

I had this sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach, and immediately broke into tears as I saw my parents leave me there and depart. Never had I felt so lonely in years. I stood expressionless, not letting go of my parents’ hands. I gave them my last hug and kiss, and then I had to go into the fortress of a New World. But my parents will still be with me even when I am away from them.

This is truly a home away from home!

# Lush Memories

Neelotpal *reflects upon the past glories of the Chandbagh campus.*

An article that Vijayaditya had written in the *Weekly* was particularly interesting for me as, like him, I too am fascinated by the natural world. My fascination for nature comes perhaps because I grew up on the lush green Chandbagh campus. Think of the prettiest forest you possibly can and then multiply it by a hundred- that’s what the campus of my childhood looked like. The khud was a maze of trees, home to jungle fowl, a whole lot of migratory birds like lapwings, and mammals such as jackals, civets,

mongoose, and various snakes. On summer afternoons, I would often sneak out of home to explore the *khud* and chance upon jungle fowl feathers or jackal paw prints. Today, though the *khud* is barren, and probably deserted of its original inhabitants, I can still hear the jackals’ eerie howls on cold winter nights.

Snakes are still very rare visitors. Ever since I was a five-year old, I’ve been fascinated by snakes a lot. My interest was fuelled by a certain O-House boy, Arjun Kamdar with whom I had become

good friends. He taught me a lot about snakes, even allowing a trinket to crawl up my arm; once, he gifted me a molted snake skin as a get-well soon present when I’d broken my arm. Also, watching lots of National Geographic documentaries and reading up about them, I’ve realised that some of India’s most deadly snakes inhabited this campus. I used to wonder as a child how these snakes had never been the cause of any death due to snake bite, but I now understand that

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this was so because they were happy in their bamboo grove and wooded homes, keeping well out of our way. However, possibly due to the recent renovation projects, their homes are being destroyed, causing them to come out.

**The *khud* was maze of trees, home to jungle fowl, a whole lot of migratory birds like lapwings, and mammals such as jackals, civets, mongoose, and various snakes.**

While doing so, even if they happen to stop in a garden for a quick meal, our first instinct is to kill it- since most of us can't tell the difference between

say a harmless rat snake and a common krait, just the sight of a rat snake makes us ending up killing it. Another shocking realisation for me was that the civet cats that were once found in good numbers on Chandbagh, were at some point of time killed on a daily basis by setting down traps that would get triggered as soon as the civets would step on it and it would snap shut, leaving the civet to bleed out through the night. Hopefully such cruel things happened only in the past and don't happen anymore.

Recently, one thing that has really begun to bother me is how the *khud* has become a barren land with a visibly low tree cover, and in the deeper parts of the *khud* there are pit-like structures in which a huge amount of trash is dumped and just left there. I agree with Vijayaditya when he says we should not claim to be concerned for the environment if we do not really care for the cause of ecological protection. Instead, we should replant trees and try to restore the natural habitats of the various animals that once inhabited the campus.

# An Adventure in Ajmer

Vir Bhatia reports on the recently-concluded MCGS MUN.

A delegation comprising 15 of the School's experienced diplomats arrived in Ajmer with high hopes and a legacy to live up to. Given our School's perfect record in the past seven years regarding the 'Best Delegation Award' at the Mayo College Girls School Model United Nations, expectations from our delegates were high. Despite the scorching heat, we Doscors did our best to maintain our cool and exercise logic and practical thinking in committee.

The United Nations Security Council, arguably the most competitive committee of the MUN, featured intense debate on the issue in the Sahel region. Ansh Raj skilfully executed the USA's policies and earned a Special Mention. Kartik Subbiah earned a special mention for his work in the United Nations General Assembly, which discussed the rights of indigenous peoples. Samarth Mehra and Raghav Kapur jointly earned a High Commendation for their contributions to the International Press Corps. Vikram Jain earned a special mention in the special Strategic Policy Group committee, while Sanidhya Gautam secured a High Commendation. Great successes were seen in the United Nations Human Rights Council, with Nirvair Singh earning a Special Mention, and Divyansh Nautiyal being awarded the Best Delegate Award.

Regrettably though, the reputed seven-year win streak broke as the delegation's combined efforts failed to clinch the Best Delegation Trophy; we finished second and were recognised with the 'Runners Up

to Best Delegation' Award. Undoubtedly however, the Delegation's most significant achievement was the third-place recognition for our work in the 'Barefoot College Curriculum Design', where we laid our proposals for a physical education course in the Barefoot College village of Tilonia. We are sure they will greatly value their Ultimate Frisbee Training Courses! Conversely, similar success couldn't be found by those visiting the Tilonia campus, due to ulterior agendas.

The Doon School delegation also saw particular success on the social front. Both head delegates secured fine company early in the conference, and sustained the camaraderie. Other members of the delegation however, faced some degree of discomfort. One was seen having a particularly awkward interaction with a Welham Girls' senior, while another struggled to impress his new friends via a spirited performance of the Lion King's "Can You Feel the Love Tonight?" Overall the Conference proved to be an effective way to (re)unite the leading nations, in a social environment, as well as a working atmosphere.

Our journeys to and from the conference, although long and tiring, allowed the delegation to bond with each other, and with SNA sir, as we shared different anecdotes from over the years. We look forward to next year's edition, to reclaim our positions and further our endeavours.



## UNDER THE SCANNER

General Elections | Samarth Kapila

The 2019 General Election is an election like no other. 900 million of India's eligible voters are taking part in the world's largest democratic exercise to elect the members of the House of the People, the 17th Lok Sabha. According to the New Delhi-based Centre for Media Studies, this year's elections will cost an whopping 500 billion rupees. As the elections commenced on the 11th of April, there were over a million polling booths and ten million election officials working towards its success.

The 2019 elections are split into seven phases to cover the 543 constituencies which are spread over 29 states and seven union territories. One member will be elected from each constituency along with two members chosen by the President from the Anglo-Indian community, making it a total of 545 members of the Lok Sabha. It is mandatory to have a polling booth within two kilometres of every habitation, to the extent that one polling booth has been set up deep inside the Gir Forest for merely one person. The party with a majority of seats will form the government and if no single party wins an absolute majority, leading parties will try to form a coalition with smaller parties.

The big question is- will Modi serve another term in office? Losing the local legislative assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chattisgarh to the INC was a big blow for the BJP. The formation of the next government will be largely determined by the BJP's results in three of India's most populous states: Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Bihar, accounting

for 168 or nearly 31% of the total seats. In 2014, BJP had won 116, or almost 40% of these seats. BJP faces fierce competition from the INC and the Mahagathbandhan (the grand alliance), the primary political parties being Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party (SP) and Kumari Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). The INC and BJP's vote share in South India in 2014 was not impressive as regional parties such as the Telugu Desam party received a great majority of votes. This time too, the regional parties seem to have an edge and are expected to clutch the majority of the seats in the region. Other parties such as Mamta Banerjee's All India Trinamool Congress (part of The Third Front) and Shiv Sena (part of the National Democratic Alliance with BJP) also stand in candidacy and will put up a strong front.

Various parties have made innumerable promises to the Indian populace but the manifestos of the BJP and the INC are truly appealing to the public. From jobs to education, healthcare to women empowerment, farmers'

distress to corruption, both the manifestos address abounding issues amongst other things, the Congress promises to have no censorship to allow artists the freedom of expression, make public places safer for women, start a job revolution to fill the lakhs of vacant jobs and create new job opportunities as well. Furthermore, they aim to double the expenditure on healthcare and also uphold Article 370 which confers special status to Jammu and Kashmir. On the other hand, the BJP intends to abolish Triple Talaq and Nikah Halala, adopt cleaner practices to make India greener, double farmers' income by 2022 and double the number of specialist doctors by 2024. It also has an ambitious plan of making India a \$5 trillion economy by 2025. As opposed to the INC, BJP proposes to abolish Article 370.

As we reflect on Modi's tenure, demonetisation, GST, and Pulwama were some of the many policies and actions that have been scrutinised by the public and have gone a long way in swaying public opinion to either side. With the fifth phase to initiate on the 6th of May, the anxious public and candidates eagerly await the results to be announced on 23rd May.



# The Week Gone By

Divyansh Nautiyal

Returned from Ajmer, many remain dazed as they are physically present on campus but mentally somewhere else. Managing to come back only one day after Sunday, I thank everyone involved in spoiling Endgame and Episode three of Game of Thrones for me and many others simultaneously. Right what we wanted on entering Chandbagh!

Moving to our sporting pursuits, the School Hockey team emerged victorious at Oak Grove and continue the winning streak at Welham Boys as well. Running parallel is the Basketball team

which performs equally well with back-to-back wins in the local tournaments that they participate in.

While School engages in so much at Inter-School and House levels, the number of events that School participates in finds itself in a fiery debate. The idea of cutting down the number of competitions which the School participates in is being seriously considered in view of the once existent and followed rule of a student being allowed to only miss ten days of the term. The idea of a pilot year with no Inter-Houses is surfacing too; a radical one but one which can really let the students look beyond an intrinsically incentive based structure. While Wednesday morning Assembly did remind the School of the importance of the

Doon School curriculum outside the walls of the classroom, we also need to be mindful of the extent to which we want to pursue those goals.

While S and SC form managed to survive their PTM, the next batches in line for their heads on the block today happen to be B and A form. While some will manage to pass unscathed in the absence of their parents, there is absolutely no cause for fear and nervousness for the others. The ones that need the most amount of good luck is our batch; for today we will tread into the ‘well chartered’ territory of Dalanwala with our third round of Socials underway. Conclusively, one piece of advice: do not hesitate to try your luck, you may never know what you may find.

## Wordsearch | Avengers

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the alter-ego of Walter Newell, who is known to work underwater.
- 2. This telepathic superhero shares her name with several others in the Marvel Universe, but she is the only one to have become an Avenger.
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Edward “Tony” Stark is Iron Man’s real name
- 4. Wanda Maximoff’s brother, who is known for his speed, is this superhero.
- 5. Captain Marvel’s real name is Carol \_\_\_\_\_ Jane Danvers.
- 6. This persons main source of power comes from ten alien rings.
- 7. This superhero is a practitioner of black magic, he is considered to be a peer of Doctor Strange’s mentor the Ancient One.
- 8. This superhero gained her powers when she was bonded to a suit of armour.
- 9. The name of Vision’s alias is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10. Scott Lang’s real daughter grows up to become this superhero.
- 11. The Reality stone is also known as the \_\_\_\_\_.

Q O U W Z K F Z Q Z V S V U U K S I X Z  
E Y Y G A D W D Q G D H N X S K V I B N  
Q D U M Q U I C K S I L V E R O B R Z N  
I T X G G V N Z D V Q N S J Y B C G H Y  
S L S N C U C J N R U A G L X A N K F J  
G Y W N L T A F I H U S P H F Q F I R N  
Q K G H P I E M R G V U S L E U L I M U  
L R S C H B J D A G U S T I N G R A Y K  
P O D C U D Y P D H C Y A U F Y K N Z S  
G I L Z O F N X N O O N T U C S H K P O  
H L K B K M A S A B G O U X T A B I H D  
O H Z D A L E B M Q Y H R D U Y Q M R Y  
K S H K Y H E F Y U N T E U A R Z A P F  
G J R Y C D M J E S G N L D K O W O W S  
G A R K M J I J N H S A N E T G A P T H  
T V Q K T I Y C B W K O N U N P L J D T  
B S H E X Y B H S A N O J U E J A N B I  
P V L J R O E X A E T H E R O N S Y A N  
E A J C B Y N E C S U K D I P A Y Q Y R  
C A J W W S O P B U T X E P O S D G N R

Note: All answers to this wordsearch are the concerned persons’ surnames.

Answers to This Week's Wordsearch	1. Singray	6. Mandarin
2. Abyss	7. Kalu	
3. Anthony	8. Pod	
4. Quicksilver	9. Jonas	
5. Susan	10. Stature	
	11. Aether	

Source: <http://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/word-search/>

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