

পুজো আনন্দ



আমার জন্য পুজো আনন্দ মানে ভোরে
উঠে মহালয়ার ক্যাসেট শোনা, ধূপের গন্ধ,
ড্রইং কম্পিটিশন, বইমেলা, ভোগের খিচুড়ি,
কলাবউয়ের ঘোমটা আর ভাসানের দিন
সবার সিঁদুর মাখা মুখ এবং মা দুর্গার
ফিরে যাওয়ার দুঃখ..
সন্ধিতা (টিয়া) ঘোষ।

কলকাতায় প্যাণ্ডেলে ঘুরে ঘুরে বারোয়ারি পুজো
দেখা আর পাড়ায় চেয়ার পেতে বসে লোক দেখার
মজা একরকম; আবার টোকিওয় বাড়ির মতো
বসে ফল কাটা, প্রসাদ বিতরণ, কালচারাল
প্রোগ্রাম আর সিঁদুর খেলা-র মজা আবার আরেক
রকম। দুটোই ভালো। সুপর্ণা বোস।

Durga Puja Anando to me
means a combination of:
D -Dhak and dhunuchi
U -Utsav
R - Rehearsal
G - Goddess
A - Anjali and Arati
P - Pandal
U -Unity (Sarbojonin)
J -Joy
A-Adda
Rita Kar

কলকাতার পুজো আনন্দ গড়িয়া হাটে হইচই.
যোধপুর পার্কে আলোর সাজে হীরক রাজার
দেশ দেখা, আর জেদ করে শাড়ি পরা।
দিব্লীর পুজো আনন্দ বেগুন কেনা,
সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠান, ধুনুচি নাচ ও ভোগ।
টোকিওর পুজো আনন্দ ছোটোদের আবৃত্তি
ও আমাদের নাচ গান, একদিনের আনন্দ।
আর কানাডার পুজো অর্ধ স্পষ্ট কিন্তু অনেক স্মৃতি।
উদিতা (দিয়া) ঘোষ।

কাশ বনে ফুজি সান,
ইমেল এ সুচী।
যাব পুজো হল ঘরে,
তালা মেরে উচি।
মৃন্ময় দাস।

Pujo Anando means get together with
family and friends with joy and cheer,
offering prayers, performing cultural events,
sharing delicacies and exchanging Bijoya
greetings. This occasion binds us together.
We acquire everlasting sources of inspiration
helping us succeed in our endeavour.
Chandreyee

ছোটোবেলার পুজো আনন্দ -
স্কুলের ছুটি, শিউলির গন্ধ,
চারদিকের আলোর সাজ,
প্যাণ্ডেল, ঢাকের আওয়াজ,
আড্ডা, হাসি, গান,
আত্মীয় বন্ধুর মহামিলন,
ফুচকার লাইন, দুর্গার মূর্তি,
ভীষণ চেনা একজনকে দেখার আকুতি।
সময়ের সাথে সাথে
বিবর্তনের পথে হেঁটে
এই বিদেশের পুজো আনন্দ
পুজো হল, ধূপের গন্ধ।
সেই আনন্দ অনুভূতির
অপেক্ষা নেই কোনো বাংলার প্রকৃতির।
দীর্ঘ একমাসের প্রস্তুতি -
'অঞ্জলি', রিহার্সাল প্রতিবারের রীতি।
সদা ব্যস্ত টেলিফোন,
একদিনেই চারদিনের আয়োজন-
একদিনেই চারদিনের সাজগোজ
তার সাথে মিলে যায় রকমারি ভোজ।
ব্যস্ততম দিন-অনেক আড্ডা অনেক হাসি
ঘরে ফেরা বুকে নিয়ে বিজয়ার বাঁশ।

সুদীপ্তা রায়চৌধুরী।

In India "Pujor Ananda" would
mean 4 days of endless fun,
endless food, doing these which
would make me remember the
childhood days which were carefree
and best days.
Abroad pujo is still the fun and frolic and
freedom from routine. The occasion
when we try to live for a day or two,
the life we miss so much.
Sujata Chowdhury.

ছোটোবেলার পাড়াতে ঠেলা করে
বাঁশ (bamboo) ঢুকল মানে পুজো
শুরু হল। সেদিন থেকে বাঁশ ফেরৎ যাওয়া
পর্যন্ত ছিল পুজো। আজ বিদেশে চার
দেওয়ালে আটকানো দেড় দিনের পুজো,
তবু তো পুজোর আনন্দ আছে -হোক না তা
সংক্ষিপ্ত।

চন্দ্রিমা কুড়ু।

দেশে পুজো : মহালয়া থেকে বিসর্জন,
প্রবাসে পুজো : মোগলাই বিরিয়ানির আলিঙ্গন,
টোকিওর পুজো : দেড় দিনে চার দিনের পারিবারিক মিলন,
সাজানো, আরতি, ভোগ ও 'অঞ্জলি' সংকলন।
ভাস্করী ঘোষ।

ভোরবেলায় মহালয়া শোনা, নতুন পুজোসংখ্যার গন্ধ,
ঢাকের আওয়াজ। টোকিওর পুজোতে সবার সঙ্গে দেখা
হবার আনন্দ, প্রবাসে বসে পুজোর আনন্দ উপলব্ধি
করা, বাড়ি ফিরে 'অঞ্জলি' পড়া।
মৌলি নাগ।

Chutir Moja

"Chuti hole Roj Vasai jole
kagoj nouka khani.
Likhe rakhi tate aponar naam
Likhi amader bari kon gram
Boro boro kore mota okshore
Jotone line tani. "

Rabindra Nath Tagore

Vacation means a break from studies, and spending time in recreation. During the vacation, I like to play with my friends, Go to sleepovers, compose music in my computer, and explore the world.

Tannistha Roychoudhury

In long vacation,
if I go to India, I
like to wake up late
in the morning and
want "luchi" misti" in
my breakfast, not
boring milk
and cornflakes.
Sneha Kundu

The holidays are a time
to spend quality time with
your family and friends...

Shreya Das

Vacation is the
time for me to discover
and explore different
countries and cultures
around the world.
It is the time when
we are free from our
routine life.

Aratrika Pan

All play and
no work..-

Aneek Nag

Ma sokale ghum theke
taratari uthte bolena, porte
boste bolena, sara din Nintendo wii
khelte pari ar TV dekhte pari.

Akash Datta Gupta

playing and
playing....

Tuhin Nag

Chuti te amra khub
moja kori, parke gie
khelte pari, berate
jete pari, porte boste
hoy na..ki moja!
ki moja!!

Monjari Datta Gupta

chutir moja
maane Kolkatay
taxi chura, roj
by te Ben 10 dekha,
South City jaawaa,
ar Ruchira-y
aamaader bari
jawa.

Arpan Bose

During vacation I can go to
theatre to watch movies,
different countries to do
water activities like surfing,
jet skiing, etc. I can spend
time with my friends to watch
and do fireworks, and have
sleepovers at their or my
house !

Nishant Chanda

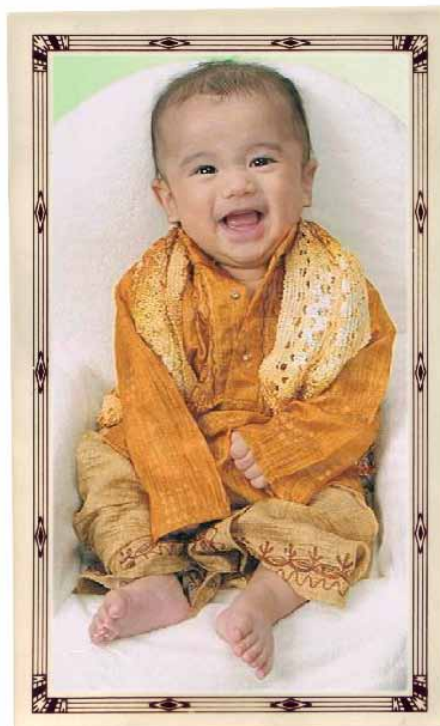
Everyone's excited
and anticipated
for the summer
holidays!! It's
a time when we can
just break free
and chill out. All
the pressure's off,
and its goodbye
to rules!!
Monalisa Das,

New Arrivals



Aananya

Daughter of Reema and Tapas Das



Lavkush

Son of Miki and Badal Sarkar

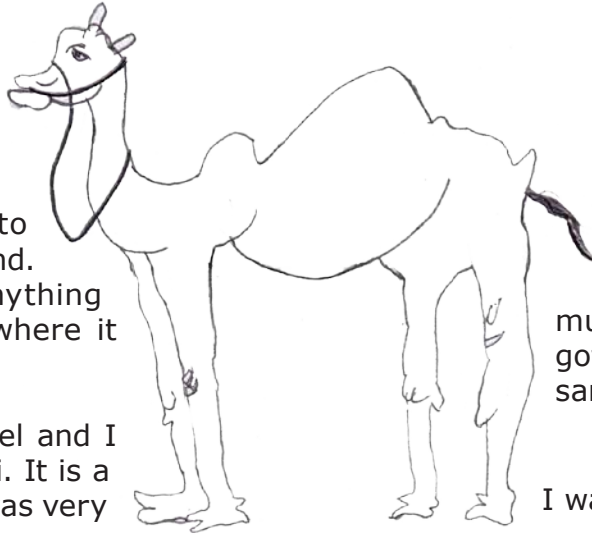
My Dubai Trip

Sneha Kundu, Grade I

Last winter, I went to my cousin's house in Dubai.

There I went to Desert. It is full of sand. I could not see anything without sand. Everywhere it was sand and sand!

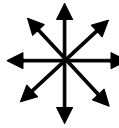
There I saw Camel and I went on Desert Safari. It is a car ride in desert. It was very



much fun but sometimes I got scared. I tried to make a sand house there.

I cannot forget that trip. I want to go there again. ✍

PUJA WORD Search



WORDS:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. PUJA | 10. LION |
| 2. DHAK | 11. PEACOCK |
| 3. DURGA | 12. MOUSE |
| 4. SARASWATI | 13. SWAN |
| 5. LAXMI | 14. OWL |
| 6. KARTIK | 15. SINDUR |
| 7. GANESH | 16. DHUP |
| 8. MAHISASHUR | 17. SHANKH |
| 9. SHIVA | |

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

Aliens

Nishant Chanda, Grade III

"Mom can I buy this book pack" I asked my mom.

Every time I come to the store I used to look at it and wished if I can buy this, or if I can get this for my next 9th birthday present.

My mom asked, "How much does it cost?"

"About 5000 Yen" I answered slowly with hope in my heart that if she said yes it will be so nice.

She said, "OK, go and buy it" and she handed 5000 Yen to me.

"Yes...." I was so excited. Finally, I was getting my favorite item from the store. Then, I bought it, and went back to my home.

When I reached there, I started to open the pack. Actually, that pack contains a book about Aliens and behind the book; there is one Nintendo DS chip. I went through the book very fast and started playing the game. In the game, we were the Aliens and came from different planet. The missions of the Aliens are to digout the main monuments and places from the Earth and takes it and fix it to their Planet. As my summer vacations are going, I used to play the game for many hours in a day at home or at friends home while I have sleepovers. One day while I was playing, I fell asleep on the couch.....

It was the year 2022; I was 22 years old, I was sleeping on the couch. Suddenly somebody poured freezing cold water on my head, and shouted in my ears,

"Wake up".

"How long you'll sleep it's time to work".

"Get up and go to work."

I jumped out of my bed and saw a creature standing beside me.

"Ten thousand thundering typhoons!!! " I exclaimed.

"Hey! I have seen you some where, you're the one in my DS game," I said.

"What's your name?"

"From where did you come from?"

"Why do you smell like a fish?"

The creature who looked like a green capsicum with long, thin, straight, and cylindrical antennae.

He even had shoes on!

Then he started to answer my questions.

"I'm an Alien, my name is Brainicle," he said. "I came from a different galaxy named Zyropedia. That is about 60 lightyears away from the earth. In our planet everywhere its water, as we live in the water I smell like a fish."

To reach our planet we have to cross the asteroid belt.

Then he added, "You remember the DS game which you used to play when you were a little kid. I am the maker of that DS chip. I wanted to make the humans aware of this fact that if you do not take care of your beautiful planet, someday we Aliens will come to dig your land and take

your Earth's beautiful monuments to our planet. As our population is now growing, we want to live on the land. Now we are here with thousands of our team at work. Now go and start working outside with our team."

Hearing this I was so frustrated that I ran to open the window. I saw thousands of creatures like Brainicle outside in my



lawn they were digging the land. A big flat structure looking like a space ship was standing silently on my lawn. On the wall of the spaceship was written 9-13 Brainicles Corp. caution 10,000 volts.

I asked Brainicle, "What is that standing on the lawn?"

"This is one of our ships in which we will load your land and monuments, like this we have thousands of ships" he answered.

"Many of our ships have already left Earth loading tons of land" he added.

I looked out of the window, every second a square centimeter of land is dug out and the land is going down. They are loading it on the space ship. Watching this I was very shocked and start thinking they must be loading our great monuments like TajMahal of India, Great Wall of China, Egypt's great Pyramids, Eiffel tower of Paris, Petronas tower of Malaysia, Empire state building of

With that suddenly a bright light shined in the sky. I covered my eyes with both of my hands.

My mom was standing beside me. She was calling,

"Wake up."

"How long you'll sleep?"

"Get up."

"Mom, please close the curtain. Bright light is coming on my eyes" I cried.

"I am in the middle of my job of saving my Earth."

My mom asked, "Are you dreaming something?"

While thinking what happened was real or my dream, I jumped out of my bed, ran to the window and saw outside. There was nothing. There were no Aliens, no Spaceships. My lawn was intact.

Only, I saw my dad coming back from



USA and many others. Therefore, I must do something to stop them. I jumped out of the window and shouted loudly, "You can't do that, I'll not let you do that" and I pulled the gravity lever of the ship all the pieces of earth fell down in their original places.

fishing. He had caught a giant fish. Sharp smell of fish was coming from there.

Then I realized that everything was in my dream about Aliens. ~

The Thief

Arunansu Patra, Grade IV



Once upon a time, there lived an intelligent thief. One day he was going to rob a palace but was caught by a soldier and taken to the king of the palace. The king asked the thief for two tasks to be done. "The first task is to steal two cows from the farm without letting the farmer know that the cows are stolen," said the king. The thief went to the farm and got the two cows. He cut off the tails and planted them on the ground. When the farmer came back, the farmer said "Oh no! Strong earth has sucked down my cows; I have to go get new ones right away" said the farmer and the farmer set right away. Then they went back to the palace. "The last task is to steal

a ring from a queen's finger"- the king said. The thief went in front of the dressing room where the queen was. "Your majesty, please hurry and give me your ring, somebody is going to steal it". The thief stuck out his hands through the curtains and the queen put the ring on his hand. Next the king came and said the exactly the same thing as the thief did. The queen was confused and said, "I thought I already gave it to you". Suddenly the king found out that the thief has succeeded. He found the thief and said, "My intelligent thief, you are now free, but only if you promise to stop robbing people, OK". "From now on, I will not rob people any more" - the thief agreed. ✍

Healthy Eating For Kids

Aishwarya Kumar, Grade IV

The food PYRAMID has six different groups:

- Grains
- Vegetables
- Fruits
- Fats and oils
- Milk and dairy products

Meat, beans, fish and nuts. Grains and Veggies should be eaten a lot followed by milk and fruits. A healthy diet should have as little oil and fat as possible. While eating snacks checking the nutrition facts help in ensuring that there is not much fat in it. Calories increase weight, exercise helps burning the calories and reducing weight. Milk at least once a day helps you to be stronger and might as well to live longer.

Food often causes allergies which may result into

- Sore throat
- Hoarse voice
- Wheezing

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Diarrhea

Known food stuff which causes allergies should be avoided. A lot of water is always useful to the body since it carries oxygen to little cells in the body, less water means the cells might dry up too. This situation is called dehydration. Water cleanses the body washing all waste in the body. In hot and dry places it is very easy to become dehydrated without water.

Caffeine is a chemical that is found in tea leaves, coffee beans, cacao beans and cola. Too much caffeine causes nervousness.

How can parents help their child to eat healthy? Family meal is a good way to start, that gives the child time to learn what and how to eat healthy as an example. ✍

Archery Tournament

Amartya Mukherjee, Grade V

Long ago in a small town in Venezuela an archery school decided to hold an archery competition. The winner will be given a flag with the number 1 written on it.

The most favorite to win the tournament was a boy named Calvin. He was sort of a legend. Another boy named Michal participated in the tournament – however he was not as good as Calvin. Calvin used to always tease Michal. “I bet you can’t win” said Calvin to Michal, but Michal ignored him.

On the 12th of April, the tournament started. The teacher Mr. Clack took all the archery items and put them on the archery field.

The tournament started and everybody got ready with their bows and arrows.

“Are you ready?” said Mr. Clack.

“Yes we are”.

“Are you steady?”

“Yes we are”.

“Gooooooooo!!!”

Everybody got ready with their bows

and arrows.

Calvin thought that – since I am a legend, I can easily win - even with my eyes closed. So he closed his eyes and shot the arrow. However, the arrow missed its mark.

Then Michal thought “I’ll try my best”. So with full concentration – he shot the arrow. And the arrow hit the bull’s eye.

When the results were declared – Michal came first and Calvin came last.

Then Michal went to Calvin and said “Is that all you can do and dare to tease me?”. Calvin felt very ashamed. Then Calvin heard the crowd cheering “Hip Hip Hurray” for the winner – Michal.

Calvin was worried that his stepmother will give him a good beating – if he told her the results. So he asked Michal and asked if they could trade flags. “No way - would a winner trade for a loser’s flag” said Michal.

Calvin felt very embarrassed and promised never to be arrogant anymore. ☞



Basketball

Shreya Das, Grade V

Everybody has their own favorite sport whether its tennis, rugby, volleyball or skiing and like everyone I have one too and its basketball. I find basketball energetic, fun and satisfying at the same time. I just find basketball unique and amazing in its own special way.

At the start of the school year, I didn't really care about basketball until my family bought one and I started to practice shooting and got better at it and soon I loved the game and I play it almost every day and it is now my favorite sport.

Dribble, pass, receive, then shoot and when it goes in the hoop be proud, but if it doesn't go in then take the rebound and try again or feel good that at least you got it up there and pay attention next time.

Another part that I like is the dribbling. In basketball, you need an exceptional ability to maneuver the ball with quick

reflexes. While dribbling you have to make sure that the opposing team will not get the ball. For that, you have to use some tricks and tactics to prevent them from stealing the ball from you.

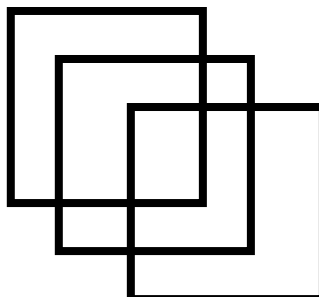
My favorite thing about basketball is the shooting, as I said that when it goes in the hoop it gives you some satisfaction and your teammates congratulate you, which makes you feel proud of yourself and boosts up your energy, which makes you better in the game.

As you can see that basketball is an amazing sport and I encourage everyone to try playing it and try to enjoy the game with your friends. I aspire to become as good as Michael Jordan when I grow up. These days you have probably seen that children are wasting their time on electronics instead looking around at the nature and basketball is a sport where you can enjoy with family and friends. ✍



Continuous Line Puzzle:

Try to complete the shape below without lifting your pencil from the page, finish it with one continuous line. Don't go back, or cross your own path yourself.



The Amazing Great Wall of China

Aratrika Pan, Grade VII

During our Social Studies class, I had the opportunity to learn about China. When our Social Studies teacher taught us about China, it really motivated me to go there. So during the Spring Break we decided to go to China. While we stayed in China, we explored the awesome Bird's Nest Olympic Stadium, Summer Palace, Ming Tombs, Tian'an Men Square, Forbidden City, Jade Museum, Beijing Zoo, and the Great Wall of China.



From all the places I visited, I was fascinated by the Great Wall of China. Between, Simatai, Badaling, and Mutianyu, we

decided to go to Badaling because it is the best preserved section of the Great Wall. It took us about a one and a half hour drive to reach the Badaling side of the Great Wall of China.

The Great Wall of China is one of the most famous landmarks in the world.



Badaling is the closest to Beijing which is forty miles away from the capital. Mutianyu is fifty miles away from Beijing where you could see incredible watch towers and best views, though it is very steep and hard to hike. Experience travelers visit Simatai, where you can get more authentic looks at the Great Wall of China. There are other different places where you can do your own Great Wall tour such as Juyong Pass, Huanghua, and Jinshinling.

Like many other first time travelers, we chose to visit Badaling. We left our hotel around eight o'clock in the morning with a

private tour. We were fortunate enough to get an English Speaking guide, Susan. She was very friendly, knowledgeable, and kind. We made a short stop at the awesome Jade factory before arriving at The Great Wall.

On the way to the Great Wall, Susan was giving a brief explanation of the History of the Great Wall of China. The Great Wall was first built in the Seventh Century B.C., when China was divided into many small states. After the unification of China in 221 B.C., the first emperor of the Qin dynasty, "Shi Huangdi," linked the wall of their states in the North, and formed the first, "Wan Li Chang Cheng," which means, "Ten Thousand Li Great Wall." Li is a Chinese length unit. One Kilometer equals to Two Li. Since then, the Great Wall



was extended and rebuilt throughout the Chinese history over two thousand years.

The Great Wall was made to protect China from the invasions of the Mongols. They were China's main enemy. The Wall was built to prevent the Mongols from entering China and also to attack them from the Wall which was cleverly designed with small holes from where they can shoot arrows and fire cannonballs. This wonderful creation sacrificed many lives. When people died during the construction, they were buried in the Wall.

We arrived at the Great wall at around ten twenty in a sunny beautiful morning. Upon our arrival at the Great Wall, I was mesmerized with the spectacular view of our most awaiting destination. There were more than ten stations up to the top of Badaling which includes approximately ten thousand steps to the top of Badaling. Travelers

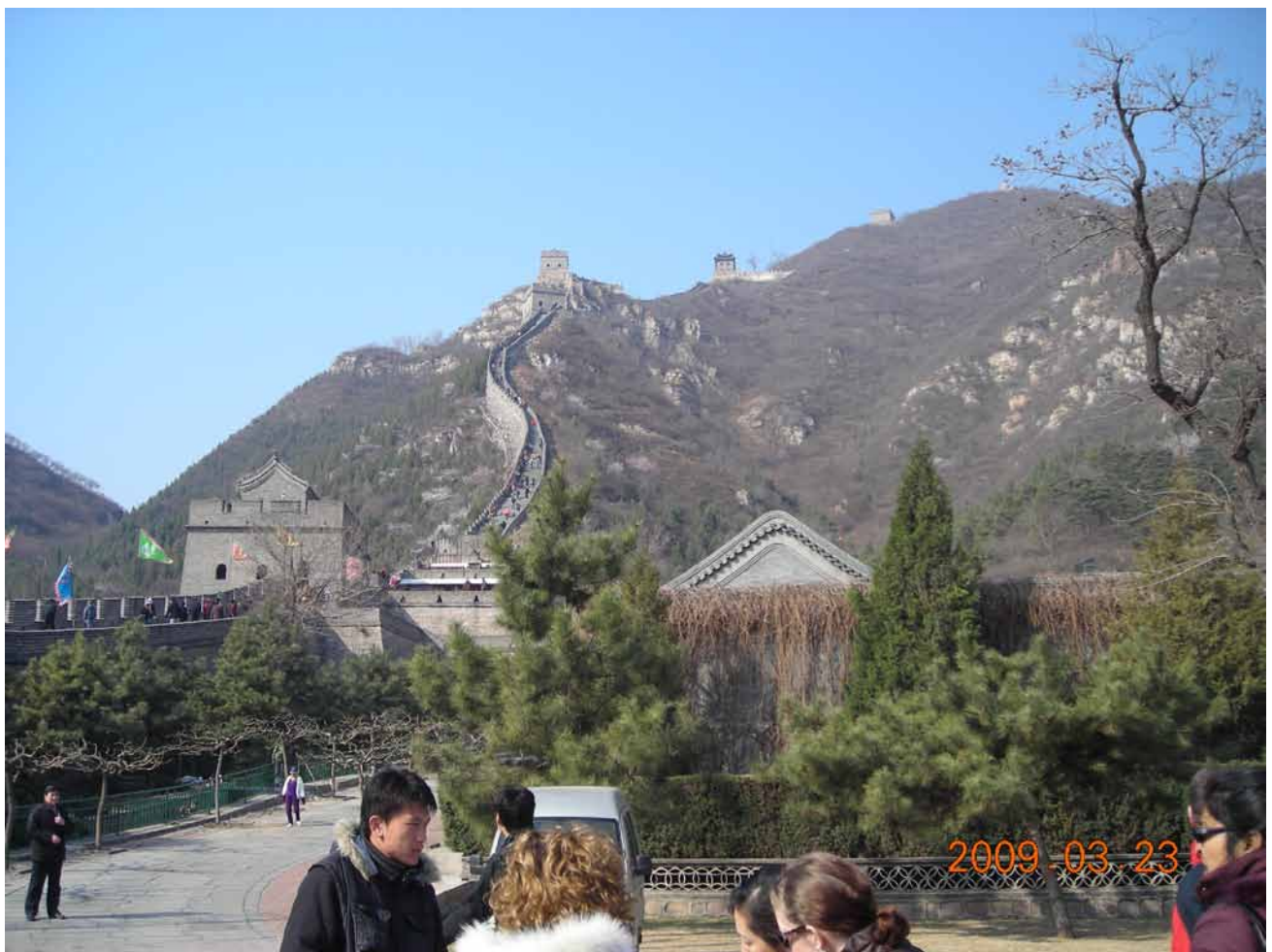
from all over the world were climbing the Great Wall. When we started climbing, my mom and I found it really challenging because it was steep and crowded. Also, in some places there were no railings to hold on to. My dad climbed up to the top but my mom and I made it up to the third tower. When we climbed each step we captured some breath-taking views. We



were spellbound with scenic beauty from the Great Wall. We collected souvenirs from the souvenir store located at each station of the Great Wall.

From all the wonderful places I have visited, The Great Wall of China was the best and I surely want to go back there again, but my next destination is definitely going to be the Mutianyu sight.

Thanks to my parents without whom, this marvelous trip couldn't be possible. Also, I would like to thank Susan, who made our trip more exciting, and last but not the least Marriot's hospitality made our holiday splendid!!!!!!!!!! ☺



Trouble in Baffin Island

Tannistha Roychoudhury, Grade VII

Hopelessly lost! Santa Claus clenched his teeth as he kept walking. What else could he do in this godforsaken island?

It was Christmas Eve, and Santa had stopped time so that he would have time to deliver all his presents to children around the world. He was very jolly the day before in his factory in Finland, whistling while he finished gathering all the presents he needed to get before he would deliver them that night. He had finished delivering to all the countries' children except for Canada. He already had delivered a present each to a kid in Vancouver, a teenager in Toronto, and a guy in Quebec. He only had to deliver just one more present to a seven-year-old child in Iqualuit named Eric Bluffmaster. Santa didn't know what the present was, he had been in a hurry packing his sack, but he was quite certain that it was a book.

His reindeer were the universe's best navigators and could glide to any place in the world Santa ordered them to go to. The reason Santa got lost in Baffin Island was that a snowstorm's fierce winds had unhooked his sled from the reindeers' rope. He had fallen like a stone into the cold snow. Santa was old, and he could have been killed, but he had luckily landed on a soft spot of snow. Now he faced a new crisis: how to get to Iqualuit? He had ordered his reindeer to fly to Iqualuit and he knew that they would be waiting there, so he had no choice but to leave his sled behind, grab his sack, and walk.

Santa had been walking for hours now and he was too tired to go on. "I need a rest," he said. "And then I'll go on." He sat down on the snow. He winced at the cold. For once, he looked at the scenery around him. Dull. Everywhere he looked he saw nothing but white fluffy snow. Even the sky was dreary.

His rest was over. Santa stood up, picked up his sack, and started walking again. He thought of all the children in the world, sleeping peacefully with their gifts, except for the one poor kid in Iqualuit. He walked for another hour until he got tired again, then sat down to rest. He once again looked around

at the scenery. It was the same as before. But wait! Wasn't that a light? Santa took out his binoculars and looked towards the light. It was a house! And what were those brown things? They were Santa's reindeer!

Filled with relief, he increased his pace and started darting towards the house. He would be back with his reindeer again! He would be able to finally deliver his present to the boy! He would... "Aaaaaaaaaaaaaahhh!" The snow below Santa gave away, and Santa fell into a gigantic hole. Santa fell into darkness, down, down, down...

"Hey, you in the fancy dress! Wake up!" a gruff voice whispered to Santa Claus. Santa groaned. He understood that he was still alive, but how? He knew he had fallen into a crevice in the snow, and no living creature could survive a fall like that! How was he alive?

"Wake up, you sleepyhead!" Santa sat bolt right up and glanced at his surroundings. He was in a vast ice cavern, with stalagmites and stalactites here and there. There was faint light. He was sitting on hard ice, and once again the question of his survival returned to his mind.

"Hey, you!" the gruff voice yelled again, and Santa turned to the speaker. "What the...?" he shuddered.

He was talking to a walrus. It sounded bizarre, but the walrus was talking back. The walrus was speaking in English. "You can talk?" Santa gasped.

"Surprised?" the walrus said, quite proud with himself. "All walruses can speak in English. In fact, they could speak in other languages, too. Konichiwa! That was Japanese!"

"Impressive," answered Santa. "So how do you come to be here, inside this deep crevice?"

Santa waited patiently as the walrus did some foul swearing under his breath. Then he said, "Didn't watch my step and fell in. Been living here for a few weeks. Luckily I found some food back there." Santa looked back and saw a mountain of dead penguins.

"One more thing," the walrus continued. "This crevice is not as deep as you think. Look up." Santa looked up and saw that the hole out was not very far.

"Okay, but how did I survive? This ice is as hard as metal!" Santa interrogated.

"Oh, that," the walrus said grumpily. "Must've been sleeping when you landed on my stomach. Gave me a hell of a stomachache afterwards."

"Sorry. But how you survive then?" asked Santa.

"Oh, walrus fur is so dense that it protects the flesh from anything. I didn't even feel myself land in the first place."

"Oh, right. So, do you have a name?" Santa asked.

"Yeah. I'm Willy. And you?" the walrus said.

"Santa," Santa answered.

"Santa? Santa Claus?!" Willy gasped, his eyes widening. "You're the famous Santa Claus? The one who delivers presents all over the world on this night?!"

"That's me," replied Santa.

"I am deeply honored to meet you!" said Willy, shaking Santa's hand. "Now, is there any way we can escape from this pit?"

"There might be," Santa said hopefully.

Once again, Santa Claus had lost hope. He had searched for hours for a way out of there and found nothing. Now both Santa and Willy were sitting down with long faces.

"Guess we're stuck here forever," Willy groaned.

"Not forever," Santa said. "These penguins wouldn't last long." Willy shuddered at the thought. "Even worse," Santa continued. "I have stopped time tonight so that I would have enough time to deliver all my presents. If I don't get back to my workshop to deactivate the time-stop, everyone in the world would face only the darkness of the night for the rest of their lives."

"What!?" Willy hollered, standing bolt right up. "Everyone will see only darkness? I won't let that happen! I swear to the Walrus God Wall-e that I'll find a way out!" Santa watched as Willy stormed away to the other side of the cavern. He kept saying, "I will find a way, I will find a way, I will... Aaaaaaaahhh!" This time it was Willy's turn to fall inside a hole. Santa jumped up and dashed towards where he fell. Willy's

face popped up, and it was surprisingly glee.

"I've found the escape route!" he declared. "Come on in!" Then he disappeared. Santa went on in after him. It was an escape tunnel, wide enough for Santa's whole workshop to go through!

The tunnel was exactly circular. The walls were hard frozen rock, and the slope, frozen slippery ice.

"Great job, Willy! I knew you could do it!" Santa congratulated. It was slope leading upwards and surely on the top was the escape hatch out. Santa started to climb the icy slope, then fell back. "This is too slippery. I can't get hold of it."

"Then what do we do?" Willy said.

Santa took out two packets of the stickiest bubble gum in the world from his pocket. "You like gum?" Santa asked Willy.

"I love gum! Gum is walruses' favorite snack," said Willy.

"Then chew this," Santa commanded, handing him a gum packet. Willy popped it into his mouth and chewed. Santa chewed, too, until it was nice and sticky. "Take out the gum onto your hands now," Santa ordered.

The disgusted walrus pulled it out of his mouth into his hands. "Ugh!" he said in repulsion.

Santa pulled it out of his mouth, too. "Now stick it into both of your hands." Willy and Santa both did so. Santa's gloves were ruined but the main priority was to get out here. "Now we have sticky climbing materials on our hands, and we could climb out of here," Santa declared proudly.

"But why didn't you use this to climb up from the cavern to the hole on the top?" Willy asked.

"That slope was too steep. This slope is just right for this gum," Santa explained.

"What a waste of gum," Willy said. "Well, let's get the hell out of here!"

It took over an hour to reach three quarters of the way, but Santa and Willy were enjoying it because they were finally going to get out of the crevice. Too bad about what happened next.

Willy was singing a Christmas carol, when suddenly a huge chunk of rock came crashing down the ice and hit him square in the face. "Ow! What was that?" Willy protested, staring at the thing that had hit him. It wasn't a rock. It was a hailstone, and in Santa's opinion, the

largest hailstone he had ever seen in his life.

The ice started to shake, letting loose the grip of one of Santa's sticky gloves. Crashing sounds came from above them. It was after then that Santa realized what was happening.

"Take cover!" Santa ordered.

Willy was confused. "Why?" he asked.

"You'll soon know why!" Santa demanded.

"Just take cover somewhere!" Santa found a small bulge on the rocky walls and hid underneath it, and Willy joined him there.

After that, millions of hailstones came crashing down the ice, some even larger than the first one. They tumbled down towards them, passed them and fell into the darkness below. "Why is this happening?" Willy interrogated Santa.

"It's raining hailstones up there! There must be some hole from which they are coming through. We'll have to wait until they've stopped. Then we can continue."

They waited half an hour and it didn't stop yet. Willy, who had told Santa that walruses were an impatient species, was getting impatient. He decided to take a peek at where the hailstones were coming from. He brought his head fully out of the ledge and saw a fat hailstone darting toward his...POW! The hailstone hit his face so hard that he lost the grip on his sticky hands. Santa spent a nanosecond to realize what was going on, and another nanosecond to act. He reached out a sticky gloved hand to Willy's already-reached-out hand and caught it. Santa was old, but he worked out all the time back in Finland, and he was powerful for a senior. With one hand, he pulled an amazed Willy up again the ledge.

"You saved me," said Willy. "I'll never forget it, even though we walruses are a very forgetful species. Thanks, Santa!"

"Be careful," scolded Santa. He looked up. The hailstones had stopped coming. The hailstorm must have stopped. They kept climbing.

Santa and Willy were now both really exhausted, but their morale was high. They could see the hole that would lead them out of this crevice once and for all. When they saw it, they started scrambling up the slope. In less than five minutes they were out of the crevice and facing

the night sky. Santa searched for the light of the house, but it wasn't there, because the slope had led them far away from Iqualuit.

"So, where are you going to go now," asked Willy.

"I'm going to Iqualuit to deliver my last present to a kid," Santa said.

"Oh, you're going west. I'm afraid I'm going east, where my herd lives. I'll see you around, buddy," said Willy. They departed.

Santa headed west, whistling as he was going. He didn't get tired on the way to Iqualuit for he was in very high spirits. In an hour and a half, he saw the house with the light still on. He started running towards it until he had a glimpse of what was behind it. It was a small town, with about two dozen houses like the first. His reindeer were standing there as if nothing had happened.

He climbed up to the roof of the house and started climbing down the chimney. He landed on the fireplace, which was blank, with a too-loud thump! As soon as he got straightened up, he heard footsteps. Panicking, he searched hastily for a place to hide in the room he was in, which was the living room. He finally found a tall couch and hid behind it.

The door opened and a little boy walked in and turned on the light, and Santa decided him to be Eric Bluffmaster, the boy he was delivering the present to.

Eric looked around sleepily. Then as his gaze fell upon the fireplace, his eyes widened. Santa glanced at the fireplace to see that he had left his sack there.

Eric started screaming. "Mom! Dad! Look at this!" In a few minutes, mom, dad, and son were all gathered around the sack. "It must be from Santa Claus! Let's open it!" Eric said.

"Don't!" screamed Santa, and stood up. He couldn't resist.

All, mom, dad, and son were gaping at their visitor. Then Eric yelled, "It's Santa Claus!"

"Yes, everyone, it's me, and I have a little Christmas gift for little Eric," Santa said. He took out a gift wrapped present from his sack. Eric opened it and out came a book.

Eric read the title. "Santa Clause's Trouble in Baffin Island." Santa, did you really have trouble here?" he asked, but Santa had gone. ☺



Cheetahs

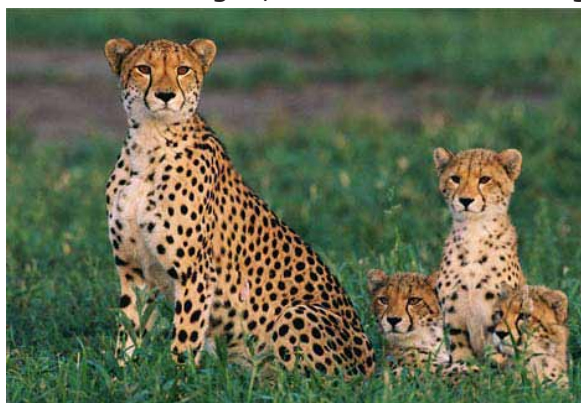
Monalisa Das, Grade VII

The cheetah, also known as the *Acinonyx Jubatus*, is an extraordinary member of the cat family. They are beautiful creatures found in the wildlife of the continent Africa. Cheetahs are found in grasslands and semi-desert regions of Africa. Being part of the Felidae family, they are strict carnivores and come in the order, Carnivora. There are distinctive black stripes running down from each side of face from eye to mouth. The cheetah is best known for its incredible speed.

Unlike other cats, cheetahs are more dog-like than a cat. Other large cats have long canine teeth and more muscle power to seize prey. While having its disadvantages, the cheetah has the advantage of speed. They resemble a lightweight & streamlined leopard, with a long, thin body, long legs, powerful shoulder muscles and a small head. Head and body measures around 112-135 cm long and including the tail, about 66-84cm long. Of all cats, the cheetah is the most active through the day. It hunts at night and usually rests during the hottest part of the day, often underneath the shade of a tree. A male travels about 4 miles in a day, but a female with cubs may travel for about 2 miles a day.

The cheetah is best known for its incredible speed. Cheetahs are the fastest land animals over short distances up to 70mph. Its dog-like pads help it to be faster. Although the cheetah can reach speeds of around 70mph, it can only sprint about 300 meters before running out of steam. Therefore, a cheetah tries to creep up to within 50 meters of its prey before springing into action. A running cheetah almost seems to be flying, as for about half the time it has all four feet off the ground at the same time.

Male cheetahs are usually a little larger than female ones. Female cheetahs are usually alone after separating from their mother and littermates, at about 18 months of age. They hunt alone, keeping away from the other cheetahs except to mate. Any male intruder is likely to be attacked or killed, especially if it crosses the territory of a male coalition i.e. a group of males that live in the same territory, these males are often brothers that have stayed together after separating from their mother at 17-23 months. They stay in pairs or trios, and in this way, they can hold their territories for a longer time than a single male can. Another advantage of living in groups is that they are able to kill larger animals than a single hunter.



Cheetahs live on medium sized prey such as impalas, gazelles, hares, large birds, etc. A cheetah eats about six pounds of meat per day. It drinks about every four to ten days. When lucky enough to catch an

animal, the cheetah brings it down either by tripping it or knocking it off with a blow to the hindquarters. Slower prey is pulled down by hooking a sharp dewclaw into the shoulder or flank and dragging backward. Finally, the cat gets a tight grip on the throat and chokes the animal to death. The cheetah usually eats the kill on the spot, if it is not too heavy, drags it to the nearest cover. It can eat up to 14 kg of meat at a time. At least 10% of kills are stolen by other carnivores, such as hyenas and lions. Lions kill cheetahs, given the chance, and predators take over half their young in the first 3 months.

Cheetahs can breed all year round. After mating, the male goes off on its own and leaves the female to raise the young, which are born after a gestation of 90-95

days. The cubs, which weigh only 150-300g at birth are blind at first and are kept hidden the first month. Their eyes open at 10 days old, and they have long, silky black fur with faint spots and a cape of long, blue hair.

Cheetahs are wonderful, beautiful and very vulnerable creatures. Cheetahs are

unique characters of the cat family with their advantage of incredible speed and extraordinary features. Once widespread across Asia and the Middle East, but probably now extinct in these regions, cheetahs are threatened animals. Cheetahs are phenomenal and incredibly fast animals that are a part of today's wildlife. 🐾

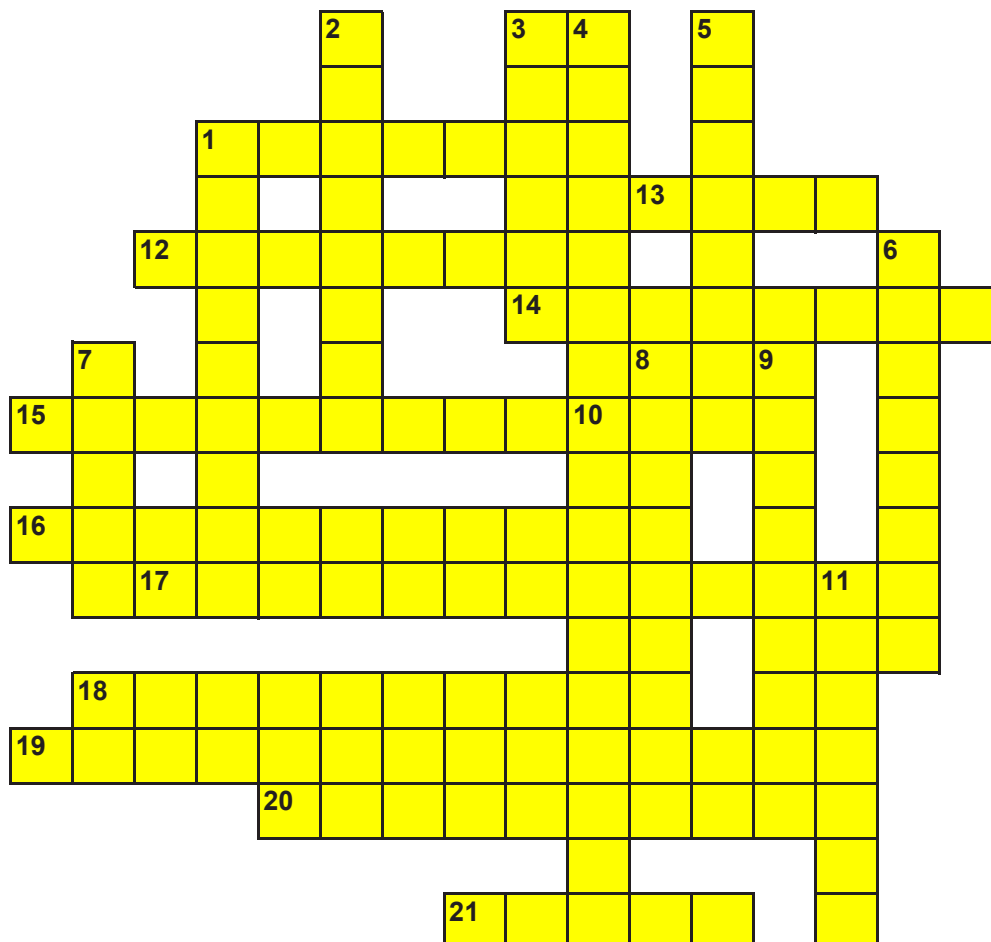
Mahabharata Crossword Puzzle

Down:

1. Arjun's charioteer
2. Bow that Arjun uses
3. Name of a river & mother of Devabrata
4. Brave warrior who entered the Chakravyu
5. Abhimanyu's mother
6. Wife of the Pandavas
7. Pandav brother Expert in bow & arrows
8. Five brothers are called
9. Krishna's brother
10. Pandav brother known for truthfulness
11. Took the hardest pledge

Across:

1. Mother of the Pandavas
12. Another wife of Bhim
13. Pandav brother expert in mace
14. Mother of the Kauravas
15. Teacher of the Pandavas and Kauravas
16. Eldest son of the Kauravas
17. Son of Dronacharya
18. Ganga's husband
19. Blind king of Hastinapur
20. Son of Bhim
21. First son of Kunti



Zero's mother finished her song, and motioned for Stanley to come by her. Stanley calmly walked up and sat down on the floor next to Zero. He enjoyed the atmosphere on this side of the room, away from all the commotion and having Zero next to him. Hector Zeroni's mother said to him. "Without you, I'm sure I would not live to see my son again, let alone to reunite with him again. Once again I thank you, for all you have done for my son and I. I don't know if I ever can repay the courage and determination you have shown us and so, we are forever in your debt. See you soon Stanley, I hope you have a good time." With that, she beckoned to her son to go with her, and they both left the house.

* * *

The next day was the first day of school after winter break. Through the classes Stanley tried to pay attention to the teachers but they only seemed to drone on and on...this strange tiredness had its effect even after a class, even between the duration of the small gaps between classes. It was during these times when an incident occurred.

Stanley forced himself to wake up as he saw the small, stocky figure of Derrick Dunne walking robustly toward him as Stanley quickly crammed all his belongings back into locker and with loud bang, slammed the door shut and quickly locked it. As he began to pull his hand away from the lock, Derrick slammed into him on purpose, sending him sprawled all over the floor.

"Well, well, well," Derrick sneered. "Care to tell me where you were for the last year and a half? Or were you trying to avoid me through embarrassment of a wet notebook? What's mommy going to say, big buddy? Were you scared? Actually, I want to hear where you were all this time." Derrick clasped his hands with excitement.

As Stanley started to say, "Well you see, for the last eighteen months, I have been at a cam-," Derrick spun around wildly, only to see a big boy, a little smaller than Stanley,

slam his hands into Derrick Dunne's smug face.

"Just what do you think you're doing?" asks Armpit.

"Cavemen's our friend," says Zigzag grabbing him by the shirt collar.

Maybe it was the shock, or the relief, but Stanley sat on the floor, eyes wide open in disbelief as he saw each member in Group D (except Zero) beat up Derrick Dunne.

"Gu- guys!!" he exclaimed. "Why are you here?"

X-Ray stepped over the mangled body of Derrick Dunne. He shook Derrick, let him gaze at him in a daze, and said. "Kid, get out of here before we do that again, and if we see you doing stuff like that again to Caveman over here, we'll make sure you never want to step into this school again."

Without a word, Derrick stood up and sped away. X-Ray walked over to Stanley, grabbed his hand and pulled him up so they could both talk standing up.

"Now I know we all have a lot to say to each other but I'm sure it'll be a long story, so let's meet up here again after school."

Everyone seemed content with that agreement and so the whole school went back to work. Stanley could hardly contain the excitement and so didn't even bother paying attention to the classes after that. His English teacher, Mr. Sevnjef, even gave him a detention for his poor effort over his work. When Stanley asked if he may be excused off the punishment today and instead make up for it tomorrow, to his surprise, Mr. Sevnjef said okay.

At long last, the bell rang and Stanley rushed out of class, packed his backpack in a whirlwind of books, and ran over to X-Ray, who was standing there, waiting for him. They both walked over to one of the lounges so they could relax, sit, and still be out of earshot in case a sneak, waiting to pry valuable information to twist it into some extreme rumor, came around.

When they got comfortable, X-Ray said, "So Caveman, how about you telling us exactly what happened since we last saw

you with those really important looking people with the Warden and Mr. Sir."

"Oh yeah," exclaimed Squid, "Did you tell my mom Alan was sorry?"

"Shush," hushed Magnet, "Can't you see he's trying to tell us a story? We're all itching to know, Stanley, so please hurry up and start."

So Stanley told them, how his inexplicable friendship with Zero blossomed into an epic tale of true friendship and courage. He told them how they survived on Big Thumb, how they felt as the lizards crawled over their bodies throughout the night, how happy they felt as Ms. Morengo drove them back from Camp Green Lake, every single detail since he first met Zero all the way to yesterday's party with Clyde Livingston. Stanley could see on the other boys' faces: a mixture of delight, often times amusement, or even at one point when Zero's private investigators had nearly lost his mother, a tint of sorrow and perhaps guilt in never really treating Zero as well as they did to each other. In the end though, much to the teachers' displeasure, the boys erupted in a cacophony of laughter as they recalled threatening Derrick Dunne earlier that day.

Now it was the boys' turn.

"Well you see," Twitch started to say as the other boys were still in hysterics, "the A.G. wouldn't let the Warden, Mr. Sir, or Mr. Pendanski go because he couldn't trust them and therefore wouldn't let them go out of sight. We were all laughing and jumping with joy because according to what the other kids say, it was the first time rain fell in a hundred and thirteen years." continued Squid, "Caveman, you should have seen the faces of those three adults man, the Warden had no blood in her face, that's how pale it was, her clothes stank from all the dirt on them, her hair was in a tangled mess, and parts of her boots were ripped, probably 'cause they're not supposed to be on dry, parched lakes. Mr. Sir's moustache was twitching more Twitchy over here because he tried to hide his shock and fear by eating sunflower seeds. How pathetic is that, Caveman? Well anyways his face was all red like a kid who just got severely punished by the teacher and he was looking at the floor trying to avoid looking at us. Mr. Pendanski on the other hand, tried to be as cheerful as

possible, saying that this was just a slight inconvenience to the Camp and everything would be resolved soon. Although we all know he was just making that up. Well, you see we were playing outside in the rain and suddenly the A.G. and those three adults started walking somewhere", narrated X-Ray. "So we all followed them to wherever they were going and it turned out to be in a place we never knew before. Guess what Stanley, Camp Green Lake has a court by itself. Well what do you think about that, eh? Quite impressive, I could imagine the headlines of the news something like this ' Juvenile Delinquency isolated by a Hundred Miles in Each Direction in the Middle of Texas Arouses Concerns of Child Abuse and Torture. "Man, what I would have done to humiliate Camp Green Lake. Well, the court is actually in a basement under the kitchens and our dining halls, so we each (everyone at Camp Green Lake) got a piece of fruit or vegetable from the monstrous refrigerators and headed down. The judge was actually the A.G. He welcomes because he knew that if we supported him when he convicted those three heartless adults. So after everybody settled down, the trial started, it was so funny because everything put against the three people were true and everybody agreed." said Zigzag. "So the case was done in less than ten minutes, and like we used to watch in TV, we all started throwing the fruits and vegetables at them and well, it isn't a sight you'll easily forget." Once again the boys burst into peals of laughter. "Then the judge gave them the sentences. 35 years in prison for Mr. Pendanski, 55 years in prison for Mr. Sir, and finally last but not least ladies and gentlemen, the Warden: a life sentence to priso-"

"-Isn't that a bit harsh though?" Stanley chided. "I mean, she never really physically hurt us so I don't think it's fai-"

"-Well if you think you're a better lawyer than the A.G., you can make the decision yourself Stanley," continued Magnet. "I'm not complaining, I'm more than happy with all those unneeded holes meant for me in those next few months down the drain. So that night, all our parents came to pick us up. You'd think that they would be really mad at their sons for getting into this kind of trouble, but actually, most of them were more than just relieved."

"He's glad, and so am I," said Armpit, "so we all came back home and it turned out that all our mothers and fathers went to the same high school and that they actually knew each other. So they sent us all to that particular high school which is this place right here, the Dasdeb International School. In the end, we all miraculously ended up here. Although I wonder what school Zero is going to."

When all five of them had finished the story, Stanley said, "Well I'm glad that all of my friends are here now. I'd like to spend more time with you guys but I've got to do that creative writing assignment Mr. Sevnjef assigned us that's due tomorrow. See you all tomorrow!"

Stanley picked up his bag and started

walking at a brisk pace toward his home. Finally, just finally he had actual friends and didn't feel left out. There was a warm glow emitted out of the core of Stanley's chest and it made him feel all well inside. Now, he told himself, he could finally have the life of a normal boy. What made him even happier was the fact that Derrick Dunne would never bully him again. An ecstatic grin, from ear-to-ear was etched across his face and he looked down at his callused hands and thought, the Stanley walking on the road right now is a new Stanley, a better Stanley, and by himself, the best Stanley Yelnats there ever was.

You will have to fill in the holes yourself. ♪

Solve the Equation:

Collect some toothpicks and arrange them as shown below. You can see that each of the equations is incorrect. The challenge is to make these equations correct by changing only one toothpick in each row.

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Instruments to Macbeth's Downfall

Shalini Mallik, Grade XI

Listening to those who can mislead one to becoming someone other than himself, and allowing them to turn a life into ruins, shows the weakness of one's disposition. People can become very misled by the influence of someone else's opinion and judgments, because they are not confident of themselves.

In William Shakespeare's tragic drama, Macbeth, his dependence on the witches forced him to do many gruesome crimes and misdeeds which could have been avoided otherwise. The prophecy that the witches introduced to Macbeth deceived him into becoming over confident and made him think that he was the one who ultimately had to execute anything in his power to achieve his aspirations. When Macbeth began to hesitate and deprecate, the witches took advantage of that situation and persuaded him with false security that everything was under control. The prophecies, apparitions, and the false security which Macbeth imbibed from the witches, resulted in the catastrophic events in this play.

Prophecies are predictions that can come true, but in Macbeth these prophecies led to the tragic events. The witches acquaint Macbeth with their great presage, "All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, Thane of Glamis! / All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, Thane of Cawdor! / All hail, Macbeth, thou shalt be King hereafter!" Macbeth was a heroic and righteous person before he came to terms with the prophecies dictated by the witches. He became insatiable once he found out that he would be the King after becoming Thane of Glamis and Thane of Cawdor. Not noticing that these were being spoken by three witches and whom he had just met in uncanny situation, Macbeth stated the witches' prophecies to Lady Macbeth in his letter and under the persuasion of Lady Macbeth, he went to the extent of killing Duncan. He was already captivated by the predictions. Duncan would not have been murdered if Lady Macbeth did not convince her husband to do so, supported

by the prophecies made by the witches. Macbeth trusted the three witches thinking that the prophecy they told were factual and Banquo standing next to him agreeing with them made his decision of believing and surrendering easier. The witches have already started influencing and shifting Macbeth's characteristics from the moment they stated the future to Macbeth. In Shakespearian times witches were seen as malevolent and malicious individuals for whom people showed no respect. While on the other hand, Macbeth was already relying on them to foresee his future which he was convinced would come true. Though some prophecies were not trustworthy, Macbeth was in a weak state of mind and he submitted to the witches apparitions.

In an eerie atmosphere the witches appeared with different forecasts about Macbeth's future which created a sense of hope and ambition in him. The witches tell Macbeth about how he should be aware of Macduff who can jeopardize his position of being the King. "Macbeth! Macbeth! Beware MacDuff; Beware the Thane of Fife. Dismiss me Enough." Macbeth had already committed murders to keep his position as the King. He was becoming more and more dependant on the prophecies that the witches had endowed on him. Macbeth wanted all the authority and glory of being the supreme ruler. Macduff and Duncan's sons - Donalbain and Malcolm, were getting apprehensive and skeptical about Macbeth intentions and how he became King. Everything happened too quickly. Macbeth fell upon the witches again when he convenes the apparitions. The first apparition spoke about Macduff's interference regarding Macbeth's position and how he was becoming less trustworthy. This convinced Macbeth to destroy Macduff who could have found out Macbeth's past crimes and immorality. Murder was the only answer for Macbeth due to the force of the apparitions showing him the future. The witches were again confusing Macbeth and misleading him to doing unnecessary crimes.

to their schemes. Unsuspecting, Macbeth had become a victim to the schemes, prophecies and control of the witches. He had completely let himself become a pawn in their hands. He did not realize that he was working for the witches and that was not thinking for himself anymore. The tragic events were only occurring because he had lost all control of himself. The witches had won over Macbeth's mind so much that he thought he was safe with the predictions he heard from the witches. He could not see the wickedness in them and especially did not see that he was becoming one himself. False security which something Macbeth fell for finally ruined him and shattered his hopes of kingship.

Prophecies did not bring Macbeth the desired good luck, name or fame. Neither did the apparitions bring him glory; but being under the influence of false security caused Macbeth his downfall. From the beginning of this play, the witches manipulated Macbeth into becoming someone he was not and made him believe that he could conquer his destiny. They took advantage of his weak disposition and hesitant nature. Through their superb plot, they succeeded in turning Macbeth into a pawn and victim of their scheme.

Solution to Continuous Line Puzzle:

TV Sensationalism – Justified?

Shoubhik Pal, Grade XII

All of us agree that we are addicted to fanaticism. The human race is one of curiosity and in turn, gossip. From what was a one hour show by Prannoy Roy every week on the international news to conglomerate power lunches and hourly news sessions in different channels, the Indian media has definitely grown to a completely new level. But is this new level satisfying for us? There will be stark comparisons, but I have negativity to the instances that the news gives us, both on an observatory and personal view.

Let's take the murder of Aarushi Talwar for example. What started off as a murder of a child who was supposedly killed by her Nepali live-in man servant, Hemraj, turned into a full circle whodunit when Hemraj was found dead on the roof of their house. All this blame without any concrete evidence was put onto Dr. Rajesh Talwar, the father of Aarushi. The worst part of this story is the fact that all TV channels treated it as some sort of a blame game. A family was grieving over the death of their daughter, and the news channels only succeeded in one aspect: making their lives worse. The *Noida double murder* case became a national phenomenon; making some families doubt even their loved ones. What made them so insecure? Our very own gossip crazy news channels.

Another aspect that makes our news mills run wild is our very own celebrities. Whether it is Kareena Kapoor turning her body into a walking stick, Aamir Khan cutting his hair or Hrithik Roshan wearing a shirt available in Pepe Jeans, Indians

are extremely inquisitive about what their favorite celebrities do. I personally wonder, "Why exactly do we care?" I work out in the gym one and a half hours a day and no one else seems to care. What this does is creates false hope. "If they can make new fashion, why can't we?" we ask.

Apart from this, the media has an immense effect on sports. Before Team India went to the second T20 World Cup, I had lesser expectations than the rest because we Indians aren't good at defending. Too much overconfidence engulfing us is never a good sign. But the news channels expected our cricket team to move mountains there, because there was the *Dhoni factor* and how we did so well in the past 18 months. All of us shuddered when Team India came back losing in the semi finals, winning against only minnows like Bangladesh and Ireland and losing to teams we were supposed to overpower such as West Indies, England and arguably, South Africa, due to their tags of *chokers*. After we had lost to England and were officially out, some news reporters went even to the point of saying that Dhoni should be stripped off his captaincy. I ask, "For what?" The man has given us more success than any other captain, and arguably has a smarter and calculative mind than Sourav Ganguly. And you want to strip him off because of one tournament?

Altogether, I feel the media hype is having a negative effect on Indian culture, not only has it added to the divides we are going through, it has also created a whole new level of fanaticism. ♪

Solved

Equation:

$$| = ||| - ||$$

$$| \times | = |$$

$$||| + | = | \vee$$

The Red Sari

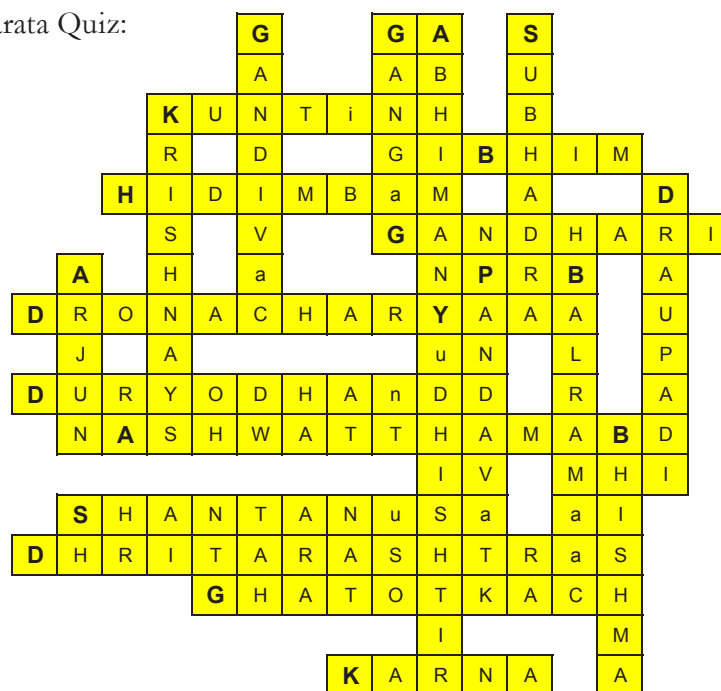
Reimi Dasdeb, Grade XII

They locked me up in an empty jewel box,
When I am a young lady
They placed me in the antique room
Since they want me "silent"

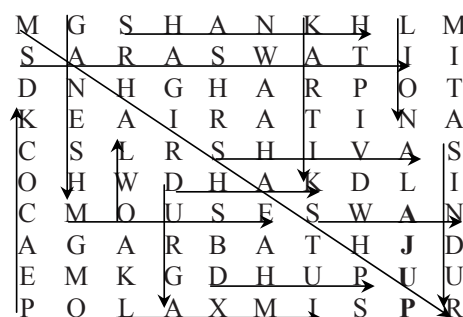
Silent! They can glance inside-
A heavily embroidered sari-unraveling
They should have trapped a butterfly instead
To marvel, at the patterns on the wings-

When innermost values are exposed
Just simple as a black bindi
Trailing a colorful shawl-running past the entrance gates

Answers to Mahabharata Quiz:



Answers to Puja Word Search:



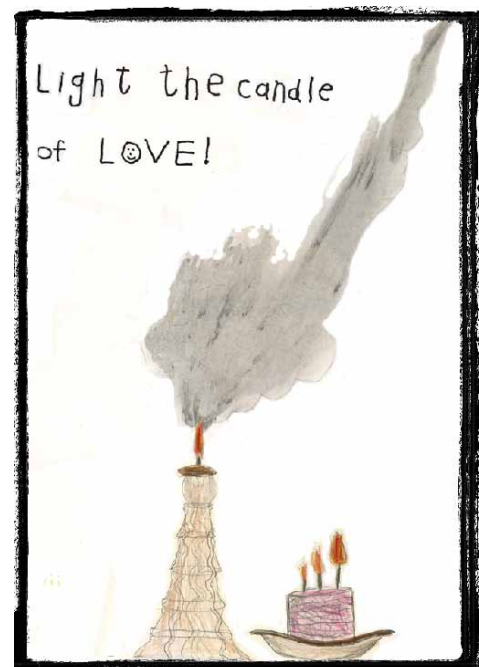
DRAWINGS



◀ “Rainbow”
by Ron (4 years)



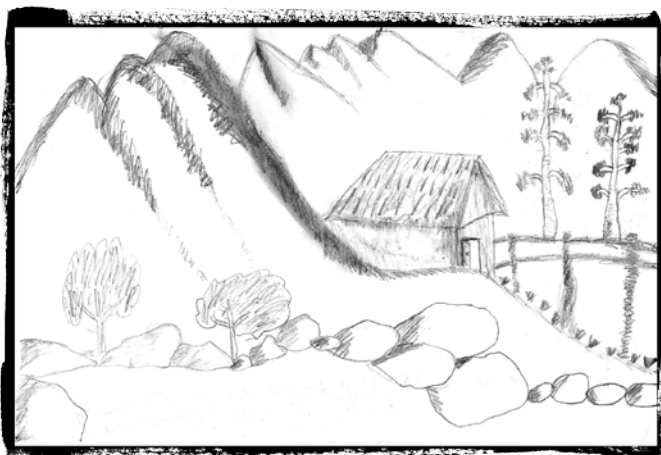
▲ “Divine Touch”
by Kenta/Sumit Bhowmik (Grade I)



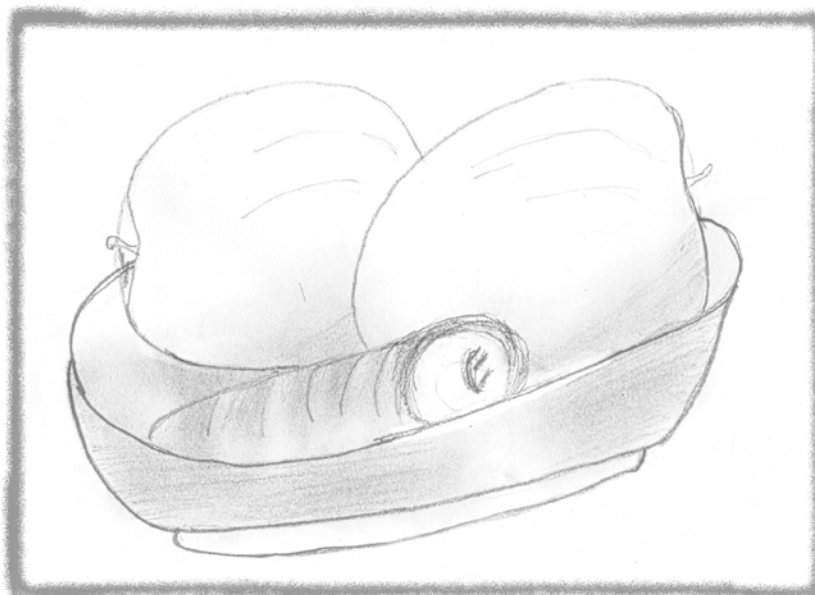
“Candle” ▲
by Aryan Sharma (6 years)



“Sunrise” ▶
by Tuhin Nag (Grade II)



◀ “Nature’s Beauty”
by Mritywika Dutttagupta (Grade I)



“Fruits” ▶
by Akaash Dutttagupta
(Grade VI)



◀ “Air Force”
by Aneek Nag (Grade V)



“Inspiration” ▲

by Subhankar Vakde (Grade II)

(This art is the 1st prize winner of Live-in-Japan art contest)



“Pokemon Card” ▲

by Arpan Bose (Grade II)



“Scarlet Macaw” ▲

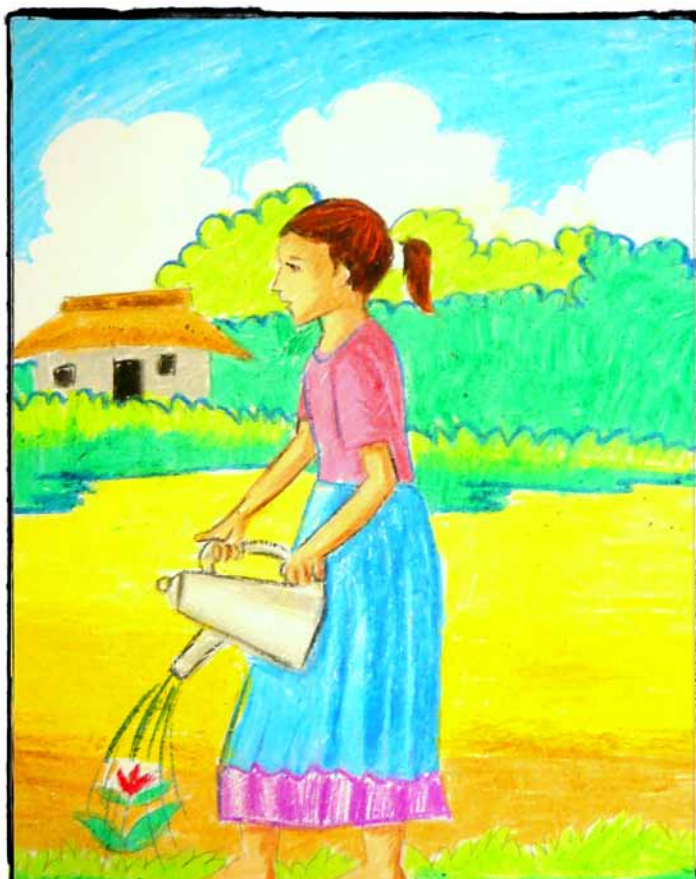
by Arsh Bhole (Grade III)



“Ganesha” ▲

by Kavya Sharma (Grade IV)

“My Garden” ▶
by Utsa Bose (Grade IV)



◀ Painting by
Shreyashi Bhattacharya (Grade IX)

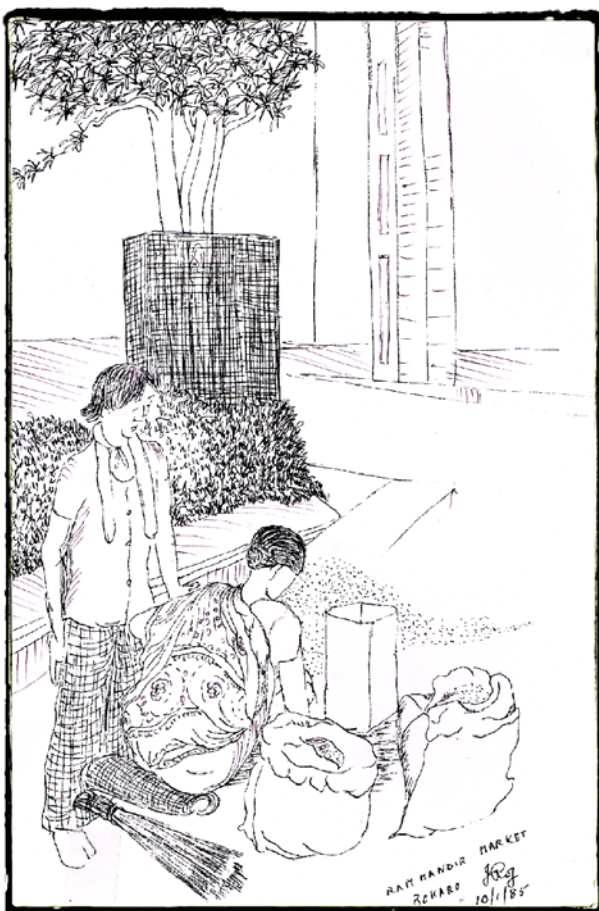
Arts



◀ Charcoal painting
“Genkan (Entrance)”
by Sanchita Ghosh



“Sky is the Limit” ▶
by Sushmita Pal



◀ “Rammandir Market”
by Jyotirmoy Ray



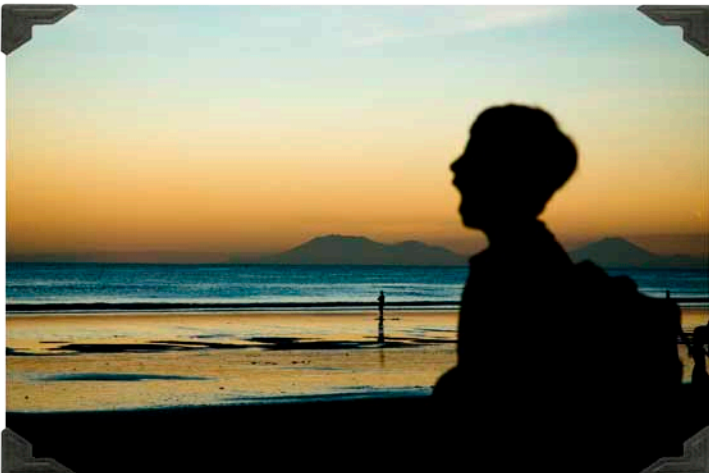
“Lost in Thoughts” ▶
by Mimi Dhar

Photographs



◀ “Ze-Man”
by Santanu Nag

“A Solitary Man in Hiroshima” ▶
by Ahona Gupta



◀ “Boring? NO, Tired? Yes.”
by Sanjib Chanda

Cook the Traditional Way

English Original: Nandini Basu

伝統的な料理の作り方

英文 ノンディニ・ボス

Japanese translation: Sudeb & Keiko Chattopadhyay 訳文 スデブ& 啓子・チャットパダイ

Bhuna Khichuri

Bengalis as a people, being culture conscious, like to hold on to traditions. This is evident in the fact that wherever there are Bengalis around the world, *Durga Puja* will certainly be celebrated, so that the socio-culture ethos is passed on to the next generation. And this, along with the Bengali love of food has ensured the survival of the traditional Bengali cuisine. Food plays a major role in any Bengali celebration.

A lot of the fun of *Durga Puja* is having *Bhuna Khichuri* at the *mandap* with friends and relatives.

The *khichuri* takes on the aroma of the incense, flowers, the fire and everything associated with the *Puja*.

Here is one of the ways in which *Bhuna Khichuri* may be prepared.

Ingredients

Moong Dal	1 cup
Basmati Rice	2 cups
Ghee	5 Table spoons
Ginger (finely chopped)	2 tablespoons
Onions (finely sliced)	3 medium
Oil	3 tablespoons
Cinnamon	4 inch stick
Cloves	4
Cardamoms	4
Bay leaves	2
Salt	to taste

Method

Roast *moong dal* lightly on the pan till you get a nice aroma. Rinse dal and rice together and drain the water. Add ghee in a pan and add chopped ginger, cinnamon, cloves, cardamoms and bay leaves and fry for a minute. Now add the rice and dal and fry for 2 minutes. Add 5 cups of water and salt. Cover and cook for 20 to 25 minutes till done.

Serve with crispy fried onions.

ブナキチュリ

ベンガルの人々は文化意識が強く、伝統を重んじます。世界中どこでもベンガル人が住んでいるところでは必ずドゥルガプジャが催され、次世代に伝統は継承されています。そして、ベンガル人の食を愛するところはベンガル料理の伝統を受け継いでいく原動力となっています。食はベンガルの祭りの重要な要素となっています。

ドゥルガプジャの楽しみの一つに、モンドプ(プジャのために立てられるテントのようなもの)で親戚や友人とブナキチュリを食べることがあります。

プジャで食べるキチュリにはプジャに使用されるお香、花、炎などのアロマが移り特別なご馳走となります。

ここにブナキチュリの作り方を紹介します。

材料

ムング豆	1カップ
バスマティ米	2カップ
ギー	大さじ5
生姜(みじん切り)	大さじ2
玉ねぎ(薄切り)	中サイズ3個
油	大さじ3
シナモン	10cmスティック1本
クローブ	4粒
カルダモン	4粒
ベイリーフ	2枚
塩	好みの分量

作り方

ムング豆を香ばしい香りがでるまで軽く炒ります。豆と米を一緒に軽く水洗いをします。鍋にギーを入れ、みじん切りの生姜、シナモン、クローブ、カルダモンとベイリーフを1分炒めます。次に米と豆を加え2分炒めます。5カップの水と適量の塩を加えふたをして中火で20-25分ほど煮込みます。カリカリにフライした玉ねぎを添えて出します。

Chaal Payas

Rice or “chaal” being the staple diet of Bengal has a special significance in the Bengali culture and is regarded as auspicious.

Even today, a typical Bengali mother will always make “*Chaal payas*” for her child on his/her birthday for good luck and blessings, even though there might be a huge birthday cake for the birthday party.

After all “*Chaal Payas*” is not so difficult to make!

Ingredients

1 Quart milk
1 tablespoon basmati rice
2 tablespoon sugar
3 almonds
3-4 green cardamoms

Method

Bring milk to boil in high heat. Reduce the heat to medium. Boil for 30 minutes.

Wash the rice and add to the boiling milk. Boil for a further 30 minutes.

Add sugar to the milk and rice.

Blanch the almonds, cut them into thin strips and add to the mixture along with cardamoms.

After 5-7 minutes of further boiling, pour into a casserole. Cool and put into the refrigerator. Serve cold.

チャレルパイシ

米(ベンガル語でチャールと言う)はベンガルで縁起を担ぐものとされ、重要な食品として扱います。

今日でも、お誕生日に大きいケーキが用意されていても、お母さんは必ず幸運と祝福を招くとされるパイシという甘いものを米で作ります。

米で作るパイシは簡単に作れます。

材料

牛乳	1リットル
バスマティ米	大さじ1
砂糖	大さじ2
アーモンド	3粒
グリーンカルダモン	3-4粒

作り方

ミルクを沸騰させ、あと中火にして30分ほど温めます。米を水で洗い沸騰しているミルクに加え、さらに30分ほど煮込みます。

ミルクと米に砂糖を加えます。

アーモンドの皮をむき、薄切りにし、カルダモンを加えます。

5-7分ほどさらに煮込み、キャセロールに移し、冷蔵庫で冷やして出します。

Kalapata Maach

“Jamai Shosthi” is observed in a big way in Bengal to show “Jamai ador” or love for the son-in-law.

And what better way to show the love than through the stomach and with preparations of fish!

The mother-in-law makes various fish preparations “nijer hathe” which literally translates to “with her own hands”.

One of the traditional preparations of fish is “Kalapata Maach” or fish wrapped in banana leaves.

Traditionally this would be prepared with Hilsa, but as a modern “Jamai” may not be so adept in deboning the fish, fillets of Bhetki or prawns are being used nowadays.

Ingredients

Hilsa or Bhetki or Prawns	12 pieces
Coconut (ground)	2 tablespoons
Mustard seeds(ground)	2 tablespoons
Mustard oil	¾ cup
Green chillies	3

Salt	to taste
Banana leaves	12 pieces

Method

Grind the mustard seeds, coconut and the green chillies.

Mix all the ingredients with the fish. Leave it at least for 2 hours.

Wrap each piece of fish in clean banana leaves. Tie securely with a string.

One may fry the fish till it is cooked or cook it in the oven for 30 minutes till the leaves begin to scorch. Traditionally the wrapped pieces of fish used to be put inside the huge mound of rice cooked for a joint family.

In fact traditionally in Bengal, food used to be served on banana leaves.

This was clean hygienic and eco-friendly.

However, with the advent of westernization and buffet meals the Bengali Babus decided that this was not “fashionable” enough, so today plates have taken its place.

However, I still miss the fresh aroma of the banana leaves whenever I eat in a Bengali marriage or Pujabari.

カラパタマチ

ジャマイソスティは婿に対する愛情を表す行事でベンガルでは大々的に行われます。

この愛情を表すための最高のもてなしはご馳走をふるまうことであり、特に魚料理を中心に準備されます。

このときに義母はいろいろな魚料理を自分自身で料理します。

伝統的な魚料理の一つは“カラパタマチ”、つまり、バナナの葉っぱで包んだ魚料理です。

通常はこの料理に最適な魚はヒルサ(鰯のように河口に生息する魚)ですが、最近の婿は魚の骨に弱いので、代わりに骨の少ないベトキという魚やえびを使います。

材料

ヒルサかベトキかえび	12ピース
ココナツ(おろしたもの)	大さじ2
マスタードシード(すりおろしたもの)	大さじ2
マスタード油	¾カップ
青唐辛子	3本
塩	お好みに合わせて
バナナの葉	12枚

作り方

マスタードシード、ココナツ、青唐辛子をすりおろします。

すりおろした3種の材料と魚を混ぜて2時間置きます。

バナナの葉に魚を包み糸で縛ります。

この魚を葉で包んだまま油で揚げたり、包んだ葉が焦げるまで30分ほどオーブンで焼いたりします。

伝統的な作り方としては、葉に包まれた魚を米の中に入れて一緒に炊くことが多いのです。

ベンガルでは昔、バナナの葉を皿の代わりにしていました。衛生的にもよくエコでもありました。西洋化につれてベンガルの家長たちはバナナの葉は時代遅れと判断し、代わりに西洋皿を使うようになりました。但し、私は今でもベンガルの結婚式やプジャでご馳走になるとときには、バナナの葉の香りを今でも懐かしく思います。

Patishapta Pithe

In Bengal the most pleasant month is “Poush” which coincides with December.

It is the time for outings and picnics.

The last day is Poush Sankranti” when many people go to take a holy dip where the Ganges meets the Bay of Bengal called the “Ganga Sagar”. It is also a time for making a special type of sweets called “Pithe”.

Traditionally there are many types of “Pithes” and every Bengali household would make at least 5-6 varieties.

However in “modern times” I have been able to convince my family that with the limited resources and help they should be satisfied with only one type of “Pithe” and I make the easiest one-“Patishapta Pithe”, and this is the recipe I use.

Ingredients

Coconut or dessicated coconut	1or 400gm
Sugar	400gm
Flour	200gm
Semolina-Sooji	200gm .
Oil or ghee	200gm.
Cardamom powder	3 teaspoons

Method

Soak flour semolina and 200 gm of sugar in a little water for 2 to 3 hours to make a thin batter.

Grate the coconut or use desiccated coconut and cook with 200 gm sugar, until the mixture becomes sticky. Remove from the fire. Add 2 teaspoons of cardamom powder and let it cool.

Make thin rolls of 2 inch length with the mixture. Keep aside.

Heat ghee or oil and keep in a bowl.

Now add 1 teaspoon of cardamom powder to the thin batter.

Put a heavy pan to the fire. Grease the surface lightly with the ghee or oil with brush.

The traditional method of application was by holding the stem of a small piece of brinjal cut breadth-wise, and using its flat surface.

Pour one dessertspoon of the batter and spread evenly. Place one thin roll of coconut filling on one side of the spread.

Turn gently and roll like a pancake. Cook on low heat so that it doesn't become brown.

And it is up to us to keep the tradition alive! You may enjoy trying some of these recipes.

In today's fast moving world “eating out” has become the commonest form of celebration, but

I can assure you that there is no substitute for the traditional Bengali cuisine.

パティサプタピテ

ベンガルでは季節的に最も過ごしやすい月は“ポウシュ”とよばれ、日本の12月と重なります。

この時期、ピクニックなどに出かけることが多くあります。

ポウシュ月の最後の日は“ポウシュソノクランティ”と呼ばれ、この日多くの人は、とても神聖なガンジス川の河口で沐浴します。

また特別なスイーツの“ピテ”を作る時期でもあります。

昔からベンガルの家庭では大抵5-6種類の伝統的な“ピテ”を作る習慣があります。

但し、現代の社会に生きる私たちには時間と必要な材料の制限から、家族に1種類の“ピテ”でよいだろうと納得させ、一番簡単に作れる“パティサプタ”という“ピテ”を作ります。以下はその作り方を紹介します。

材料

ココナツかみじん切りのココナツ	1個か400g
砂糖	400g
薄力粉	200g
セモリナ粉	200g
油かギー	200g
カルダモン粉末	小さじ3

作り方

セモリナ粉と砂糖に200gの水を混ぜ薄い生地にして2-3時間置いておきます。

おろしたココナツかみじん切りのココナツと200gの砂糖を加え、ある程度粘りが出るまで温めながら混ぜ合わせます。火からはなしカルダモンパウダーを2スプーン混ぜ、冷まします。

棒状にし、5cmぐらいの長さに切ります。

ギーか油を温めてボールに入れておきます。

置いておいた生地小さじ1のカルダモンパウダーを加えます。

フライパンを火にかけ、ギーか油を薄く引きます。

昔はナスを半分に切り、その平らな表面を使って油をのばしていました。

スプーン1杯の生地をフライパンに注ぎ薄く平らにのばします。

棒状のココナツを平らにのばした生地の片側におきます。

静かに軽く巻き返し、パンケーキのように巻きかえしていきます。弱火で焦げてしまわないように焼いてください。

寂しいことに最近は祝い事に外食が盛んになっていますが、このような伝統的なベンガル料理の代わりはないと私は思います。

皆さんはこれらのレシピを作って楽しんでみてください。それによってベンガルの伝統は長続きすると思います。🌸

十五夜のお供え物・月見団子 Offerings for the Jyuugoya: Tsukimi-Dango

日本文 啓子チャットパダイ
英訳 朱門チャットパダイ

Japanese Original: Keiko Chattopadhyay
English Translation: Sumon Chattopadhyay

昔、日本では、月は神様でした。

月の満ち欠けにより、おおよその月日を知り農事を行っていました。1872年(明治5年)までは旧暦(太陰暦)が使われ、現在は、1873年(明治6年)に誕生した新暦(太陽暦)が使われています。旧暦では新月から次の新月までを1ヶ月と定めており、新月は毎月1日、満月は毎月15日頃と決まっていました。

日本も世の中が便利になるにつれ、季節感を味わうことも少なくなり、行事も年を重ねるごとに簡素化されています。ドゥルガ・プジャと同じ時期の日本のお祭りに、月を愛でるお祭り「十五夜」があります。「十五夜」とは、新月から数えて15日目の満月(に近い月)の夜を指します。旧暦での8月は、1年のなかでもっとも月が明るく美しく見える季節とされており、8月15日(新暦では9月中旬から10月上旬にかけて)を、中秋の名月と呼び、月を鑑賞する他、これから始まる収穫期を前にして、収穫を感謝する初穂祭としての意味合いがありました。中国から日本の平安時代の貴族に伝わり、武士や町民、特に里芋をはじめとする芋類の収穫の感謝祭として農民の間に広く普及した十五夜の行事は、祭儀の行われる大切な節目でもあったようです。



お供えものには神様の祝福があるので、魔除けの力があるといわれるすすきや秋の草花を花瓶に飾り、お神酒、満月に見立てたお団子と里芋や梨など、その時期の豊作物をお供えし、感謝の気持ちを表しました。新暦では普通9月の中旬、今年、2009年は10月3日にあたります。

In ancient Japan, the Moon was considered a goddess. The Japanese have traditionally farmed by determining the time of the year using the waxing and waning of the moon as a guide. Until 1872 (the 5th year of Emperor Meiji's Reign), *Kyuureki* (Old Calendar), a combination of solar and lunar calendar determinants, was mainly used in Japan. In modern days, *Shinreki* (New Calendar), the Gregorian solar calendar adopted in 1873 (the 6th year of Emperor Meiji's reign) is used. In *Kyuureki*, the time span between new moons was deemed one month, and the new moon was to be the first day of each month, and the full moon around the 15th day of the month. As living in Japan becomes more convenient, little attention is given to sense of seasons, and seasonal events become simplified year after year. The Japanese celebrate *Jyuugoya*, a ceremony that honors the Moon, around the same time as Durga Puja. *Jyuugoya*, or literally "Fifteenth Night", is the night of the full moon fifteen days after the new moon. The moon is said to be the most brightly visible on the eighth month of the old lunar calendar. The moon visible on August 15th of *Kyuureki* (Mid-September to Early October in the solar calendar) is called *Chuushuu-no-Meigetsu* (the Harvest Moon, or literally "Mid-Autumn's Splendid Moon") and was not only enjoyed aesthetically but also used as an opportunity of for ceremonies full of offering and prayers for the upcoming harvest to be successful. The idea was passed on to the Japanese aristocrats during the Heian Period, and later spread amongst the warrior class and commoners as a harvest thanksgiving mainly for potatoes, mostly taro. The farmers also considered the ceremonies of the Jyuugoya an important seasonal turning point.

Since it is mainly believed that the Gods bless the offerings given during *Jyuugoya*, pampas grass and other autumn plants, believed to ward off evil spirits, are put in a vase and presented, along with blessed sake, dumplings resembling the full moon, taro potatoes, Japanese pears, and other harvests taken during that time to represent thanks. According to the New Calendar, *Jyuugoya* is usually during mid-September. This year, 2009, it coincides with the 3rd of October.

ここまででは、私も本から仕入れた知識です。私は日本の核家族化のはしりなのか、親族が集まり祭事をおこなうことがありませんでした。東京で育ち、近所のお付き合いも少なく、周囲にあまり自然もなく、十五夜も、幼稚園や学校、本を読むことで知りました。母にねだり、月見団子と一緒に作ったことが唯一の十五夜の思い出です。

これから十五夜に供える月見だんごをつくります。団子はロショゴーラと見た目、形状は似ています。食べてみるとわかりますが、材料、食感が違います。ロショゴーラはミルクから作りますが、団子はもち米から作ります。団子をこねて丸める作業は、子供たちも大好きな仕事でしょう。丸めるだけでなくいろいろな形にも出来ます。ぜひ一緒に季節を愛でる行事を楽しんでください。

月見団子

(中国でおそなえされる月餅が日本に伝わり、月見団子に変わったといわれている。)

材料

だんご粉 120g

水 100cc



1. だんご粉に水を混ぜ、耳たぶの硬さになるように手でこねます。硬い場合は水を少しずつ足してください。



2. こねた生地を16等分にし、丸い形にします。



3. たっぷりのお湯を沸かし沸騰してきたら、丸めた団子を入れます。浮き上がってきたらそのまま2～3分ゆでます

4. 団子がふっくらし、茹で上がったなら氷水にさらします。

Up till the previous paragraph is information I acquired from various readings. Born in a contemporary nuclear family, I never experienced having large gatherings with relatives to honor seasonal ceremonies such as this. Growing up in Tokyo made nature hard to come by and neighborhood relationships quite estranged, so I learned about seasonal ceremonies such as Jyuugoya through school and books. I still remember making dumplings with my mother after begging her for so long.

Now we will try to make Tsukimi Dumplings. Dumplings look very similar in color and shape to Rosogolla. While Rosogolla is made of cottage cheese, Tsukimi Dumplings are made of ground rice used for rice cakes. So the basic taste is totally different. Kneading the dough and making them into small round balls might be a job that children would also enjoy. Not all the dumplings have to be completely round either. I hope you will enjoy this seasonal event as much as I do.

Tsukimi-dango (Moon-watching Dumplings; it is said that the Moon-watching Rice Cakes used in China were adapted by the Japanese and changed into dumplings)

Ingredients

Dumpling powder 120g

Water 100cc

1. Add the water to the dumpling powder and knead with your hands until the dough is about as soft as your earlobes. Slowly add the water in order to adjust the softness.
2. Split the dough into sixteen equal portions, and make each portion into spheres.
3. Fill a pan with water, and when the water is boiled add the dough. When the dumplings rise to the surface of the water, continue boiling for another 2 or 3 minutes.
4. When the dumplings seem plump and boiled, place them under running water

5. さめたら皿などの上に上げ、水気を切り、できあがりです。

お供え用の団子は、このまま団子を積み重ねます。お供え用の団子は十五夜なので15個、と聞いたことがあります。しかし重ねにくいのです。重ね方も、いろいろあり、わたしは正ピラミッドの形に重ねています。今回は少なめに1段目 6個・2段目 3個・3段目 1個で仕上げました。



団子はこのままでは味が余りついていないので、色々な餡やたれを絡めていただきます。次によく食べられている団子のたれの作り方を3種のせておきます。

みたらし団子

材料

砂糖 大さじ5
しょうゆ 大さじ2
みりん 大さじ1
水 100cc
片栗粉 大さじ1(水大さじ1で溶く)

1. 小鍋に 砂糖、しょうゆ・みりん・水 をあわせて煮立て、水で溶いた片栗粉を加えてすばやくまぜあわせ、全体がまざりとろみがついたら、火からおろします。

2. 団子に、かけ、からめて召し上がれ。

こしあん団子

餡は小豆と砂糖から出来ています。餡をつくるのは少々手順がややこしいため市販のねり餡をつかいます。ねり餡はスーパーで売っています。餡を団子にのせて召し上がれ。

and ice to cool.

5. When the dumplings are cooled and dry, place them on a dish and you're done!

Dumplings used for offerings are often piled up into neat pyramids. I've heard that fifteen dumplings are used since the ceremony is on the fifteenth night of the month (according to the old calendar.). However, fifteen is a hard number to make a pyramid out of. There are many ways to pile round objects, but I finally settled for the trigonal pyramid. I used six dumplings for the bottom layer, three for the middle, and finally one on the top.

Dumplings taste plain by themselves; many different types of jams and sauces are poured onto them. Here, I will present three main types of sauce-dumpling combinations that are enjoyed by the Japanese.

Mitarashi-dango

(Sweet Soy Sauce Dumplings)

Ingredients

Sugar 5 tablespoons
Soy Sauce 2 tablespoons
Sweet Sake Seasoning 1 tablespoon
Water 100cc
Potato starch 1 tablespoon
(mix with 1 tablespoon of water)

1. Add the sugar, sake seasoning, soy sauce and water into a saucepan and stir until boiled up. Add the mixed potato starch quickly, and when the sauce is mixed and thick, remove from the heat.

2. Pour onto the dumplings, and enjoy!

Koshian-dango

(Strained Red Bean Paste Dumplings)

The paste is made from red beans and sugar. The process is a little too complicating so here we use commercial strained bean paste. These can be found at your local supermarket. Apply the paste on the dumplings and enjoy!

黄な粉団子

材料

黄な粉20g
砂糖20g

黄な粉と砂糖を器に入れ、混ぜ合わせてください。
あとは団子にまぶして召しあがれ。



手軽にチャレンジ
してもらいたくて、
お供え物の中か
らお団子だけに
こだわってみました。

みなで一緒に月を眺め、いただく食事は、栗ご飯、炊き込みご飯、きのこご飯、筑前煮、炊き合わせ、枝豆などの収穫された季節の食材で用意されます。

インドと同じで日本も北から南、西から東、地域や家庭により色々な風習があり、食される食材も味付けもいろいろあります。お米を食べる文化であるインドと日本、いろいろな共通があるかもしれません。皆さん、日本にいる間にいろいろなところで色々な味と出会ってください。🌸

Kinako-dango (Soybean Flour Dumplings)

Ingredients

Soybean flour 20g
Sugar 20g

Mix both powders in a bowl and pour onto the dumplings.

Enjoy!

Because I wanted to process to be easy, I decided to concentrate only on the dumplings, although there are many different types of recipes used for the offerings given during the ceremonies.

The most common meal given to a family enjoying the sight of the moon together would be comprised of either rice steamed with chestnut, rice seasoned with soy sauce and boiled with meat or seafood, and other savory vegetables, or rice steamed with mushrooms along with sautéed chicken boiled with vegetables, steamed vegetables, and soybeans in a pod.

Just like India, Japan has different customs depending on the region from north to south, east to west, and the food is prepared differently depending on the region as well. Since both countries enjoy rice immensely, there may be remarkable similarities between India and Japan. I hope you will meet many of the beautiful tastes that Japan has to offer. 🌸



Some Major Hindu Festivals インドの行事(祭り)

English Original: Sudipta Roychoudhury 英文 スディプタ・ロイチョウドリ

Japanese translation: Sudeb & Keiko Chattopadhyay 訳文 スデブ& 啓子・チャットパダイ

Navratri / Dusshera: 19~28th September: The nine nights festival of Navratri begins on the first day of Ashwin of the bright fortnight. The festival signifies power, wealth, prosperity and knowledge. The nine days celebration in Tamil Nadu have been equally divided for worshipping the three Goddesses namely Lakshmi (the first three days are dedicated to the Goddess of wealth and prosperity), Saraswati (the next three days are dedicated to the Goddess of learning and arts) and Durga (the last three days are dedicated to Mother Goddess, Shakti). The tenth day or the Vijayadasami, is considered to be a very important day when the idol of three goddess are taken out in procession and immersed in a river or sea. The tenth day of the festival is also known as Dusshera. Dusshera is celebrated in various ways in different parts of India. In Mysore the festival is celebrated by the famous gala procession of richly bedecked elephants on the brightly lit streets of the city where elephant carries goddess Parvati. In Varanasi, for ten days period the great epic 'Ramayana' is shown to people on stage as a drama. Dussehra is celebrated in Punjab after nine days of fasting during Navratri while Garba dance and music reigns the evenings and nights of Gujarat during the ten days of the festival. In Himachal Pradesh, the festival is marked by the grand processions of the village deities of the hill people.

Durga puja: 24~27 September 2009: Durga Puja is widely celebrated in eastern part of India. It is not only the biggest Hindu festival celebrated throughout the State, but also the most significant socio-cultural event in Bengali society. According to mythology Goddess Durga descends to the Earth on Shashti and returns to her abode on Dashmi. The clear blue sky, the cool pleasant air, the beautiful fragrance of Shiuli (a type of flower of this season), the lush green fields and chanting of mantras and shlokas of Goddess Shakti, all sum up together to create the perfect ambience for the celebration of Durga Puja, the greatest festival of the Bengalis. The preparations for the festival are done way in advance as beautiful pandals are build in different areas of the city. These are mainly community pujas, which are

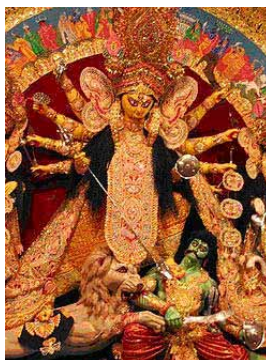
ノボラトリ・ドゥシェラ: 2009年9月19-28日

この9日間の祭りはアッシン月の1日に始まり、月が満ちる時期に行います。この祭りは権力、富、繁栄と知識を象徴します。タミルナドゥでは3日ずつ、3人の神様を崇拝しま



す。最初は富と繁栄の神ラクシュミを崇め、次は知識の神サラスワティ、最後に権力の神ドゥルガ(ラクシュミとサラスワティの母、別名シャクティ)を祭ります。10日目はビジョヤドショミとよび、3人の神様の像を川や海に流すために町の大通りを練り歩きます。この日ドゥシェラとも呼ばれ、インドの他の地域でも盛大に祝われています。マイソールでは道路がライトアップし、象も盛大に飾り付け行進に使います。バラナシではこの10日間はラーマヤーナの劇が上演します。パンジャブではナバラトリの9日間の断食を終え祝宴の日となります。また、グジュラトではガルバのダンスと音楽で10日間を盛大に祝福します。ヒマチャルプロデシュでは祭りの特徴として山に住む人々があがめる神像を行進に使用します。

ドゥルガプジャ: 2009年9月24-27日



東インドの広い地域でドゥルガプジャを盛大に祝います。西ベンガルでは最も重要な年間の行事として扱われ、文化や社会的観点でも最大の年間イベントになります。インド神話では女神ドゥルガは人間に祝福を与えるために、新月から数えて6日目(ソシュティ)に天から地に降りてきて、10日目(ドショミ)にはまた天に戻ります。

ベンガル人にとって最大の祭りとなるドゥルガプジャの時期は、秋の真っ青な空、涼しげな空気、シウリ花の香り、緑いっぱいの畑、ドゥルガの神に唱えるマントラの聖なる響きなど総合的に最高な祭りの雰囲気醸します。

プジャのための準備もだいぶ前から入念に行われ、各地域で綺麗なパンドル(神様を崇拝するために立てられる

mainly financed by the local people or sponsorship from big corporate houses. The people of Bengal start preparing for the festival from Mahalaya (the starting of the festive season). They decorate homes, buy gifts for friends and relatives and new clothes for themselves and relatives for the festival. The shopping plaza and markets are totally packed up from one month before the festival..

Lakshmi Puja: 4th October: Lakshmi Puja is another Bengali festival that is celebrated in every household. Goddess Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth is worshipped just after Durga Puja. Lakshmi is one of the daughters of Durga who symbolizes wealth, peace and prosperity. On a full moon night people worship her at their homes and pray for her blessings. Delicious Bengali Recipes on Lakshmi Puja night are cooked and are then given to Goddess Laxmi as an offering. It is considered that Goddess Lakshmi visits homes of the devotees and replenishes them with wealth.

Diwali / Kali Puja: 17th October 2009: The festival of Diwali is the festival of lights and is celebrated with great excitement by all Indians all over the world. After dark every city, town, village are turned into a fairyland – every home and public building is illuminated with many oil lamps and electric lights. This night most of all hindus worship Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity, however in West Bengal, they worship Kali, the goddess of strength. Diwali is also the noisiest of all Indian festivals as countless fire crackers explode through out the night.

Makar Shankranti/Gangasagar mela: 14th January 2010: Makar Sankranti is celebrated in the last day of the Bengali month of Poush. In Bengal, this day is one of the most auspicious time of the year. Thousands of pilgrims from different parts of the country gather at Gangasagar, the point where the holy river Ganges meets the sea, to take a dip and wash away all the earthly sins. Makar Sankranti falls on the day of the year when the sun-considered the king of all grahas (planets)-is in the rashi (zodiac sign) known as Makar (Capricorn).

Saraswati Puja: 20th January 2010: Saraswati puja is celebrated through out the country. The Goddess of knowledge is revered among the students and learned who strictly follow all the rituals to worship her. The festivities that accompany Saraswati puja is

テントのようなもの)を作ります。これらは大抵地域の人々や中小企業から集める寄付で賄います。プジャ本体の準備はモハロヤの日(祭りが始まる日)から着手し、住んでいる家も飾り付け、新しい服の買いまとめ、親戚や友人への贈り物の準備などで、町全体に活気が溢れます。お店もこの時期になると実際にプジャの日(ソプトミ)の一ヶ月前からとても忙しい時を迎えます。

ラクシュミプジャ: 2009年10月4日

ベンガルではラクシュミプジャはほとんどの家庭で行われる行事の一つです。ドゥルガの女神の次に重要とされている娘のラクシュミ女神は富や商売繁栄を祝福してくれる神様としてあがめまします。このプジャは満月の日の夜に行います。この日、神様のお供え物として、女性はいろいろなお馳走を作ります。この準備やお祈りを入念にすれば神様が祝福を与えるために家を訪問するとされ、そのために家を綺麗に飾ります。



ディワリ/カリプジャ: 2009年10月17日

このプジャは灯りの祭りともいいます。インドの全地域で催されるこの祭りは夜に行われます。この日は、町の各家や企業のビルや工場などはともしびや、電灯で飾られ、町全体は不思議な明るい雰囲気になります。インドの他の地域ではこの日、富の神様ラクシュミが崇拝されますが、西ベンガルではこの日力の神様カリ神を崇めまします。この日花火や爆竹で一



晩中にぎやかに過ごします。

マカルシャンクランティ/ガンガサガルメラ:

2010年1月14日

ベンガルの暦のポウシュ月最後の日に行われるこの行事はベンガルで最も神聖とされる日に当たります。多くの巡礼者たちはこの日ガンガサガルに沐浴します。ガンガサガルはガンジス川がベンガル湾に流れ出る河口のことです。この沐浴によりすべての罪が流されると信じています。マカルシャンクランティの言葉は、この日、星の神様太陽が山羊座(マカル)と重なることから由来しています。

サラスワティプジャ: 2010年1月20日

サラスワティプジャはインド全国、特に西ベンガル地方で行われます。サラスワティ女神は勉強や知識を象徴することで、特に学生や知識人は忠実にしきたりを守り神様を崇めまします。プジャの伴う祭りは社会的な活動の重要な位置づけとなります。若い女性は黄色のサリーを身につけ、

a part of the social celebrations. Young girls are seen in yellow saris. Pushpanjali (offering of flowers along with mantras) are offered. Bright palash flowers are offered that are a part of the worship. Young people enjoy the day with each other. Cultural programmes are staged at night. The Goddess who is the patron of music, culture and learning is revered by singers and musicians with great devotion.



人々はパラシュという赤い花を添えて神様にアンジャリ(供物)をささげます。勉強する必要がないので、この日は若い者は楽しく過ごします。夜には歌や劇の文化的な催事が行われます。サラスワティは特に芸術にかかわる人々、特に歌手や音楽家などの文化人には大変尊敬される女神です

Holi / Bosonto Utsob: 1st March 2010: Holi is associated with Lord Krishna who used to play with colors with Radha and Gopis. Holi is one of the major festivals of India and is celebrated in most of the states of India. People fill the streets, squirting colored water on people regardless of age, caste or creed. However, each region celebrates it according to their culture and traditions. Holi has its own charm in Visvabharati University (established by Rabindranath Tagore) where it is celebrated in a unique way. The girl students of Shantiniketan dress up in saffron saris and wear fragrant garlands. They sing and dance before their teachers and guests. The show concludes with the smearing of colour powder on one another's foreheads..

Liquid colours are totally forbidden

Rama Navami: 24 March 2010: The birth anniversary of Lord Rama is celebrated in the month of Chaitra (which usually falls in March or April according to the Hindu calendar) and is also known as Ramnavami. It is celebrated with great devotion across the nation and every region has its own regional significance behind the celebration. The public worship starts with morning ablutions, chanting Vedic mantras dedicated to Vishnu, and offering flowers and fruit to the god. People keep a fast throughout the day, breaking it only at midnight with fruit. In some parts of India, especially Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, public gatherings called satsangs are organised to commemorate the birth of Rama. The pilgrims flock the temples of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh, where Rama was born and Pondicherry to participate in Ramnavami festivities.

Charak: 14th April: Charak puja is a traditional Bengali festival celebrated mainly in the rural areas. The groups of men and women, who take up this 'Brata' or the time bound ritual, have to go through a month long fasting from sunrise to sunset, live

ホーリー/ボソントウトソブ: 2010年3月1日

ホーリーはクリシュナ神がラーダ神とその家来のゴピ達と遊んでいる姿と関係が深い祭りです。ホーリーはインドで



重要な行事の一つで、ほとんどの地域で祝われています。人々は町のいたるところでだれかれかまわず相手に色水をかけます。地域によってやり方が多少

異なり、たとえば、シャンティニケタンにあるヴィッショバラティ大学(ロビンドラナート・タゴールによって創設)では特別な祝い方があります。大学の女生徒達は濃黄色のサリーを身につけ、黄色い花のレイで身を飾り、歌や踊りで、ゲストや観客を楽しませます。祭りの最後に色パウダーをお互いの額につけあいます。シャンティニケタンでは色水の使用は禁止されています。

ラーマナバミ: 2010年3月24日

ラーマ神の誕生日を祝う行事です。ヒンズー暦のチイトラ月に行われ、年によって4月に行くこともあります。インド全域で信仰深く祭られています。但し、地域によってしきたりの詳細が違います。朝は沐浴後ビシュナ神崇拝のマントラで始まり、花や果物を神様に供えます。日中は断食で過ごし、夜遅くに果物を食べて行事を終えます。特にビハールやウッタルプロデシュでは民間行事としてサトサングと呼ばれるラーマ神の誕生祝い会が営まれます。信者たちはウッタルプロデシュのラーマ神が生まれたとされるアヨッダの寺に集まり、ラーマ神を崇めます。同じような行事はポンディチェリー地方でも行われます。

チャラク: 2010年4月14日

チャラクは特に西ベンガル地方の行事で、主に農村地域で営まれます。特別な習慣(プロト)を宗教のしきたりとし、一ヶ月に及ぶ日中の断食をし、神様を崇拝し、食べ物として果物以外何も口にしない厳しい修行を成し遂げます。チャラクの日には竹で作る高いジャンプ台のような

strictly on fruits & perform the daily worship in order to get the 'blessings of the lord. On the day of the 'Charak' or the 'Gajan', as it is also called, bamboo stages are made on bamboo poles, the height ranging from 10 to 15 feet. What follows is a macabre yet fascinating spectacle.

After the month long penance the devotees step up the high bamboo stage & hurl themselves forward. The ground on which they fall is embedded with glass, thorns, knives & other devious weapons. But the devotee escapes unhurt! The blessing of the god keeps him safe from all the possible harms.



ものが設置され、信仰の深い信者たちはこの高台から、ガラス破片、ナイフや怪我する恐れのあるものをばら撒き、そこに飛び降りま

す。神様の祝福があると、どんな危険な飛び降り方でも絶対怪我しないとされており、それを確かめる行為になります。無事であれば、一年間家庭の安全と健康が守られるとされています。

Kumbha Mela: 14~28th April 2010: It is one of the most major fairs in India which takes place every three years, at Haridwar, Allahabad, Nasik and Ujjain alternatively. Each twelve-year cycle includes the Maha (great) Kumbha Mela at Prayag, attended by millions of people, making it the largest pilgrimage gathering around the world.

The Kumbha Mela is organized to celebrate the achievement of the pitcher of nectar. According to Hindu Mythology, thousand of years ago when human history was in its first phase, a battle of existence was fought between good and evil forces. The pitcher was the final outcome of the battle. Millions of Hindu feel even today that there is probably nothing holier than a "Kumbha Snan"- a dip in the holy waters at the time of Kumbha.

クンバメラ: 2010年4月14-28日

これはインドの最も有名な行事の一つです。3年に一回行われ、ハリドワル、エラハバドゥ、ナシクとウッジョインの都市で交代に行われます。12年に一回はマハ・クンバメラがプロヤグという場所に開催され、100万規模の人々が集まり、世界でも最大規模の信者の集会行事になります。この行事の主な目的は容



器に納められている永遠の命の源とされるネクトルを祭ることです。インド神話によると、何千年も前、人類存在の初期のころに、善と悪の長い戦いの末、このネクトルの容器が人類の救いとなりました。以降、ヒンズー教の多くの信者たちには、このクンバメラの時期に指定された場所で沐浴することが一生涯の最も神聖な行為とされています。

Rath Yatra: 2nd July 2010: Rath Yatra is a huge festival associated with Lord Jagannath held at Puri in the State of Orissa, India, during the month of June (Rainy Season). Most of the city's society is based around the worship of Jagannath with the ancient temple being the fulcrum of the area. The festival commemorates Lord Jagannath's annual visit to his aunt's home.

ラータジャトトラ: 2010年7月2日



ラータジャトトラはジャガンナト神を祝う大変大規模な祭りです。オリッサ州のプリーという都市で盛大に行われます。時期的に、インドのモンスーン(雨季)と重なります。プリーの町自体はジャガンナト神を祭る古い寺を中心に栄えています。ラータジャトトラはジャガンナト神が綺麗に飾られた乗り物(ラータ)に乗って叔母の家を訪問することを祝います。

Raksha Bandhon (Rakhi): 13th August 2010: Rakhi is basically a sacred thread of protection embellished with the love and affection of a sister for her brother. This day is also known as Raksha Bandhan and celebrated on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Shravana in India. This frail of thread of Rakhi is considered as stronger than iron chains as it binds the most beautiful relationship in an inseparable bond of love and trust.

ラクシャ・バンドオン(ラキー): 2010年8月13日



ラクシャ(ラキー)は姉・妹から兄・弟に送られる愛情のこもった神聖な“守り糸”のことを指します。ヒンズー暦のスラボナ月の満月の日に姉・妹らは兄・弟の右腕に“ラキー”という糸を結び(バンドオン)、永遠の信頼と愛情を祝福する行事になります。“ラキー”は非常に弱い糸に見えますが、愛情を注ぐことで鉄より頑丈な結びとなることを信じて行うしきたりとなっています

Janmasthami: 22nd August 2010: Janmashtami celebrates the birth of one of the most famous Gods of Hindu religion, Bhagwan Krishna, on the eighth day (Ashtami) in the month of Sravana or Savana. The idol of lord is bathed with Panchamrit (A mixture of milk, ghee, oil, honey and Gangajal). The Panchamrit is later distributed as Prasad to the devotees along with other sweets. While some fast on the first day and break it at midnight for others the fasting continues for both days. The period coincides with rainy season.

ジャンマストミ: 2010年8月22日

ジャンマストミはインドで最も崇拝されているクリシュナ神の誕生を祝う行事です。ベンガルの暦ではスラバナ月の8日目に行われます。クリシュナ神像をパンチャムリッタと呼ばれる(牛乳、ギー、油、蜂蜜とガンジス川の聖水と五種類のを混ぜて作る)聖なる液体で洗います。この液体は行事を終了後、神様からの贈りものとして、果物やスイーツと一緒にくばられます。信者は日中に断食し、深夜に果物などを食べて断食を終えます。季節的に雨の多い時期でもあります。



Ganesh Chaturthi: 1st September 2010: Ganesh Chaturthi is the celebration of the birth day of Lord Ganesha, one of the most important Gods of the Hindu Mythology. It is a festival, which is observed throughout the country. Especially in Maharashtra this festival has a special significance and it is celebrated with great enthusiasm and joy. On the day of the festival Hindus performs pujas at temples and even at homes. Fasting, feasting and distribution of sweets mainly laddoos are offered to him. After the festival is over they immerse the idols in the nearby water body, which are sacred. ♪

ガネーシャ・チョトゥルティ: 2010年9月1日

ガネーシャ・チョトゥルティはガネーシャ神の誕生を祝う行事です。ガネーシャはヒンズー教ではとても重要な神様として崇められています。この行事はインド全国で行われます。とくに、マハラストラでは非常に盛大に祭られます。ヒンズー教の信者はガネーシャ神の寺に行き祈りをささげることが多いですが、家庭でも神棚のガネーシャ像の前にお供え物を置き崇拝することをしていす。崇拝行事終了まで断食をし、終了後は皆一緒にスイーツなどを食べて歓談します。祭りの終わりに、近くの聖なる水場から池や川に神像を流します。 ♪



日本の行事 Japanese Festivals

日本文 啓子・チャットパ°ダイ Japanese Original: Keiko Chattopadhyay

英訳 ミタ・チャンダ English translation: Meeta Chanda

九月

秋分の日 23日

祖先を敬い、亡くなった人々をしのぶ日。国民の祝日。秋の彼岸の中日に当たります。

September

Shuubun no hi- Autumn Equinox- Sept.23

This national holiday is to show respect and honor to our ancestors, Autumn Equinox day falls in between the Autumn Equinoctial week i.e. higan.

十月

十五夜 3日

日本では、古くから秋の名月を鑑賞する「お月見」の風習があります。旧暦八月十五日の「十五夜」は、中秋の名月を鑑賞する他、これから始まる収穫期を前にして、収穫を感謝する祭としての意味あいがありました。



9月頃に収穫される「芋」をお供えすることから「芋の名月」とも呼ばれています。現在では、満月のように丸い月見団子と魔除けの力があるとされたススキを伴えるのが一般的な「十五夜スタイル」です。

十五夜とともに日本では古来もうひとつ旧暦九月十三日の十三夜もまた美しい月であると重んじていました。中秋の名月(十五夜)はもともと中国で行われていた行事が日本に伝来したのですが、この十三夜の月見は日本独特の風習だそうです。一般に十五夜に月見をしたら、必ず十三夜にも月見をするものともされてきました。これは十五夜だけでは、「片月見」といって嫌われていたからです。十三夜は「栗名月」とか「豆名月」と呼ばれています。これはお供えとして栗や豆を、神棚などに供えるからだそうです。十五夜はあまりすっきりしない夜空であることが多いのに対し、十三夜の夜は晴れることが多いようで、「十三夜に曇り無し」という言葉もあります。

October

Jyugoya - 3rd Oct

In Japan from old days, there is a custom to watch and appreciate the mid autumn Harvest moon that is called Otsukimi (viewing the moon). According to Japan's lunar calendar 15th night of the 8th month is the day to appreciate the full moon on one hand, and on the other hand is the festival before the harvest time to show one's gratitude to the first ears of rice or crops or harvest of the season. Around the 9th month Taro potatoes are harvested and given as offerings for that its also called "imo no mei tsuki". Present days its popular style of "Jyugoya" to eat round dumpling that looks like a full moon, which has the power or charm against the evil spirits.

Jyuusanya- 30thOct - 13th night of the 9th lunar month

From ancient times, in Japan, according to the Japan's old calendar, along with the 15th night of 8th lunar month, one more i.e. 13th night of 9th lunar month's moon is honored as a beautiful moon. Although the event for the mid autumn moon i.e "Juugoya" originally came from China. But this moon viewing event of "Jyuusanya" is unique custom of Japan only. Generally it is believed that it is not good to view only one of these two days moon. If someone is viewing the moon of "Juugoya", one should definitely view the moon of "Jyuusanya". Jyuusanya moon is also called chestnut moon or beans moon. As this time chestnuts and beans are offered to the God.

During "Jyuusanya" the sky stays clear, without any clouds in contrast with "Jyugoya" when the sky usually remains cloudy.

十一月

七五三 15日

三歳の男女、五歳の男子、七歳の女子が11月15



November

Shichi go san- 15th Nov- Festival (shrine visit) by children of 7-5-3years old.

This function is celebrated for the growth of

日にお宮参りをし、子供の成長を祝う行事です。子供たちは晴れ着に身を包み、千歳飴[ちとせあめ]を持って家族に連れられ、各地の神社にお参りし、記念撮影するのが一般的です。子供に持たせる千歳飴には、子供が元氣によく成長するよう、また長生きするように、という願いがこめられています。

十二月

昔は新年を迎えるためすす払いから始まり、門松を立てたり注連縄を飾ったりおせち料理を作ったり、色々な準備をしました。現代生活の中では、クリスマスなどと同じイベントとして、残っています。

大晦日 31日

大晦日の夜は、歳神様を迎えるために寝ていては失礼だということで、人々は一晩中起きている事が多かったようです。大晦日の夜には長寿延命を願って年越しそばを食べます。

各地のお寺で大晦日の夜から新年にかけて、午前0時の前後に除夜の鐘をつきます。「人間の煩惱は108ある」とするところから鐘を108回ついて、1つ1つ煩惱を消して新年を迎えます。



一月

お正月

1年の大きな節目に当たるお正月には、歳神様をお迎えるために門松を門の前に飾ったり、鏡餅を備えたり、前日に準備したおせち料理を食べたりしています。また、子供は親や親戚からお年玉をもらいます。三が日はいろいろな行事が行われます。昔から行われてきた元日の風習は、現在でも受け継がれています。



children, on this day 3yrs old boys and girls, 5yrs old boys and 7 yrs old girls, wearing their special clothes, holding red and white candy, along with their families they visit various temple or shrine. Generally, photographs are taken to commemorate the event. The children carry red and white stick candy as an expression of healthy growth and longevity.

December

From olden days many different arrangements are done to welcome the New Year, starting from cleaning cobwebs, pine decorations near the entrance, decoration of sacred straw rope, preparing New Year's special food (sechi ryouri) etc. In present days, this has become an event like Christmas.

Oomisoka - 31st Dec - New Year's Eve.

In the New Year's Eve it's impolite to sleep as its time to welcome the New Year. It seems all through the night people do many activities to stay awake. On New year's eve everybody eats noodles (toshikoshi soba) to wish for longevity.

From New Year's Eve to New Year, the temple bells rung for 108 times.

It is said that human beings are made of 108 worldly desires, or bad thoughts. With each bell rung, it cleanses each bad thought and enter the New Year.

January

Oshougatsu- 1st Jan- New Year

New Year is the turning point of a year, its time to welcome Toshigamisama (ancestors who gave the people on earth life and always protect them from heaven) for that the entrance of the house is decorated with pine decorations called "Kadomatsu", a pair of mirror shaped Ricecakes are offered to the God, food prepared before for the New Year is eaten (Sechi Ryouri). Kids receive (otoshidama) gift for the New Year in the form of money or gift, from the elder's of a family. At present days also, the traditions and customs are followed in the same way as in the old days. Everybody does first shrine or temple visit of the New Year, to pray and worship for safe and healthy living throughout the year. Various events and functions are performed on the first three days of the New Year. At present times, it seems the way changed a lot, of enjoying and spending the New Year. In old times people

Anjali

1月1日(元日)の朝は、初日の出(上ってくる太陽)を拝み、1年の幸運を祈ったり、神社仏閣に初詣をします。お参りして、1年の無事息災を祈ります。よく使われる元旦とは1月1日の朝の事であり、朝日の昇りはじめから午前いっぱいを行い、午後には元旦という言葉は使われません。

現在のお正月は「遊び」にしても、すごし方にしても変わってきているようです。昔の正月はのんびり過ごして疲れを癒しつつ、親族一同と団欒する風習がありました。

お正月に見る夢を初夢といい、その夢の内容で1年を占う「夢占い」が古くから行われていました。最もよい夢は、「一富士・二鷹・三茄子[いちふじ・にたか・さんなすび]」である、と駿河[するが](現在の静岡県辺)の国のことわざにあります。富士山は日本で一番高い山、鷹は愛鷹山(別名、足高山)のことで、これは駿河で二番目に高い山です。また、昔、茄子は正月になると驚くほどの高値で売られていました。縁起が良いとされている「高い」という言葉がこれら3つに共通しています。

7日は、1月1日から行なわれる様々な新年行事がひと段落ついたころ、七草粥を食べる日として知られています。7日の朝に(せり・なずな・ごぎょう・はこべら・ほとけのざ・すずな・すずしろ)の七草が入った粥を食べ、その年1年の無病息災を願う風習です。七草粥は消化吸収がよく、正月のご馳走で疲れた胃腸を休め栄養補給をするという料理です。正月のお供えである鏡餅は、神様の召し上がりものとして献上し、11日には年神様に備えた鏡餅を雑煮やお汁粉などにして食べ、一家の円満を願います。



成人の日

大人になったことを自覚し、自ら生き抜こうとする青年を祝い励ます日。1984年に制定されてから1999年まで1月15日でしたが、2000年に制定されたハッピーマンデー法に基づき、1月の第2月曜日に改正されています。

二月

節分の日 3日

3日を節分の日といい豆まきをします。柀いっばいに炒った大豆を入れ、「鬼は外、福は内」と言いながら家中の部屋・窓の外に豆をまきます。



used to spend or pass the time of New Year's Day, at leisure to heal the tiredness, sitting together with relatives and relaxing. Ganjitsu is national holiday to celebrate the beginning of the New Year.

Hatsuhinode is the first Sunrise of the New Year. People usually go to see the sunrise of 1st Jan, and pray for the whole year's good luck. Gantan is the activities done for the whole morning till noon of 1st Jan. Gantan word isn't used for the afternoon activities.

First Dream seen in the New Year is called Hatsuyume. From ancient times, it's believed that the contents of the first dream tells the fortune for the whole year. Mainly, a dream seen on 1st or 2nd night of Jan is Hatsuyumse. It's said that the best dreams to see are of the Mount Fuji, Mount Aitaka(a.k.a. Mount Ashitaka), and Brinjal. These mountains are the first and second highest in Japan. In old times, during the New Year, brinjals were sold at very high price. The common thing in these three is the word "high". Its time for a break, after enjoying various activities of the New Year. 7th Jan is the day to eat Nanakusagayu i.e porridge made of seven (types of herbs) items. This is the custom to keep oneself healthy for the whole year without getting sick. As its very good for digestive system, it gives rest to the tired stomach after all the New Year celebrations.

11th day is the day to eat the rice cakes presented to the God during New Year. It's eaten with either Zoni or Shiruko. Shiruko is a dark, sweet thick soup made with red beans, and pieces of ricecakes in it. Zoni is a soup containing one or two rice cakes, shiitake mushrooms, fish, meat, chicken etc. This is a perfect family event.

Seijin no hi - Coming of age day.

It's the day to celebrate being 20 years old, and awareness of adulthood and capable of surviving by self. From 1984 when it started till 1999 it was celebrated on 15th of Jan. But from 2000 it became Happy Monday so every year's 2nd Monday of January is celebrated as Coming of Age day.

February

Setsubun - 3rd Feb - Setsubun is the day of "Mame maki" means bean throwing day. Fill in the roasted Soya beans in a container, and throw it out of the house through the window, while chanting "Oni wa soto, Fuku wa uchi" means go away evil spirits

邪気や不幸の種を追い出し、家族の幸福と商売繁盛を祈るためです。豆まきが終わった後、自分の年齢と同じ数だけ豆を食べます。そうすることにより、その年、病気にかからないといわれています。

三月

ひなまつり(桃の節句)

3日に女の子の幸せで健康な成長を願う祈る節句です。娘のいる家庭では家に雛人形を飾ります。ほとんどの家庭では2月中旬に雛人形を飾り、節句(ひな祭り)が終わるとすぐ片付けます。片付けるのが遅いとその家の娘たちが結婚問題で苦労するという迷信に由来します。ひな壇に桃の花とともに、男雛と女雛を中心とするお雛様の人形を飾り、白酒、ひし餅、ハマグリのお吸い物などで女の子のすこやかな成長を祝い、祈るお祭りです。一般的には、男雛が向かって左側、女雛が向かって右です。こういう並び方を関東雛ともいいます。京都(京雛)では昔からの風習によるものなのだと思いますが、男雛と女雛の並ぶ位置が関東雛の逆、男雛が向かって右側、女雛が向かって左になります。



春分の日

自然をたたえ、生物をいつくしむ日。祝日の春分の日、前年の2月1日に内閣府から官報によって発表されます。太陽が真東から上がって、真西に沈み昼と夜の長さが同じになる春分の日と秋分の日を挟んだ前後3日の計7日間を「彼岸」と呼び春分(秋分)の3日前の日を「彼岸の入り」と言い、3日後を「彼岸の明け」と言います。春分・秋分は、その中間に位置しますので、「彼岸の中日」と呼ばれます。昔から、彼岸には先祖の霊を敬い墓参りをする風習があります。また地方により若干の違いはありますが、ぼた餅、おはぎ、団子、海苔巻き、いなり寿司などを仏壇に供え、家族でもこれを食すと言った風習も残っています。



四月

桜の花を見るため、お弁当、お酒持参で山野に出かけ花祭りをします。4月8日はお釈迦様の誕生日。誕生を祝う祭り、それが花祭りです。

and good luck come in. It is said that after finishing throwing, if you collect as many beans as of your age and eat it, you will stay healthy for that year. This ceremony is done to drive away the evil spirits and diseases and bring happiness and good health in a family.

March

Hinamatsuri (momo no sekku) - 3rd March - Girl's Day(Doll festival)

This festival is celebrated for praying and wishing for the good fortune, happiness, and growth of one's girl child. The households where daughters are present, they decorate dolls in their house from the mid of Feb and wrap up everything as Hinamatsuri festival ends. There is superstition that if the wrapping up of dolls is too late, then there will be problems or trouble in the marriage of their daughter. In this festival, the multi tiered doll stand is decorated mainly with Emperor, Empress doll in central position with many other set of dolls, decorated with Peach flowers. Then white wine, rice cakes and soup made of clams are presented as an offering to the god praying for the healthy and sound growth of their daughter.

Shunbun no hi- Vernal (spring) Equinox Day

It is the day for praising the Nature and its living things. This holiday is announced in the previous years official gazette, by the cabinet. On Vernal Equinox Day, day and night are equal same as Autumn Equinox Day in Sept. Three days before, and three

days after this day, in total seven days is called "Higan" i.e. equinoctial week, when Buddhist services are held. When the

week starts, 1st day is called "higan no hairi" i.e. start and the last day is called "higan no ake", end of higan. As the Autumn Equinox and the Vernal equinox day falls in the middle day of the Equinoctial week its called "Higan chunichi". From old days, during this week, it is a custom to visit the graves of ancestors to pay respect to their departed soul. This custom differs according to one's area but at least this custom still remains to offer rice cakes, dumplings, norimaki (vinegar rice rolled in seaweed), and inarizushi are offered on Buddhist altar, and also eaten by the family members.

April

Hanami

This is a ceremony to watch the Cherry blossom, by



五月

こどもの日(端午の節句) 5日

子供たちの健やかな成長と健康を祝う日です。1948年に国民の休日となりましたが、古代からの祝いの日です。

5月5日は伝統的に端午の節句と呼ばれ、男の子の祭りでした。男の子のいる家庭では家の外にこいのぼりを立て、家の中には有名な武将や英雄の人形を飾ります。最近では住宅事情により家の中に飾れるミニチュアのこいのぼりもあります。この日は邪気を払い、体を丈夫にするとされている菖蒲の葉を入れた風呂に入ります。柏の葉に包んだ餅の中に餡をつめた柏餅やちまきを食べます。

六月

現在日本では国民の祝日がありません。



夏祭り

7月上旬か

8月下旬頃、夏祭りがおこなわれます。日本の夏祭りの多くは、起源的にはお盆・七夕などがからんだ行事であるものが多いようです。ただし、近代化によってその起源はあまり認識されず、夏祭りは一般的に厳粛(げんしゆく)な行事ではなく華やかな行事となっています。とりわけ、8月の旧盆の時期をはさんだ夏祭りは帰省の時期とかさなり、祭礼中でのなつかしい人との再会など感慨深いものがあるようです。

夏祭りで行われるもののひとつに盆踊りがあります。平安時代、空也上人によって始められた念仏踊りがお盆の行事と結び付き、精霊を迎える、死者を供養するための行事となっていったようです。広場の中央にやぐらを立て、やぐらの上で音頭とりが音頭を歌い、参加者はその周囲を回りながら音頭に合わせ踊る形式が一般的です。かつては夜通し行われることが多かったのですが、近年は深夜まで行われることは少なくなっています。夏の夜の風物詩としていろいろな地域で大規模な花火の打ち揚げを「花火大会」と称して行っています。花火には打ち上げ花火や仕掛け花火などがあります。お祭りの際に 神様が乗られるとされている乗り物をお神輿(おみこし)といいます。この輿(こし)は神様がのられて

visiting hills and fields, bringing box lunch, alcohol, and having fun with friends under the cherry tree. 8th April is celebrated as Buddha's birthday, celebrated by praying and worshipping God Buddha.

May

Kodomo no hi - May 5th - Children's Day (boy's day celebration)

This day is celebrated for the sound health and growth of children. Although since 1948 this day became a national holiday, this day was being celebrated from ancient times.

Traditionally, this day is also called the "Boy's day". The households with male child, usually hang Koinobori (Carp fish made of cloth) outside their house and dolls of famous military commanders, or great man are decorated inside the house. These days due to the residential circumstances miniature Koinobori is also there to decorate inside the house. On this day everybody takes bath by putting Iris leaves in bathtub to cleanse oneself from diseases. Eat Kashiwamochi, i.e. rice cakes with beans inside and covered with Kashiwa leaves.

June

At present there are no national holidays in this month.

Natsu Matsuri- Summer Festival

In Japan, summer festival takes place from the end of July to the early August. It seems the Japanese Summer Festival, therefore, the actual Natsu Matsuri events lost its solemnity. Now it just remained as a gorgeous function. Especially, the Summer Festival which comes during the O-Bon period, is the homecoming season when everybody returns home to meet their loving ones, everybody is in festive mood and celebrate the union. The Bon odori (Dance) that's done during this festival. In Heian Period the holy priests started connecting the event of dance on the Buddhist prayer with other functions of O-Bon, to welcome the spirit of the deceased, and do memorial services for the dead people. Generally, in the middle of the open space stage is built, on top of that the singers stands and sing marching songs and the participants dances around the stage in similar stepping. In the past, this event continues for the whole night, whereas in recent years it performed till late night.

One thing that reminds us of the summer season is Hanabi, watching fireworks at summer night. At

それを人間が かついで回るといふものです。ですからお神輿の上に人間は乗ってはいけないということになっています。一般的な掛け声として “わっしょい わっしょい” “そいや～ そいや～” “エッサ エッサ” などがあります。地域ごとに特色あるお神輿があり代々 引き継がれています。英語では “Portable Shrine”つまり 持ち運びできる神社とされ、その形は 神社を小さく模したものとされています。人間がのってもいいのは 山車(だし)といわれているほうです。山車(だし)とは お祭りの際に使われる神様をのせるもの、または 神様が外へ出て行く際に先導につかわれているものといわれています。車という字がついているので一般的には車輪がついており、紐でこの山車を引っ張って練り歩きます。山車の上に人がのって、太鼓をたたいたり、踊ったりして神様を先導していきます。関西では “だんじり” といったり 単純に “山” といったりもしていて各地方によって 呼び方も色々あるようです。



七月

七夕の節句 7日

七夕(星の祭り)は7月7日の夜におこなわれます。その祭りは、織姫と彦星の恋人たちが天の川で隔てられて1年のこの日1日しか会うことを許されないという伝説によります。子供も大人もそれぞれのお願いを短冊に書いて、そのほかの飾りと一緒に笹の枝につるし、家の玄関や裏庭、軒下に飾るのは6日の夜で7日は七夕飾りを海や川へ流して神様に持ち去ってもらいます。現在は環境汚染問題から川に流すことは困難となっています。



お盆 15日

お盆とは先祖の霊があゝの世から帰ってきて家族と一緒に楽しいひとときを過ごし、また帰っていくという日本古来の信仰に基づく行事です。7月または8月の13日より16日までの4日間をさします。13日の夕方に迎え火を焚き、先祖の霊を迎えます。期間中には僧侶を招きお経を読み、飲食の供養をします。16日の夕方、送り火を焚き、御先祖さまにお帰りいただきます。

different areas and places Firework displays are done at large scale these are called Hanabi taikai. Fire crackers are of different shapes, sizes and styles.

Omikoshi- Portable shrine

Omikoshi means a carriage for God. At the time of festival, people carry the God in Palanquin and visit many places. That's why people are not allowed over the portable shrine. At different regions, different special types of portable shrines are there which are carried over from generation after generation. As this is just a miniature of actual shrine that's why its called "Portable Shrine". The carriage in which people are allowed to ride are called daashi. At the time of festival, on one hand daashi is used as a carriage for God, on the other hand when the God is visiting outside daashi acts as a guidance. Generally, Daashi is a carriage with wheels, pulled by ropes and people march along with that. Some people dance and beat drums on top of it. In Kansai region its called danjiri, in different regions its called in different names.

July

Tanabata 7th July – Tanabata is the festival of stars celebrated on the night of 7th July. According to legend the two lover constellations Vega and Altair of our Milky Way, who are separated for the whole year are permitted only on this day to meet. Children and adults respectively write their wishes on a strip of paper and decorate with some other ornaments together, and hang it on a bamboo branch. On the 6th night this twig or branch is decorated in entrance, or the rear garden of one's house. Then on 7th it is cast in the river or ocean to be taken away by the God. These days due to environmental pollution problem it is difficult to cast it in the river.

Obon - 15th July - The festival of dead

From ancient times this event is originated from the belief that the spirit of ancestors return back from their world to their home to spend some time together with their family. After having some good time they return to their world. On 13th night everybody put welcoming fire to receive the returning spirits of their ancestor. In this duration priests and monks are invited to do memorial services for the dead. On 16th evening ceremonial bonfire is done for seeing off the honorable ancestors spirits on the final night of O-Bon.

八月

現在日本では国民の祝日がありません。

August

At present there are no national holidays in this month.

九月

重陽の節句 9日

「重陽」とは9月9日にあたり、菊に長寿を祈る日です。不老長寿や繁栄を願うお祝いとして平安時代に中国から伝わりました。平安時代、菊には長寿の力があると信じられていたようです。奈良時代から宮中や寺院で菊を観賞する宴が行われています。平安時代に入って中国思想の影響を受けると、菊の花を浸した「菊酒」を飲み交わし、悪気を祓う菊花の宴が催されるようになりました。旧暦と新暦では約1ヶ月違い、今の時期が菊の盛りとはなりません。そのため祝う人も少なく、このような日があることを知らない人も増えています。🌀

**September**

Chouyou sekku - 9th Sept - Chrysanthemum Festival
It is the festival to pray to chrysanthemum for longevity. This celebration to pray for eternal youth and prosperity was introduced from China in the Heian period. At that time chrysanthemum was thought to be a symbol of longevity. Starting from Nara period (710-794CE) parties and banquets are held in temples and imperial court for the admiration of chrysanthemum. During Heian period, under ideological influence from China, exchange of chrysanthemum soaked alcohol to cleanse or purify ill feeling became popular. Since there is about a month's difference between the lunar and solar calendar, according to the solar calendar followed now this is not the season for chrysanthemum. This is one reason why it is not very well known today and very few actually celebrate the occasion. 🌀



A Happy Durga Puja

from

Mr. & Mrs. A. Yamasaki, Ms. Farida Rahman

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