

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY



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

February 10, 2024 | Issue No. 2696

## SAILING THROUGH STORMS

In life, resilience and perseverance are of the utmost importance.

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## In the Ember’s Wake

**Hrishikesh Aiyer** *talks about the declining spirit of guidance and mentorship in School.*

When we, as the juniormost cohort that year, first set foot on the grounds of Doon, a strong sense of awe and respect enveloped us. The towering traditions, meticulously upheld by those who had walked the halls before us, instilled in us a profound sense of reverence. However, as time unfolded, the cherished institution underwent a transformation that cast a disquieting shadow over its essence.

The Pandemic, in an inadvertent manner, served as a revealer, peeling back layers and exposing the deep-seated issues that had been silently festering beneath the surface. The cracks in the foundational bedrock, once a source of unabashed pride, purpose and unity, are not mere surface imperfections; they signify a profound, systemic erosion of the values, camaraderie and shared purpose that were the lifeblood of our community.

At the core of this transformative shift lies an unsettling acceptance of mediocrity — a quiet comfort with the mundane that now permeates our daily interactions, choices and aspirations. This disconcerting complacency manifests in the waning enthusiasm and palpable lack of spirit in what were once vibrant Inter-House competitions, now reduced to mere shadows of their

former glory. These competitions, once spirited celebrations of our shared heritage, drive and will, have succumbed to a quiet decay, indicative of a loss of the values and shared purpose that once animated our community.

Compounding these concerns is an evident and growing apathy — a collective departure from the principles, values and aspirations that were once the unifying force binding us together. This apathy reveals itself in various disquieting ways: a decline in commitment to academic pursuits, a waning enthusiasm for activities, and even a perceptible diminution in simple acts of kindness. It is a subtle but insidious fading of the flame that once burned brightly within each of us, casting a shadow over the very essence of our shared experience.

Our discontent as Juniors is not transient; it is a deep, heartfelt response to the profound sense of loss, disillusionment, and betrayal we feel towards our senior counterparts. The repeated mantra during countless speeches, proclaiming Seniors as the “backbone of support,” has become a painful reminder of a promise left unfulfilled.

This disillusionment stems from a tangible shift in the priorities, values, and actions of our senior peers. Instead of assuming the mantle as guardians

of our cherished legacy, many Seniors find themselves entangled in a relentless pursuit of superficial achievements and fleeting recognition. This myopic focus on short-term gains has exacted a significant toll — a neglect of the deeper, enduring aspects of our legacy. The values, traditions, and intangibles that once formed the bedrock of our institution have been overshadowed, marginalized, and, at times, forgotten.

Furthermore, this erosion of values and principles has led to a troubling commodification of the intangibles that play a crucial role in our institutional foundation. The camaraderie, brotherhood, and shared purpose that were once deemed priceless are now subjected to measurement, quantification, and even trade — a disturbing trend that threatens to undermine the very essence of our community.

The consequences of this commodification extend beyond theory, permeating the fabric of our shared experiences. It diminishes the intrinsic value of our collective achievements, trivializes our shared victories, and erodes the sense of belonging and identity that once united us in common purpose.

This trend also reflects a broader failure — a failure to

*(Continued on Page 3)*

**UP ANOTHER RUNG**

The following are the sports appointments for the year **2024-25**:

**Athletics:** Udathveer Pasricha

**Badminton:** Arnav Agarwal

**Basketball:** Jaisal Sahgal

**Boxing:** Samyak Jain

**Chess:** Aaron Fareed

**Cricket:** Rohan Jalan

**Cross Country:** Arjun Prakash

**Football:** Arjun Prakash and Karma Kheni

**Hockey:** Anant Vikas Jain

**P.T. Leader:** Arjun Prakash

**Shooting:** Dhairya Veer Khanna

**Squash:** Vidit Agarwal

**Swimming:** Kabir Takhtar

**Table Tennis:** Daksh Garg

**Tennis:** Jason Patel

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

**MAESTROS OF MELODY**

The following are the Music appointments for the forthcoming year:

**Music Captain:** Aadi Jain

**Dance Captain:** Rohhan Soni

**Orchestra Leaders:** Divit Fatehpuria and Vignesh Dodla

**Choir Leader:** Atharv Jain

**Percussion Leader:** Veer Agarwal

**Popular Band Leaders:** Vivaan Sood and Arav Khanal.

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

“

The only thing standing between you and outrageous success is continuous progress. You need discipline.

Dan Waldschmidt

**THE WRITERS GUILD**

The following are the appointments for the year **2024-25**:

**Publications:**

**The Altruist:**

**Editor-in-Chief:** Kabir Gandhi

**Chief-of-Production:** Samarveer Bisen

**The Infinity:**

**Editor-in-Chief:** Krtin Goel

**Chief-of-Production:** Anant Jain

**The Circle:**

**Editor-in-Chief:** Vignesh Dodla

**Chief-of-Production:** Vivaan Sood

**Newsletters:**

**Health Today:**

**Editor-in-Chief:** Syeon Bajaj

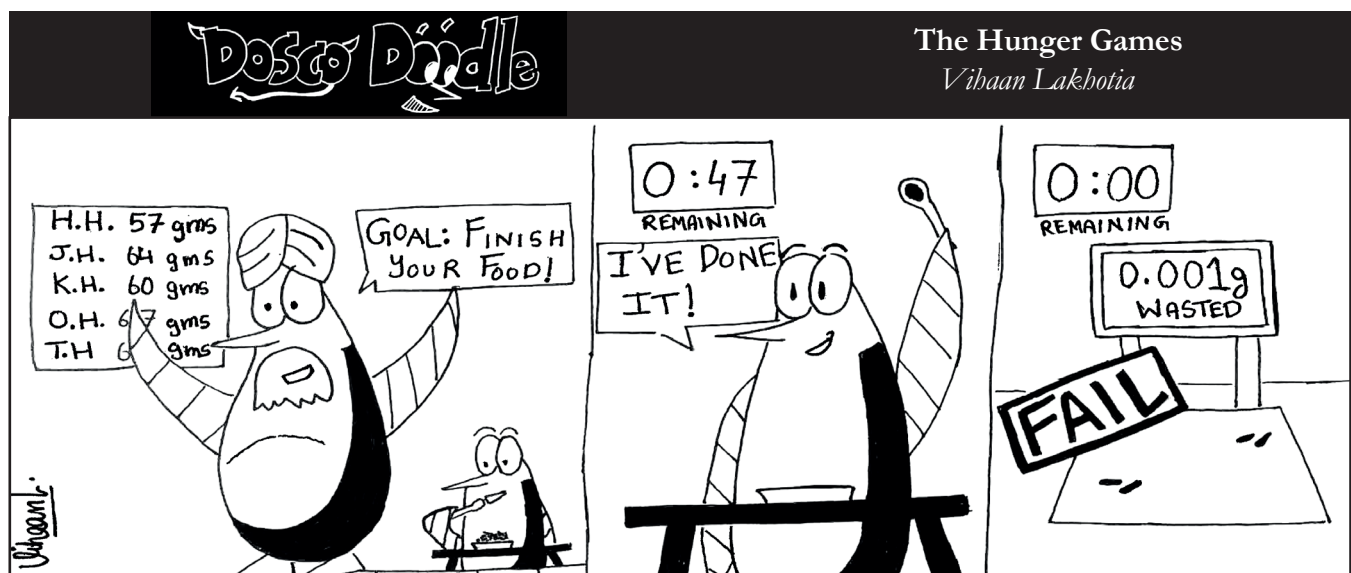
We wish them a fruitful tenure!

**OBITUARY**

The *Weekly* deeply regrets the passing of Mr Dinesh Chandra Bhatkoti (DCB), who served the School as a Master in the Science department for 32 years from 1982 to 2014. During his tenure he served as the Head of the Science department and as Housemaster of Foot House. On behalf of the entire School Community we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

**Around the World in 80 Words**

Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu rejected the terms of a ceasefire proposed by Hamas, as the war entered its fourth month. At the Grammys, Taylor Swift made history by winning the 'Album of the Year' award for a record fourth time. Buckingham Palace announced that King Charles was diagnosed with Cancer. Ground staff at Lufthansa Airlines announced a strike over a pay dispute, which could potentially affect up to a hundred thousand people. Arsenal beat Liverpool 3-1 in the Premier League.



(Continued from Page 1)

recognize, appreciate and honor the profound legacy that has sustained generations of DoscOs. The pursuit of transient gains has ensnared us, blurring our vision and causing us to lose sight of the deeper, enduring values and traditions that define us as a community. The vibrancy, camaraderie, and shared purpose that once animated our community are increasingly overshadowed by apathy, indifference, and an unsettling acceptance of the status quo.

Adding to the complexity is the fading role of Seniors, once revered as mentors and role models. With the erosion of their

traditional role, a void emerges — a conspicuous absence that reverberates through the corridors and classrooms, leaving a sense of disorientation and disconnect in its wake. In conclusion, our journey through Doon transcends the boundaries of academics and pursuits; it is a profound journey that shapes character, moulds values and defines our collective legacy. As Juniors, we find ourselves at a pivotal juncture, entrusted with the daunting task of navigating this journey with unwavering integrity, purpose, and a renewed commitment to the values that have long been the soul of our institution.

The onus rests on our shoulders, as custodians of Doon's future, to learn from past missteps, to reclaim and rekindle the values and traditions that define us as *DoscOs*. Only through such concerted efforts can we hope to honour Doon's rich heritage, fortify its legacy, and ensure that its flame continues to illuminate the path for future generations, casting aside the encroaching shadows of apathy and indifference to reignite the fervour that once defined the spirit of our beloved institution.

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## Sailing Through Storms

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**Vedant Mangal** writes about the importance of holding your head high during losses.

“Be anything but a *bechara*” are the words that echo through my subconscious whenever I feel low or disconsolate. I still remember that cathartic day when my father came back from work, exhausted and disgruntled. We all knew that our family was going through incredibly harsh times, but my father hardly showed any signs of defeat or disappointment. My siblings too spoke of hardships that they experienced firsthand or through peers.

At that moment, my father switched off the television, and for the first time that day, his smile turned into the godfather-like face he always wore when he was serious. “To pout whenever adversity comes your way, to start whimpering like a scared cat, or to feel sorry for yourself is pointless,” he addressed the entire family, looking us in the eyes. In the most profound manner possible, he continued, “Listen, in this world, adversity comes everyone's way, but in no way does that give you the right to cry, especially when you are wearing the most astonishing clothes, having the most delicious meals, and living in the most luxurious manner imaginable. Wait till you go out into the real world and look at their lives — lives where people do not have food to eat, or clothes to wear, or a mattress to sleep on. Yet, I don't see those people crying. I don't see those people pouting away.”

My father looked a bit more relaxed now, gave me a compassionate look, and said, “When things are not going your way, will you just be sad and pout away?” He lowered his godfatherly gaze and continued, “Children, I know that times are tough, but what else can you do except work with all your zest to resolve

it? You can't avoid the problem, and you cannot feel sorry for yourself because that is what cowards do. I am surprised that out of all the people in the world, you guys are not happy, children. You mustn't cry or be sad because you have everything that people would dream of.”

He then asked all of us to come closer and said, “Children, in life, problems will not desert you, and they will keep coming your way. But in no way does that give you the right to feel sorry for yourself and fall into the pit of depression because firstly, feeling sorry for yourself will not help fix the situation at hand. Secondly, if you fall under the whims of your emotions, then you will weaken the hopes of all the people dependent on you.”

Many people will question me, but all I can say is that if Doon has to progress and tackle through these new waves of change, then we need to shed this *bechara* attitude from our very souls. You, dear readers, need to realize that if you cannot get into a school team, then you can't feel sorry for yourself. Instead, you have to buckle up and work hard until you get in. We DoscOs have been sitting still for a long time now, sitting deep down into the self-dug holes of self-pity, and it's time to wake up and actually live the journey the DoscOs before us have lived. We need to learn how to figure problems out, for that's what great people do. That is what Doon was made for — to create men who can go through all obstacles of the world without batting an eye.



# Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This letter is with reference to the Assembly conducted on Monday, February 5, and specifically, the announcements of the sports captaincies. Before I continue, I must admit that I am no sportsperson and I am not writing to give my opinion on the appointments themselves, because that is simply not my place. I do, however, grant myself the right to comment on the alarming nature in which the captaincies were announced that only reinforces my belief that School, in its 89th year, still struggles with deciding a narrative, an identity to adopt.

Sports, like co-curricular activities and academics, play an integral role in the education and development of a student and I agree with the Headmaster when he says that the Captains of these sports hold important responsibilities. However, at the same time, I strongly believe that to actively place these Students on a pedestal by calling them on stage and awarding them with individual applause is irrational and honestly, rather disappointing. It seems as though we not only forgot the difference between “being appointed” and “being awarded,” but also forgot to consider the impact that their actions, scripted or not, could have on junior students. It is important to remember that during the same Assembly multiple co-curricular appointments, including music and publications, were announced as well, but only the sports appointees were deemed worthy of the hallowed handshake. I do not see how any metric could offer a reasonable comparison between the responsibility of a sports and co-curricular leader, especially when both contribute

to areas that are central to the culture and life at Doon. To compare and blatantly rank two vastly different responsibilities, both of whose work is of great importance to Doon’s culture, sends out a very polar and fundamentally wrong message to the School community, especially to the junior students.

When I joined Doon in my C Form, I was told that Doon is the land of opportunity and I had the freedom to explore, to try everything and to later specialise in whatever field I liked. Most importantly, however, I had the freedom to choose my idols. My idols were not the best athletes or those skilled on the field; my idols were writers, debaters, science enthusiasts, artists, people spilling with ideas and hungry to find ways to share them with the world. Back then, it was perfectly acceptable to create your own Dosco story, because no authority would explicitly suggest the idea that one activity is better than another. The idea that you can only be relevant or appreciated, if you play sports did not exist, simply because it went against everything Doon was built on. Somewhere, we seemed to have let go of that idea.

Sports are important but they are not the be-all and end-all of one’s time at Doon, and it’s dangerous to convey the idea that they are. If we wish to preserve the already waning culture that we pride ourselves on, we need to really reconsider the way we choose to portray certain things and perhaps actually learn to respect the vibrancy and diversity of Doon’s culture outside the facade of social media.

Sincerely,  
Rohan Taneja

## इंसानयित

कृषवि जयसवाल | लघुकथा लेखन प्रतियोगिता के विजेता ( वरषिष्ठ )

सूरज की सुनहरी करिणें सुबह शहर पर चमक रही थी। अर्जुन, एक शांत स्वभाव का बच्चा, पालतू जानवरों की दुकान पर एक कुत्ता खरीदने गया था। दुकान में विभिन्न प्रकार के कुत्ते थे, सब अलग-अलग कीमत वाले: कोई पांच हजार, कोई सात हजार, कोई दस हजार। इतने सारे आकर्षक कुत्तों को देखकर अर्जुन सम्मोहित हो गया।

परंतु अचानक, उसने कुछ दुखद और आश्चर्यजनक देखा। एक कुत्ता कोने में दुबका हुआ था, एकदम चुप-चाप सा। बच्चे ने नरिशा से पूछा, “चाचा जी, यह अकेला क्यों बैठा है?” कुछ समय लेने के बाद, दुकानदार ने विषादपूर्ण स्वर में कहा, “यह बेचारा अपाहजि है, इसका पैर एकदम खराब है। यूँ तो ये एक शानदार और अनुरागशील कुत्ता है, मगर अपाहजि होने के कारण ये बकौड़ नहीं है।” बच्चे ने फिर गंभीरता से पूछा, “अगर ये बकौड़ नहीं है, तो आप इसका क्या करेंगे?” “दुकानदार का जवाब था, “इसे हमेशा के लिए मौत की नींद सुला दिया जाएगा।” ये सुनकर अर्जुन का दिल दहल गया, मानो जैसे कोई धक्का लगा हो। वह अंदर ही अंदर उस शक्तिहीन कुत्ते के भविष्य को सोचकर घबराने लगा।

बच्चे ने दुकानदार से फिर पूछा, “क्या मैं इस कुत्ते के साथ थोड़ी देर खेल सकता हूँ?” “क्यों नहीं,” दुकानदार ने खुशी से जवाब दिया। अर्जुन भागता-

भागता कुत्ते के पास गया और उसे गोद में उठा लिया। कुत्ते ने खुशी में अपनी पूंछ हिलाई, आखरिंकार उसे पहली बार किसी ने इतना प्यार किया था। पहली बार किसी ने इतनी नष्टिठा से सहलाया था। पहली बार उसे महत्व दिया गया था। कतिने सुखमय थे दोनों। अर्जुन ने उसी समय तय कर लिया कि वह यही कुत्ता खरीदेगा, पर दुकानदार के दमिाग में यह बात बैठ गई थी कि कुत्ता बेचा नहीं जा सकता। अर्जुन जदि पर अड़ गया। वह दुकानदार की हथेली पर चार हजार रुपए रखकर, बाकी के एक हजार रुपए लेने अपनी माँ के पास दौड़ा।

बच्चा अभी दुकान के बाहर ही पहुंचा था कि दुकानदार ने पीछे से चीखकर आवाज लगाई, “मुझे समझ नहीं आ रहा कि तुम इस बेकार और अपाहजि कुत्ते के पीछे इतनी धनराशि क्यों खर्च करना चाहते हो। इतने पैसे में तुम एक अच्छा कुत्ता खरीद सकते हो।” अर्जुन पीछे मुड़ा, पर कुछ न बोला। बस अपनी एक टांग से पतलून ऊपर उठाई। उस बच्चे ने पैर में ब्रेस पहन रखे थे। वह अपाहजि था। दुकानदार अब कुछ न कह सका पर उसकी नम आँखें यह साफ बता रही थी कि बच्चे के रूप में आज वह एक ऐसे इंसान से मिला है जिसे उसे इंसानयित का सबक सिखा दिया। अर्जुन बोल उठा, “चाचा जी, किसी के दर्द को समझना अलग बात है, लेकिन उस दर्द को महसूस करना अलग। दर्द को महसूस करने वाला बनिए, फिर आपके अंदर की इंसानयित कभी नहीं मरेगी।”

# Stump Chatter

**The Grandslam** interviewed all House Cricket Captains about their expectations for the forthcoming cricket season.

*How have you been preparing yourself and the House for this upcoming Inter-House?*

Cricket is a sport that requires relentless effort and practice. In a school where the focus is shared between all sports, it becomes daunting to prepare a house of budding cricketers to match the required standard in a short period. Nevertheless, Oberoi House has been practising day in and day out to ensure that the team puts their best foot forward. Diving to save that one additional run or pacing between wickets to get those extra runs, we are trying to leave no stone unturned. Indeed, we have focused on solidifying our basics, right from basic flat catches to difficult high catches. I certainly have faith in my boys and they have been putting in the required efforts.

**-Aryavardhan Agrawal, Oberoi House**

*What do you think was previously lacking in your House, which you aim to improve this season?*

Last season's cricket tournament was a roller coaster ride for Tata House. Despite entering as underdogs, we emerged victorious in the Seniors Cup after conquering every House-XI match. However, a disappointing last-place finish in the Juniors division left us with a bittersweet taste. This year, equal focus has been given to both Juniors and Mediums. They've trained alongside the Seniors, facing the challenge of fast inswinging deliveries and the occasional drubbing. Cricket is truly team sport, and we relish the challenge of facing teams boasting School Team players. We intend to conquer, not with arrogance, but with the passion and tenacity that defines Tata House. The Warriors are ready once again, prepared to defy expectations and reclaim their title as the underdog champions.

**-Mridul Jain, Tata House**

*How have you coped with this sudden change in the sporting format of the School?*

The introduction of the Mediums category has meant that I've had to push every Kashmir House student to be out there, even though they may struggle to hold a bat properly. On the bright side, the practices have become more of a skill-building journey, rather than last-minute refinement which, in the long term, will create more opportunity for sporting development in School. As captains however, we've had to shuffle our teams again, with a lot of A Form students being unavailable due to their pre-planned post-board breaks. With all this change, this year's competition promises more action than ever before and Kashmir House is ready to embrace it with bigger sixes and shorter bouncers.

**-Arjun Prakash, Kashmir House**

*What role do you see yourself playing in helping less experienced Juniors, especially D formers, adapt to the intensity of Inter-House play?*

I see myself as a mentor to the team, and my focus is on fostering a positive team dynamic, particularly with the D formers. I aim to bolster their confidence, share valuable tips, and cultivate an enjoyable atmosphere. Our sessions prioritise a relaxed and inclusive environment but are also rigorous at the same time, ensuring everyone feels integrated into the team and tries to push their limits. The overarching goal is to enhance their enjoyment of the game, facilitate adaptation to Inter-House dynamics, and ensure a memorable experience on the field.

**-Reyansh Agarwal, Jaipur House**

*How do you define success for the House in this tournament, and how confident are you about achieving it?*

Success for this House is nothing less than winning the whole thing, sweeping all the titles. That is easier said than done. But that is what we are aiming for, and that is what we are working towards. It is all about maximising your chances of winning. We have not reached there yet. But we will, eventually.

**-Jason Patel, Hyderabad House**

*(The full interview is available in The Grandslam)*

# The Week Gone By

Arav Khanal

*So, the saga continues, and now that the fog and stormy clouds depart: what could be in store for us? Perhaps only time will tell. Yet acting quick and fierce might make all the difference in the pace with which we might see the next coming. It seems we never break away from the Kalpa.*

The spell of bad weather has finally worn off after two days, with Doscos having to once again be awake in the cold, frigid weather. However, as with all things, there is balance, with games time once again being enjoyed to its fullest — starting as early as the clock ticks past 3 PM which also seems to have ticked off some others due to its intrusion on the daily routine. Battles are also being fought in the CDH, with the inventive staff stepping up their

game with a whole new bakery in order to satisfy the gluttony that resides within every Boy — oh, and of course, the promise of a “House treat” to those that waste the least, adding one more into our plethora of Inter-Houses.

But anyways, let us rewind the time back to Monday. As our new captains set foot on stage to accept their new duties, there remained, as always, the few baffled by the leadership, especially with the Football team going double-commando. And while for a while the atmosphere of a new term and new responsibilities was tense, School then decided to double up once more by hosting not one, but two music performances! First, was a Rajasthani folk band, a delightful homage to a part of our own country. However, the second caught the ears of the whole School community — and perhaps to an extent our local wildlife. An unusual afternoon surely, but nonetheless a mesmerising one, thanks to the

Nomads of Mongolia.

Nowadays, School seems emptier than usual. On Wednesday, the dreaded Boards began for our dear A formers, who have now hidden themselves away in their Toyes or in cafes, trying to make the turn-around after shocking results. In a similar vein, the two batches above seem to be pulling more than just their weight, trying to make, break, or create ‘predicted’.

In these cold winter days, where the summer seems nowhere in sight, it is best we brace ourselves for the whole term to come, for it is a new year with new opportunities and many promises to keep. Especially the ones that we made while signing those white kurtas seven days ago. Soon we will get the sniffles, and we won’t know if it is the change in the temporal or social climate that gave it to us. Yet, as always, you should be willing to keep your head in the game from the very start. Here’s to a new one!

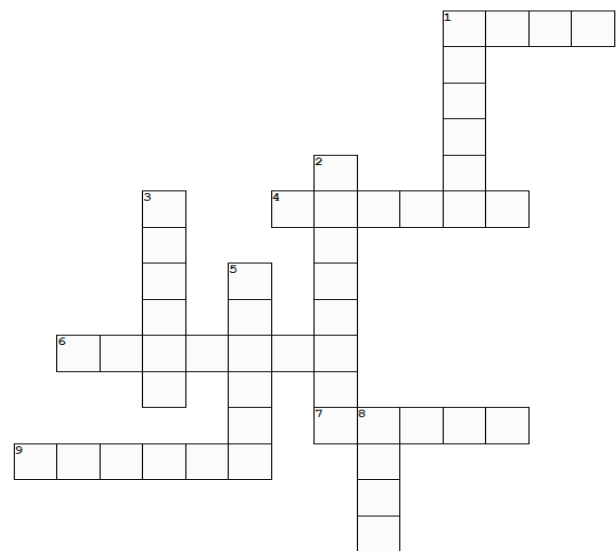
## Crossword | Riddles

### Across

1. What can you catch, but not throw?
4. I shave every day, but my beard stays the same. What am I?
6. What is so fragile that saying its name breaks it?
7. Which word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?
9. What is full of holes but can still hold water?

### Down

1. What is tall when it’s young and short when it’s old?
2. The more of this there is, the less you see. What is it?
3. What has an eye but can’t see?
5. What tastes better than it smells?
8. What gets bigger when more of it is taken away?



6. Silence	3. Needle
4. Barber	2. Darkness
1. Cold	9. Sponge
8. Hole	1. Candle
5. Tongue	7. Short
Down	

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

Online Edition: [www.doonschool.com/co-curricular/clubs-societies/publications/past-weeklies/](http://www.doonschool.com/co-curricular/clubs-societies/publications/past-weeklies/) [weekly@doonschool.com](mailto:weekly@doonschool.com)



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