## What does

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A debate - a catastrophe - Black Death

Issue 1 December, 2016

# The Quill



#### **POEMS**

#### **Leap Of Faith**

JOURNEY WITH A LEAP OF **FAITH** 

(By Aritro Chatterjee, Year 4)

(This poem is dedicated to all the children who are suffering due to political conflict with no fault of their own)

My journey begins with a leap of faith.

Jumping in a lifeboat which will take me some place safe I fear the fear of battling waves, thunder of storms, and the dunes of sand

I still jump in a lifeboat which will take me some place safe.

I bury my face in sand, ocean and behind trees

As I fear those eyes and bang bang shall never chase So I jump into a lifeboat which will take me some place safe.

I heard 'the world has enough for people's need but not enough for people's greed' So I wonder, am I a need or a greed for those who follow my breed?

I could feel the unrest in my mind so I jumped into a lifeboat which will take me some place safe.

Ah! With a deep breath of life I jumped out of my life boat to be embraced and cared for To absorb the green and colors of the rainbow,

Today's Headline



But alas! I reached to a place which is neither as green, Nor serene I wondered in agony Is this a place, which is SAFE?

As I feel lost in the wounds of reds and whites,

And in endless canopies and

Ah! With a leap of faith, I jump back into the life boat to take me some place safe

Please take me some place safe, some place safe...

I pleaded to the people around, to have some faith And take me some place safe. Please take me some place safe

With a leap of faith I jumped back into the lifeboat which will take me some place safe!!

POEM 2

**A JOURNEY** 

I place my foot on the bottom

The climbing wall stands tall, and bold.

I pull myself up, little by little, The wall before my head impossibly brittle.

My stomach flutters as to what's ahead,

The wall seems to fall, like crumbs of bread

Reaching a large crevice, I dare to take,

A little break and peer up at the progress I must make.

I feel I'm picking up speed on a

I'm defying gravity up this wall, vertically...

#### **POEMS**

#### A journey continued

I'm halfway through, but there are others too,

Trying to overtake me, flying up like shrews!

But at that very moment, I slip from my hold,

My arms and legs cramp, my world seems to fold...

HALT! My heart skips a beat, my stomach to my feet:

So halfway through my journey, to the start I fall

Slipping from my goal... But my failure acts like coal, I get back on track; climb my best, as ambition burns in my chest,

I easily scramble from where I had rest.

At last, I'm nearly at the top; I vow to never stop, Until I reach my goal, Where a button of pure gold, Will let me beat the rest, Let me complete my skill test.

Finally, I push the button, my insides feeling like cotton, And I lower to the wall's bottom.

I did it! I have ended my journey!

My helmet I throw away, With my success my heart soars,

But with horror I pause, What a terrible case of 'hat' hair I sport!

Alexandra Hide - 5G

## WHAT DOES THE WORD BELONGING MEAN TO YOU?

Volume 1 Issue 1

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#### **AMY AND VIOLET**

Amy and Violet were sisters who had a luxurious life and lived in a magnificent mansion with their parents. Amy loved adventure stories whereas Violet had a peculiar hobby of creating and chewing eccentric flavors of gum all day. Sadly, they never played together in spite of their parents asking them to. As a result, their parents were concerned about their heartless behavior towards each other.

Their parents planned a family camping trip in the woods, hoping they would get along. After a long, noisy drive, they arrived at the gorgeous campsite. Ecstatically, they ran around the area,looking for things to do.

A few moments later, the parents got them busy with chores. As Violet was walking back with heavy logs of wood, she noticed white rectangular pieces stuck on a tree just like chewing gum. Curiously, she popped one into her mouth and was delighted! However, once she returned, her face was swollen and she couldn't breathe properly!

Immediately, they called for the emergency doctor. Violet was not moving! She had eaten something poisonous. Suddenly, she woke up, coughing. Amy gave her a tight hug and was so grateful to have her sister back. They realized that they belonged together and loved each other a lot! Holding hands, they promised to be kind and knew they were going to be the closest sisters forever!

ALINA ABDUL KADER - 4E



#### MY PET CAT

One day when I was walking home, I saw a very small, skinny kitten searching for scraps of food on the pavement. I asked my mom if I could take it home, but she said no. I begged and begged but she did not change her mind.

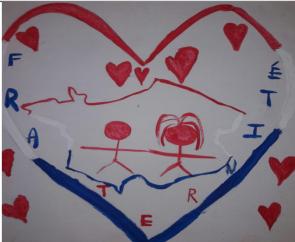
That very night I woke up thinking about the kitten, I couldn't get the picture of the kitten out of my head. "Time for school, Josh, my mum shouted." Seven hours later. When I came back from a busy day at school I saw the kitten sleeping in the corner of my friendly neighbor's garage.

Again and again I eyed the cat, wanting it to to be mine. One day, it finally wandered into my house when I accidently left the door open for someone to come in, or maybe for the cat ... and it did. Very soon, I became very fond of it, as it continued to visit us. My mum too started liking it.

It is almost a year later now, but now I have my first pet. My own pet ... cat of course. I love my cat a lot, I have learnt to be kind and it gives me comfort and love in return. It sleeps with me on my bed every night. We belong together.

JOSHUA GARVEY - 3F

Edition: December, 2016



#### THE BOY FROM NOWHERE

I was 2 years old when I was adopted and brought to Paris. The Johnsons had found me crying, took me in and loved me very much. Ever since I was 5, I've wanted to know where I was from. I am 15 years old now and I still do not know where I belong.

The reason I really want to know is because all my friends have real dads.

Some images come back to me when I sleep. I see a big tree with strong branches and thick roots, with a lot of light all around. And I see shadows of my birth-parents. The image disappears before I can catch it I feel sad and lonely.

I went up to my Dad and asked him if he can tell me more about my birthparents.

Finally, the day arrived! I was given an air-ticket and told that it will take me to India, the place of my birth-parents. I had finally got my wish!

When I said goodbye to them, I felt anxious but excited. As I went through the normal airport drills, my legs started getting slower.

Just as I had to board my flight, I stopped.It was at that moment that I realized that I belong to the Johnsons, I belong to the world, I belong to everyone, and everyone belongs to me!

KABIR JOSHI - 4G

### **MY PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION**

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#### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Dear Mr UN Secretary General,

My name is Mr. Harrison Thomas but it doesn't really matter who I am. I am one of those nameless, faceless, unimportant people the world's 7.5 billion people that inhabits earth. One of those people whose only concern should be on how to feed my poor family in Bangladesh and stay alive.

As I toil away in the scorching heat of 45 degrees Celsius and above, I do not think of reprieve or water. I think of my childrens' future. But if we continue to ignore global warming and the climate change it has brought about, my heart sinks to think that they will have no future.

What use is it if I work tirelessly to send money to my family to build a house when there is danger of it being destroyed by floods caused by global warming?

What use is it if my wife and children labour all day to grow crops that will surely wilt and die due to the draughts caused by global warming?

What use is the money I send for education when my children are likely to never go to school due to the rise in infectious diseases caused by climate change. As temperatures rise, diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, and chikungunya fever will spread with them.

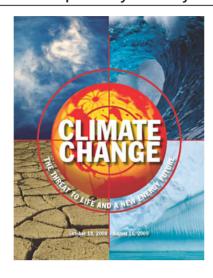
Despite being illiterate I offer three humble but doable solutions:

One: Enforce one red meat free day in the entire world since 18 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions come from meat and dairy production. This would not affect the millions of poor as they cannot afford it anyway.

Two: Ban conventional lightbulbs and allow only the manufacture of LED lightbulbs as they use up to 80% less energy.

Three: Make one day a week, car free.

It is in your power to influence governments across the globe to take action and initiate a program where each citizen, rich or poor, can work together. These are small sacrifices for huge benefits.





And then, maybe, just maybe, a poor labourer like me, working under the relentless heat building houses for the rich, will feel that his children have a future.

Yours sincerely, Mr. Harrison Thomas By - HIMAKSHI SHASTRI - Year 6

#### Another letter

Dear Mr. UN Secretary General,

I request your intervention with my critically ill patient, Earth. Here is her case history.

paramedics giving first aid to a green and blue orb. Earth's vitals were critical; she was gasping for breath. Symptoms: Elevated temperature of 50F, greenhouse-gastritis at 50% above normal, high CO2 concentrations, deforestation, icecaps melting and sea-level rising to 20cm!!! The causative organism was homo-sapiens. Diagnosis: a classic case of Clima-changeitis, which leads to a slow and painful death.

involved reducing greenhouse gases, mainly carbon-dioxide. An immediate transfusion of sustainable energy to replace fossil fuels was affected. Three doses of 500 mega-gallons of Global Eco-Green Centre. anti-plasticbiotic was injected intravenously, With this comprehensive care, I am confident leading to reduction, recycling and reuse of Earth's future is eternal. disposables. Natural tree-planting therapy ensured short term increase in oxygenation. Thank you, countries collaborated at Paris to limit future Dr. Veda Fernandes (Eco-speciologist) temperature rise to 2C. On discharge, I prescribed a strict regimen, which aims to Year 6 create a sustainable ecosystem on the recuperating Earth.

Cardio-greenery resuscitation is advised for eternity - land-use zoning creates eco-cities, bio-belts and conservi-zones to maintain the bio-balance on Earth. Revitalising therapy of flora, fauna and endangered species is infused into Conservi-zones. The Arctic and the Antarctic are declared as 'Bio-belts', off limits to humans. Carbon sequestration is advised through land-use carbon inventory tracking. As wildlife and green cover expand, oxygenation levels rise and CO2 falls.

A complete change in Activities of Daily Living (ADL) is mandatory. Eco-transportation replaces fossil-fuelled modes. Magnetomonorails connect eco-cities. Hydrogen-Code Red!! Rushing into the ER, I took in the fuelled buses and trams offer public transport and electric, or biofuel pods are private transport. Public Electric/biofuel charging stations add vitality.

> Low-carbon supplements are compulsory to prevent long-term adverse carbon reactions. Clean energy from solar and wind generators power all buildings. Indigenous foliage, watered by desalinated or recycled water, shades roof tops, balconies and streets.

To maintain the momentum of treatment, I put Earth on life-support stat - critical care R&D in low and zero-¬carbon breakthroughs is required. Tax policies are to reward carbon innovation by homo-sapiens. Quality of Care Indicators are measured regularly through a

### **LET'S DEBATE**

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## Black Death was the biggest catastrophe ever- Against



What was the Black plague? The Black Death was an epidemic disease that spread around the world. It started in Western Europe 1347 and in England in 1348. It faded away in the early 1350s. No one knows what caused it but we do know that 200 million people died during that time. The disease spread from animal populations to humans through the agency of fleas from dying rats.

There are valuable arguments in this debate but none as valuable as the argument that is that there are various different types of disasters: terrorist disasters, war disasters, diseases and natural disasters, all just as if not more catastrophic as the Black Death. There have been Ebola and Ziska, both fatal diseases. 9/11 was a huge terrorist attack that began the war on terror. 9/11 in particular has been highlighted because it was a major man-made disaster. Surely, because disease is out of man's control, the man-made disaster of 9/11 makes the Black Death look tame.

catastrophe disaster, Because means suffering or tragedy, it basically means killing lots of things, or ruining them. Olé J. Benedictus calculated that around 50 million people died in the Black Death. Comparing that to normal things, it seems massive, however, for example in World War 2, over 72 million were killed. In the Mongol Conquests, 52 million were killed. European Colonization of the Americas killed over 100 million people. By comparing the death numbers, it is clear that Black Death definitely doesn't have the most

The results suggest it is likely that the Black Plague was not the biggest catastrophe for the reasons that only 6 countries were affected the names are Germany, France, England, Italy, Norway and Russia. It is possible that the World War 1 was the biggest catastrophe as 20 countries were involved and affected. It seems certain that the Black plague was not the biggest catastrophe and that the World War 1 was bigger. It is also a true fact that the black plague happened in countries where there were more Gerbils than rats.

It seems clear that the black plague was just another disaster and was not the biggest one. There have been bigger and nastier disasters around the world.

Opinions of - Viraj, Zihan and Jad, Year 6

## Black Death was the biggest catastrophe ever- FOR

The Black Death killed 50 million people in the 14th century, or 60 per cent of Europe's entire population. We strongly and passionately agree this was the largest catastrophe in history. The great epidemic of a disease was thought to be a bubonic plague, which killed a large proportion of the population of Europe in the mid 14th century.



It originated in central Asia and China and spread rapidly through Europe, carried by the fleas on black rats, reaching England in 1348 and killing between one third and one half of the population in a matter of months. for instance, a stranger called Andrew Hogson died from plague on his arrival in Penrith in 1597, and the next plague case followed twenty-two days later, this corresponded to the first phase of the development of an epidemic of bubonic plaque. Importantly, the plague was spread considerable distances by rat fleas on ships. Infected ship rats would die, but their fleas would often survive and find new rat hosts wherever they landed. This plague stretched to quite a few countries. All the citizens did little except for carrying dead bodies now and then to be buried. At every church they dug deep pits down to the water-table; and thus those who were poor who died during the night were bundled up quickly and thrown into the pit. In the morning when a large number of bodies were found in the pit, they took some dirt and shovelled it down on top of them; and later others were placed on top of them and then another layer of earth. This shows a very deep meaning in this catastrophe, which was filled

Opinion of - SHENAYA BHATIA - YEAR 6

with sadness and tragedy.