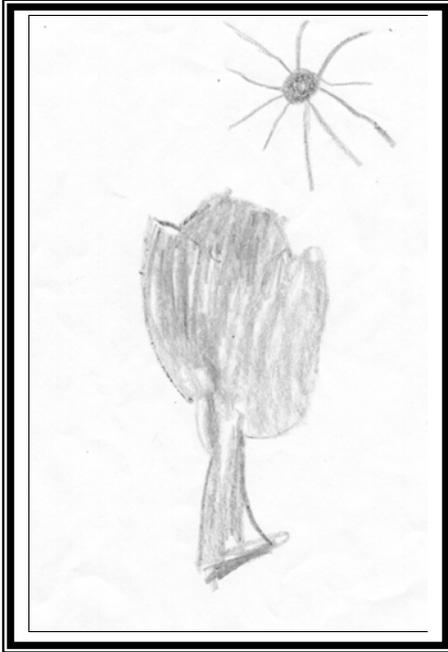


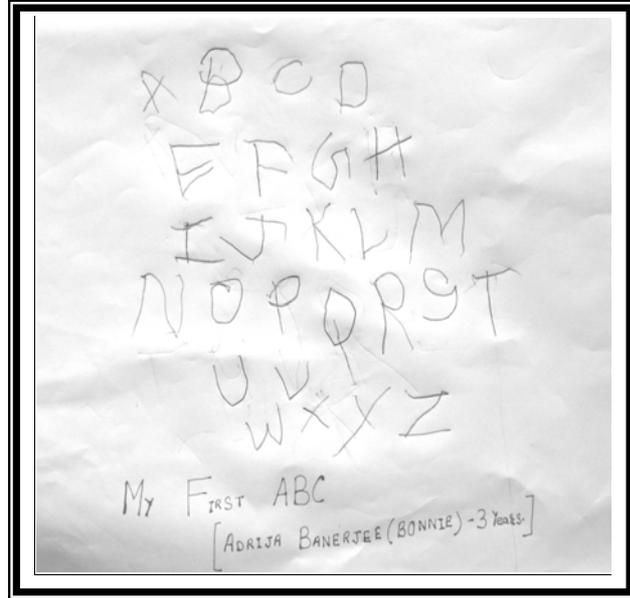
Anjali

Children's Section

LITTLE ARTISTS OF TOKYO



The Sun and the Flower
by Renee Ghosh (Age: 3 years)

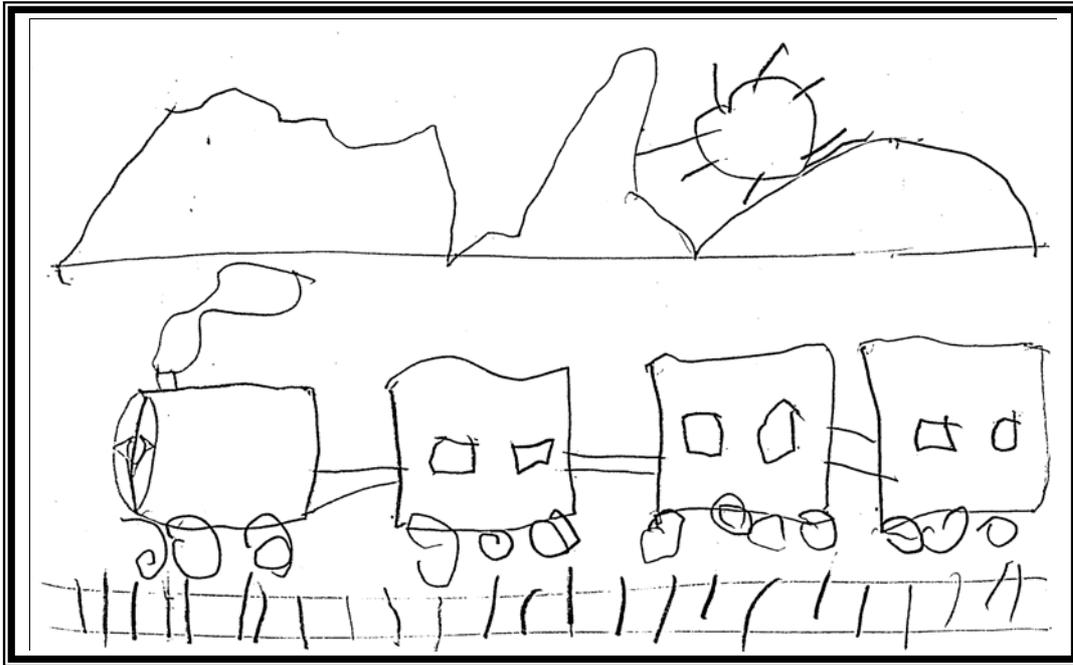
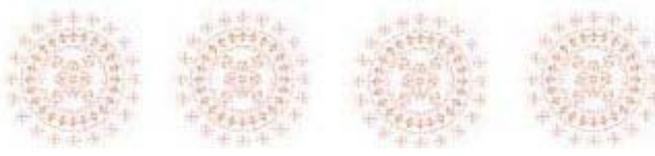


My First ABC
by Adrija Banerjee (Age: 3 years)

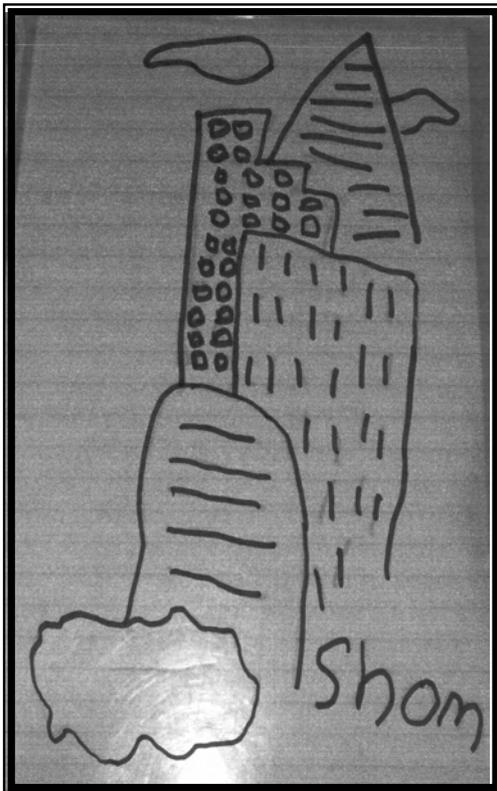


Papa, Mama and Me
by Simrita Lodh (Age: 3 years)

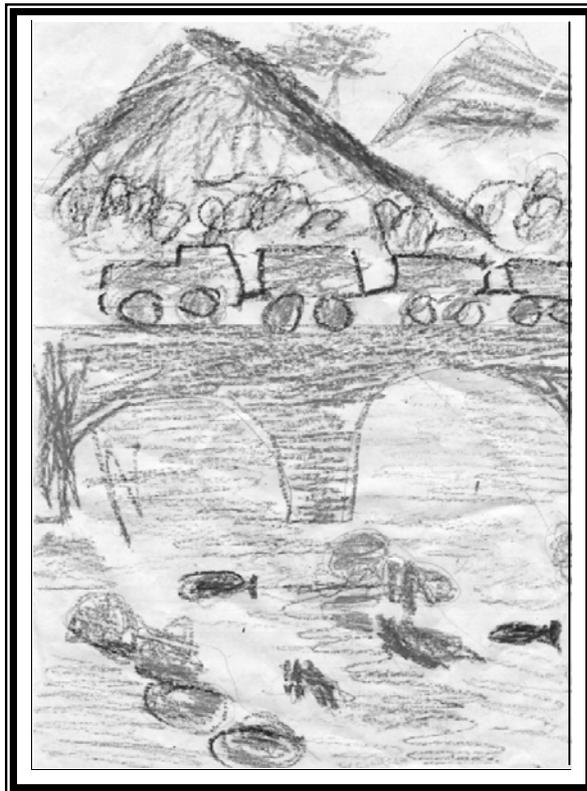




The Thomas Tank Engine
by Nishant Chanda (Age: 3 years)



The Skyscraper
by Saptarshi Nath (Age: 4 years)

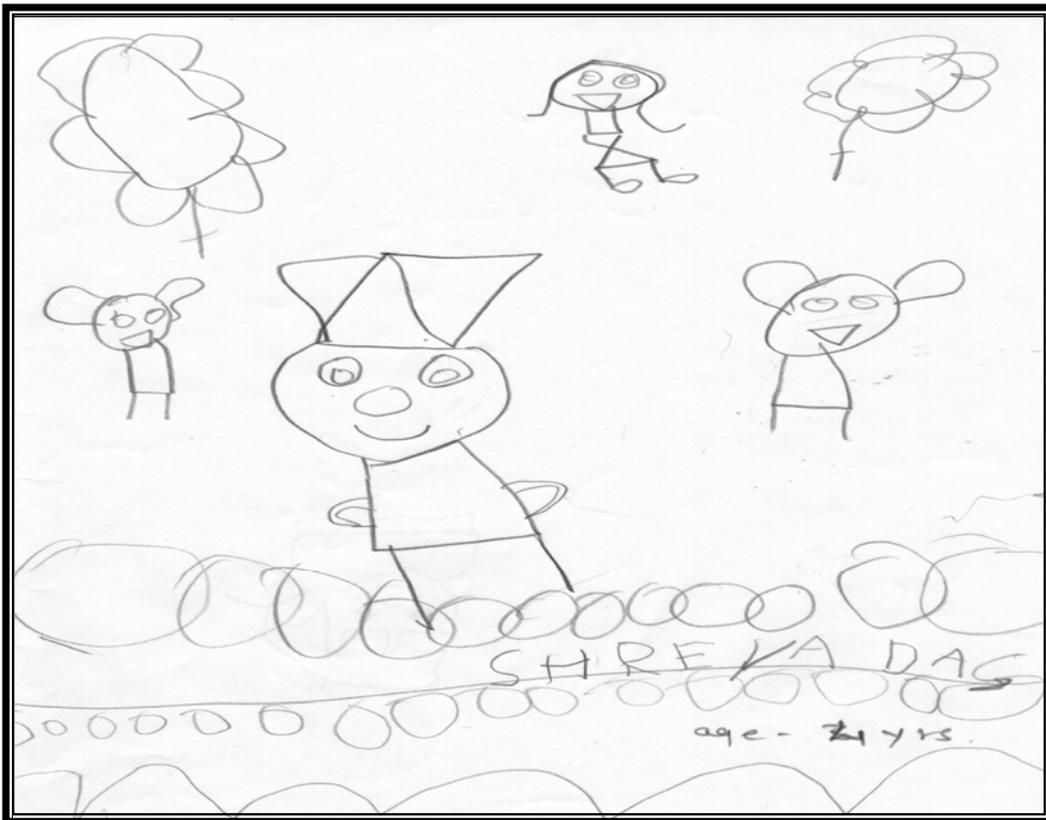


The Train and the Bridge
by Anik Nag (Age: 4 years)

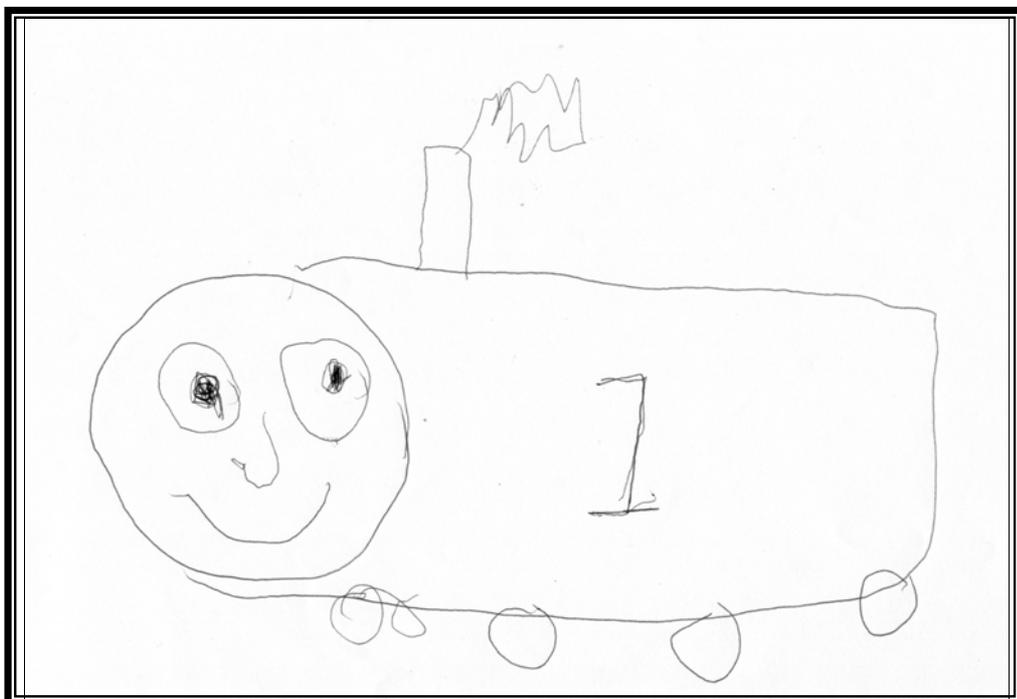




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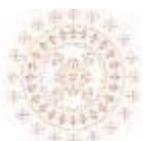


Party Time
by Shreya Das (Age: 4 years)



The Thomas Tank Engine
by Amartya Mukherjee (Age: 4 years)

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The Mermaid
by Chandreyee Basu (Age: 5 years)

আজকের ছোট্ট প্রতিভাদের উদ্দেশ্যে :-
‘মেঘের কোলে কোলে’
সৌগতা মল্লিক

জলের নীচে আবার তাদের জবাকুসুম
রাস্তা চলার হাওয়ায় হাওয়ায় পদ্মপাতা ।
নিজের মতন বৃষ্টি লিখে, বর্ষা লিখে
ক্লেষণ আঁকা শহর, হাঁটে ড্রয়িং খাতায় ॥

ঘণ্টা বাজে, ছুটছে গাড়ি, হাঁটছে বিড়াল
ছোট্ট বাড়ি, রীড ভাঙে সব হারমোনিয়াম ।
এসব দেখে আজকে তোমায় সেলাম দিলাম ॥

উজ্জ্বল মুখ, আশায় ভরায় চোখের মণি
ছোট্ট হাতের ব্যস্ত যে সব এপ্রিল-জুন ।
সময় মতন মেঘের কোলে রৌদ্র এসে
আলোয় আলোয় ফিরিয়ে দেবে সহস্রগুণ ॥





Anjali

FROM THE BUDDING KIDS OF TOKYO

I Love

by Monalisa Das (Age: 6 years, Grade: 1)

I love to draw
I love to write
I love my mother and sister too,
But my dad loves me most
Get me everything what I ask.

I love my cousins
I love my aunts
But my grandpa loves me most,
Gives me chocolates, ice creams
And lots of love.

I love to sing
I love to dance.



Illustration by Monalisa Das

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Anjali

My Trip to Australia

by Aratrika Pan (Age: 6 years, Grade: 1)



This summer I had a nice vacation in Australia with my parents. First we went to Sydney. We visited the Sydney tower on the very first day. Then we took a cruise ride on the Sydney harbour. Where we saw Sydney opera house and the Sydney Bridge. It was so beautiful. Next day we went to the Blue Mountain. There is a story about Blue Mountain. Many year back three sisters lived there, so the mountain is called Three Sisters Blue Mountain. We took a cable car ride to see around. It was quite exciting. We also visited Bondi beach in Sydney. We lived in Darling Harbour. So we took monorail ride from there several times.

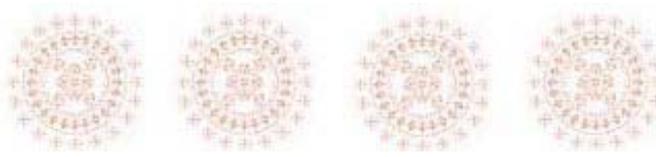
From Sydney we went to the Gold Coast. Gold coast was full of fun. There is so much to do. We went to Currumbin Wild life sanctuary. There were lot of Kangaroos and Koalas. I carried a Koala and took snaps. I also fed Kangaroos. We took a toy train ride there. Then we went to the Movie World. We saw Batman and Marilyn Monroe and Ice age characters. We took roller costar and lot of other rides there. It was an extreme fun. After that we went to the Sea World. There were lot of Dolphins and Sea lions. They performed very nice show. We went to Brisbane from Gold Coast and did lot of shopping. We took a speedboat ride on the Brisbane River. From there we went to Cairns and saw the coral reef from helicopter. We also visited Rain forest and Great Barrier Reef.

We enjoyed a lot. I would like to say thanks to Mita aunty and Debolina aunty for giving us nice tips and ideas about Australia. Finally, a great thanks goes to my Mama and Papa for giving me a nice vacation.

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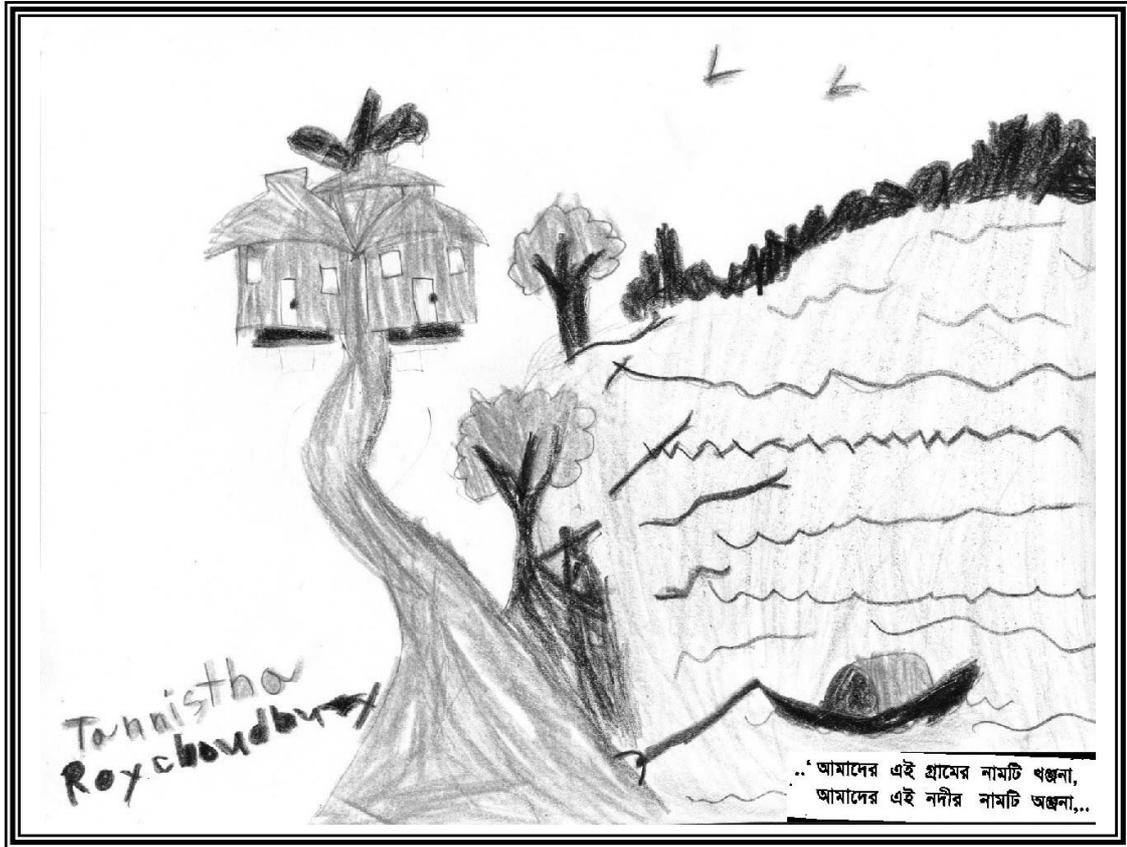
90



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Drawing by Tannistha Roychoudhury

(Age: 6 years, Grade: 1)



Happiness

by Iina Mitra (Age: 7 years, Grade: 2)

Happiness is...
Painting my nails with my aunt,
Cuddling my little sister,
Making luchies,
Having friends for sleepover,
Splashing in the pool,
And not doing homework.



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Summer Vacation in Phuket

by Ricky Das (Age: 8 years, Grade: 3)

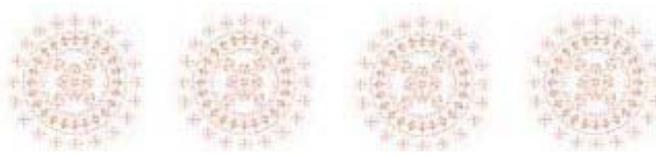
Once we went to Phuket. It all started when we were at Narita Airport. We got on to our plane. We were on Thai Airlines. First we went to Bangkok (Capital of Thailand). We stayed in a nice hotel for one and a half days. On the first day we went to a one-day tour. First thing the tour showed us was Lord Buddha's temple. It was a very big temple. We saw some monks praying. The statue of Lord Buddha was in his sleeping position. The statue was made of bronze. After we saw Lord Buddha's temple, we went to the King's palace. It was a big palace. After we saw the King's palace we went to a University called Thamasat. Next day we went to Phuket from Bangkok.

The hotel in Phuket was nice and had swimming pool. The next morning we went to our beach. The sand was very white. I made a big sand castle and went snorkeling with a speedboat. The boat was very fast and bumpy. The boat stopped near by another small island. Visitors put on their snorkeling goggles and jumped into the water. The water was so clear and blue. I was so scared to go snorkeling so my family and me were feeding the fish. Lots of fish came to eat. There was an Angel fish, clown fish and lots of different colored fishes. When we came back to Phuket I was very sad. I enjoyed it so much. We ate a late barbecue lunch. It was delicious. It was mostly grilled seafood. After my stomach got full, my family and me went for a little evening walk on the beach. While we were walking we saw a store with lots of coconuts. We went to have some coconut water drink. My dad, mom and my sister drank the coconut water. I did not take it. Next time I want to try some coconut drink. When we went out of the shop we were just in time to see the beautiful sunset. The colors were blending together making an outstanding picture. After the sunset we went back to our hotel.

The next morning after breakfast we went to the swimming pool. There were some slides near the swimming pool. I tried one of the slides; it was fun so I did it again and again and again. Then my sister and me took a race in the water. Of course my sister won! Next we ate our lunch. I was starving because of all the swimming I did with my sister. Our lunch was Thai food. It was very yummy! In the evening we went to a place called Fanta Sea. It is a cultural theme park. To go to Fanta Sea you have to ride on a big elephant. We rode on the elephant there. We saw a parade with dragons and elephants. It was a beautiful parade with lots of lights.

Next day we went shopping. My favorite shopping mall was the Robinson. It was a big store. In the evening we had to come back to Tokyo. I was very sad to leave because I enjoyed Phuket very much.





A Day in Disneyland

by **Sarbik Banerjea (Age: 9 years, Grade: 4)**

On 2nd of May I went to Disneyland. When I reached Disneyland I was excited how it was going to be. In Disneyland before I went to any of the rides I saw Pluto, Mary Poppins and Chip and Dale and some statues. The first ride that I went on was jets. Not real jets but jets that go round. When I was riding the jets I saw a handle and I pushed it. Then I saw that the jets go up. After that we had snack that was Mickey Mouse shaped ice cream. When I finished the ice cream I went to a ride that was called Space Mountain. Next we went and got a fast pass for an adventure called micro- adventure. After we got that we went to a show called Once Upon A Mouse. The show was good and had some of my favorite characters called Aladdin and Peter-Pan. After that we went to micro-adventure. When we went inside, the guides gave us 3D glasses. The micro-adventure was cool and scary. We could feel the dog sneezing and I learnt that everything was in 3D. The scariest part was a snake opening its mouth. Then we had lunch in a restaurant called Crystal Palace. For lunch I had Mickey's Plate. After we finished lunch we went to Adventure Land. In Adventure land we went to a ride called River Adventure. Then we went to another ride but I don't remember the name. Then we saw an Electrical Parade. It was a show that showed most of the characters in Disneyland. Then we went for shopping in Disneyland. I bought a fan for myself. When it was 10 pm it was time to go home. It was a day full of fun and adventure and I would like to go to Disneyland again with all my friends.

Playing with the Clouds

by **Mimi Mallik (Age: 9 years, Grade: 4)**

White, fluffy clouds
Why do you have to turn black?
I want to play in the sun.

I hope the black clouds aren't together
Like big, black crows who don't like each other
But fly away after a while.
Nasty black clouds
Go Away!

The rain starts dropping from the clouds
I feel happy now.
I see the sun rising from the sky.
Then I play,
As I see the black clouds go away.





Time Off ---

(Compiled by Sougata Mallik)

Silly but Funny:

(a) How many ears does Captain Kirk have?

Three. Right ear, left ear and his 'Frontier'.

(b) Why are policemen so strong ?

Because they can hold up traffic.

(c) What is the difference between the sun and a loaf of bread?

One rises from the east, the other from yeast.

(d) What will you get if a herd of elephants trample Batman & Robin?

Flatman & Ribbon.

Did You Know ?

(a) The longest recorded flight of a chicken is 13 seconds.

(b) A horse's height is measured in hands – one hand equals 4 inches.

(c) The human heart creates enough pressure to squirt blood 30 feet.

(d) Butterflies taste with their feet.

(e) Each year Halloween candies are sold over a worth of \$ 2,000,000,000 !

Relax with Quiz :

(a) Which tree can you hold in your hand?

Bonsai - the art of growing and arranging tree in miniature. The Japanese word, Bonsai means 'they planted.'

(b) How did the Teddy Bear get its name?

President Theodore Roosevelt once went hunting, but he refused to shoot a bear cub. This story was reported in the newspaper and all toy bears came to be called Teddy (Theodore)'s bear. Since then we get the name, teddy bear.

(c) Who told stories for 1001 nights?

Princess Sharazad in Arabia saved herself from death by telling stories for 1001 nights. Among the stories that Sharazad told were also those of Sindbad the sailor, Aladdin and his magic lamp.

(d) Who invented sandwich?

John Montagu is said to have invented sandwich in 1762. He loved to play card games and never liked to be interrupted. For meals, he buttered two slices of bread and put a piece of meat within the slices. He was the Earl of the place called Sandwich and his new food preparation became known as the sandwich.





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Our Heritage

by Proma Banerjee (Age: 10 years, Grade: 5)

Last year I read a book on the Taj Mahal. Since then I had a dream to see it. Last year on December I got the chance to make my dream come true!

My mother and I went to visit the Taj Mahal in Agra. At the New Delhi Airport I met my maternal grandmother, my aunt, my cousin, and my uncle. I was very happy to see them after a long time. From Delhi to Agra, we took a super fast train and the journey was really fun for all of us.

When we reached the Taj Mahal, my cousin and I drank mango juice and then entered the gate. We had to walk for a long time; we had to enter another red gate with a huge white dome in the center. This gate was made out of red bricks.

As soon as I crossed the gate, I saw the Taj Mahal. The Taj Mahal was sparkling in the bright sun! It was made out of white and clean marbles. At the very top of the ceiling there was an onion shaped dome.

The entire structure was on a huge area covered with green gardens and trees. We moved from the large courtyard to the decorated walls and the huge minarets. I felt so small in front of the huge Taj Mahal; I could see the Agra fort across the river Yamuna.

We have visited the Taj in a full-moon night also on the same day; this time it was a different look-complete white building in a very bright sun, you can see the Taj Mahal from a distance. When the moon is right behind the Taj Mahal, it looks very glamorous.

I was so charmed by the Taj Mahal; I started reading about how and when it was constructed and other historical facts.

The construction began at 1630 A.D. The construction of it took a period of 22 years, employing 20,000 men. It stands on a raised platform (186x186 ft) with its four corners truncated forming an octagon. In all four truncated ends there are four tall minarets. All four minarets are 40 meters high with small onion shaped dome on the top. In the great hall there are tomb of empress Mumtaz Mahal. Next to it there is the tomb of empire Shah Jahan. A standing marble net with flowers stuck in-between surrounding the two

Durga Puja 2003
Tokyo



95



Anjali

tombs right under the dome. The floor under the ceiling is like a marble chessboard. It looks very modern. I realized that the Taj Mahal is in the Islamic style.

The Taj contains the gateway, a huge garden, a mosque, a rest house and a mausoleum.

Emperor Shah Jahan, in honor of his wife Mumtaz made the Taj Mahal. Shah Jahan and his wife Mumtaz Mahal were married on 1612 A.D. They had 14 children together. At 1630 A.D. Mumtaz Mahal had to accompany her husband to the military campaigns, then gave birth to her 14th child and died.

I was really glad to see the Taj Mahal but few months ago I read in newspaper that next to Yamuna River there are going to be many hotels and also houses so the Taj Mahal's garden can be destroyed. The government's lack of care may be another reason to get it destroyed.

In case you are yet to see it, do not wait; it is a trip worth remembering so I keep telling my friends to go to visit the Taj Mahal. I don't want any one will miss the Heritage of India.

How to be a Tree

by **Sarani Chatterjee (Age:10 years, Grade: 5)**

(Sarani now lives in Oregon, USA. She was in Tokyo for three years.)

I have leaves on my arms
Please don't harm me.
Just let me be,
I am very old, you see.
Please don't pull on my leaves.
I give you oxygen,
So, if you kill me,
You won't be able to breathe.
I am a tree.
Please respect me.



Durga Puja 2003
Tokyo



96



LITTLE CHEFS' CORNER

Today's Recipe ---- The Tokyo Chocolate Cake

by Sougata Mallik

The little Chefs: Reimi, Moon, Proma, Mimi, Ilina, Loly, Monalisa.

The little Tasters: Shoubhik, Sarbik, Ryo, Ricky, Tannistha and tiny Anik.

Ingredients as advised by the chefs:

Flour, Eggs, Milk, Cadbury chocolate, Hershey's chocolate, Lots of ice cream

Method as suggested by the chefs:

Pour the flour in a very big bowl. Break eggs in a small bowl. Pour the milk in the big bowl. Then beat everything together. Add the Cadbury and Hershey's chocolates. You can eat a few chocolates while you cook. Don't forget the ice cream. Taste every pack of ice cream before you add them. This is very important because different ice cream packs have different tastes. Make Hello Kitty decoration on the top with M&M button candies.

Final Step: Take out all the frozen stuff from the freezer and make space. Then put the big bowl inside the freezer.

The Outcome: You can scoop and eat, as much as you want!

Reactions:

The little Tasters : Terrible ! So much sweet! This doesn't taste like a cake!

Mothers: Abantika, Chandralekha, Papiya, Sougata, Paromita, Mousumi, Nivedita --

Oh, what a mess! Who's going to clean up?

Oh God! What wastage of food!

Fathers: Happy smiles with lot of pride from --Ranjan Das, Byomkesh Panda, Poolak Banerjee, Tathagata Mallik, Arindam Mitra, Sanjoy Pan, Devasish Das.

HAPPY EATING TO ALL OF YOU

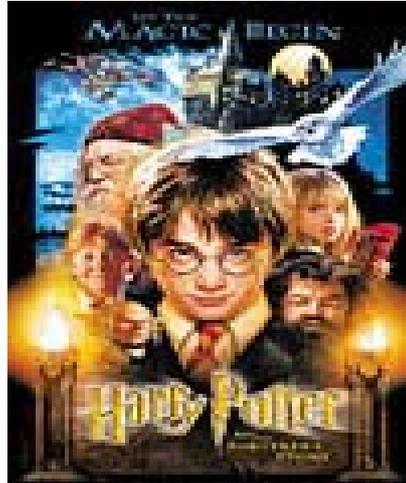




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Harry Potter Strikes Back!

by Shoubhik Pal (Age: 10 years, Grade: 6)



I just love Harry Potter books. I started reading Harry Potter books as soon as the first movie came. I got the idea of reading Harry Potter books from a poster saying, "Watched the movie ... read the books!" When the fifth book came, I wanted the book immediately to read. I thank Shyam uncle and Sulata aunty for giving me the surprise. This is what all the books mean to me. As I have read all the five books, I am writing this article expressing my view for the five Harry Potter books. I thank J. K. Rowling, the author for the wonderful Harry Potter books.

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Synopsis: Harry Potter is a boy with unusual powers for example talking to a python in the zoo. But Harry never remembered the main part of himself because of his Uncle Vernon, Aunt Petunia and cousin Dudley who told him that his parents, Lily and James Potter were dead from a car crash and the lightning shaped scar on his forehead was a souvenir. But one day, the gamekeeper of Hogwarts, Hagrid told Harry that he was a wizard and that Harry's parents had not died from a car crash; they had been murdered by the dark lord, Voldemort (everybody in the magical world fears to speak his name) and had almost killed Harry but suddenly a miracle happened and the Dark Lord, Voldemort fled leaving nothing but a scar on Harry's forehead. Hagrid takes Harry to the magical school of Hogwarts school. There, Harry has many friends, like Ron and Hermione and many gifts like the Invisibility

Durga Puja 2003
Tokyo



98



Anjali

Cloak and a Nimbus 2000 (a broom yet on the broomstick playing game called Quidditch) and many enemies like Malfoy and Professor Snape. But soon they figure out that the three-headed dog; Fluffy is guarding a trapdoor which leads to something that will make Voldemort return. Harry, Ron and Hermoine think Snape is trying to bring Voldemort to life. But who knows? What is Fluffy guarding? What kind to dangers is Harry going to face? Read Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone to find out! Watch the movie.

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

Rating: ★★☆☆

Synopsis: Harry now is rescued from his aunt, uncle and cousin by Ron and the twins, Fred and George who come to save Harry by a flying Ford Angelia. Harry also meets the house elf, Dobby who tells him not to go to Hogwarts. Harry arrives at the Burrow, the Weasley home where he meets new characters like Ginny, Arthur Weasley, Ron's dad. It becomes an adventure when Harry and Ron can't get through the barrier to the Platform. They take the flying car to school, destroy it and almost get expelled. Also serious attacks have come to the school and they are only on Muggle-borns and Harry is one of the suspects. There are also threatening messages in the wall like "The Chamber of Secrets has been opened... Enemies of the heir beware". Professor McGonagall tells the students that the Chamber of Secrets is the home of a monster. Also, Harry realizes that he can speak Parseltongue, snake language and he hears strange voices in the walls. What does the Chamber hold? Who is the heir? Read Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets!

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

Rating: ★★☆☆

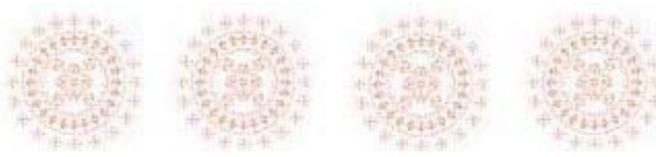
Synopsis: Sirius Black has been in the wizard prison, Azkaban for 12 years. Now he has escaped and the only words he said was, "He's at Hogwarts..He's at Hogwarts".

What does he mean? For extra security, Headmaster Albus Dumbledore has put the terrifying dementors for security of the school. There are a few things in Harry's mind: winning the quidditch cup, the fact that he can't go to Hogmeade, the fainting sound of the dementors and the coolest Defense Against the Dark Arts yet, Prof. Remus Lupin. Soon, Harry finds out that he has a relationship with Black. What is the relationship? How does Harry go to Hogwarts? Why is Lupin drinking potions that Snape makes? Find out in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban!

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Tokyo



99



Anjali

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

Rating: ★★★★★

Synopsis: Harry Potter, as usual is full of adventure and this year he is in the Triwizard Tournament with Fleur Delacour, Cedric Diggory and Oliver. In the first task, Harry has to get golden eggs from a dragon. In the second task, Harry has to go to sea to save his friend Ron. In the third task, Harry has to go through this type of building. There he goes face-to-face with The Dark Lord Voldemort. This book also includes the Yule Ball, where Harry dances with Parvati Patil and Ron dances with Padma Patil.

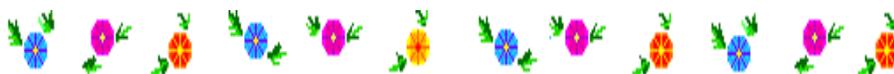
Harry Potter and the Order of Phoenix

Rating: ★★★★★

The magical world is separated by two parts. The Ministry of Magic thinks that the Dark Lord has not returned. The people who disagree come to an order made by Dumbledore called the Order of Phoenix in Harry's godfather Sirius Black house. There he meets a disgruntled house elf called Kreacher. Ron's parents, Lupin, Moody and Tonks are in the Order, too. So Harry goes to Hogwarts and has a new Defense against the Dark Arts teacher, Dolores Jane Umbridge who is brought to Hogwarts by Cornelius Fudge. Soon, Umbridge becomes the High Inquisitor and bans Harry, Fred and George from playing Quidditch ever again. Also, Ron replaces Oliver Wood as keeper. Then Harry starts having all these nightmares about Mr. Weasley being bitten by a snake, the Dark Lord talking to his Death Eaters. Then he sees this door in the Ministry, which he believes that leads to the Department of Mysteries. Also, Harry meets the Ravenclaw, Luna "Loony" Lovegood. Why is Harry having these visions? What is inside that door? Read it to find out. Also someone dies at the end.

My Opinion:

The coolest part is when Hermione and Harry get back into time by the time-turner in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. The freakiest part is when Ron spits out slugs in Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. The coolest thing is the Floo Powder in Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. The most ugly monster is Grawp in Harry Potter and the Order of Phoenix.



Durga Puja 2003
Tokyo





Anjali

Bald Eagle

by Moon Panda (Age: 11 years, Grade: 6)

In the world there are many animals that are in danger. Such as the Indian white tiger, American bald eagle, the California gray whale, the American alligator, etc. So I would like to share some information about the BALD EAGLE.

The bald eagle is America's national bird. It is the only eagle unique to North America. The bald eagle's scientific name signifies a sea eagle with a white head. At one time, the word "bald" meant "white", not hairless. From Alaska and Canada to North Mexico, the bald eagle is found over most of the area. They flourish in this region because of the salmon. Dead or dying fish are an important food source for all the bald eagles.

There is no single cause for the decline in the bald eagle population. As the human population expanded, the natural habitat of the eagles was destroyed.

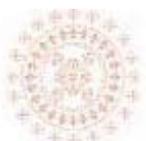
Fatal gunshot wounds by careless hunters and those hunting them for their feather and talons, sell them in the black market. Also some were killed for taxidermy. Sometimes electrocution was the cause of their death.

By the late 1800s the bald eagles population declined sharply. The bald eagles were officially declared an endangered species in 1967. Until 1995, the bald eagle had been listed as endangered. But the bald eagle is still listed as "threatened" in the United States.

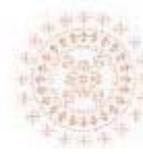


Illustration by Moon Panda

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101



The Hunt For The A+ Test

by Reimi Dasdeb (Age: 11 years, Grade: 6)

“Amy-----”, Mom shouts. “You are going to be late for school.”
“Yes mom, I am coming down,” Amy replies. She slides down the railing along the stairs and dashes to her chair. She was happy because yesterday she found a paper in a bottle near the swing. The paper was dusty and very old. She saw it was some kind of a map. On the top, written in ink was 'Waterfall Elementary School'. Amy attends the same school. Today Amy and her friend, Ann are going to the school to find out what the big cross mark on the map means. She was so excited that she couldn't sleep last night.

“Bye mom, I will be late for school,” said Amy and set out for school. Arriving at school, she found Ann waiting for her. Ann ran to her and said, “Why don't we find the cross mark after school hours.”
“That's OK”, replied Amy. When they entered the classroom, Mr. Brown was taking attendance. They were just in time to slip into their seats. First they had two periods of Math. Amy did not like Math. Then they had two periods of Language Arts. Amy likes reading but hates making summary of what she reads. After that they had lunch. Amy had two peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Ann had two ham and cheese sandwiches. There were two more periods of Science after the recess. Amy likes Science a lot. She also likes to experiment. The next period was meant for Social Studies. Then they had snacks. After that they had PE (Physical Education). Last two periods they had to study religion.

School was over and Amy went to the playground. She saw Ann was waiting for her. “Hi Ann, sorry I am late,” said Amy panting. Ann just nodded and replied, “It's OK. Let's follow the map.” So both of them followed the map; they had to go to the sixth grade classroom. They both ran up the stairs and turned right. They checked if the teacher was there or not and then they went in. “It's kind of uncanny feeling since we are the only living souls in the classroom,” said Ann shaking. Suddenly the clock turned six and made a melodious sound. Ann jumped and Amy made a soft shriek. When the music stopped, Amy and Ann were too scared to move. Then Amy broke the silence, “I think it's OK to move now.”

“The map says to pull out the books on the extreme left side of the bottom shelf.” Ann was excited and locating a thin red book there. Amy tried to pull the book out. Suddenly the shelf slid left and they say a big hole through



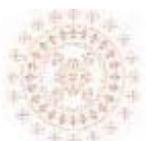


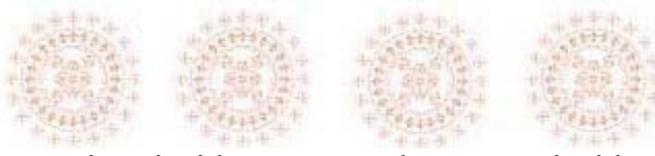
Anjali

which they could crawl inside. Amy went in first. Then Ann followed into the hole. The hole was dimly lit and was about seven meters long. There was a closed door. Ann came right after Amy. She said, "We must be some kind of a mini jungle." Amy nodded and went forward. She saw two ropes hanging from a tall tree. As they went closer they realized that they have to go to the other side of the canal with the help of the rope because there were crocodiles in the water. Amy took a deep breath, held the rope tightly and swung with the rope to reach the other side of the canal. Amy was screaming like Tarzan. Finally she landed on the other side. Then it was Ann's turn. Ann was scared. She climbed up the rope but the rope did not swing that much. It stopped in the middle. Ann hanging in the middle started screaming and crying.

Amy was planning to save Ann but it was a very risky job. She took a deep breath, held the rope tightly, swung the rope and jumped high. Ann jumped to hold the end of Amy's rope. Amy swung the rope a little bit more so that both of them land on the right side. Ann gasped and said, "I am not going to do that again." They walked a little but were confused to select the right path. Ann told Amy to walk ahead of her otherwise she would be scared which might create another problem again. They walked further and saw the road separated. One of the roads was going to the right, other to the left. Amy said to Ann, "You go the right and I will go the left." So both of them separated and went as planned. Suddenly Ann heard Amy screaming on top of her voice. Ann ran back towards Amy. When she came to the spot, Amy was sinking in the quick sand. Only her hands were in the air. Ann took a deep breath, took the rope and pulled it backward. She caught hold of Amy's hand and dragged her out of the quick sand. When both of them were on the other side, Ann asked, "Amy, how did you get into the quick sand?"

"Well. I thought that I could jump over, but I slipped and fell. You did a great job by saving me from death. So thanks a lot." Ann nodded and said, "What are friends for?" They walked for a while, and then they saw a green door. "This must be leading to the end," said Ann excited. They ran to the door. Amy opened the door. They did not stop there. They went in and suddenly the lights came out. They saw an old stone and moved there. Amy read the script. It was a scrambled word. They saw an open box nearby with something written in block letters. There was C, there was A, there was N, there was O, there was B. "May be it's COMBO," said Amy making a guess. "No, no. It may be.... I know it is BACON." Ann put the words together on the wall. As she did there was a flash on the wall. Both of them saw another box of A4 size papers. "Here there is another instruction on the stone," said Amy excited. Ann read what was on the stone. At least two men are needed to open the box. There is bacon on top of the box. Divide the bacon into





Anjali

three parts. Put one piece inside your mouth, put one inside your friend's mouth, and one piece into the keyhole. The box will automatically open. They did just as the instruction said. Amy uttered "Bacon" first and Ann followed. Then they shouted together. A sudden flash of light was found shooting from the keyhole and the box opened and the flash became stronger. When both of them opened their eyes, they were in front of the school gate. Amy and Ann opened the box and took the paper out. They both looked at the piece of paper. "It's our Principal, Ms. MCD's A+ test paper." Both of them simply did not expect a paper in the box. They expected something precious. Ann took the paper from Amy's hand, dug a hole in the sand, kept it in the box and put the box back into the hole. They covered the box with sand and mud.

"I shall never try to find out what X mark means. Are you?" asked Ann roughly. Amy nodded, "I shall never." They both promised and went home.



*Young Stars performing
Lakkhaner Shaktishel
Drama at 2002 Durga
Puja*

*Durga Puja 2003
Tokyo*





Anjali

THE RISING TEENAGERS SPEAK

In a Glass Case

by Sumon Chatterjee (Grade: 8)

I was still located in a glass case in an isolated room carefully placed upright along with other people who were just like me. The whole room was still dark, but I was able to hazily see the objects and their position in the room. The opening on the left hand side from my view led to the main corridor, and a bright colored carpet connected the room to the hallway. The vitrine located on the wall in front of me housed a pike used by the enemy of my old owner, and next to that was the chain mail that the enemy wore. I sneered at both of them, since they were both used by my former master's enemy in which I took his life during a battle. They both smirked back at me.

Sitting next to those artifacts were a miniature model of "siege weapons," as my former master used to talk about and actually use in battle. They were all in same sizes, so the "trebuchet," a wooden frame with a sling attached to a wooden arm for hurling large stones, was actually the smallest one located here, since it was the largest one in real combat. On the right side of that was the "ballistae," a large wooden gadget used to shoot gigantic arrows, and on its left was the "siege tower," a wooden tower used to carry soldiers on to castle walls.

When I was about to give out a sigh of despair from the usual scenes I saw every morning, the lights in the room switched on. A reflection of me showed up in the glass right in front of me; I squinted at the dazzling light from the illumination that reflected from my own body onto the crystal like wall around me.

My present owner's manor house was quite extraordinary. He regularly had thousands of visitors in clothing styles I have never seen before (including himself) walk around his mansion, staring at everything that was situated inside a special container or hung on the wall. Of course I was always eyed on as well. I am not sure why but there are always a crowd around my crate when there are other artifacts that are just like me, dated back to the "Middle Ages" as my present owner always says. Probably it is because I was one of the two only "swords" in this room, or maybe because my former masters were all so famous in "history books" such as the so called "William the Conqueror" and that I was the "sword" used in the "Battle of Hastings" by him.

I might understand that the human society admires and reveres historic figures, but just because I was used by the person doesn't mean I want to be respected. To this day I still hate being in the glass case and being stared at by thousands of venerating eyes.

Durga Puja 2003
Tokyo



105



Anjali

Captivity

by **Ritwik Ghosh (Grade: 8)**

The bird twirled in the sweet air,
Pranced up and down like a hare,
Came down to its grass nest,
Hoping to have a little rest.

When time came to fly again,
What went wrong? He flapped in vain,
His legs were caught in a net,
That the hunter had set.

Now he is mournful in a little cage,
Perching on the wooden ledge.
I am tired of watching such events,
Why freedom is denied to the innocents?

God

by **Sambaran Chatterjee (Grade: 9)**

(Sambaran now lives in Oregon, USA. He was in Tokyo for three years.)

The topic that's raging in controversy
Is if God is fiction or reality.
Is God a boy?
Is He a girl?

All these crazy questions make my head whirl.
Is God a being, is He infinity?
Is He a spirit or is He a trinity?
Is He in Heaven, or down here on Earth?
Does he manifest in life, death or birth?
Is He the Buddha, or is He the Tao?
What was He before?
And what is He now?

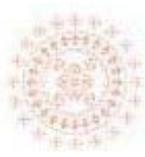
To me God is everything, anything and all.
Boy, girl, white, black, short or tall.
He is death as much as He is life.
For He is the balance between pleasure and strife.
He is in Tao as well as in Zen.
He is in the fish, the animals, and even the wren.
He is in me as much as he is in you.

Look inside yourself and you'll find my words to be true.

Durga Puja 2003
Tokyo



106



Anjali

Serenity

by Udita Ghosh (Grade: 9)

In the silence around me
My footsteps echo
As I walk towards
Where the waters flow.

It trickles over rocks and stones
Choosing its path carelessly
As leaves fall, it drags them along
On it's long journey to meet the sea.

I settle down under the large oak tree
Restoring the silence all around,
And I bend down to touch the cool water.
There is peace in the lack of sound.

Glancing away in the distance, I see
A brilliantly orange sun
Is retiring to its nightly home
After the day's job has been done.

Soon the sky reddens
As though blushing at a compliment,
There is a swirl of evening colours.
Where does it start? Where does it end?

Slowly darkness seeps in
And the moon rises in less than hours
As if it is a night guard
And it's army- millions of stars.

The moon and the stars bless us
And shower down heavenly light
The white, nocturnal flowers open up
And bloom, welcoming the night.



Durga Puja 2003
Tokyo



107



Anjali

“She Reached for the Stars and Went Beyond”

by Priyadarshini Sinha (Grade: 11)

“If I have to die, I want to die in space.” These words, spoken by astronaut Kalpana Chawla, the first Indian-American woman to journey into space, tragically came true on February 1st, 2003, when Columbia, the space shuttle that Chawla and her six crewmates were traveling in, shattered in the skies over the southern United States, bringing to an end the accomplished lives of seven brilliant astronauts.

The nightmare began when, just minutes before Columbia was scheduled to touch down, Mission Control in Houston, Texas, stated that it had lost contact with the Columbia crew and was trying to reestablish communication with the shuttle. But it was all over. A mere sixteen minutes before Columbia was scheduled to land at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida after ending a 16-day science mission in space, Columbia broke up in the skies over Texas and Louisiana, littering debris and the human remains of the crew over the two states. Also lost were countless science experiments conducted by the astronauts during the two-week stay in space. The Columbia crew was a diverse one that included an African-American, an Israeli, and an Indian-American. It consisted of Rick Husband, William McCool, Laurel Clark, Michael Anderson, David Brown, Ilan Ramon, and Kalpana Chawla. The first Indian-born woman to venture into space, it is Kalpana Chawla’s life story that shines as bright as a star out of the debris of the space shuttle that was once Columbia.

Born in the small town of Karnal in northern India 42 years ago, Kalpana Chawla braved immense obstacles of family and society to realize her dream of reaching the stars one day. Hailing from a conservative family, Chawla faced strong resistance from her family when she said that she loved airplanes and space and would like to work in that field some day. However, she remained optimistic and confident and most importantly, never gave up her dream. In fact, Chawla’s favorite pastime used to be to look up at the sky and stare at the airplanes that passed overhead. As a small girl, she used to gaze at the stars for hours wondering when she was going to be traveling among them. Due to her outstanding academic record at school and her participation and enthusiasm in almost every extra-curricular activity offered there, people around her knew that she would do exceptionally well in life. Her mother herself felt that Chawla would at least get a job, but could never think that she would make it all the way to space.

Durga Puja 2003
Tokyo



108



Anjali

When Chawla boldly announced her intention of studying aeronautics in college, not only was her conservative family opposed to the idea of her studying what was typically a subject pursued by men, but they were also against her moving from Karnal to nearby Chandigarh to pursue her college studies. But Chawla knew what she wanted to do and was determined to follow it through. When the resistance showed no signs of letting down, she simply packed her bags and left for her college. Being the only girl in her college aeronautics class did not daunt her and she topped her college final examinations. Although her teachers tried to channel her into other branches of engineering, Chawla stayed firm because she was doing what she loved to do. After completing her bachelor's degree, Chawla made up her mind to go to the United States for further study but was again met with firm opposition by her family and townspeople. However, in the end, her family saw her viewpoint and relented, though reluctantly. In the US, Chawla obtained a masters degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas in 1984 and then went on to do a doctorate in the same field in 1988 from the University of Colorado. From then on, Chawla scaled one peak after another. After doing research in the area of aerospace engineering and gaining pilot's licenses for a variety of aircraft including seaplanes and gliders, Chawla tried out for the position of an astronaut at NASA and was chosen on only her second try, a rare feat for any hopeful astronaut, let alone a woman.

Chawla's first opportunity for a trip into space came in 1997 when she was chosen as a member of the STS-87 crew which flew aboard Columbia, the same shuttle that she would die in 6 years later. The shuttle mission marked the first time than an Indian-born woman had been to space and was an immense achievement for India and Indian women. Kalpana Chawla was hailed as India's brightest star and featured on the cover of India's topmost newsmagazine. In it, she was quoted as saying, "I never truly thought of being the first or second someone. Or being a small-town girl. This is just something I wanted to do. It was very important for me to enjoy it." Following this mission, she was assigned to the ill-fated crew of STS-107, on which she and her crewmates eventually perished, leaving two countries saddened by grief and mourning.

Being a woman did not stop Kalpana Chawla from achieving her goals and it must never stop us from achieving ours. Her story serves as an inspiration to do our best to excel, no matter what challenges we are faced with. As Kalpana Chawla herself said to students of her old college in India, "The path from dreams to success does exist. May you have the vision to find it, the courage to get on to it, and the perseverance to follow it. Wishing you a great journey." *Kalpana Chawla will be remembered for raising the level of women to the highest and showing that with determination one can achieve anything one wants to.*

Durga Puja 2003
Tokyo



109



Anjali

Past Paradise

by Sanchita Ghosh (Grade: 11)

As years pass, present experiences and occurrences become memories. The mind is like a journal and in it; there is an entry for each event we live. All good or bad, sweet or sad experiences have been entered into this human-mind journal as memories. When we retrospect, the past seems to be so much simpler, happier and honest. We see how much we have changed over the years . . . the innocent child who did not want to give up her dirty and torn, favorite pillow, is the present me, standing at the last few rungs of childhood about to enter into the world of adulthood! The same innocent child, who held tightly on to her mother so that she would not have to go to school, is the same teenager trying to survive and enjoy the last few years of this innocence at High School. All those memories keep flashing back in front of my mind's eye now. The small things that seemed so crucial to me then, now seem trivial. Before I move forward, I would like to turn back for a few moments and refresh my memories.

I had always been very introvert and shy. I would rather have lived my life unnoticed but I had to go out into the world and be a part of the society. Like everyone else I also had to go to school. School - the only things related to this word, were tears. I hated going to school. I did not want to be away from my home. Home made me feel so secured. At school, I used to think that my parents would completely forget about me and they would never return to pick me up. And, I would always have to live my life imprisoned in the school bound by sandboxes, swings, colorful beads and building blocks. It was an everyday routine to enter the school grounds only after having shed a few tears. I didn't get over this until I entered middle school when I finally stopped counting the hours remaining to get back home.

There is another incident that I recall very clearly from my childhood. I had never stayed over night away from home, and my mother and many people would tease me for always following my mother everywhere. So to prove to everyone that I was strong and could easily spend a night without my mother, I enthusiastically accepted an invitation from my aunt to stay over at her house. I went with my aunt, uncle, and cousin sister to their house and spent the evening playing with my cousin. I was really enjoying the stay. As the bedtime approached, a slight feeling of homesickness started creeping into me but I tried to push it away and turned my attention to dinner. My aunt had prepared a meal of chicken and rice especially for me.

Durga Puja 2003
Tokyo



110



Anjali

Bedtime came and my aunt put us to bed. I was dreading it. The lights were switched off and I was overwhelmed with homesickness. Assuming that it was dark and everyone was asleep, I started to cry into my pillow. But I was wrong. My aunt, who was lying right next to me, had heard my muffled cry. She knew me very well and easily guessed that I was missing home and my mother. She tried to console me but I would not stop my flood of tears. I told her that I wanted to go home. She took me in her arms and tried to rationalize with me. She promised me that she would take me home next morning, as it was too late at night and unsafe to travel the distance to my home. I don't remember how long it took me to fall asleep but I remember that before going to work my aunt took me home. I felt really ashamed later for being such a nuisance when my aunt and uncle had been so nice to me. I was four or five years old then.

A few years later, whenever I have stayed again with my uncle and aunt, I would recall that night and I laugh at myself.

I was also very scared of being photographed. I believed that the photographer would trap me into his dark camera and I never will be allowed to leave the dark, dingy confinement. But my parents always encouraged me to be photographed. That's the reason; most of the photos from my early childhood portray me looking really troubled and worried.

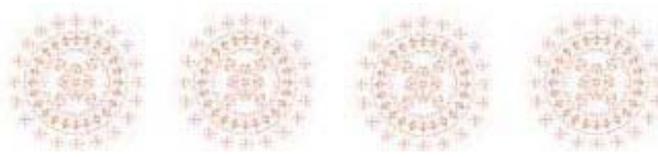
These silly, sweet, bitter, embarrassing memories will always be part of me and I will treasure them. But I will never be able to turn back the hourglass and return to the unsophisticated childhood. I will never again be the naïve and gullible child, accepting and believing everything that any elder told me. But then that's what life is about!

I have realized that life is a journey where our only companion is our memories. And tomorrow, today will become an entry into my mind-journal as my past. As I will look back from the future, I will find today simpler and happier when compared to that 'present', which is future today. I have been told that for almost every person "past is paradisiacal."

Therefore, I now realize that it's good to look back and learn, but wallowing in my memories will draw me away from all that is to be cherished in the present. I believe, I should learn from my past and draw strength from my memories. So, now I move forward . . . and accumulate the yesterdays and todays in my treasure box of memoirs. These lines, too, will soon become memory!

Durga Puja 2003
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Activities of Tokyo Bengali Community during 2002-2003



Durga Puja-2002

Saraswati Puja-2003



Sakura Bazaar-2003





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Poila Boishakh Gathering

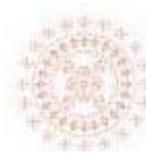


Mamata Shankar's Ballet troupe in Tokyo



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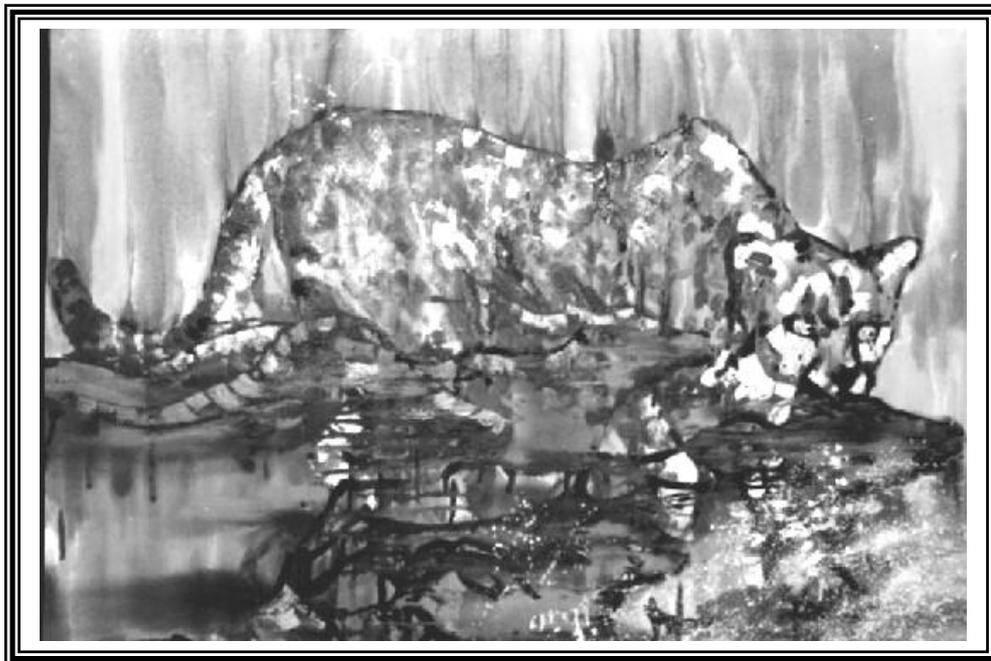
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Art Section

Visit our Art Section to see variety of drawings, paintings and sketching contributed by our Tokyo-Bengali community members.



Rajasthan In Tokyo - by Soma Chanda

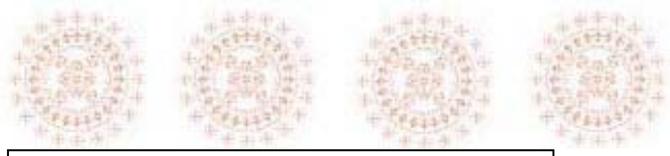


Waiting for his Prey - by Mimi Dhar

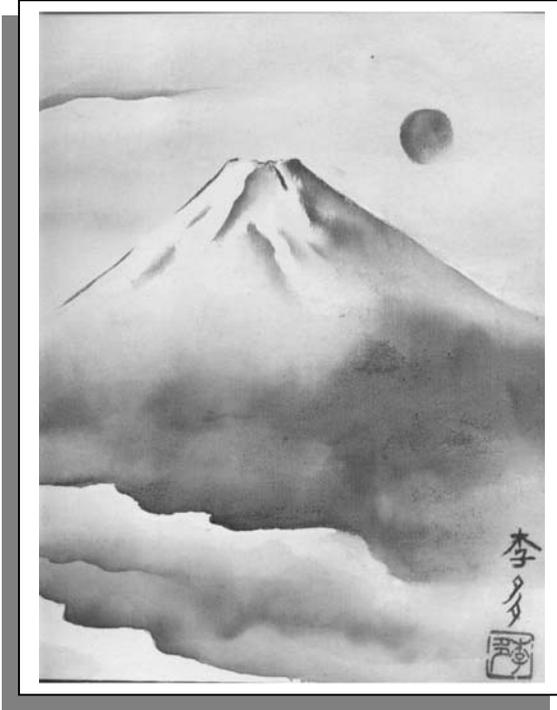
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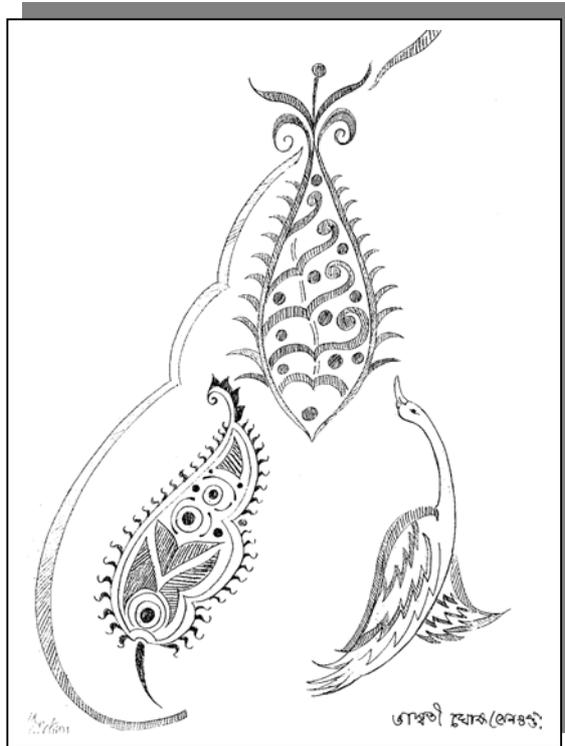
114



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Mount Fuji - by Rita Kar



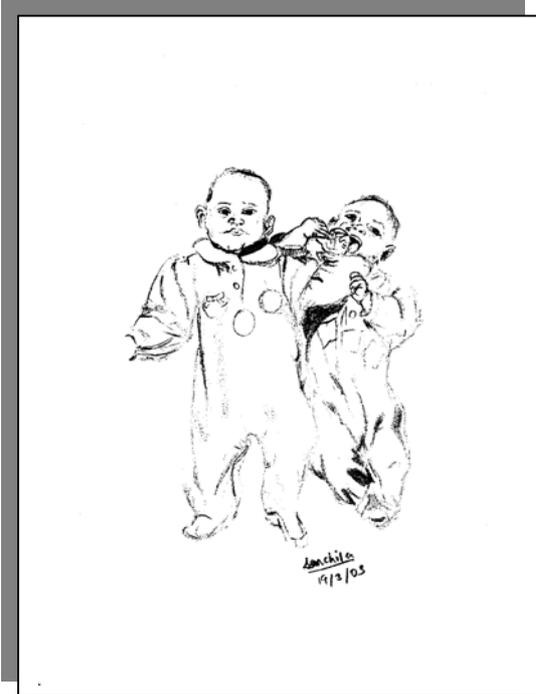
Designer sketch - by Bhaswati ghoshi

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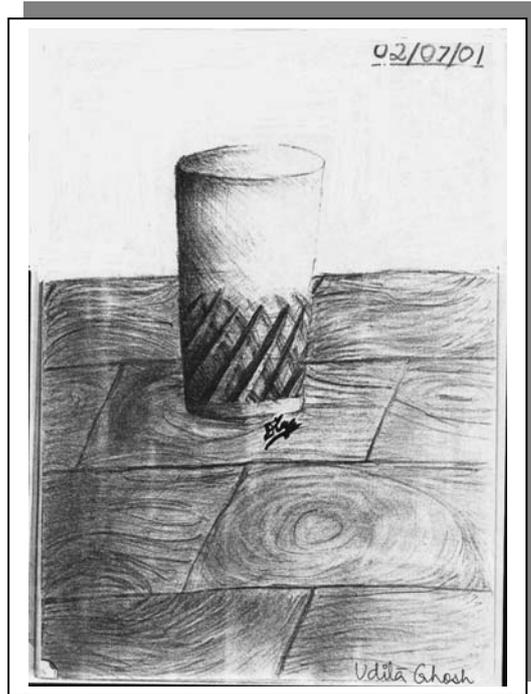




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Two is company - by Sanchita Ghosh



Glass - by Udita Ghosh



Buddha in Meditation - by Sushmita Pal

Durga Puja 2003
Tokyo





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Statement of Accounts

For the Financial year 2002-2003

Income		Expenditure	
Item	Amount	Item	Amount
Opening balance on September 5, 2002(brought forward from 2001-2002)	Yen 560,203	Expenses for Durga Puja, Anjali Souvenir Printing, Saraswati Puja, Poila Boishakh Celebration, Community Meetings, Storage of Durga Pratima, etc,...	Yen 1,300,907
Collection by Subscriptions and advertisements in this year & Bank Interest	Yen 1,443,772	Donation to Renkoji Temple (Netaji Connection) in Tokyo	Yen 100,000
Collection for Mamata Shankar's Dance Program	Yen 708,000	Expenses for Mamata Shankar's Dance Program	Yen 644,913
		Closing balance on September 8, 2003(carried forward to 2003-2004) * At Bank A/C * Cash at Hand	Yen 540,168 Yen 125,987
Total	Yen 2,711,975	Total	Yen 2,711,975

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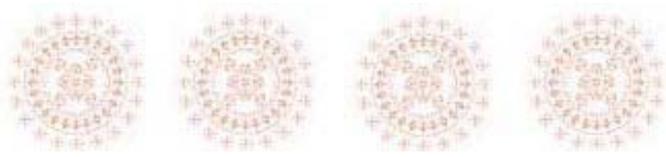
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20-1, 2-Chome, Misaki-cho, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 101-0061, Japan

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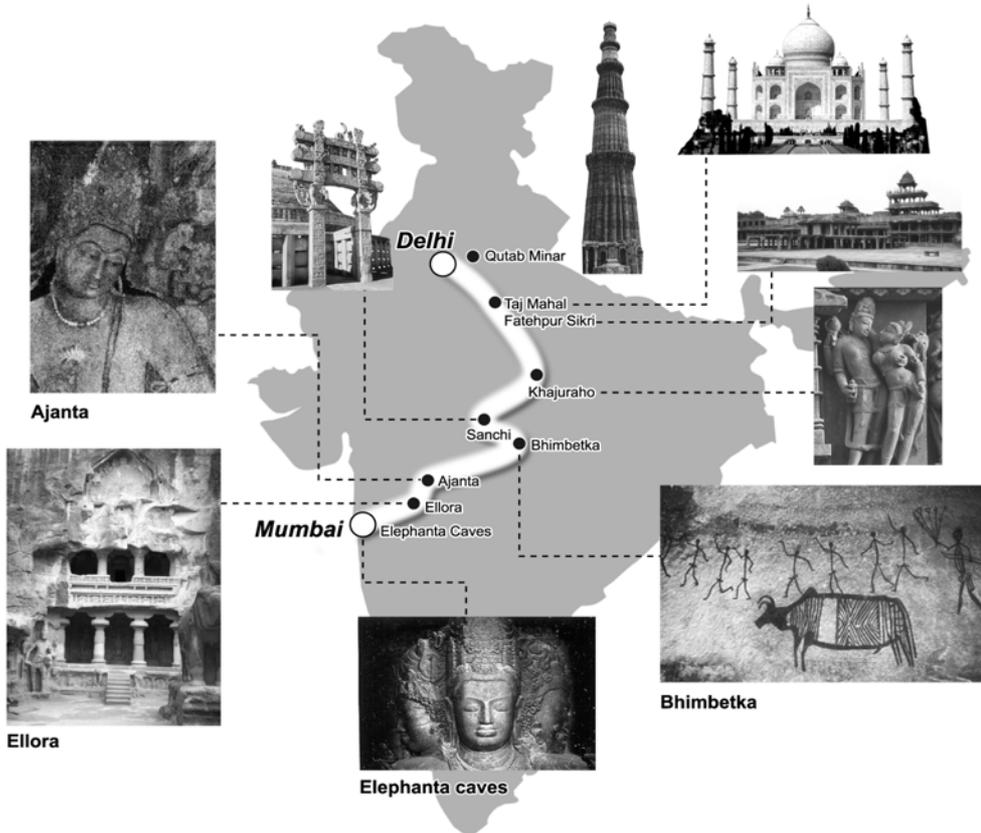
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Tokyo





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India's World heritage tourism corridor, where the past meets the present.....



Have glimpses of rich India's heritage passing through the corridor, the home for 11 heritage sites in one go. The regeneration of Ajanta, world famous for rock cut architecture and cave paintings, the beautiful Humayun tomb, the glittering Taj Mahal and Sanchi The Great Stupa, which helps you rediscover the intellectual and spiritual heritage of Buddhism. See it the way it was. Look deeper than surface scenery, come to learn, participate, and experience being with the heritage of India.

Rock shelters of Bhimbetka, another jewel in the heritage crown of India and recently added by UNESCO, have outstanding universal value to humanity to lure globetrotters. The Bhimbetka caves are a must-see as they are comparable to rock paintings in other parts of the world.

Incredible India

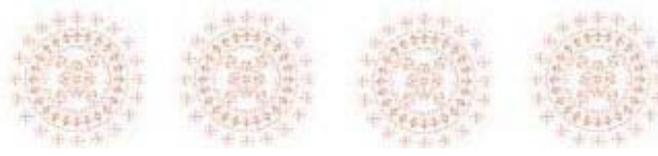
For India tours, please contact your travel agent. For more information contact the address given below:

Indiatourism, Tokyo

Art Masters Ginza Bldg., 6-5-12 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo Tel: (03) 3571-5196/97 Fax: (03) 3571-5235
E-mail: indtour@blue.ocn.ne.jp www.tourismofindia.com

Durga Puja 2003
Tokyo





Anjali

Acknowledgements

On occasion of publication of eighth edition of "Anjali" we thank Tokyo Bengali Durga Puja Organizing Committee for showing their confidence once again on us.

This would have been impossible without the help of the Indian community in Tokyo, the Embassy of India in Tokyo, the Advertisers, the Authors and Artists, the children, the printer Shobi Insatsu, Tokyo Bengali Community and many more....

This year we are starting a new chapter in the history of Bengali Community in Tokyo. This is really a noble idea which was driven by key Bengali personalities in Tokyo, mainly Sudeb Chattopadhyay, Ranjan Gupta, Syamal Kar, Rita Kar and Karabi-di. We sincerely thank them for instituting the felicitation of Great admirers in Japan of Bengali culture, literature and the Bengal history. This year it will be awarded to two great personalities - Azuma-Sensei and Nara-Sensei during the Durga Puja festival. For this Ranjan and Ruma Gupta made personal visits to their residence and presented us through this Anjali, two great interviews. We sincerely thank them for this effort.

Next we would like to thank all the helping hands to compile this year's Anjali: - Sudeb & Keiko Chattopadhyay for editing the Japanese Section, Sougata Mallik for compiling and editing Children's Section, Sulata Maheshwari for Bengali typing and Karabi Mukherjee, Ranjan Gupta and Ruma Gupta for proof reading.

Our special thanks goes to Syamal Kar and Rita Kar for their valuable help and support during various phases of preparations of Anjali. Advertisement has its vital role in publication of Anjali. In this context we thank Tanmoy Banerjee, Syamal Kar, Jayanta Sinha, Santanu Lodh, Sanjib Chanda and others who helped to obtain the ads and the contents.

Lastly we would like to thank Shoubhik, our son for his major participation and his willing help in English typing during the various stages of preparation of Anjali.



Greetings To All Our Readers
From the Editors

Sushmita Pal & Bhola Nath Pal

Durga Puja 2003
Tokyo



119



Anjali

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আন্তর্জাতিক ফোনের জন্য রি-চার্জ বেল কার্ড

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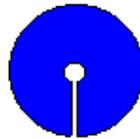
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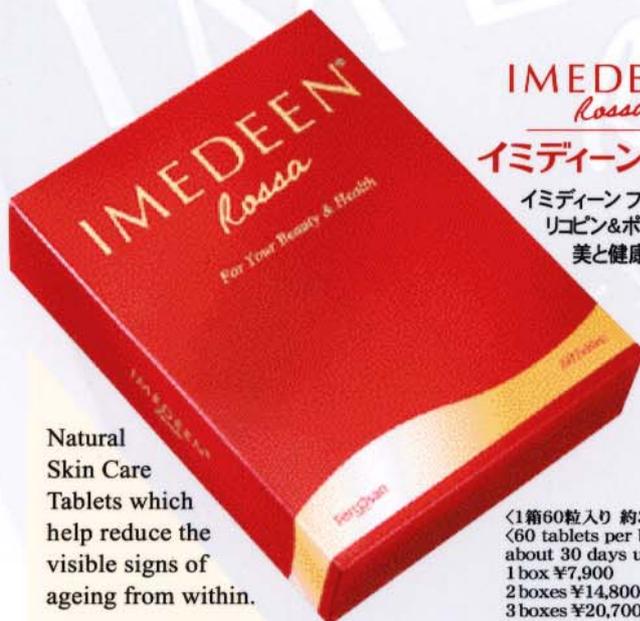
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