

My Trip to Turkey and Italy

- Akanksha Mukherjee, Grade III

Hello! I want to tell you about my trip to Turkey and Italy during the month of June. On June 15th we woke up early, had a bath, dressed up and drove to the airport. We then took the flight to Istanbul. It was a very long flight and I was becoming impatient and very grumpy. I was repeatedly asking my father when we will reach Istanbul? Finally after eleven hours the airplane reached Istanbul airport.



Bosphorus Cruise

In Istanbul we checked in a splendid hotel and immediately went to sleep as we were very tired. For the next few days, we went to many wonderful places like: Hagia Sofia, Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace. One day we took a cruise to the Bosphorus Sea – which I really enjoyed! Another day we visited the Grand Bazar. That evening we also went to see Turkish dance. We spent four nights in Turkey, and then we went to Italy.

At first we went to Rome, which was extremely hot! We went to the Trevi fountain. We ate ice cream. Then we went back to our hotel. In the following days we visited Colosseum, Vatican City, Sistine Chapel, St Peter's Basilica, Piazza Venezia and many other museums. We had a tour guide along with

us. After staying in Rome for three days we left for Florence.

We reached Florence in the evening and checked into our hotel. The hotel was really nice. It was much better than Rome. The next day we visited the Uffizi museum. Another day we took a day trip to Siena in Tuscany. There, we ate ice cream from the world's best ice cream shop ever. For the next two days we visited different parts of city of Florence and also



Venice

the Academia museum. I was getting a little tired of watching so many museums! On the last night we watched fireworks. It was beautiful! After staying in Florence for five days, we went to Venice.

In Venice, we visited an island called Murano. There we saw beautiful glass paintings. We also took two Gondola rides. In Venice I saw lots of shops selling gorgeous masks. After visiting Venice, we took an airplane and went back to Istanbul Airport. After spending three hours in the Airport, we took a flight to Tokyo. I was glad to be back home. ■

(Reprinted from Anjali 2013)



My Little Brother

- Sneha Kundu, Grade V

My little brother's name is Soham. He was born on April 8 2012. He is very cute but he is really naughty and mischievous. Everyone in the family and even my friends are scared of him.

At first I was really happy to get him. He was quiet. He was nice. But best of all, somebody was finally younger than me in the family. Now he is really naughty. He bites everyone. He pulls my hair. And worst of all, everything he does that is bad, I get scolded for it. Sometimes, I wish he were never born. But sometimes he is very useful. When I get bored and I have nothing to do, I play with my brother. When I come back home

from school and find him awake, he always runs up to me and we start playing together. He makes me laugh when I feel like crying and he makes me cry when I feel like laughing. When my mother scolds me he hits me so that my mother has nothing to do and when he hits me, I can hardly feel anything. At the time my friends come to my house, they usually play with him. The only quiet time in the house is when he is asleep.

I hope that he will be calm and quiet and the house will be as peaceful as it used to be when he was just born. I hope that he becomes a lot more helpful when we both grow up. ■

(Reprinted from Anjali 2013)

Nagasaki Peace Park

- By Aishwarya Kumar, Grade III



I went on a five-day trip to Nagasaki and I am going to tell you all about it. On the 21st of July, I learned about the atomic bomb that was dropped on Nagasaki on August 9th 1945. The name of the bomb was "Fatman"; the bomber's name was "Bockscar". Before the atomic bomb was dropped, it was thought that it had to be done to end war. No one tried to discuss with Japan and decided to drop the bomb. Beside Nagasaki, there were few other choices – Yokohama, Kyoto, Tokyo Bay, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The two places chosen were Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on August 3rd 1945. On August 9th 1945, 11:02 AM was the exact time when the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. It formed a mushroom cloud in the sky. A wall clock stopped at the exact time, which is kept at the museum; a schoolgirl's lunchbox with rice had burnt up, six bottles fused together in the heat, a worker wearing working clothes at Mitsubishi steel works burnt up. Mitsubishi Steel works was 1.2 km from the hypocenter where bones of a human being was found; his hand stuck to the glass that melted in the heat of the atomic bomb and another person's skull was found in the inner surface of a helmet. Only one of the pillars of a gate in the Sanno Shinto shrine was left around that area.

I went to other places but this is the main part I remember about Nagasaki. Now I will tell you about peace and if you were living in Nagasaki on August 9th 1945 imagine how would it have felt? First of all, you should know that peace can be more powerful than anything. "Peace is powerful" - the statue of the man in the Peace Park seemed to say. That's all I know about August 9th 1945. ■

(Reprinted from Anjali 2008)

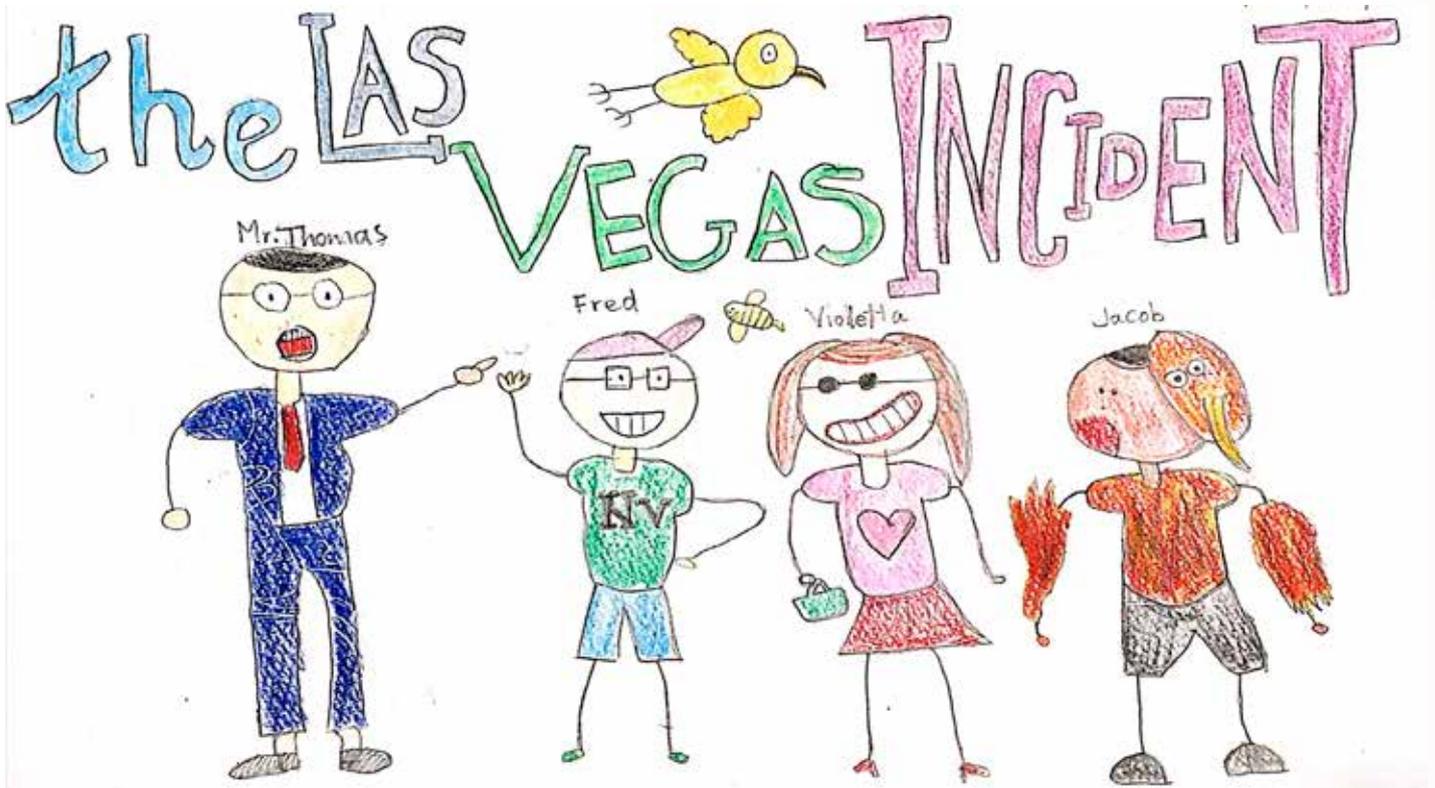
The Las Vegas Incident

- Arnab Karmokar, Grade V

Something strange was going on in the city of Las Vegas. A lot of people noticed one strange creature in a forest in the city outskirts, and a lot of visitors were fuming with anger. This was also making people living in the city leave, and the city is having population loss. The city is having trouble and the time is running out. According to experts on population and society, in about 3-4 weeks, the population of Las Vegas will be gone, and in about three months, the state of Nevada will lose all of their citizens. This may be the biggest crisis in Nevada history. But luckily, there will be one investigator who will investigate this problem. His name is Fred Derek.

Frederick Louis "Fred" Derek is a young man from London, United Kingdom, as he moved over from The United Kingdom to The United States for his father's work since last September. And he wasn't making that many friends at school as he wasn't much of an energetic and athletic kid. Instead, he was more of a person who read college textbooks for fun and wrote lots of essays and non-fictional stories for extra credit at school. He loved noticing about the world's bad things and changing them into good things, and was hoping to be a non-fictional author or a science teacher. And when he heard the news that his present hometown, Las Vegas was in big trouble, he decided to help.

Now, let's get into the main story:



Fred woke up at 6:30 in the morning. He finished his breakfast at around 7:15 am. Until now was his usual routine. But, today he would leave home for some different cause. Today was his first day to go to the Las Vegas' metropolitan department. Usually, he would go to school and that's where he would learn all sorts of new techniques. Now, he would go to the department to use all those techniques.

A few weeks ago, the streets were filled with visitors, and there was no space for a kid to walk. Now, there were no visitors at all. Only a few people who live in the city are walking for their own needs. This was due to the crazy creature, which is still unknown.

This creature, he (or she), was found in the Muddy Mountains' Forest area, and according to an eye witness, this creature had two hairy wing like arms, two hairy feet, and had a bird-like face. Another witness said that this creature had two feet, two hands, had two wings, and had a human-like face.

Fred had an important job. This may change the whole state of Nevada. If he does a mistake, then a big deal might happen. This mission is very strict and unpredictable.

As he was walking to the metropolitan department, he bought a salad for lunch. He always took his favorite Italian dressing, but today he got a different dressing to go with the salad. He was bound for a new challenge. 'Lots of smaller challenges, makes a big challenge', his home room teacher once said.

A few minutes later, Fred reached the department. He thought the department was filled with lots of secretaries rushing from one side to another, and had lots and lots of desks, chairs, air conditioners etc., but, Fred's guess was wrong. As a matter of

fact, there was no air conditioners on the first floor and had a lot of desks and chairs, but not as lot as he thought. Also there was about only ten secretaries.

"Hello!" a secretary came up to him, "are you Frederick Derek?" The secretary looked like she was in her twenties but talked and smelled like she was in her fifties. "Umm, yes, my name is Frederick Derek, but I prefer Fred. You see, I have come from Lantern Lane for the invest-." Fred had no chance of replying back, because the secretary looked like she had no time to waist and just said, "I know everything already. Go to the second floor this second. Your partner has been waiting for you for fifteen minutes."

'A partner?' Fred thought as he went to the second floor. He was wondering this much, because when he volunteered for the investigation, the person on the phone never mentioned that there was a partner. And anyways, he never ever wanted a partner.

On the second floor, there was a table and three chairs. One was empty. The other two chairs had a person on each. On one chair sat a big and fat man, who looked like he was in his sixties. On the other chair sat a girl, maybe about his own age. She had freckles on her face, and had brown hair. Anyways, he sat on the empty chair and the old man started giving a short speech.

"Well, hello Mr. Frederick Derek and Ms. Theodora Violet. Thank you for coming today's first investigators' team meeting. I am the chairman of the investigators' team, Hudson Thomas. Let's work very well with each other. Theodora, please give us an introduction of yourself first."

Theodora stood up and gave her intro. "Hi guys, my name is Theodora, but I personally prefer Violetta, so if you wanna ask something, just say Violetta and I'll help you guys. And I'm more of an athletic kind of girl so that is why I thought of joining in. Nice to meet you. Thank you."

Next was Fred's turn. Fred stood up. And he said, "hello Mr. Hudson Thomas and Violetta, my name is Frederick as Mr. T said, but I personally prefer Fred, so just say Fred and I'll be right at your business. I'm more of a nerd, as my classmates say, because I like reading college textbooks etc., so I would like to be more athletic than now. Please cooperate with me. Thank you very much."

And that's how the first day went. Mr. T. was a lazy guy, Fred thought as he went to shop groceries for his parents as his mom instructed. He was a kind of person who read stashed magazines in weekends and drank lots of milk shake when he worked. In other words, he was a lazy guy.

The next day, Fred had the same routine as his previous day. Violetta and Mr. T. were already there when he reached the department, and then Mr. T. explained about today's routine. Here's the plan:

1. 10:00 am @ Department, Violetta and Fred start searching forests and city areas
2. 12:30 am @ Starbucks, Use the coupon and get a random drink and food!
3. 1:00 pm @ Starbucks, again start searching forests and city areas where you have never been today!
4. 2:30 pm @ Forest or city area, start coming back to department
5. 3:00 pm @ Department, start giving a brief report on what happened today
6. 3:30 pm @ Department, bye bye and see you tomorrow!

But before all this, Mr. T. needed to give out important documents, the "coupon" for Starbucks, and also the badges. So, he gave those stuff out to the two young adults, and they left for the outdoors.

"So, where do you wanna go first? The Muddy Mountains' Area? The Downtown area? The-." again, Fred got stopped by Violetta as she said, "totally, we need to go to Downtown. Gotta lotta shopping to do." Girls, Fred thought the two went towards Downtown.

When Fred and Violetta were at Downtown, the clock showed 10:25 am. Violetta asked Fred, "Let's go check out The Las Vegas North Premium Outlets." Fred was confused. The two were supposed to search and figure out one of the biggest problems in Nevada history and now, a team mate wanted to go to a mall to shop.

"Not today, Violetta, today we didn't come to Downtown to play and have fun, we came here to search for this crazy creature that ruined the city of Las Vegas and the state of Nevada, remember? So, I was suggesting that we should look at the streets of Downtown and search from there, but what do y' think?"

"We could've searched in the mall, you big dummy, but whatever, you can go there, and I will go to the mall." She said as she went away and took a taxi.

Fred went to the nearest Starbucks after he searched the streets. He was exhausted. He walked for two hours straight, he ran away from strange people, he got lost and walked a lot to get back to where he started off with. In other words, he was very exhausted.

After a while, he went out of the Starbucks café and called Violetta. The ring was going for a while, and eventually she answered the call. "What the heck is wrong?" Violetta asked, seemingly very surprised. "Meet me at The Muddy Mountains' main gate. Waiting for you there," Fred said as he hung up.

What is wrong with him? Violetta thought as she went to the Muddy Mountains' main gate. Fred was waiting for her, and then, Fred told Violetta, "I was thinking that we should investigate here. Is it ok?" Violetta gave thumbs up and then, the two left for the investigation.

They were never giving up. They needed to find the creature that ruined it for everything. After a while, Violetta was tired and said, "let's take a break, already I'm so exhausted!" But Fred was never willing to give up. The two walked for two hours since they reached the Muddy Mountains' area. The two were supposed to get tired by now.

As Violetta was sitting on the ground and taking a break, something caught her eyes. She called Fred on her phone. An answer came quickly. "What on earth had happened?" Fred asked. "I found some crazy creature that I never ever looked at before. Come here ASAP. I'm really near to the information center north. Immediately. Bye," and she hung up.

After a few minutes, Fred got together with Violetta. "So what's suspicious?" Fred asked Violetta. Violetta gave her explanation and point of view about a creature that had wings. As they were getting close to the creature, the creature was yawning, and was wanting to sleep. As he dozed off into sleep, the two caught the creature.

"Aaaaaaaaaaaaaah!" The creature yelled out. "Aaaaaaaaaaaaaah!" Violetta and Fred yelled out. Both sides fell to the ground, as the creature's face got off. Underneath the Bird like face, was a regular human face that somehow, looked familiar to Fred.

"Jacob?" Fred noticed the creature, "What the heck are you doing wearing some costume?" "You know the creature?" Violetta asked with a quick reflection. Jacob told his story:

"I am a regular kid who is a student at Ernest A. Becker Sr. Middle School. Fred's in my same class. I was rehearsing for the school play when a bee came into our classroom where we rehearsed. That bee seemed to follow me, because he was looking into my eyes and was ready to sting me. I was scared of insects, especially bees, so I jumped out of the classroom and ran into the woods. After the bee seemed to forget about me and left, I noticed that I was in the middle of the woods. So since then, I am staying in the woods, hoping that somebody could rescue me. I scared people off because my character in the play was a bird, but that time I took off my mask so some people thought that I was this unknown creature."

A few months later, peace had come back to the city of Las Vegas and the state of Nevada. All the visitors came back and the streets were crowded with tons of people. This crisis has been solved in a fun way by two mighty and brave teens; Fred, and Violetta. ■

The Parcel

- Amartya Mukherjee, Grade VI



Let me tell you an amazing story that happened a few weeks ago.

"Dear Abhay"

On a Sunday afternoon I went to my friend, Abhay's house and was playing computer games with my best friends - Abhay & Sai. Then the doorbell rang and a postman delivered a parcel. It was addressed to "Dear Abhay". As my friend Abhay opened the parcel - we were very surprised. It contained baby clothes and was addressed to "Dear Abhay" who was over 10 years old!

"Hah? Baby stuff?" said Abhay in a very surprised manner "It was sent by my grandfather ..."

Sai & I started laughing "Baby stuff! Your grandfather thinks that you are a baby!"

"Something is very strange" said Abhay "This letter was sent from Cape Town in South Africa. But I don't have any relatives in South Africa!"

Then I suggested "Ok, let's go to the post-office and find more about this strange parcel."

The Post-Office

The following week, the three of us went to the post office and showed them this letter. After a while the postman told us something very strange - "Believe it

or not, this letter was posted more than 20 years ago!"

I asked, "You mean to say that a letter addressed to Ojima 6-14-4-201, by a South African, in the name of Abhay was posted more than 20 years ago?"

The postman replied "Exactly!"

Then Sai said "So there must have been another Abhay, living in the same address 20 years ago!"

Abhay replied "Exactly - but how do we find out who it was?"

Then I had an idea. I suggested "Let's use Google to find out all the Abhay's living in Japan. We can contact them if it is possible."

My friends agreed. "That's a terrific idea" said Abhay "I am also curious as to how many more Abhay's live in Japan!"

Abhay Ranjan Shah

As we Googled using the search phrase "Abhay Japan" we got 16 contacts. We then found the email address of each one of them and emailed them asking if any of them had relatives from South Africa.

A few days later we received an email from Abhay Ranjan Shah. Abhay told us that he was now 20 years old and was born in Ojima 6-14-4-201. He also told us that his maternal grandfather lived in South Africa. Several times - his grandfather had enquired if they received his gift. However Abhay and his parents thought that the old man was perhaps dreaming and didn't take him too seriously.

"Unfortunately, my grandfather died around 5 years ago." said Abhay Ranjan Shah, "and I never got a chance to say 'Thank you' for this wonderful gift!" ■

(Reprinted from Anjali 2010)

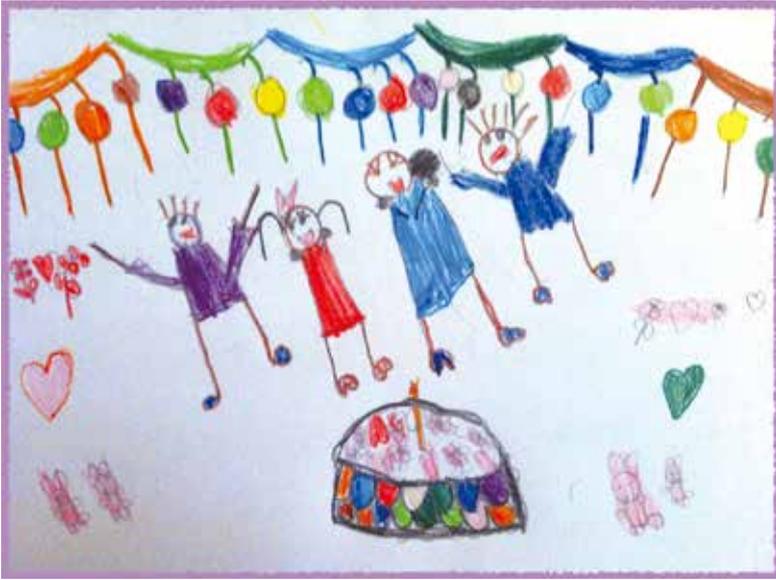
The Nefilibatic Nomad

- Utsho Bose, Grade IX

The evening was vermilion, drenched in her memory.
That memory, undaunted, the sun, not set.
The Raven had set sail, it's wings in motion.
While they carried his mother into the darkness.
Her scream sent shivers down his spine.
Like a doe, brought at bay.
His father had rushed, his sister soaking in scarlet elixir.
Her eyes unfazed, towards the setting sun.
Something lost, something gained, he wondered,
As he blew bubbles through the blower.
The pain of the hiraeth, the contemplation of loss,
Seemed to be giving way to momentary bliss.
Ignorance, overshadowed by acceptance crept back into its burrow.
He turned to bid the radiant giver of life, goodbye.
His father's crutch, shining in the beautifully depressing memories.
The stillness of the moment, the dying delirium,
Mixed colour.
The dogs pricked their ears,
The boy raised his head, every cell awakened.
Etched with the familiarity of the sound.
His father erect, the air brought the smell of his sister's blood.
The die had been cast.
The dogs of war unleashed, upon the final hiding place.
There wasn't a moment to run, no moment to face.
Silence broken, metal on metal, blood on Earth.
Fate, remorseless.
The house lay watching, apparently, unmoved,
While they faced destiny, with arms wide open.
Each second lasted an eternity,
The puppet masters had fallen,
The puppets still on stage, possibly inert.
The air pungent, with the echo of a nomad.
A song unsung, a faded memory,
Eroded footprints on Earth,
The last bubble, not blown.

(Reprinted from Anjali 2014)

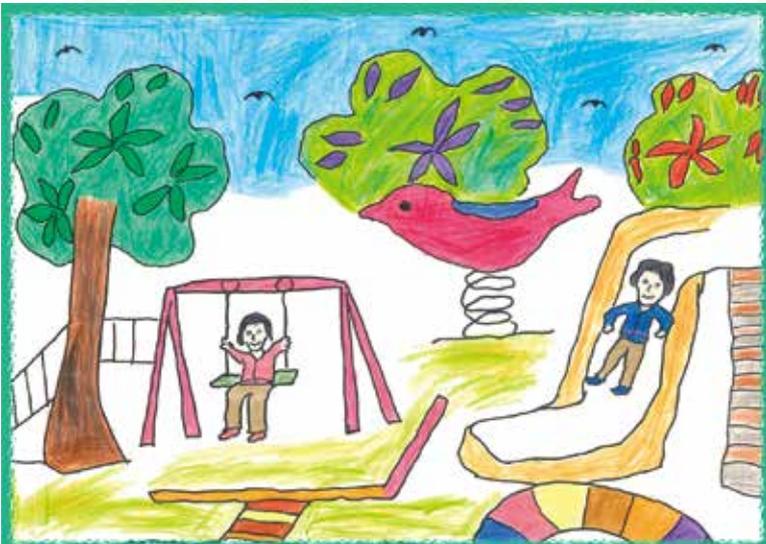
DRAWINGS



Celebration by Ayuona Gupta 5yrs (2013)



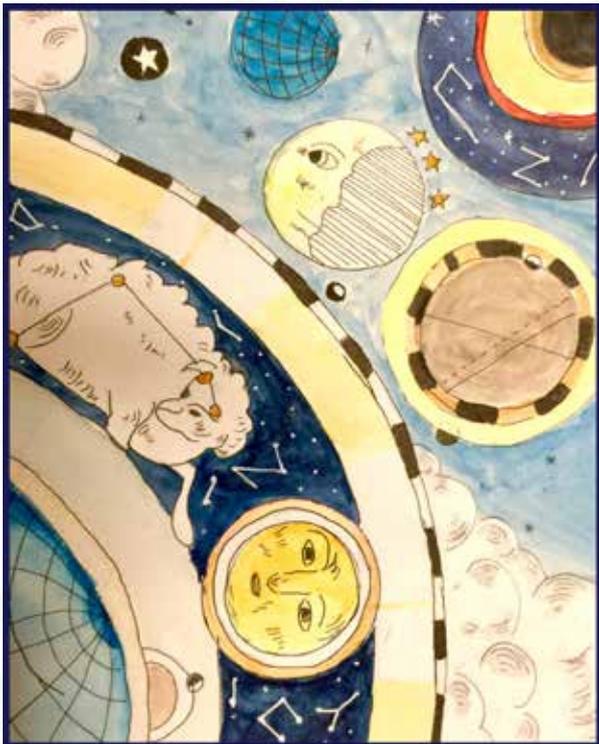
Dancing girl by Ayana Roy Nandi Gr III



Funtime by Ashmita Pal 6yrs (2013)



Fruit Basket by Tuhin Nag Gr V (2012)



Zodiac by Nimisha Anand Gr VIII (2015)



Krishna by Kavya Sharma Gr IX (2014)



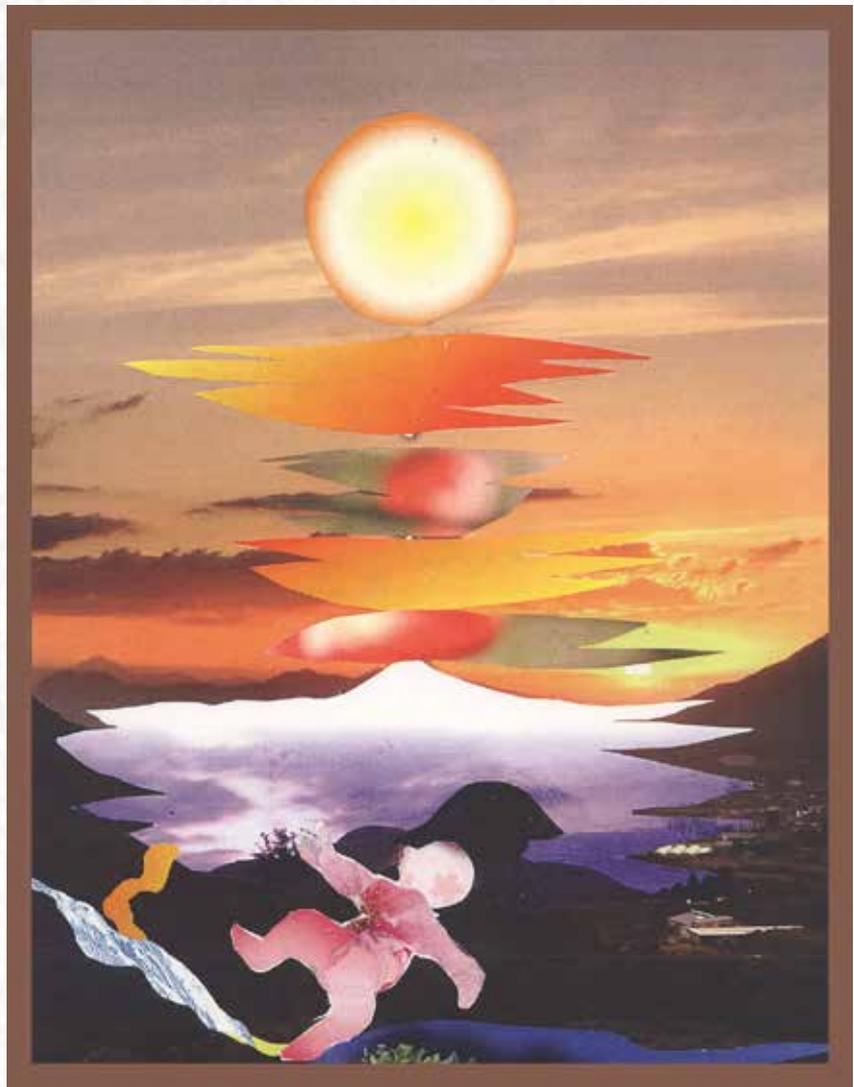
PHOTOGRAPHY

Summer Trails by Sudeb Chattopadhyay



Innocence by Sanjib Chanda

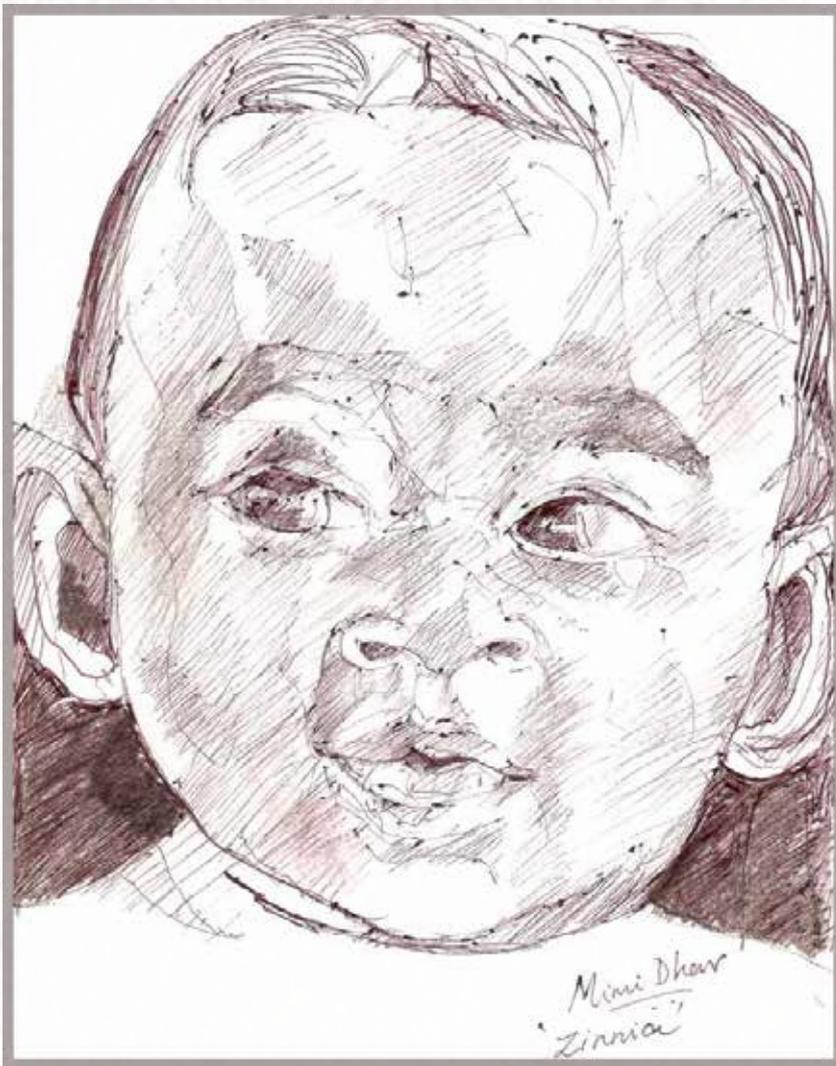
Arts



Chigiri-e by Jyotirmoy Ray (2010)



Fuji-Sunflower by Arakawa Saburo (2014)



Zinnia by Mimi Dhar (2010)



Life partner by Sushmita & Amrita Pal (2013)



Red and Blue by Sanchita Ghosh (2012)

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