

# The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot

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# Of Dangerous Demeanours

**Ahan Jayakumar and Shreyan Mittal** *talk about the effect of appearance in today's society.*

'Looks that kill.' While this may be a popular song by Mötley Crüe, in today's day and age the phrase has a much more literal meaning. Every day, we read newspapers filled with stories about violence and sexual assault – so much so that it has now become normalised in our society. While a lot of such incidents can be blamed on the guilty party being intoxicated, and/or being past offenders, one can notice that slowly, but surely, a pattern is beginning to emerge. The way people dress, their religion, their race, and even their physical appearance become dangerous if they don't fit another person's approval.

Often, when sexual offenders are asked why they committed such a gruesome crime, their justification is that the victims were wearing revealing clothes. Somehow, by wearing a particular type of attire, anyone has the right to mistreat you; by wearing clothes you are comfortable in, you are giving your consent to be treated like an object. This is a classic case in which people are confusing someone's appearance with their identity.

Let's take an example or two to prove that this is a problem that is becoming increasingly prevalent in today's society. The Kathua rape case, which took place nearly two years ago in, is a prime example of this problem. In court, when the convicts were asked what their

motive for this brutal act was, they replied by saying that the victim came from a Muslim nomadic community, and they wanted to get rid of people like her. Simply because she was from a different community, and dressed in clothes which showcase her culture and heritage – something she should be proud of – she was raped and murdered. Humans, supposedly the smartest and most evolved beings on the planet, can't even process the fact that there are people with different beliefs from theirs, and are therefore unwilling to accept them for who they are. Once an asset, your appearance has now become a liability to who you are (especially to the women and transgender people).

However, if you think that consequences of such abhorrent ideology are limited to rape, you are severely mistaken. There is something much worse that has just recently come under the limelight: 'Acid Attacks'. They not only ruin someone's physical appearance, but also take a heavy toll on their mental health. Take the recently released movie *Chhapaak* for instance. Laxmi Agarwal, a 24 year old woman (presently 29), had her life ruined after she was attacked with acid, but she grew the confidence to show her face in public. However, not everyone is like her; there are still thousands of people, especially girls, who

are too afraid to come out and show themselves. The same can be said for rape victims. Thanks to movements such as #MeToo, people have started opening up about being sexually abused. In many parts of the world, it is still considered a shame for the family of the rape victim to open up about these acts. While this mentality has thankfully been considerably eradicated in some many parts of the world, the many others hinder us from progressing further.

Till now, we have only spoken about how others can cause harm to you because of your appearance, but that is not the only case. Many a time people become too insecure about who they are, and constantly try to fit in to society's standards of 'good looking'. They then undergo plastic surgeries and other procedures to fit into the mould society has created. The pressure to fit in – to transform oneself just to satisfy someone else – has somehow been normalised. It has become normal to see oversized and modified body parts on the television, on the streets, and on the cover of magazines.

Although not on such a large scale, people are also affected by their physical appearance within the walls of Chandbagh. They are made fun of for being overweight, and this leads to their exclusion from various sports, because it

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

*I wrote the Dosco Doodle.*

**Sai Arjun**, rewriting history.

*During the midnight.*

**Aarush Saxena**, time pass.

*These guys are so slacks.*

**Pratham Joshi**, hard-working.

*If there is no milk in ice-cream, it should be called ice-water.*

**Rushil Choudhary**, brain freeze.

*I will call the Kanchan.*

**KLK**, calling in reinforcements.

*Speak when you're quiet.*

**RKM**, speechless.

The following were the results of the 2020 Oscars:

**Best Picture:** Parasite

**Best Director:** Bong Joon-ho, Parasite

**Best Actor:** Joaquin Phoenix, Joker

**Best Actress:** Renée Zellweger, Judy

**Best Supporting Actor:** Brad Pitt, Once Upon a Time in Hollywood

**Best Supporting Actress:** Laura Dern, Marriage Story

**Best Animated Feature:** Toy Story 4

**Best Adapted Screenplay:** Taika Waititi, Jojo Rabbit

**Best Visual Effects:** 1917

**Best Original Score:** Hildur Guonadotter, Joker

“

One can state, without exaggeration, that the observation of and the search for similarities and differences are the basis of all human knowledge.

—

Alfred Nobel

## THE BLUE BADGE

Udbhav Tomar has been awarded the **Games' Blazer**.

Congratulations!

## This Week in History

**1809 CE:** Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of the United States of America, known for the abolishment of slavery is born.

**1909 CE:** The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) is founded.

**1912 CE:** The last emperor of China, Hsian-T'ung abdicates the Throne.

**1942 CE:** Singapore surrenders to Japan.

**1972 CE:** Cambodians launch attack to retake Angkor Wat from North Vietnamese troops.

**1973 CE:** Release of U.S. POWs begins after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords.

**1999 CE:** President Bill Clinton acquitted on both articles of impeachment.

## Around the World in 80 Words

The Aam Aadmi Party won the Delhi elections against BJP with a staggering majority of 88%. Astronaut Christina Koch broke the record for the longest time spent in space, staying there for a total of eleven months. Libya National Army leader Khalifa Haftar's forces banned flights from landing in Libya's only functional airport after the United Nations passed a resolution for a long-lasting ceasefire. India finalised two defence deals with the United States of America worth over 3.5 billion dollars.



(Continued from Page 1)

is immediately thought that they would be *dallas* at it. Instead of encouraging them to work out and lend their hand in inter-house events, people completely give up on them and continuously mock them for being fat, despite it being partially their fault. Many people are even teased for being dark-skinned, even after the horrifying events that took place throughout history, which again highlights

our indifference to how much society has (supposedly) changed. This is not just the one-odd case that occurs, but it is a recurring problem that is quite widespread, and frankly quite pathetic to look at. This indifference will create a vicious cycle that will be hard to break out of when we exit the gates of Chandbagh.

People need to understand that judging others based only on their appearance is redundant, and that

if they want a better society, they need to start speaking up. Even one person can make a change, and frankly, we desperately need change, otherwise this situation will reach a point of no-return. If we continue on this path, society will end up taking a turn for the worse, making life much harder for many people through no fault of their own.



## UNDER THE SCANNER

Donald Trump's Acquittal | Gurmehar Bedi

Charged with the abuse of power and the obstruction of Congress, Donald John Trump was the third US president to be impeached and face the threat of being removed from office. Luckily for the billionaire President, he was acquitted on February 5 this year.

The story begins on September 24, 2019, when House Speaker Nancy Pelosi commenced an impeachment inquiry against President Trump. According to the allegations against him, Trump had pressurised the Ukrainian President to investigate Joe Biden, the potential Democrat candidate for the presidential elections this year, for any misconduct or secrets that might harm his campaign. He did so by withholding \$400 million of military aid to Ukraine, and denying the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky an opportunity to visit the White House. These steps led to him being accused of abuse of power. Additionally, he declined cooperation with the congressional inquiry, which was seen as obstruction of Congress.

Donald Trump was impeached on December 18, 2019, with the Democrat-dominated House of Representatives passing the two articles of impeachment. The trial

for his removal from office began January 16 before the Senate, the House in which the Republicans have the majority. The prosecution provided its evidence from January 22-24, while the defence made its arguments from January 25-28. The argumentation was followed by sessions for questions and debates. Ultimately, the Senate voted to acquit him with a vote margin of 52-48 on charges of abuse of power and 53-47 on obstruction of Congress. Although it was a disappointment for many, the acquittal was certainly not a surprise, as it was predicted by people across the world. In fact, Donald Trump's removal from office did not even seem to be a possibility, primarily due to the

Republican-dominated Senate.

Had the President been convicted on either of the two accusations against him, Vice President Mike Pence would have taken office. Despite speculations being made by his critics, Trump has firmly denied all forms of misconduct right from the onset. Although the Democrats have failed to achieve their much-desired result of ousting Trump, the trial itself has further tainted the deteriorating image of the President. Since he is the first impeached president to run for re-election, political analysts around the globe are speculating whether or not the trial will adversely impact Trump's 2020 presidential campaign. Although only one in three American adults accept the acquittal, Trump is likely to return to be re-elected, especially due to his electoral efficiency, which had left people astonished in 2016.



# An Exhibition of Expression

*Shivya Majumdar reports on the recently held India Art Fair that took place in New Delhi.*

A team comprising eleven students and three masters visited the India Art Fair (IAF) in New Delhi on February 1. The exhibition included many carefully curated artworks of artists from across the globe. The fair's schedule allowed curators, gallerists, art enthusiasts, private establishments, and national and international audiences to come together and connect in an interactive communal space.

The weak morning sunlight was immediately overcome by the excitement of beholding artworks ranging from internationally acclaimed pieces to works by budding artists. At the beginning of our visit, a volunteer at the IAF showed us a few works and gave us an idea of the mindset with which one should approach the various types of traditional and contemporary displays. After the guided tour, we walked around the exhibition ground and explored the diverse display of creativity. We came across handmade miniatures of public spaces created by Sahil Naik, paintings by world-renowned architect B.V. Doshi, a meticulously delicate and intricate miniature

style painting ('Abyss': gouache on gold) by R. Vijay, and a part of the heart-wrenching photograph series (SWEET LIFE – Life is Elsewhere) displayed by fellow Dosco Sohrab Hura.

Apart from acquiring knowledge on Indian artists and acquainting ourselves with the nationwide shift in the approach towards expression through art, we also had the privilege to see world renowned sculptures like 'Grapes' and 'Martin' by the revolutionary Chinese contemporary artist Ai Weiwei. The sheer magnitude of some interactive installations like the 'Deep Cosmological Constant Collective' by Olafur Eliasson left us appreciating the level of skill and talent presented by artists.

We also had the opportunity to talk to some of the artists on display. Our interaction with Dhananjay Singh, a metal sculptor, pointed out the importance of humility, while our conversations with Manisha Gera Baswani, a painter and photographer, reminded us to be true to ourselves and fear nothing in life.

By the end of the day, we left IAF with a sense of gratitude. To see such diversity of quality artwork and have every colour, stroke of the paintbrush, and choice of media explained by curators and gallerists gave us all a definitive and explicit method to perceive and interpret art in the future. IAF served as a bounty of inspiration which galvanised us to start creating art by connecting with our deeper conscience. To hold conversations with your heart and create artwork out of those dialogues is a personal task, but seeing so many artists in discussion with their inner selves and expressing through their art gave us all the confidence to do the same.



## Death and the Other Horsemen

**Anant Kakkar**

He rides on the lonely road along the Styx; he rides alone until the end of time.

When the end-times do come, he is joined by his brethren, and they become the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. But death is a strange character. The others come and go, each new incarnation was once mortal, but death is eternal. It has always been there, and will be there until the end.

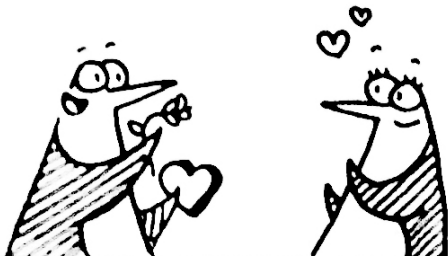
He is the only one of the four who appears whenever a being dies or fades away; he is there to comfort some and terrorise others. He is the only one to reveal himself when the others hide and sadistically laugh; he embraces all.

Death always enters silently, with families pleading. Death – surreptitious as always - carries their souls into the other world. But now, death has grown bitter, man has become too corrupt, and there are very few good people left in the world. He has become restless, and the end is coming.

War is going to spark the first conflict, and in the middle of that conflict, pestilence is going to sweep over Eurasia. This is finally going to crush humanity. Death thinks to himself, "I will enjoy the end-times, when all the evil in the mortal realm will be wiped away." Death will boil away the seas and begin life anew.

# Love is in the Air

*The Weekly wishes the School  
Community a Happy  
Valentine's Day!*



## The Origins of Valentine's Day

In the third century, the Roman Empire was ruled by Emperor Claudius II Gothicus. He believed that recruitment for the army was down because Roman men did not want to leave their loves or families behind, so he cancelled all marriages and engagements in Rome. Thousands of couples saw their hopes of matrimony dashed by the single act of a tyrant, and no one seemed interested in standing up to the emperor.

A simple Christian priest named Valentine came forward and stood up for love. He began to secretly marry soldiers before they went off to war, despite the emperor's orders. In 269 A.D., Emperor Claudius found out about the secret ceremonies. He had Valentine thrown into prison and deemed that he would be put to death.

As Valentine was awaiting execution, he fell in love with a blind girl who happened to be the jailer's daughter. On the eve of his execution, with no writing instruments available, Valentine is said to have written her a sonnet in ink that he squeezed from violets. On the cover of the letter, it was written, "From your Valentine". Legend has it that his words made the blind woman see again. It was a brief romance, however, because the next day Valentine was clubbed to death by Roman executioners.

## Microfiction

Karan Agarwal

They called him selfish for leaving.  
She called herself liberated.  
He called himself a lover.  
History called them an example.

He said love was a deep, dark pit.  
She peered into its depths.  
"It can't be that bad."  
They decided to fall in together.

He thought he knew about her.  
She knew he thought about her.  
They slept that night,  
Believing their own fantasies.

## My Valentine

Krishnav Sachdev

Back then, when I saw you every day,  
We were in love, but were forced to part ways.  
From the start, I knew that I'd fallen for you;  
With all my heart, I hoped you had too.

But, my feelings for you were kept out of sight,  
Even though it hurt me, for they burn so very  
bright.

So I stole glances at you from across the path,  
Taking in that beauty, wanting to be a part.

Your subtle smile, your enthralling eyes,  
They are my lifeline; they keep me alive.  
But, thinking about you now, I feel lost,  
Like leaves on a winter night, my heart in frost.

I was waiting for the moment, waiting to seize it,  
And now I spot a fleeting chance, so I must take it.  
I shout, I hurt, I make a mess,  
And now I think that I must confess.

I can't get through this lifetime,  
Without your love, My Valentine.

# Coronavirus: A Series of Events

**1380+**  
DEATHS

**64,430**  
CASES

**6919**  
RECOVERED



## SYMPTOMS

Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.

**December 31, 2019:** Cases of pneumonia detected in Wuhan, China, are first reported to the World Health Organisation. During this period, the virus is unknown.

**January 1, 2020:** Chinese health authorities close the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market after it is discovered that wild animals sold there may be the source of the virus.

**January 5, 2020:** China announces that the unknown pneumonia cases in Wuhan are not SARS or MERS. The Wuhan Municipal Health Commission says a retrospective probe into the outbreak has been initiated.

**January 7, 2020:** Chinese authorities confirm that they have identified the virus as a novel coronavirus, named 2019-nCoV by the WHO.

**January 11, 2020:** The Wuhan Municipal Health Commission announces the first death caused by the coronavirus. A 61 year-old man exposed to the virus at the seafood market died on January 9 due to respiratory failure caused by severe pneumonia.

**January 13, 2020:** Thai authorities report a case of infection caused by the coronavirus. The infected individual is a Chinese national who had arrived from Wuhan.

**January 16, 2020:** Japan confirms that a Japanese man coming from Wuhan is infected with the virus.

**January 17, 2020:** Chinese health officials confirm second death in China. The US responds to the outbreak by implementing screenings for symptoms at airports in San Francisco, New York and Los Angeles.

**January 21, 2020:** Officials in Washington state confirm the first case on US soil.

**January 23, 2020:** The Beijing Culture and Tourism Bureau cancels all large-scale Lunar New Year celebrations in an effort to contain the growing spread of Wuhan coronavirus.

**January 28, 2020:** Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom in Beijing. At the meeting, Xi and the WHO agree to send a team of international experts, including US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention staff, to China to investigate the coronavirus outbreak.

**January 29, 2020:** The White House announces the formation of a new task force that will help monitor and contain the spread of the virus, and ensure Americans have accurate and up-to-date health and travel information, it said.

**January 30, 2020:** The US reports its first confirmed case of person-to-person transmission of the Wuhan coronavirus.

**February 3, 2020:** China's Foreign Ministry accuses the US government of inappropriately reacting to the outbreak and spreading fear by enforcing travel restrictions

**February 11, 2020:** WHO officially names Coronavirus "COVID-19"

**February 13, 2020:** Japan announces first death due to Coronavirus.

*All facts and figures are accurate at the time of printing, and are taken from <https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>*

# What Makes a Classic?

Armaan Rathi elaborates on the nature of a classic piece of literature.

While walking to the house after dinner, I had an intriguing conversation with my form-mate. It began with me suggesting to him a book to read, and ended with a familiar response, “Yaar, you know how I’m not into this old classical stuff. How ‘bout you suggest something more my type; a thriller or something”. After hearing this response many times from various members of the community, I realised that I had to disabuse the perennial notion of a classic being an esoteric, inaccessible book; one which only the ‘elite’ or ‘scholarly’ can interpret.

There’s far more to a classical text than just being old or belonging to an era vastly different from contemporary society. A classic is a book that has stood the test of time because of the universal and timeless ideas it puts forward. What sets a classic apart from a bestseller you pick up at the railway station is that a classic is a book that offers as much of a sense of discovery with each rereading as the first reading does<sup>[1]</sup>. Another metric that qualifies a book as a classic is its literary calibre. A classic has to be of some profound quality to be remembered and have a significant effect on the reader. Without this, the book would not have retained its value over the years. Although styles and techniques change, a classic must offer some evergreen artistic worth.

Another cardinal characteristic of a classic is its historical endowment. Most classics chronicle a certain time period. Reading a novel by Charles Dickens makes the reader understand the world of a worker during the Victorian era. In his books, Dickens condemns the impersonal and pragmatic

attitude adopted by industrialists throughout the Industrial Revolution, and the pain felt by workers in a deeply stratified society. Another example is the anti-slavery book *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe, which reflected attitudes against slavery in the years preceding the American Civil War. A popular technique used often is authors’ allegorical approaches, seen in the works of authors like George Orwell, whose book, *1984* painted a fictitious totalitarian society, and spoke of themes like censorship and freedom. .

**A classic has to be of some profound quality to be remembered and have a significant effect on the reader. Without this, the book would not have retained its value over the years.**

However, the most important aspect of a classic is its universal appeal. A classic presents themes such as love, death, despair, and faith in a manner that connects readers to the author, no matter how different their worlds may be. Classics give birth to unadulterated emotions about the characters penned by the writer, which can only be done after an intimate relationship has been forged between the book and the reader. That is how a book endures the perils of time, and ceases to fade amidst the chaos of the written word.

1. *Why Read the Classics* by Italo Calvino

## An Intolerance Towards Lactose

Siddhant Srivatsava talks about the pros and cons of drinking milk.

When you think of milk, you may think of your childhood when your mother would make you drink a glass of milk before going to school every day. But is milk as good as it is described? This article is written to inform you about all the pros and cons of drinking milk, so put your glass of milk down before you read this!

First of all, we need to understand that even though we may not realise it, 65 percent of Asians are lactose intolerant, which means that most of our stomachs cannot digest milk or dairy in the first place! Doctors have started advising most to only consume

dairy during infancy, as it builds a passive immunity. Moreover, beating the myth, milk is scientifically proven not to be good for your bones, a fact that can come as a surprise for many. Furthermore, it can also increase the risk of cancer in humans by increasing the level of an insulin-like growth factor in the body, which is known to increase the occurrence of cancer. The consumption of dairy is also directly linked to heart disease because it contains saturated fats.

Finally, dairy products do not in any way improve performance in sports, beating the age-old legend. So, drop that glass of milk now!

# The Week Gone By

Adit Chatterjee

This week, the S-Formers trudged alongside their immediate seniors to face the infamous war of mind and skill between invigilators and exam-takers, as they took the first ever Grade 11 Board Examinations. The mind, however, seems rather unused, considering the comfort of familiarity with over-utilisation of the skills required to look over one's shoulder, pass answer papers around, and sneakily read off the various "tattoos" made on the morning of the exam. While I wouldn't condone their actions (on paper), I wish them the very best in their endeavours, and hope they don't end up with tears of failure,

or in the blinding yellow of a YC.

The much-awaited Futsal courts were inaugurated on Wednesday, and the various *Quadi*-Football teams relocated themselves to the new turf behind Oberoi House. Consequently, a certain History teacher has now made it her goal in life to see the courts done away with, after hearing some examples of the classic Dosco language. Hopefully, the masters residing behind Oberoi House aren't rudely woken on a Sunday morning by our aforementioned lingo, or we may see the courts shut for good before the warmth of March even comes around. One new instalment that doesn't seem to be going anywhere, however, are the rather adorably coloured 'calisthenic' open-air gyms, which don't seem to be frequented much, as we would gain a few kilos rather than be caught at one of those.

The chemistry block received a taste of its own medicine on Friday, as a group of chemists poured mysterious concoctions into the locks on the science classrooms. I believe that this was a perfect example of the ingenuity of Doscos, as it effectively got rid of the first two schools, something that not even the harsh cold could do, considering that only the first school was cancelled for that.

Yesterday, the final house feast was held for the SCLs, and many a tear was shed in one of the most emotional moments of the year. Luckily (or maybe not), the outgoing batch's time in School is still far from over, as they have numerous papers to go until Goa sees an influx of visitors to its sandy beaches and nightclubs.

In the end, I wish you the best of luck for the upcoming Trials. Till next time.

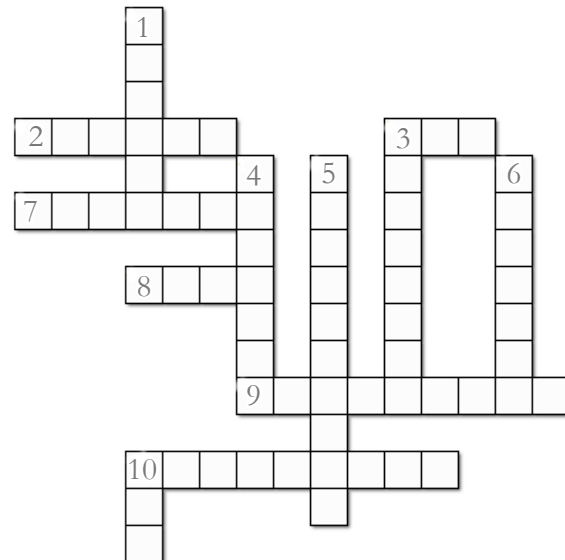
## Crossword | Inventors

### Across

- \_\_\_\_\_ was an African-American inventor, businessman, and political leader who invented the three position traffic signal.
- The creator of the Post-it Note.
- The VELCRO brand was invented by a man named \_\_\_\_\_ in the 1940's while hunting in the Jura mountains in Switzerland.
- The inventor of the potato chip was this renowned African-American chef.
- This German blacksmith, printer, and publisher invented the printing press in 1468.
- This German spectacle maker is generally credited as the inventor of the telescope.

### Down

- Brothers who created the first airplane that took off from Kitty Hawk on December 17, 1903.
- This American polymath and the Founding Father of the United States is known for the discovery of electricity.
- Professor of Bacteriology at St. Mary's Hospital in London. Discovered penicillin, the first true antibiotic in 1928.
- This Scottish scientist created the first electric bread toaster.
- An American physicist who invented the microwave oven.
- This English engineer and computer scientist is best known as the inventor of the World Wide Web.



Across		Down	
2. Morgan	3. Fry	1. Wright	4. Fleming
7. Mestral	8. Crum	5. MacMasters	6. Spence
9. Gutenberg	10. Lippert	10. Lee	

Answers to This Week's Crossword:

Source: <https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/>

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