



Stories On Values

by children for children

Selected entries from
the Human Values
Foundation's Stories on
Values Competition, 2016

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The Five Human Values

By Toby (Aged 6)

Stories And Their Values

* indicates a prize-winning story

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** Bayan's age came to our attention after the final judging of the competition for children aged 7 to 11; it would have made Iman's story ineligible for the competition but, given the quality of the story, we felt it was nevertheless worth including in this booklet.

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Introduction

To mark the very first World Values Day which took place on 20th October 2016, the Human Values Foundation invited schools and other organisations involved with children from 7 to 11 years old to take part in a story writing competition. We asked children to write an original and creative story about their favourite value using no more than 300 words. Illustrations could be included but were not mandatory. There was a huge response. Entries came from all over the world. As well as many from around the UK, there was a wonderful diversity of great stories from India, Africa and across the Middle East.

Our panel of distinguished judges were impressed by the talent and imaginative range of the young writers. Above all they admired the strong grasp of values that so many entries showed and the powerful ways in which the importance of values was explored.

The winning entry was an inspiring and charmingly illustrated story by Janna, a 10-year-old from the Basheer Primary School in the Lebanon, a school run for Palestinian refugee children by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). The story, Garden of Hope, is about a group of girls who work together to rescue an abandoned garden.

Second place went to a highly inventive story called Hope Saves the World written by Jed, an 8-year-old pupil at St Paul's Church of England Primary School in London. It is about a boy who helps the values to battle the "Negitivions".

Book token prizes went to the two winners and were also awarded to six highly recommended entries. Two of these were from UNRWA schools in Jordan, two from schools in India, and two from schools in the UK, reflecting the extremely wide geographic spread of the entries to the competition.

Here is the full list of the prize winners:

Place	Story	Author	Age	School	Country
1st	Garden of Hope	Janna	10	UNRWA Basheer Primary School	Lebanon
2nd	Hope Saves the World	Jed	8	St Paul's CofE Primary School	UK

Highly Recommended:

Friendship	Milana	7	Croftway Primary Academy, Blyth	UK
Generous Joy	Helena	10	The Abbey Junior School, Reading	UK
Honesty	Ankita	9	New Horizon Public School	India
I Love Life	Islam	9	UNRWA Marka Middle School for Girls	Jordan
Love People As They Are	Delicia	8	NITTE International School	India
Tribunal of Environment	Samiyha	11	UNRWA Al-Hussein Preparatory Mixed School	Jordan

We hope that you enjoy these and all the other stories included in this booklet of stories and illustrations submitted for the competition.

Although there was no formal competition for pictures on values, we received some wonderfully creative and effective “stand-alone” drawings and paintings on values-related themes, and we have included a number of these in the booklet too.

We hope teachers will be inspired to pick out some of the stories and pictures to use as additional resources when they prepare lessons using our **Education in Human Values (EHV) programme**.

We are extremely grateful to the judges: our Education Adviser Sir Anthony Seldon, Ann Greenwood and Laura Hyde, all former headteachers, and to Sian Harkin and Libby Hume who so energetically assisted them. Our thanks go also to Rahaf Konbaz, Reem Alani, Hala Gharib and Nadine Baz, who so ably translated the stories that were submitted in Arabic by a number of schools run by UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East), and we thank all those dedicated people at UNRWA for their strong support and encouragement for the competition.

Our warm thanks to all the schools and the hard-pressed teachers who gave so much of their time and energy in organising the writing and submission of all the excellent entries.

Above all we thank all the children who responded to our call with so much enthusiasm and imagination. There were so many marvellous values-filled stories to choose from that it was a really difficult task to winnow them down for this booklet.

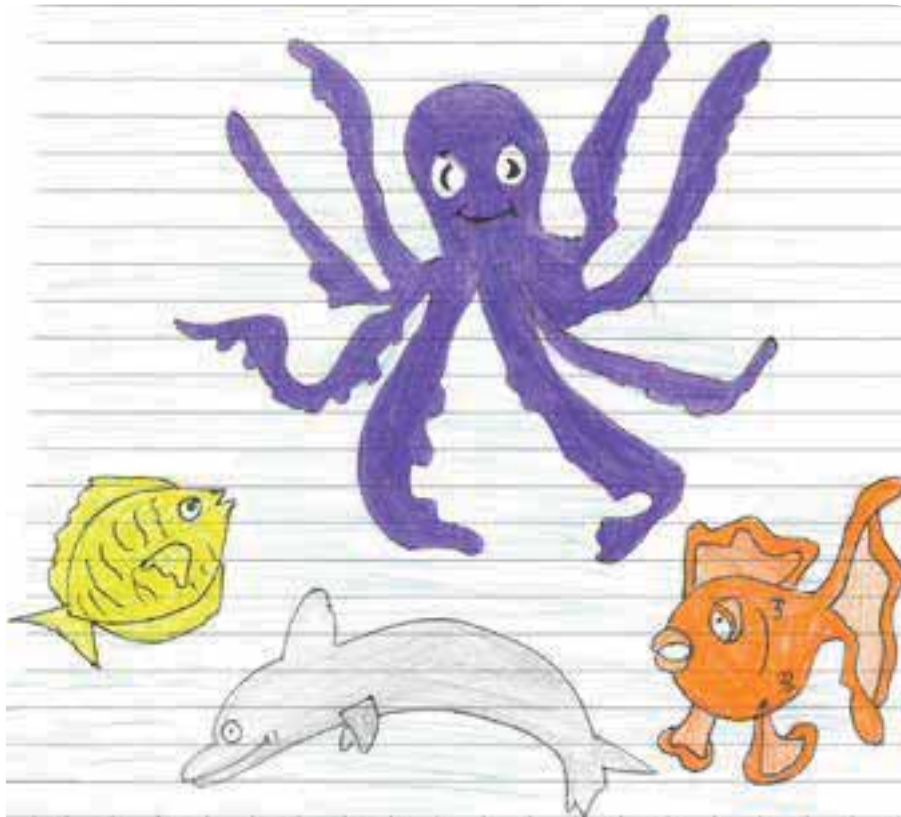
Children whose stories were not included should not be discouraged. The general standard was so high that quite a few very commendable entries did not make it, but the good news is that there will be another opportunity later this year when we will be holding the competition again to mark World Values Day 2017.

Congratulations to all of you for your marvellous efforts, and please have another go this year!
Look out for our announcement of the entry details.

Charles Fowler
Chair, Human Values Foundation

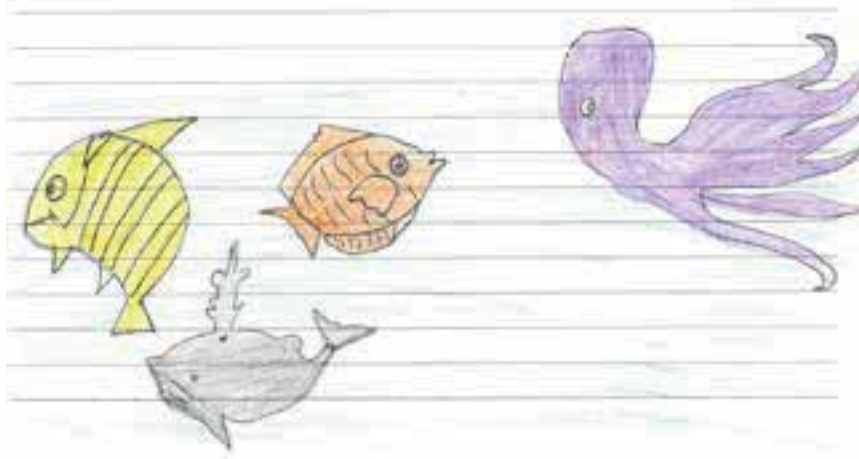
The Octopus And The Little Fish

By Sham (Aged 11)



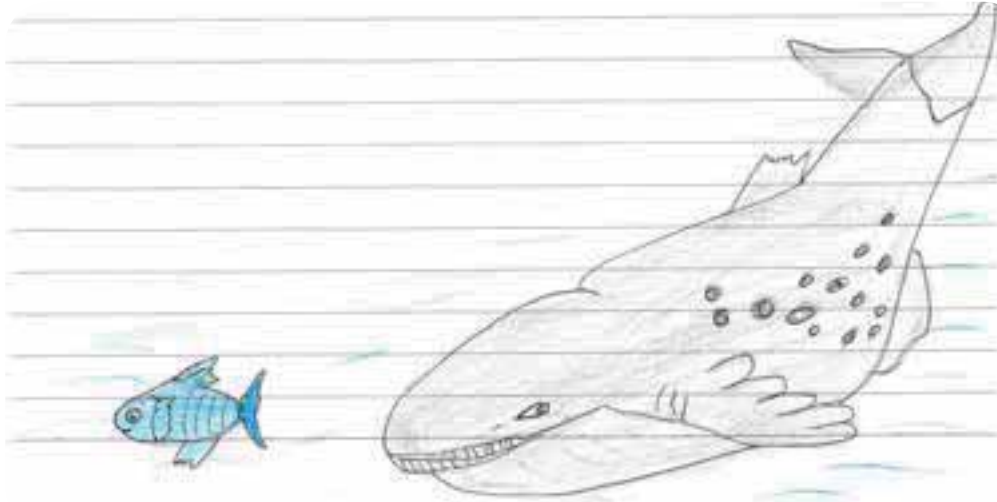
In the deep sea there was a shy and quiet octopus. He wanted to have friends but he didn't have any friends.

One day the octopus was trying to catch an oyster but he tied himself in the rocks and he couldn't move. He tried to free himself but he couldn't. He asked for help but all the fish refused, but one kind little fish said yes and the little fish helped the octopus. The octopus was very shy and he didn't make friends with the fish but only thanked the fish and swam away.



A few days later the octopus was resting in the rocks when he saw all the fish swimming quickly. He looked and saw a very big fish coming to catch the little fish.

The little fish was swimming quickly and she was afraid and she asked for help. The big fish was very dangerous so no-one could help the little fish.



The octopus remembered how the little fish had helped him so he wanted to help the little fish. So he shot ink and caught the little fish and swam away.

When the big fish had gone away all the little fish went to the octopus and thanked him because he was very brave. All the fish knew how nice and brave the octopus was and they all wanted to make friends with him.



Children And Money

By Wafa'a (Aged 11)

In a faraway place, between the golden hills, there lies a small village with a small population living there. There lived a rich man, who wandered to and fro in the village market, watching the people and offering them help. One day he noticed the presence of four young children playing in the market, but their clothes revealed misery and poverty. He wanted to teach them a lesson, so he painted a picture of the future for them to imagine.

He addressed one of the children and said, "Imagine if I gave you 500 Dinars, what would you do with them?" The child replied, "I would buy some guns I've wanted to obtain". The rich man retorted, "Guns?! I'm shocked and baffled. But why?" The child answered, "Because I want to control and watch over the village, and harm those who don't like us".

The rich man turned to the second child and asked him, "And what would you do with this money?" The second child replied, "I would buy all the meat and tasty food that I long for". The man commented, "So you would spend all the money just on food to eat?!!"

He went and asked another of the children the same question and that child replied, "I would go to a theme park I read about and play there until I've had enough". The man was baffled and when he heard this, he said to the boy, "You would go to have fun for the following days and hours?"

Then he turned to the fourth child who was participating in the games, and asked him, "What would you do if I gave you the money?" The child replied, "I would split the money in half. I would give one half to my father to pay his debts and solve his problems because I see he's always concerned and worried, and the second half I would share with our neighbour, the greengrocer, who lost some of his products as they were stolen, so he can get new products to sell, and split the profit with me so that I can treat my friends and help the poor".

The man was surprised by the thoughts of this boy because he thought of his poor father, and he thought of his unfortunate neighbour and his friends, so he decided to give him 500 Dinars so he could realise what he imagined doing.

This story has taught us a number of lessons and things to think about:

- 1) The importance of good, correct motives for the future and planning for them
- 2) The importance of thinking of the poor and their problems
- 3) Using money wisely and generously.

Layla And The Bird

By Rawan (Aged 9)

Once upon a time, while Layla was returning home from school, she found a small bird in the street. Because it couldn't fly, she knew it had a broken wing.

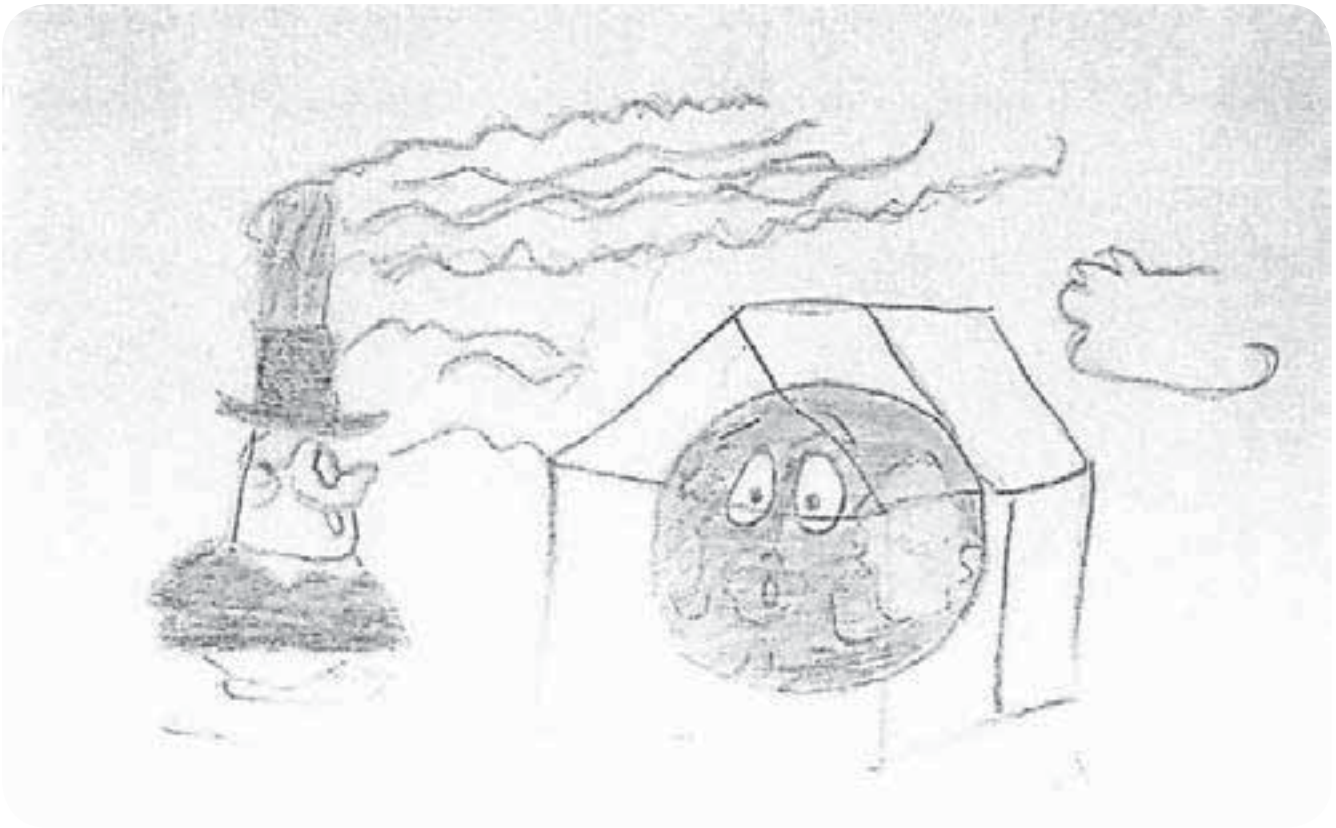


Layla took the bird to her house. She kept it and looked after its health. When its wing was better, she decided to let it have its freedom because she knew that freedom is the most beautiful thing in life.



Tribunal Of Environment

By Samiyha (Aged 11)



One beautiful spring day, smoke from factories was ascending, disturbing the cleanness and beauty of the air in the forest. It dressed the forest with a dark black cover. The cut trunks of the trees were whining and crying after a Man's hand had decided to chop and burn them. The fish in the river died. The water was mixed with the waste water from the factories. The soil was no better, it felt ageing and diseases all around, because of what Man had done to it, causing pollution.

Suddenly a loud voice was heard, "We will no longer stand silent. Let's all go and protest about our condition because of what this unjust Man has done. He must stop exhausting and destroying us".

"Who are you?" asked Air.

"I am Planet Earth. You all live on me, as much as Man does. He must stop these deeds."

"Whom should we talk to about our condition?" said Water.

"We will go to the Tribunal of Environment" said Earth.

Trees, Soil, Water, Air and all the Animals were happy about this suggestion. They agreed to go to the judge in the Tribunal of Environment hoping he would help in improving their conditions.

“Go on Natural Resources. What do you want to complain about?” said the judge. “Allow me to speak, Judge” said Air. “Do you smell the smoke ascending from factories, cars and cigarettes? These awful smells have polluted me and caused great harm to our beautiful planet.”

“Man has thrown his waste and the water from the factories into seas, rivers and oceans. This has cost me my purity and killed the poor fish living inside me” added Water. “Man has caused great pollution by throwing waste and using pesticide around me” said Soil.

Tree approached, and with a voice full of pain she said, “And me Judge, Man has cut off my legs and burned me without mercy”.

“Our home has no trees left in it as it used to” said Lion on behalf of all animals. “Man has had no mercy for poor gazelles which he continuously hunted.”

“Have mercy on us, Man. Preserve us so we can last for you and for those who are coming after you on planet Earth” they all said.

“What do you say Man? Do you feel guilty?” said the judge.

“Yes” said Man “Everything the Natural Resources have said is true; I accept the sentence of the Tribunal of Environment”.

“Our sentence is the following: Man is to plant trees permanently, prohibit hunting animals and is not to throw waste or polluted water in the soil, seas or oceans. In addition, Man is to stop polluting the air and start using green energy. The law which says ‘Whoever cuts down one tree is to plant ten instead’ is to be applied”. The Natural Resources were pleased with this just sentence. Planet Earth was happy with this wise resolution, which would provide a healthy life for the planet.

Children Enjoying Playing Outside

By Ramah (Aged 8)



Rainy Day

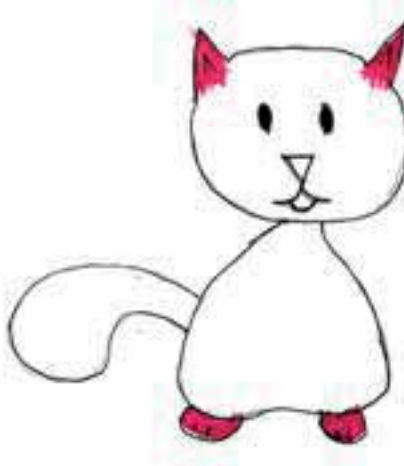
By Farzeen (Aged 8)



It was a rainy day, raining cats and dogs. I heard a weak sound.

I opened the door to find a white, tiny and cute kitten fully soaked at my doorstep.

I felt pity for it.



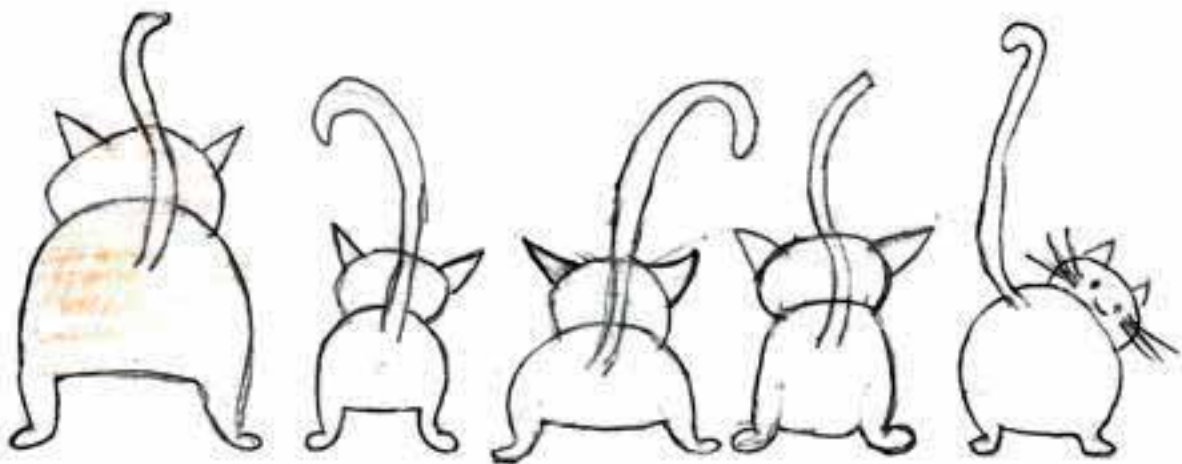
I took it and put it in a basket. Then, I took the basket and put it in the warmest corner in my bedroom, but the kitten was still cold. So, I took a small blanket and wrapped the kitten in it. I also gave it some warm milk. The kitten felt warm and cosy and slept throughout the night.

The next morning I found three more kittens cuddled together under our car. They were also white, tiny and cute. We took them in. They were delighted to see their fluffy sister in my house. I played with them the whole day. They became very friendly with me.



The next day the mother cat came searching and found out that her kittens were in my house, safe and sound. In the evening we sent the kittens off with their mother with great sorrow.

The mother cat was very thankful. She brought her kittens every evening to play with me.



Moral: Be compassionate to all.

Garden Of Hope

By Janna (Aged 10)



Once in our neighbourhood lived a beautiful girl named Rama. She had a tender face and brown eyes. Her voice was sweet and relaxing. Her eloquent words would enter the heart immediately. Next to her house was a big arid garden. Storms had stripped it of its trees. The garden was so gloomy, no bird lived in it. Insects filled this garden and left nothing in it. What a sad view! Rama felt that this garden was looking at her begging for help. Rama tried to do something. She thought a lot about what to do. The next day she entered the garden to see if she could work on planting it all over again. First she tried to remove the yellow dry grass.



It was full of insects. She worked alone for hours and hours but this didn't bring much benefit to the garden. Rama was sad because she couldn't help.

That night the moon was big and beautiful. She stood watching the beautiful stars when an idea crossed her mind!

The next day she woke up early. She called for all the girls in the neighbourhood and asked them to cooperate in helping to make this garden green again. “Let’s be one hand!” said Rama.

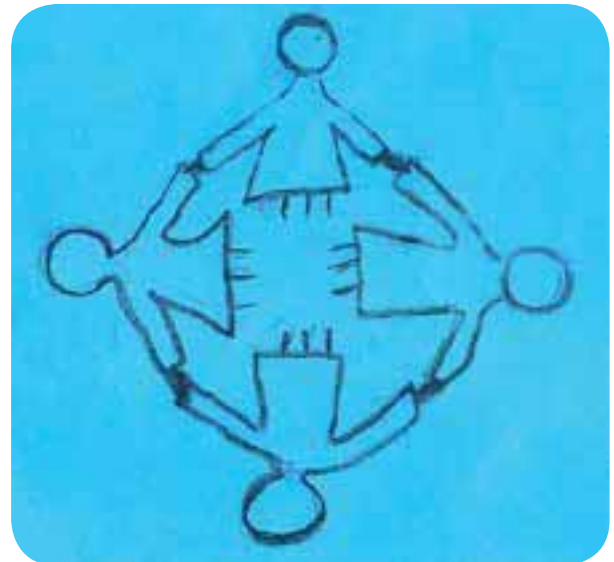


All the girls agreed with Rama. They asked for their parents’ help. They all removed the dry grass and planted flowers and trees.

A few days later, the laurel trees grew big. Basil, lily and roses scented the garden. Soon birds and butterflies returned. They flew from a tender branch to a smiling flower.

Wearing its green dress, the garden spread hope and joy as any bride would do on her wedding day! A dress decorated with shiny colourful flowers.

Together we drew a beautiful face for our homeland.



The Wounded Cat

By Amna (Aged 6)



Be Kind To Animals

By Jahid (Aged 10)

One day a boy named Tom went out with his Mum. Tom loved all animals except dogs! Tom's Mum decided to take the car and they drove off. As they turned left, Tom's Mum had to press the brakes suddenly. There was a huge crowd on the road.

In the middle of the crowd, there was a woman hitting dogs. Tom ran as fast as the wind! He grabbed the stick because he felt sorry for the dogs. The woman was angry. Tom called the RSPCA and asked them to take the injured dogs to hospital. Everyone applauded!

After that Tom began loving dogs. When the Queen found out, she named that day, "Love for Dogs Day". Tom was rewarded by the Queen for having the courage to save the dogs. He felt proud.

(The RSPCA is the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.)



Animal Love And Care

By Mariam (Aged 10)

On a bright, joyful morning, the birds were singing and the sun was shedding its warm golden light on our calm, beautiful village, a home for amazing animals. My heart was filled with joy, because on that beautiful day, with the start of spring, we were expecting a visit from my uncle and his family. I was extremely excited to see my cousin Salma. Mom was tidying the house and dad had gone to the market to get us delicious food, while I was busy gardening and watering the plants. It was a lazy, beautiful day. After I sat down with Salma, I suggested we go for a walk around the village so we could take advantage of the amazing weather and beautiful flowers in blossom. Salma replied, "Great! I want that too".

We went out, walking around, picking fruits and playing with friends. Suddenly, we heard kids screaming afar. When we got closer to the sounds, we saw a woman hitting and insulting a girl. The girl was our age. I asked her what her name was. She said "Alma". "What a nice name!" She replied, "Thank you". I asked her to come and play with us and she agreed. We sat in front of her house and then I asked her "Why was the old lady hitting you?" She said, "The old lady is my grandmother. I love animals and I like taking care of them but she doesn't and she refuses to let me take care of them. She is very harsh to animals and doesn't like them at all. I take care of her daily, and I also take care of cats that I absolutely love. Just as we would like other people to care for us and sympathise with us, animals also do".

Silence took over. I was deeply touched and saddened by what she said. I told her, "How about you take us to see these animals? I have a rabbit at home and I take good care of it". "Let's go!" said Alma.

When we reached the spot that Alma kept to herself, I saw the cute kittens. She took care of them and fed them, while taking care of her grandma as well. I said, "I will go to your place and help you take care of them and bring them food and water". Alma thanked me but I told her there was no need to thank me, for God has asked us to do so. When it got dark, Salma and I went back home and told our families what had happened. It was an exciting, lovely day that we truly benefitted from.

Perseverance

By Aisha (Aged 8)

I lived in a small village and dreamed of building a small train that would take poor people from one place to another. I grew up and my dream grew with me. At school, I was smart and dedicated; they called me 'Little Miss Engineer'.

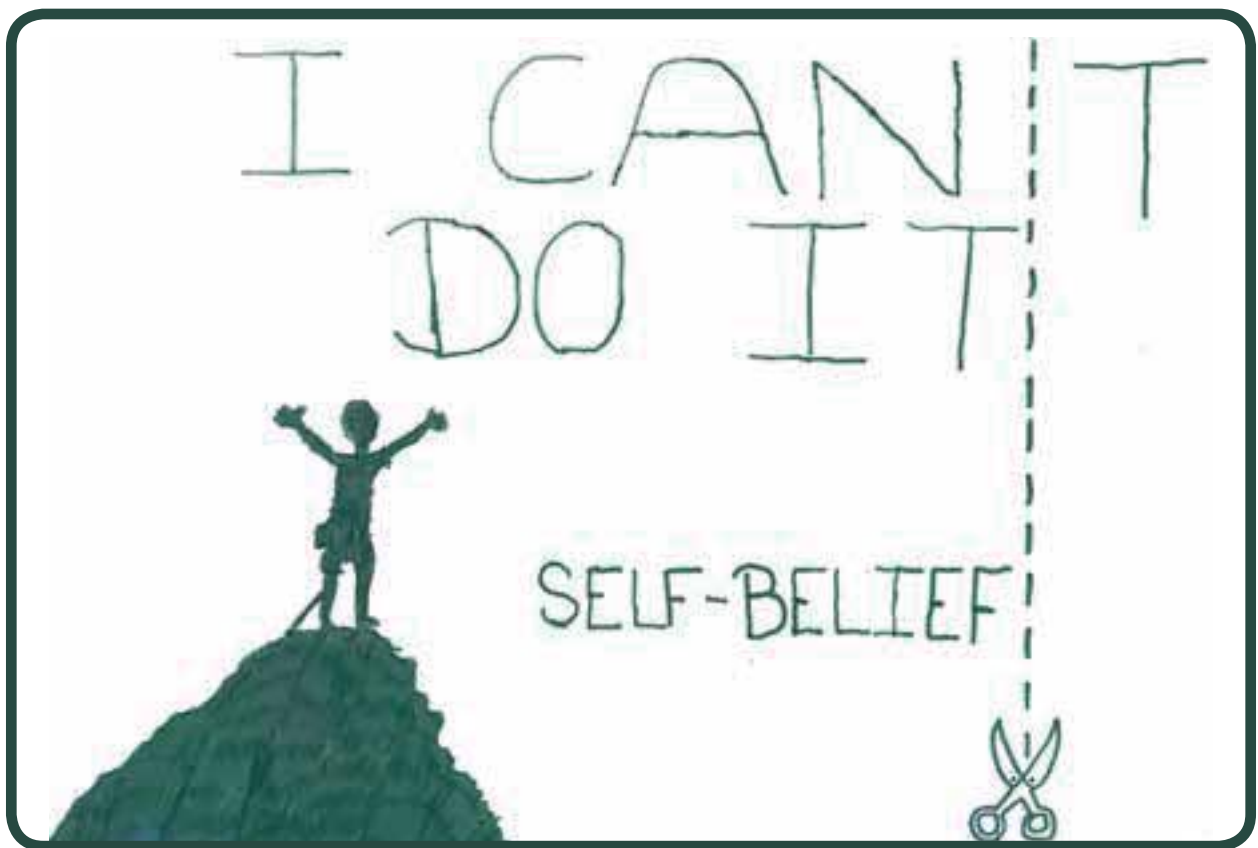
When I graduated from school and got into college, I could not pay the tuition because my family was unable to afford it, but I did not give up. I worked on my talent of drawing. The train of my dreams was in every single drawing I did.

I became famous in my college and they awarded me free education. When I graduated, I worked in a big company. I started as a junior employee and continued developing my talent. I went on designing the train of my dreams day after day, year after year.

It took me ten years to design a train that provides comfort and security for the poor. A big company then offered support and, luckily, my dream finally came true!

I Can / Can't Do It

By Tanmay (Aged 6)



Forgiveness

By Nethra (Aged 9)

Once there were two friends named Sneha and Riya. Sneha was very rude but Riya was a good natured girl.

One day Sneha was playing with her new colourful ball. Just then her sister joined her to play. When they were playing, Sneha's sister kicked the ball and it fell into a bush. "Hey, that was my favourite ball. How dare you make it dirty!" shouted Sneha.

Sneha's sister went home crying. Riya saw this and tried to make Sneha understand that the ball was meant to be played with and could get dirty at any time. Sneha was not ready to listen. Riya thought Sneha had to be taught the importance of forgiveness.

After a few days, Sneha asked Riya for her English book so she could complete her homework. She promised to bring it to school the next day as they had to return their books to their teacher. Riya happily gave her book as she knew that Sneha would surely bring it with her.

The next day, during the English class, when the teacher was collecting the books, Sneha realised that she had forgotten Riya's book and left it at home.

Sneha expected Riya to be very angry with her, but surprisingly, Riya told the teacher that she would definitely submit the book the next day. Sneha asked Riya, "Are you not upset with me? The teacher could have scolded you because of me!" Riya simply said, "No, my friend, I'm sure you did not forget my book on purpose, just like your sister did not kick the ball into the bushes on purpose!"

Sneha understood her mistake. She could have simply forgiven her sister and continued playing with her, just like Riya had forgiven her today and continued being friends!

Friendship

By Milana (Aged 7)

Many moons ago there was an old, ugly troll who lived in a glittering cave. The villagers that lived nearby could hear strange noises every morning and every night because the ugly ogre was always angry and cross. He was as stinky as a skunk and had horrible, yellow teeth but the most terrible thing about the ogre was he was stealthy and sly!

One evening one of the villagers called Mrs Maracoon decided to go into the dark, damp cave and ask the ugly, old ogre what was the matter. Mrs Maracoon grabbed her bag and filled it with treats and water for the old ogre. Off she went into the gloomy cave.

When she arrived she stopped and could already hear the noises of him being angry but when she opened the door he was actually crying! Mrs Maracoon said, "What's the matter?" and the ogre said, "I don't have any friends". Mrs Maracoon was terrified. She had never heard anyone say that before so she said, "I will be your friend".

The ogre scooped her up and gave her a big hug. Finally Mrs Maracoon took the ogre to the village but the villagers were afraid. "Don't worry, the ogre is kind!" They all had a party at the end of the day to celebrate and they lived happily ever after.

Friends

By Ro'a (Aged 9)



The Adventure

By Isabella (Aged 9)

Once there were two friends, a boy called Henry and a pig called Snuffles. They were the best of friends and did everything together.

One beautiful morning whilst Henry was planting some carrot seeds he spotted a piece of paper tucked behind a raspberry bush. He pulled it out and discovered a map that led to a wishing diamond. This was no ordinary diamond; it had special powers that made wishes come true. Henry's grandfather had talked about this diamond in one of his stories he used to tell Henry when he was a young boy. Henry ran inside to tell Snuffles of his great find, then ran upstairs to his bedroom and pulled out his bright blue back pack, stuffed in his camping gear, some clothes and food. Later that evening, Henry and Snuffles set off on their adventure.

After travelling for a few hours, the pair arrived at the forest of darkness. "This looks scary" shivered Snuffles. "Are you sure we really need to go in there?" "Unfortunately, we do. The map says so" replied Henry. "But don't worry. I'll look after you. Just stay close." The forest was full of weird and crazy sounds. Suddenly, out of nowhere, appeared a wolf. They scrambled up a tree. "Get on my back" whispered Henry. So Snuffles jumped on. Henry started reaching for the other trees. He kept on doing this until they were safely out of the forest.

A few hours later, once the friends had recovered from their fright, they decided to have lunch. After filling their bellies, they set off again in search of the diamond. A few hours later, they reached a muddy field, which seemed to go on for miles and miles. "I can't walk through this; my feet will get stuck" cried Henry. "My trotters don't stick. You could ride me" exclaimed Snuffles. So Henry pulled a saddle out of his bag and attached it to Snuffles' back. Henry jumped on and they rode through the muddy field, splashing mud all over them.

Henry and Snuffles were so exhausted after all they had been through, Henry suggested they set up camp. As soon as they got into their sleeping bags, they fell asleep. Henry dreamt about what he was going to wish for once he found the wishing diamond. He wanted shiny new armour.

Snuffles was also dreaming about the diamond, except he wanted something different. He wanted a swimming pool full of mud so when it was hot he could just jump in to cool off.

In the morning, they took another look at the map, trying together to decide the best route to take. Once both were in agreement, and after they had stuffed their faces with egg sandwiches, they continued on their journey.

“Look I can see the mountain from here” squealed Snuffles. “We must be nearly there.” Once they had climbed to the top of the mountain, they heard a voice whispering in the wind. “Well done for making it this far. Now you have to decide who is going to make the wish, as the diamond will grant you only one! The pair looked at one another and straight away knew what each other was thinking! It was almost as though they read each other’s minds. So together they shouted, “I wish for my friendship to last forever”.

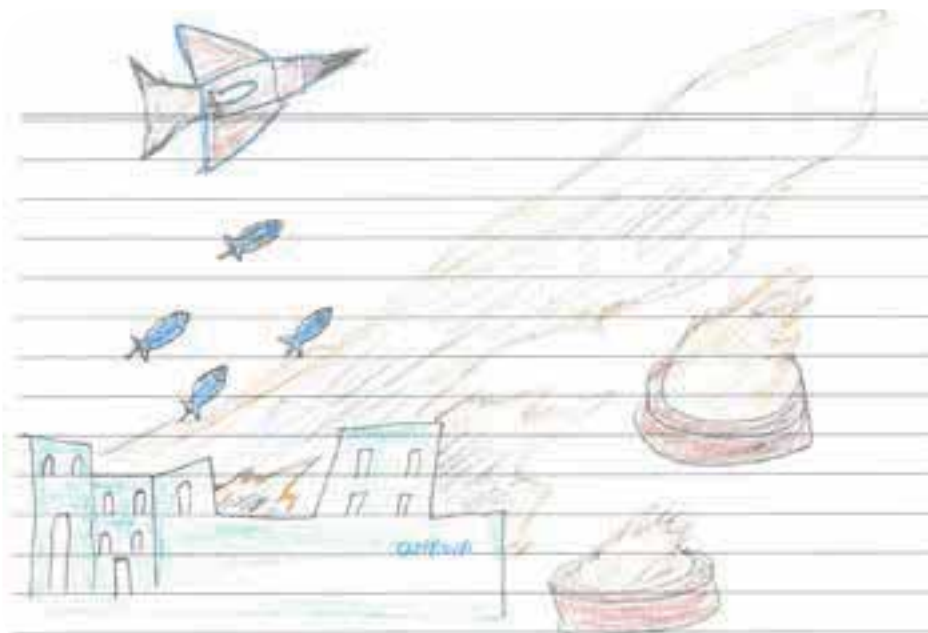
The Friendship

By Rahaf (Aged 11)

My name is Rahaf. I'm a Palestinian girl. I was born in Syria in Yarmouk camp. I studied at Al Mansoura school. In this school, I found the best friends: Nagham, Shaam, Leen, Farah and Celine. We have been diligent students.



We always played together and competed against each other. Every one of my friends had a special character. Nagham was a beautiful and nice girl. Shaam was a shy, quiet and loving girl. Leen was a good and simple girl whom everybody loved. Farah was clever. Celine was a nice girl and very funny. These are my friends whom I love and they love me. We were living happily and safely.



One day the enemies entered my town. Then we couldn't go to school and we stayed in our houses. We weren't safe. For many months I didn't know anything about my friends because of the war, so I was very sad. Then we left our houses for safer places. Three months later I went to a school where I met up with some friends.



But most of my friends had left the country with their families. My friend Leen travelled with her family to Brazil. And also my friend Noor travelled to Dubai. My friend Nagham travelled to Turkey. And my friend Farah travelled to Greece. Now the war is about to finish. We will be back to our homes and I will be meeting up with my friends and we will return to our school, where we spent the most beautiful and most enjoyable times. So joy will return to us and we will finally meet up.

I look forward to the moment that I will meet my old friends in order to be happy together and play together and achieve our dreams under the roof of our beloved homeland, Syria.

I always close my eyes and imagine my friends ... Shaam is smarter. Nagham is taller. Leen is happier. ... I really hope so.

Generous Joy

By Helena (Aged 10)

Joy is a hardworking young lady who lives in a poor part of London. She has to work two jobs to earn enough money for herself. She is kind and generous with a positive attitude and is always willing to give money to those who are more unfortunate. Smiling, she helps the homeless with the little she can provide. Joy also has to look after suffering elderly parents. This means that sometimes she cannot work for a while and struggles to earn enough money.

Joy is known for being a cheerful person who always tries to have a smile on her face. After all those onerous, tiring jobs she suddenly became severely ill with a horrific disease that could have spread like a forest fire from withering, old, parched trees. She was isolated from everyone in hospital and a few nurses were put into quarantine.

Surprised but thankful, everyone cried with relief as Joy eventually recovered. There was just one problem; when Joy had been ill, her life-time savings rapidly reduced and she eventually ended up with nothing.

When everyone she had helped in the past heard that she had no money left, they all felt bad as they had benefitted from her generosity. The majority of them felt so bad they decided to support Joy financially and in many other ways.

Joy was delighted that she had so much support from her friends, family and previous strangers. She gratefully received donations from almost everyone who had been massively supported by her in the past. Soon she had thousands of pounds, some of which she donated to charity for other people who had experienced such a difficult life like hers, in the hope that they would have the same happy ending that she did.

Medal Of Zahraa

By Hala (Aged 10)



I am Zahraa. I am ten years old. I like recording the events around me in my notebook. My teacher has told me that this is called writing a diary, which is one kind of literature. Every time I write, I feel as if I have gained an extra eye to communicate with others. I don't write for fun but rather I create openings, thought by many to be closed!

Every morning I see Haj Adam cleaning our school. I am happy with his work. He invigorates our environment's lung. But I see in his withered eyes, in his stooped back and in the cracks in the skin on his hands, signs that tell me that it hurts him to see my classmates throwing litter onto the ground, and especially in the school yard.



When he gently tries to tell them not to do this again, they mock him saying, "THAT'S YOUR JOB!!" I recorded this in my notebook.



I sat thinking about how I could make my classmates appreciate his work.

I couldn't figure out a solution by myself, so I held a meeting in the parliament with some of my classmates. We exchanged opinions and suggestions.

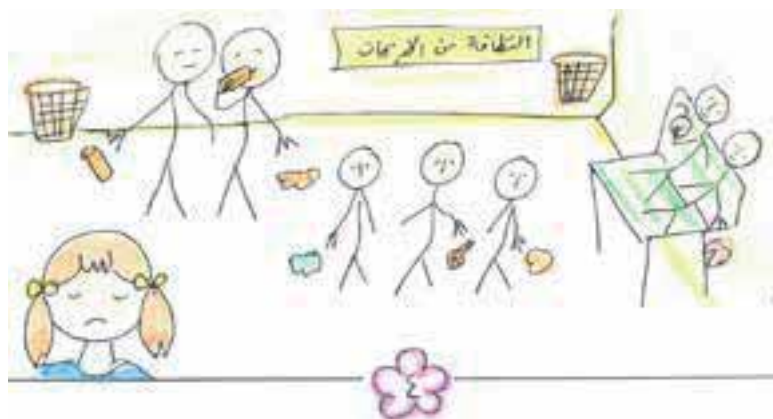


We came up with a solution and informed our headteacher about it. She welcomed our proposal and facilitated the task of implementing it.



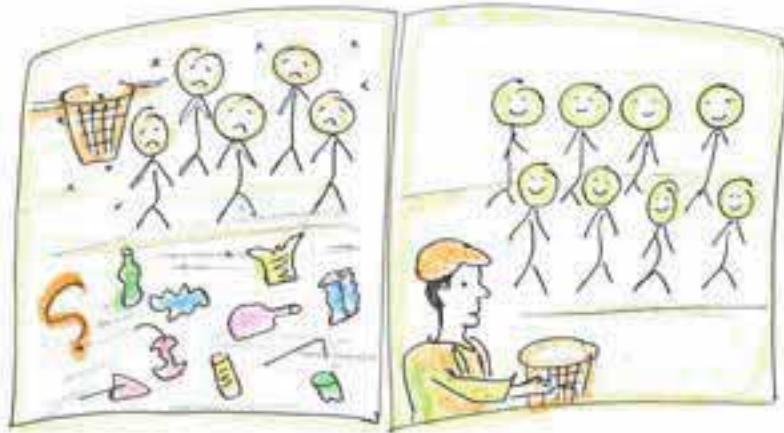
The next morning we headed off early to school - we, the team - we helped Haj Adam with his work. Our school was clean by the time the other pupils arrived. Our headteacher praised our work and thanked us for doing it.

Here begins the second part of our plan. When the bell rang, indicating that it was breaktime, our fellow pupils raced to the yard and started competing in throwing litter until they covered the ground with a filthy dressing after it had been completely cleaned.



When breaktime was over, Haj Adam didn't appear! Pupils lined up; still he didn't show up.... It was time to return to classes; still he hadn't turned up.

The pupils grew tired of standing in lines. The headteacher said, "Look for a clean place to sit down". They tried but in vain.



The pupils feared the consequences of the awful scene in the yard. They sincerely looked to their saviour, Haj Adam, remembering his remorseless work to save them from pollution.

The headteacher continued saying, "The school is clean because of Haj Adam but it's dirty because of you. Fix what you have done!" The pupils cleaned the yard. They recognised the importance of Haj Adam's work and the need to show him respect. The headteacher commented, "Each time you put your rubbish in the litter bin, you actually decorate Haj Adam with a Thank You Medal".



Haj Adam showed up happy and felt proud when the pupils applauded him and with their pledge, decorated him with a Thank You Medal.

And you dear reader - are you willing to present the Thank You Medal?

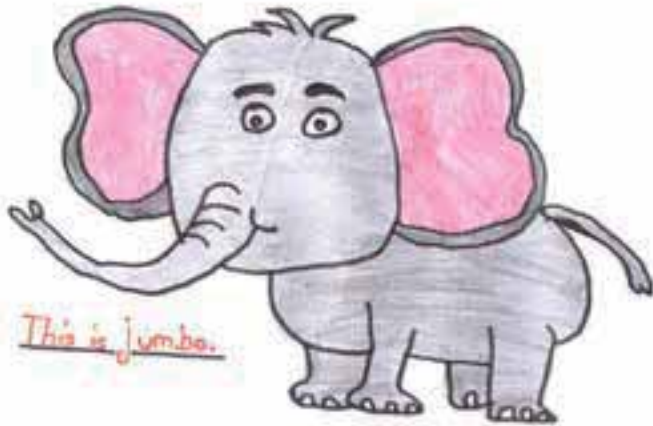
Sincerely,

Zahraa

The Greedy Lion

By Avinash (Aged 10)

Once upon a time there was an elephant named Jumbo. He had two friends: Shami the Hippo and Dasi the Zebra. They used to play together with great fun every day.



One day the king of the forest, Shera the Lion, announced that a race would be conducted by him and he invited all the animals of the forest. Interested in the race, Jumbo, Dasi and Shami wanted to take part in it. They went to meet the king and to register their names for the race.

Shera said, "You fools, I didn't announce the race to know who is the fastest but to satisfy my hunger". Jumbo, Shami and Dasi shouted for other animals and got their support and defeated Shera. From that day Shera didn't come back to that forest. The value of this story is NEVER BE GREEDY.



The Dew Drop

By Ellie-Mai (Aged 10)

Once there was a forest with no sound to be heard. A tiny dew drop said nothing, but he knew that if he made other dew drops, he could create an iridescent stream and liven the whole forest up again!

The dew drop thought to himself, “We can’t live without oxygen”.

He felt a drop on his head. “Is that what I think it is?” More little dew drops appeared on the leaf. Once the rain stopped, the dew drop led the other dew drops into the crack. The crack was where it was full of life; there were lots of animals there.

Once the dew drop (Daniel) dropped into the stream, the magic of the dew drops released and banished the wicked dystopia and the whole forest turned into a unique utopia again!

The forest animals got together and celebrated the dew drop. They said to the dew drop, “Thank you for saving the forest and everything else with it”.

All the forest lived happily together. Leaves pirouetted towards the stream...
... the dew drop is up to something ...

Always Tell The Truth

By Alanis (Aged 9)

Once upon a time there were three very good friends, Bird, Mouse and Fox. One day Bird and Mouse found a huge bunch of grapes behind a wonderful waterfall. As they were walking back they met Fox. He asked why they were so happy and they said that they had met an old friend, someone they had known for a very long time. They said this because they did not want to share the grapes with Fox. Fox asked if he could meet their friend the next day.

When Fox left, Bird and Mouse didn't know what to do! How were they going to tell Fox about the grapes and not share them with him? Hours passed and they couldn't come up with a plan. Suddenly they realised that it was morning. Fox would arrive shortly. What were they going to do?

Ding! Dong! went the doorbell! They opened the door and let Fox in. "Where is your friend?" asked Fox. Mouse and Bird looked at each other, embarrassed. They said nothing. Finally, they told Fox the truth. They were ashamed of their behaviour.

When Fox heard their explanation, he burst out laughing! He told them that he was a carnivore and didn't like grapes. Bird and Mouse felt relieved and laughed too. How could they have been so foolish and unkind?

After that the three became best friends.

It is important to always tell the truth! This is a Value that we should learn.

Honesty

By Ankita (Aged 9)

It was Sunday night and Reena, a ninth grader, was packing her bag for school the next day. Her exams had just finished and it was time to get her answer scripts. After dinner she went to bed but she was uncomfortable and couldn't sleep. It was her fear of getting low marks. Her dream was to come first in the class, but she was always second or third. She knew that she had done well this time and hoped her dream would come true. Finally, she slept.

The next day in school, she was excited and scared. By the last hour of the day she had got all her answer scripts except Mathematics. She was ahead of Ajith in second place by one mark. Now, her heart was beating faster than ever. When her teacher gave her the answer script, she saw that she had got full marks. She was very happy. Finally, her dream had come true.

A few minutes later, she realised that her teacher had overlooked a mistake. She should have lost two marks. Now she was in a big dilemma as to whether to be a coward and cheat or gather courage and tell the truth. Ajith had got full marks too and he would come first if she informed the teacher about the error. She was an honest girl, but at the same time she wanted to be first.

When hardly five minutes were left for the end of school, she told her teacher the truth. Though her dream was shattered, she was happy she had been honest. This act of hers highly impressed her teachers. Instead of being first in the class, she got a special mention in the school assembly and found a special place in her teachers' hearts.

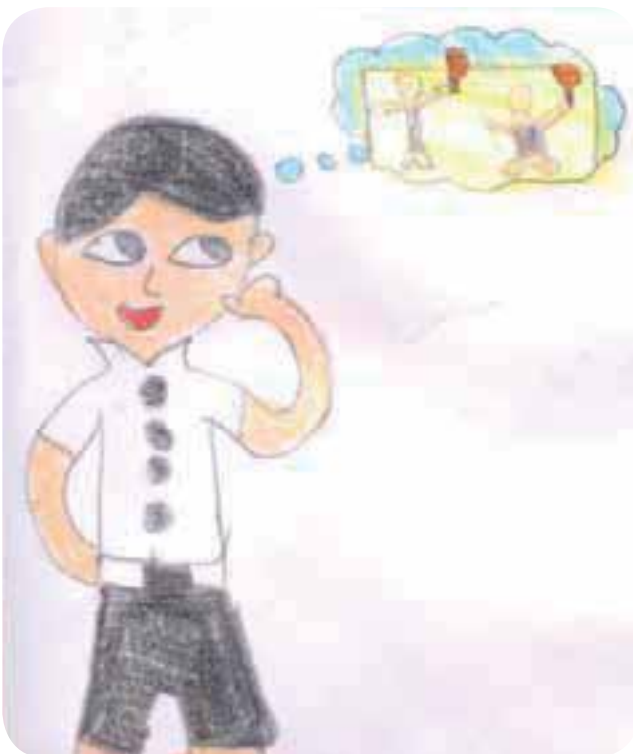
Honesty First

Written By Amisha (10) And Illustrated By Gayatri (10)

“ If you are honest, you don't need to remember what you said.”

Once upon a time there lived a boy named Nareen. Nareen lived in Srinagar. He was a very honest boy. The name of his school was Srinagar High School. He had two friends in his class named Rahul and Arvind.

One day Rahul said to Nareen and Arvind, “Come on, let's paint the wall and make it colourful. Our teacher will praise us”. So they started painting the wall.



“ Honesty is the best policy.”

While painting, Arvind coloured the wall black instead of yellow. The wall looked messy now. Arvind said, “It's OK. We won't tell our teacher that we painted the wall so that she doesn't scold us”. They all agreed to keep quiet.

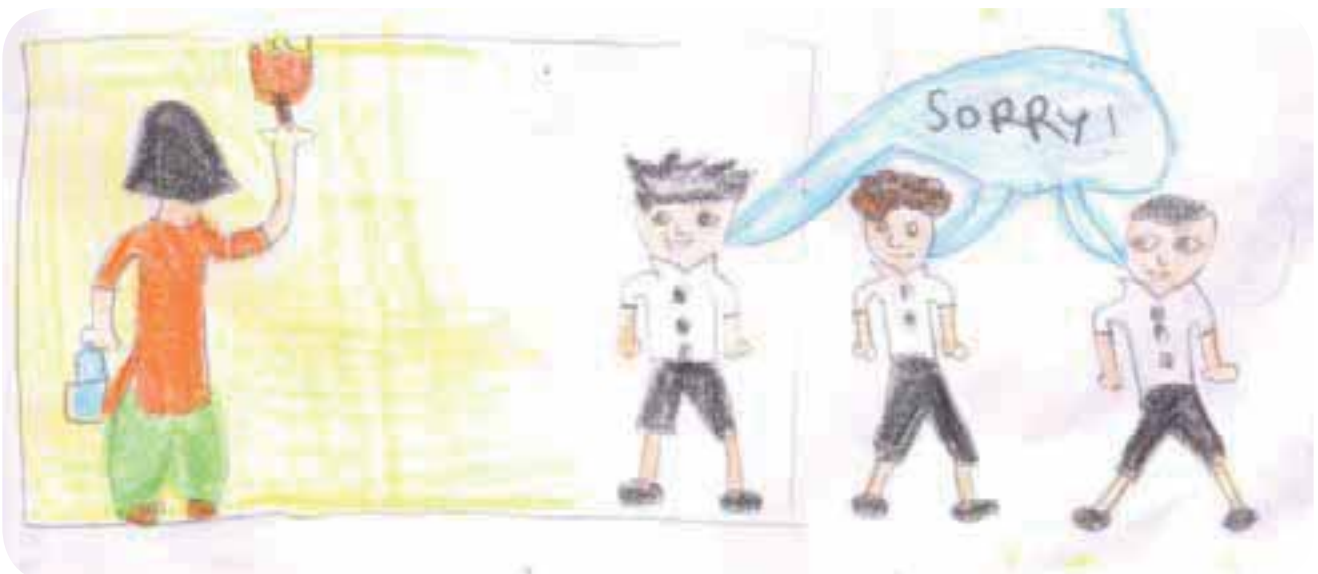
The next day, when their teacher came, she asked the class, “Who has made this mess on the wall?” No-one replied. The teacher got very angry and did not teach anything that day.

When she was leaving the classroom, Nareen went to her and said, “Teacher, I, Arvind and Rahul have done it. Please forgive us”.



“Honesty is the first chapter in the Book of Wisdom.”

The teacher forgave Nareen but wanted Rahul and Arvind to also accept their mistake so she thought of an idea. She started painting the wall by herself.



Rahul, Arvind and Nareen went up to her and asked her, “Can we also help you, teacher?” The teacher said, “No, I want those who have done this to accept their mistake”.

Then the three friends told their teacher that they had done it. The teacher said, “I knew it was you who had done it but I wanted you to accept your mistake so I did this. Next time, own up and if you make a mistake then be honest”.

After this they painted the wall together.

“No legacy is as rich as honesty.”

Then they realised that they should have been truthful and honest from the very start.

That day Rahul and Arvind learned not to lie.

Now all the three friends are truthful and honest.



Honesty Is The Best Policy

By Malak (Aged 11)

There was a family of four: the parents and two boys. Ahmed, the eldest, was sincere but Mohamed, the youngest, used to lie most of the time.

One day Mohamed broke the outside lamp with a football. Ahmed saw him do so but didn't say a word. When their dad came back from work and saw the broken lamp, he asked, "Who broke the lamp, dear kids?"



Ahmed replied, "It was not me, Dad" and Mohamed also said, "It was not me either". So the dad believed both sons. Then Ahmed told his brother, "You should tell the truth to Dad, because lying is not a good habit". But Mohamed replied saying, "I don't want to".

The following day, the boys went to school and the teacher was explaining the concept of honesty and addressed the students. "Dear kids, being honest is much better than lying. If you are honest with your parents, they will not punish you. Have you ever lied to your parents?" he asked.

They replied, “No”. But Mohamed said, “Teacher, I believe I did something wrong yesterday”. The teacher then asked Mohamed to do the right thing now. After school Ahmed and Mohamed went to the market together to buy their parents a present and Mohamed apologised to them. He was forgiven.

A few days later, Mohamed went to buy a bottle of milk for his mum, who asked him to refrain from playing so that he wouldn't break the bottle. Mohamed left home and he saw people doing acrobatic movements so he started watching them and he enjoyed doing so. On his way back, he fell and broke the bottle of milk, so he started crying.

Another child saw him and suggested, “Don't cry. Just tell your mother that someone bumped into you and the bottle fell”. But Mohamed replied saying, “I don't lie and I am going to tell the truth”. So the other child smiled at him, because he was going to be honest.

Mohamed got back home and told his mum the truth so she smiled and said, “You are an honest boy” and she told his dad that Mohamed is no longer lying and his dad was very happy.

The next day, the father took the boys to a playground where they had loads of fun and played a lot. Then they went to the airport and saw many aeroplanes, which made them very happy. They also made sure they took pictures of them and went back home feeling very pleased.

My Cat Wants The Truth

By Dareen (Aged 7)



Every morning Rena called her cat Lou Lou and showed her a piece of dessert.



... but the cat retreated quickly when Rena started eating the dessert.



This made Rena sad



... and she told her mum what was happening



... and her mum told her that perhaps the reason that the cat backed away from her was that she showed her some dessert and the cat thought she would give her some but actually she was joking.

Rena understood her mistake and went to reconcile with her cat, so she called her and motioned for her to come, without holding any dessert in her hand ... and the cat began to approach her again and run towards her.

Then Rena knew that she shouldn't lie, even to animals, and she learnt that she should be truthful with her younger brothers, whom she used to trick in the same way she did with her cat, without realising that this was also lying.

Rena became honest in everything she did and said.

Children At Play

By Ayeh (Aged 7)



Hope Saves The World

By Jed (Aged 8)

Beneath the ordinary world where we all live our lives, do our jobs and go to school, there exists a whole other world, peopled by a family called The Values: Love, Friendship, Forgiveness, Truth, Peace and Hope.

They used to exist alongside humans, guiding us to do good deeds like little fireflies; and the brightest, feistiest firefly was Hope. But gradually, as humans became more and more distracted by the shiny buzzy, beepy, scary gadgets of modern life, the Values became weaker. Their lights dimmed and they became buried by layers of rubbish.

So the Values lived underground. Love, Friendship and Forgiveness huddled together but Peace and Truth felt abandoned and Peace was suffering most of all. Like all the Values he fed on people's good deeds and amid the swarm of Conflict, Enmity, Hatred and Lies, which plagued the world like wasps, there was no place for Peace.

These were the Negitivions and the most powerful was Despair. He clouded the world because the humans believed that Hope had gone forever. But Hope was strong. One night by poor, dying Peace's bedside, she whispered, "I'll save you, little brother. I promise I'll save us all".

At this moment, up on the surface, a small boy, desperate for the world to become bright again, went out and planted a snowdrop bulb. He buried it in the rubbish, hoping fervently that it would grow.

His act of hope caused the cloud of Despair to break a little and rain watered the flower. It put down roots which made their way through the rubbish to Hope, trapped underground. She gathered up her brother and sisters and with all their strength, clinging to the roots, they flew up to the surface.

Suddenly, the cloud of Despair burst. All the Negitivions were washed away in the monsoon. Conflict and Hatred sank deeper into the rubbish as Love and Friendship soared into the sky. Peace was restored and the humans only had to look up from their gadgets to find Hope in the world.

There Is Always Hope

By Tiern (Aged 9)

It was 1914, the year the war broke out. The sound of the Big Berthas echoed across the countryside. Francois, 11, and Emelie, 7, were cooped up in the upstairs bedroom of a farmhouse on the east side of Cambrai, near Lille in France. Both were very scared and they could see and hear the explosions, growing ever closer. Mum had reassured them that they'd be alright, as Uncle Joe would be at the Pas de Calais waiting to take them back to England where they'd be safe.

Francois and Emelie weren't convinced at first though, they never knew they even had an Uncle Joe! However, mum could be very persuasive and managed to convince them. They'd have to leave soon though, the journey would probably take a week and their uncle was due to arrive in just five days!

On the 12th August (eight days after the Germans invaded Belgium) they began their perilous journey. Meanwhile Uncle Joe was braving unseasonably choppy seas, and worse still, he could see explosions and jets of water being catapulted into the air. This could only mean one thing ... he was approaching a ferocious naval battle and once in, there was no going back. However, he was desperately clinging to the hope that his tiny fishing boat could sneak through, dodging the shells under the cover of darkness.

Luckily the children had made it to the rendezvous point, and were mystified as to the whereabouts of their uncle. Suddenly, Emelie spotted a light through the thick fog. The man looked exactly like the photo mum had shown them. And as Uncle Joe splashed onto the beach, the two children, cold and wet, raced into his open arms. It wasn't until they saw the White Cliffs of Dover in England that they knew they were safe and Francois said "There is always hope".

Kindness Wins Through

By Hooran (Aged 10)

“Mum! I’m going to be late!” Annie exclaimed.

Anastasia Flerisitian was part of one of the richest families in Europe. She got everything she wanted and all she had to do was get in a strop.

“Goodbye Sweetheart! Love you!” shouted her mum.

Annie was on her way to school when she passed a homeless man. “Please give me money or food” begged the man. “Are you mad? Me, the richest girl in Europe, give you food? No way! Go and get a life. I’m going to school. I’ll be late!” She rushed and she somehow arrived on time. Soon it was break. She told her best friend, Skylar, about everything. “Oh My God. This homeless man asked me for money and food and I said, ‘Hell no!’” “You totally did the right thing.” “There goes the bell. Let’s go.”

“OK class, we will be learning about fairness.” “Ugh” moaned Anastasia. “ANASTASIA!” yelled the teacher, Miss Santos. Anastasia stormed out of the class. “Are you OK dear?” asked the lady in reception. “GET OUT OF MY FACE, OLD LADY! I’M GOING HOME.” She got her Michael Korr handbag and got out of the school.

“Please will you give me ...” the homeless man began.

“I WILL GIVE YOU NOTHING!” She marched home.

Her day became even worse. “I’ve got some bad news. Daddy has lost his job and now we are HOMELESS. That homeless man you saw is now RICH!”

Annie couldn’t believe what she heard. Next thing she knew she was on the floor like the man. “Please can you give me food?” said Annie.

“Yes I will. You made a mistake but I won’t.” The homeless man was now rich. He held out his hand. “Come on, let’s make a difference.” She held his hand and the world changed from then on.

Love People As They Are

By Delicia (Aged 8)

Once there were two sisters, Rose and Lily, who were very beautiful. They had everything they wished for in life, all the love, care and comfort in life. Their father was a very handsome man, who loved and cared for his family always. The only problem was with the mom's beauty.

All the three felt that they were good looking except their mom. Their father would go out for parties and gatherings but would not take his wife along with him. Even the kids would never call their mom for any meetings in school as they felt that their friends' moms were more beautiful than their mom.

One day their mom fell very sick and the three of them had to do all the work on their own. They were late for school and work. They had to cook on their own as their mom could not cook the food. When they returned home in the evening, the house was very dirty and the three started cleaning the house. Gradually they felt that it was a very difficult task to do it every day. After all the day's hard work, there was no time for themselves as they would just fall asleep, and soon their beauty began to fade away.

It was then that they realised what a mistake it was to neglect their mom just because of her beauty. Their mom was very beautiful at the time of her wedding and now she had lost all her beauty for the sake of her family. She had no time for herself as she gave all her time to the kids, her husband and family. Her happiness was in keeping them happy. She always cooked what they liked and kept the house neat and tidy. She always showered loads of love and happiness on them, but nobody thought about her and her happiness.

From that day, all started taking care of the mother. They used to help her in everything and loved her ever more than ever ... not for her beauty but for what she was. The Queen of the house, the real source of their happiness. They also realised that she was more beautiful than any other mom in the world, as she was the angel of Love and Sacrifice.

Moral of the story: Beauty is not everything. ... Love is. ... Love people as they are.

I Love Life

By Islam (Aged 9)

Leila looked at the view from the window of her room which was overlooking the garden of her house. Leila was sad and crying because her mother had passed away a week earlier.

This is what had turned Leila's life from a happy one into a sad one.

"What's the benefit of nature and its beauty if I lose the dearest person to my heart?" she said.

Leila closed the window and walked with heavy steps to her bed to start crying again. Life had lost the taste of happiness and become meaningless and black.



Suddenly she heard a bird warbling continuously. She opened her window again but could see nothing. "I'll go down to the garden to see what is happening" thought Leila. She followed the sound till she was stopped by a bird warbling sadly. She approached the tree to find that the bird's nestling had fallen from the nest. Leila tried moving it with her hand, but the nestling was dead.

Leila returned to her room feeling even sadder. But she continued watching the bird from her little window. While she was watching, she felt tired. She moved to her bed and lay on it. She fell asleep deeply for hours.

She woke up terrified because her mother's voice was calling her name. Then she realised it was just a dream. "I wish it was true. I wish I could see my dear mother once again" Leila thought.

She remembered the bird, so she jumped up and went to the window. She saw the bird feeding her other nestlings in the nest. Leila was surprised.

The next day she opened the window to look at the tree. Again she saw the bird looking after her nestlings. "Could it be that she forgot her little baby?!"

"No, Leila. She didn't. No mother forgets her babies" answered her father, who was watching her. "But this bird is optimistic. Weeping and crying will change nothing. We must work and look for a better future. Life will not stop when someone passes on."

"And I should forget my mother, who raised me and helped me to become the girl she was proud of?" said Leila.

"No, dear daughter, but you must be optimistic and don't stop here. Move on with your life, as if your mother is here by your side" said the father.

That night Leila lay in her bed thinking about her father's words. Signs of hope appeared on her face. "I am going to school tomorrow. I must stop weeping and crying so my mum would be happy. I am certain that she will be happy for my happiness. I will not surrender." Leila smiled.

“I love you mum!” said Leila and soon she fell asleep.

When Leila woke up the next morning, she opened the window and took a deep breath. She started getting ready for school. She grabbed her bag and opened the door, filled with strength and optimism to start her life again. She headed to the tree, raised her head and said, “Thank you bird. I will never forget you!”

And Leila continued on her way to school.



A Mother's Love For Her Child

By Ro'a (Aged 9)



Optimism: White

Written By Iman (Aged 11)
And Illustrated By Bayan (Aged 14)

My colours scattered in my dreams. I was sitting in my little room trying to fill my time, when I fell asleep at my table. My dream sounded so true. My colours were talking to each other!



Yellow started, speaking about himself with great admiration.

"I am the colour of the shining sun, which lightens up the whole universe. Every morning it extends its gold threads here and there, bringing joy and pleasure to the hearts of people. ... What about you friends?"

Red proceeded:

“I am Red, inflamed with emotions, full with love and tender ... I am the colour of red roses, which people present on happy occasions, to perpetuate memories.”



Green continued:

“I am the colour of grass, the colour of green ears, which sway on gentle breezes, bringing happiness and hope and spreading goodness and giving.”

Meanwhile, White felt sad. Despair rose in his heart. Slowly and quietly, he moved away from his friends until he reached the coast. He wanted to hide himself from his friends' eyes.

Tears filled his eyes ... He found his friend Blue surrounding the sky and glimmering on the fresh water. ... White started weeping!!!



All the colours disappeared. The orchard's butterflies were upset and angry. They gathered on the banks of the coast, where they found White sitting alone, sad and miserable. "What made you cry White?" asked the butterflies.

"Every colour prides itself with its beauty and its role in painting, designing and colouring ... but me ... I am the colour of neutrality. I am worthless among them. There is no use for my existence."



All the colours gathered around White.

"You have to pull your strengths together and have trust in yourself. Do not let sadness and pessimism find its way into your heart. ...

Remember that it is the white page which reflects the beauty of the artist's brush. Remember that it is winter, with its pure white guest that coats the land with a dress of joy.

You, White, are the colour of clouds, the colour of serenity ... the colour of hope and the colour of peace. It is enough that with you, people describe good hearts.



White felt his great value and his self-esteem increased. He moved the cloud of pessimism away from his mind. Optimism filled his heart and eyes. He did not feel any differences between himself and the other colours. ...

I opened my eyes, and closed them again ...
when the colours started painting a rainbow - a rainbow of happiness -
on my white page!



The Moon And The Rose

By Raghad (Aged 11)

Once upon a clear evening, I sat alone on the balcony. The moon was full, shining and beautiful. The breath-taking beauty emitting from the moon enchanted me. Its brightness was lighting up the white rose, which my mum had once planted in a bottle. This scene took me towards a world of fantasy, full of sensations. Suddenly a dialogue started between the rose and the moon!

Rose: Oh Moon, when you are full, vigil becomes something sweet to do. Lovers are likened to the beauty of your bright light in this wide space.

Moon: And you White Rose ... your beauty is like pure hearts, which are filled with love. Your fragrance overwhelms the sensations of lovers. How many brides have you decorated, and how many wreaths have you presented?

Rose: Soon I will wither; my fragrance will fade.

Moon: Me too, Rose. Sometimes I wane, other times I become full. Same happens to you, but with your kind seeds you will restore life with every spring's coming.

Rose: Your appearance is sweet. You bring happiness when you become full. What is prettier than when your light touches my cheeks and my leaves? With this, my beauty is complete and simulates your beauty.

Moon: If only all hearts were as white as your cheeks!

Rose: If only everything in this universe was as beautiful as your bright face ...

Moon: If only peace prevailed on this planet and people loved each other, life would be beautiful with no wars, killing and destruction. Hearts would be white.

My mum's voice woke me up to drink a cup of tea. The whole landscape had enchanted me for a while.

I spent my night thinking, wishing that peace and love would prevail all around the world. ... a world with no pain, tears or wars, where all creatures live happily.

Achieving Our Goals

By Roa' (Aged 9)

There once was a little boy, who grew up all alone. Solitude and isolation were his only companions. At school, other kids and students, even the older ones, would not help him or talk to him. He would always talk to himself, cry and wonder why no-one cared. Only God knows how much he cried.

One day, he wanted to be optimistic and see the beauty in life. He wanted to mingle with students, talk to them, laugh with them just like he had always dreamt of doing.

That morning, he went to school and decided to play volleyball like the rest of the kids. He went to the playground filled with hope and asked the students if he could play with them.



They all laughed at him. “You want to play? Play volleyball? You have got to be kidding”, they said. “Not at all! I really would like to play”, he replied.

He heard the team whisper to each other: “The kid in the wheelchair wants to play in his wheelchair; that’s impossible!”

Rami felt extremely sad and left the playground.

Suddenly, one student in the team stood up, asking, “Why can’t he play? He is a human being like us and he comes to this school. He is our peer and, from now on, we should make him feel like we are friends. Hold on! Let’s just ask him to be our friend!”



They caught up with Rami and offered him their friendship. They all became friends and the students discovered that Rami had many surprising talents. They told their teacher what they had discovered about Rami; he was surprised too. He rushed to Rami and saw with his own eyes how talented the little boy was. He said, “Despite the fact that he is in a wheelchair, he is such a special kid in all aspects”.

Rami went on the school’s stage and showed his talents. In no time, he became the most popular kid at school. His life got brighter by the day, not only at school, in general too. He became more outgoing and led a much better life. He is now one of the most popular, bright students.

What a courageous young man! He faced all obstacles of life and lived it to the fullest. When life challenged him, he rose up to the challenges and achieved his goals despite all difficulties.

Determination

By Marko (Aged 10)

One day there was a young dog that was learning how to walk. He was the only one in the family that didn't know how to walk yet. All of the other puppies just laughed at him when he fell, especially in the mud. But that didn't stop him from trying!

He would try every day, practising non-stop, until long after bedtime, sometimes even missing out on supper! Instead of the others helping or encouraging him, they sat there making fun of him. His name is Coco. Coco felt alone and sad but still kept trying and never gave up.

But on one special day, all the other puppies were still asleep so Coco started practising. His legs felt stronger and more powerful than ever.

On the first try, he fell. On his second try, after taking a few steps, he wobbled a bit and then fell. But his third try changed his life forever.

After all the practising – not only could he walk – he could run before all of the others.

A Portrait From The Neighbourhood Of Flowers

By Talla (Aged 10)

Flowers Neighbourhood was filled with joy. Kids' laughter was all around while playing. Even the sun was happy, sending its golden rays to illuminate their playing.

Haj Sameer was living in a near neighbourhood. He was an old man whose work was collecting the garbage and disposing of it so the neighbourhood would remain clean. He did that twice a week.

One day Haj Sameer was doing his usual chores while the children were playing. He was singing while working to bring optimism to his soul.

The children decided to mock Haj Sameer. They started making fun of his dirty clothes. They picked up Cola cans and threw them at him. They scattered papers here and there saying: "Go on, pick them up. ... That's your job!" Haj Sameer was so upset and sad. He decided to leave the neighbourhood dirty. Weeks passed; Haj Sameer didn't show up. Garbage piled up in front of the houses. The playground was in a bad state. Children could no longer play amidst the mess of garbage. Bad smells spread here and there. The sun was sad because the neighbourhood was no longer beautiful.

One morning the residents gathered in the playground with the children, wondering what to do with all the garbage. Some children became sick because of the pollution. The playground was not a suitable place for playing. Children's laughter could no longer be heard.

The elderly started asking each other how to dispose of all the garbage. It was too much!

One child suggested burning it. The sun yelled: "No ... I will no longer be able to see you because of the smoke". "Why don't we throw it into the river and the river will take it away" one girl suggested. "NO! My fish will die. Where can you get good fish like mine to eat?" replied the river.

"Why did you mock Haj Sameer? What we are living in now is because we didn't follow moral values" said Ahmad.

The children regretted what they had done. They realised the value of labour and appreciation of work and workers.

"Let's go to his house and apologise to him" said Ahmad.

The children welcomed the idea. They asked for their parents' permission and headed to Haj Sameer's house. Haj Sameer welcomed them and gladly accepted their apology. But he refused to go back to the neighbourhood because he couldn't do all the work alone.

"We will help you" said the children. "Please come back with us."

The next morning, Haj Sameer, along with the residents and the children, helped to clean the playground. They gathered up the garbage and put it into a vehicle. They brought Haj Sameer some new clothes and many presents for his children.

Haj Sameer was so happy with this. He promised he would never be late again.

The children promised to put their garbage in its allocated places.

The children's laughter filled the neighbourhood again. The sun shone, happy for the happiness of the children, who now appreciated the value of labour and helping others.

A Kingdom Where Everyone Was Rich

By Offor (Aged 9)

Once upon a time, in a big kingdom, there lived a happy king who loved his kingdom and helped the poor and the needy. One day, he had a dream in which all his subjects became rich.

He decided to go to the forest and prayed and fasted for three months. After his penance, the heaven opened and an angel came down. The angel asked him why he was praying. "I want every person in my kingdom to be rich" replied the king.

Then the angel told him that his wish had been granted. The king was very happy and he left.

When the king got to his kingdom, he found out that everywhere was dirty. Nobody cared to work again because they were all rich. He then went to his palace and found his wife cooking in the kitchen.

The king was not happy and he decided to go back to the forest. He also fasted for another three months and an angel appeared to him again and asked him why he was praying. He told the angel that he wanted his people to be satisfied with what they have.

"Your wish is granted" said the angel.

The king went home and found out that everything had gone back to how it was before. The whole kingdom was clean again and the maidens were back to their jobs. This time, everyone was happy, because everyone was satisfied with what he or she had.

The king was very happy and grateful to the angel. He learnt that satisfaction is true happiness.

Disability Does Not Mean Failure

By Hadeel (Aged 11)

One day, Samer went to school. Not paying attention to the traffic lights while crossing the street, a speedy car hit him. The accident almost took his life. Samer was taken to the hospital. His condition was critical. He remained in hospital for nearly a month receiving treatment. But the accident caused a permanent disability in his legs. Samer could no longer walk!

Samer's mother was devastated about this. Everyone around Samer consoled him. Day after day, this consolation started adding pain to his suffering, which he could no longer take. He felt that the agony he was in was much easier than hearing these words and receiving sympathetic looks, which made him feel vulnerable and weak.



"I refuse to take this ongoing sympathy" said Samer. "This consoling reminds me of my disability and that I am paralyzed. It is true that I have lost the use of my legs but my hands are still functioning. My eyes, my tongue and all my other senses are in their best condition. Above all, my brain is functioning perfectly. I am sound. What I have lost is merely my legs. I still have a lot with which I can compete against anyone!"

Samer was admitted to a school for people with disabilities. He excelled in his studies. He was the most active pupil and the most hardworking. Not only that, he participated in different sporting events held for disabled people. He received many awards. He was also fond of reading.

When he sat the High School exams, he passed with the top grade. He won a scholarship. He continued working hard and graduated from school with honours. He received a scholarship for higher education.

Samer's mother told his younger brother, "Once I believed that Samer's disability would prevent him from learning and working. That's why I was heartbroken following his accident. But now I believe that lots of those who have strong legs do not have a strong will. I pray to God that you remain strong and healthy and are able to continue playing football. But I also hope that you pass the High School exams this year, which you are sitting for the third time in succession".



"Do you feel I am disgracing you for failing the exams twice, Mum?" asked Ayman.

"No dear!" said his mother. "I just fear that you won't pass at the third attempt. I am encouraging you not criticising you. You are my son and I wish you all the goodness in this world."

Tolerance And Forgiveness

By Niemat (Aged 9)



Adel and his sister Nadda woke up full of energy to get ready for school. Nadda hurriedly packed her school bag. She had her meal and then rushed to catch up with the school bus.



She didn't notice that while packing her things, she mistakenly picked up Adel's pen. Adel got dressed. He went to check on his school bag when he realised that his favourite pen was not there! He looked for it everywhere but in vain. He hurried to his mother and told her that he couldn't find his favourite pen. "Maybe your sister mistakenly took it with her" said his mother.

Adel felt extremely upset. "I will never forgive her if it was she who took it" he said. "She definitely wants me to arrive late at school so the teacher will punish me." "No! Your sister would never mean any harm to you, because she loves you" said his mother. "But I don't love her. I will never forgive her" replied Adel.

Adel hurried to school. There he met his friend Sami. Sami was upset too. "What's wrong Sami?" Adel asked. "I asked my friend Ahmad to explain the lesson which I was absent from yesterday" Sami replied. "But he refused, saying that it was my own fault and that he was not responsible for what I did. How could he refuse to help me when I was in need of his assistance? I will never forgive him!"

"Same thing happened to me!" said Adel. "My sister took my favourite pen and because of her I am late for school. She irritates me on purpose and she has taken my favourite pen."



After school, Adel went back home with his friend Sami. When they reached the house, Nadda was there too. Adel turned his face away from her and didn't speak to her. She approached him saying: "I am sorry Adel; I found your pen in my bag. I didn't mean to take it. I rushed to pack my bag and didn't realise I took your pen. I am really sorry. I will never do that again". "I will not accept your apology" Adel replied. "I am really upset with you" and Adel went to his room. A while later the bell rang. Adel hurried to open the door. It was his friend Ahmad. "I believe that Sami is with you" said Ahmad. "I am here to apologise for what I have done. I am ready to help him with yesterday's lessons."

“I don’t want anything from you” said Sami. Ahmad was sad. “I was worried because my father was taken to the hospital but now he is fine and I am here to apologise and offer my help.”

Adel’s mother was there and she heard all this dialogue. She came in and said, “Look, both of you, you must learn the principles of tolerance and forgiveness when others make a mistake. I told you earlier that Nadda didn’t mean it, and she has apologised to you. And you, Sami, your friend came and asked for your forgiveness. You both need to learn that tolerance and forgiveness are our essential values. So we should accept others’ apologies and pardon them when it’s possible”.

Sami and Adel felt guilty. Adel went to find Nadda and told her that he had forgiven her. Sami too apologised to Ahmad and thanked him for coming.



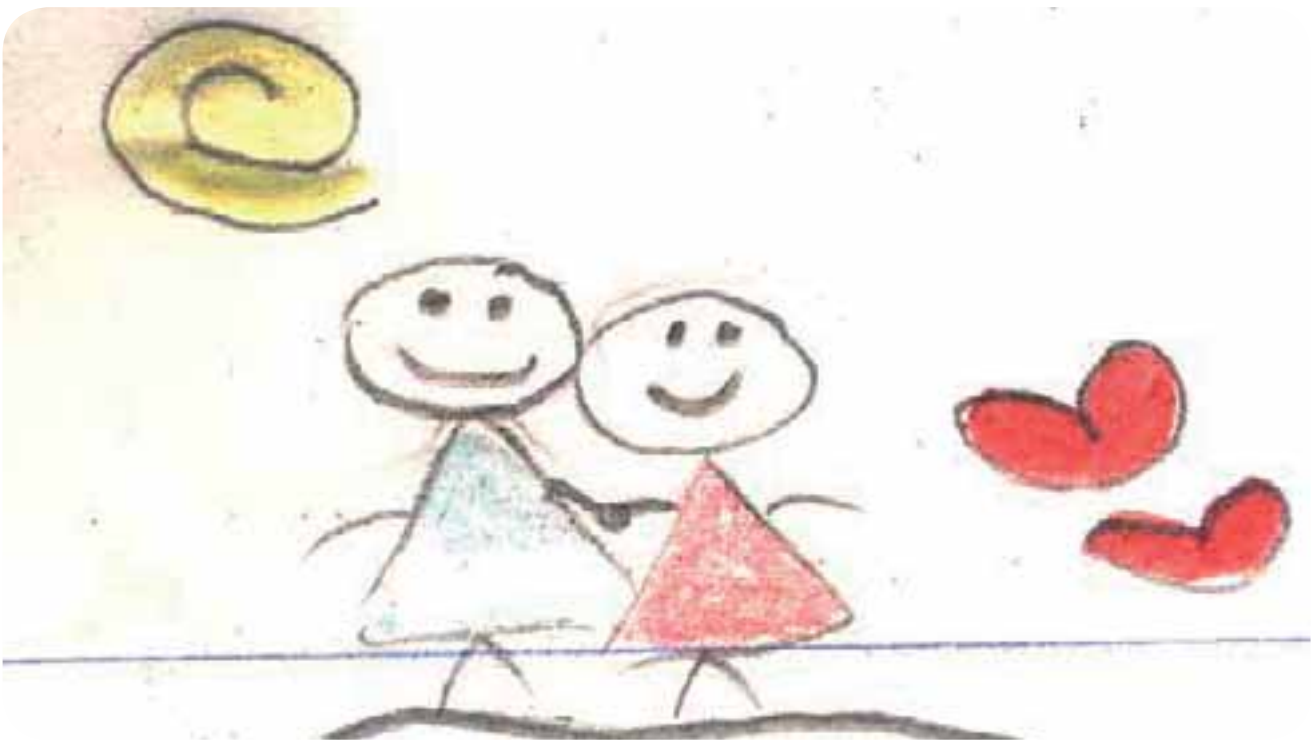
Tolerance Creates A World Full Of Love And Peace

By Waed (Aged 11)

Once there was a girl called Souad. When she was a child, Souad had a car accident that caused the loss of one of her eyes.

Her father and older brothers treated her harshly. They beat and insulted her daily. They felt she was merely a problem in their lives. No-one was there to defend Souad or to protect her. Her mother died when she was a child.

Souad grew up and went to school. She felt inferior to her teachers and friends in school. She didn't dare look at others while talking. She always spoke with her eyes fixed on the floor, because of the complex her family implanted in her. She always sat alone and refused to play with her classmates.



The headteacher and the teachers noticed Souad's conduct. They decided to help her. They decided to engage her in different school activities. They asked her schoolmates to sit and play with her. Souad was happy with this. She loved the school, her teachers and her friends. She hated going back home.

She became one of the outstanding pupils. She was special due to her morals and her kindness. But it was clear that she held great sadness in her heart, because of the behaviour of her father and her brothers.

Years passed Souad's father got sick. He went to the hospital. The doctor informed the family that he needed a kidney transplant. Everyone was surprised with this. None of the brothers agreed to give his kidney to the father.

Souad went to the hospital. She informed the doctor that she was ready to donate her kidney to her father. She underwent all the necessary tests. The doctor confirmed a match.

The operation was done successfully. Souad saved her father's life. After recovering, her father learnt what his daughter had done. He remembered his bad treatment of her, and knew that his sons left him alone to face his ordeal. He asked her for her forgiveness. She said she had already done so, and that she held no grudge against him. After all, he was her father.

How beautiful to forgive each other and be like Souad.



Neil's Realisation

By Saksham (Aged 9)

There was a boy named Neil. He was a very good boy and always used to listen to his parents. But he was also too much under the influence of his friends.

One day his teacher announced in the class that each pupil was to bring \$30 for a competition in the school. Neil's parents gave him \$30 with a diary note for the teacher's acknowledgement. Neil went to school and told his friends that he had \$30 on him.



His friends told him to take them to the canteen. Neil was a bit hesitant but his friends said, "Don't worry, your parents and teacher will not come to know about it". So Neil told a lie to the teachers saying that he did not want to participate. Neil took his friends to the canteen and treated them and they all had fun.

The following week the parents went to the school to meet the teacher and asked about the results of the competition. The teacher told them that Neil did not participate.

The parents were shocked. They asked Neil about the matter. Neil started crying and said that his friends had persuaded him to go to the canteen and to treat them all. The teacher called his friends for a face-to-face. The friends explained, "We were not aware that the money was for a competition. And it was Neil who forced us to go along with him to the canteen as he did not want to go alone".



Neil was shocked to see his friends lying to everyone.

Neil realised that his friends were telling a lie and had forced him to do the same.

Neil apologised for his mistake of telling lies to his parents and the teacher and promised them that he would always follow the virtue of truthfulness.



Ramsey I Knoweverything

By Inayah (Aged 9)

There was once a boy called Ramsey I Knoweverything. Now, you are probably thinking, “What’s this all about?” Hold your horses, this is just the beginning.

One hot sticky afternoon, the children in Mrs. Biome’s class were slumped in their chairs. The heat had made them all very tired. Ramsey I Knoweverything was a very vocal boy, rudely interrupting the teacher. He claimed to be a genius. The arrogant boy had to learn what was coming next. Mrs. Biome was getting tired of him interrupting the class, so she called the professor. His name was Professor Hogwarts.

“Ah, we meet again Ramsey, eh?”

“Yes, sir” he said confidently.

“Now I’m going to give you a little test, and see how clever you really are.”

The test had begun and thirty minutes had past and Ramsey I Knoweverything was only on the first question.

The professor came over to him and asked, “Ramsey, please just tell me the truth. Do you know what you’re doing, lad?”

He gave a deep sigh, “Oh I am so sorry Professor Hogwarts. I don’t understand what I am doing. I wanted the class to think that I was a genius. I thought if I said it enough times, they would believe it. They would then want to be my friend and think that I was a genius. I am so sorry. I do apologise” he said glumly.

The professor was shocked that he would make up such a story. He told him that you only learn by making mistakes. We all make mistakes. You have to learn from them and if you put your mind to something, you can achieve whatever you want. The professor told him that he could have great ambitions but not to be arrogant about them.

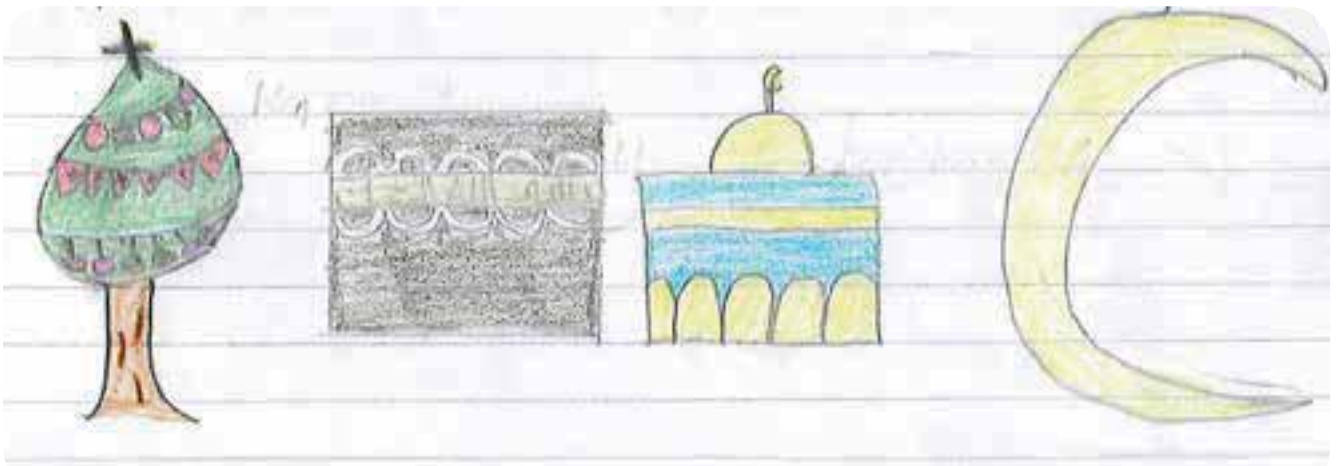
Ramsey I Knoweverything apologised to everyone, especially the teachers and was never arrogant or rude again.

An Eid To Bring Us All Together

By Inab (Aged 9)

Little Youssef lives in a mixed neighbourhood, where people from different religions celebrate their holidays and festive seasons on different days and at various times. Youssef didn't like the fact that people celebrate on their own and wished for a day when everyone gathered to celebrate Eid together. So he gathered up his school friends, Ahmed, Joseph and some others to discuss his idea and they all agreed to present it to the their school teacher.

The teacher smiled upon hearing the proposal and asked each student to come up with a name for Eid that would unite and bring everyone together.

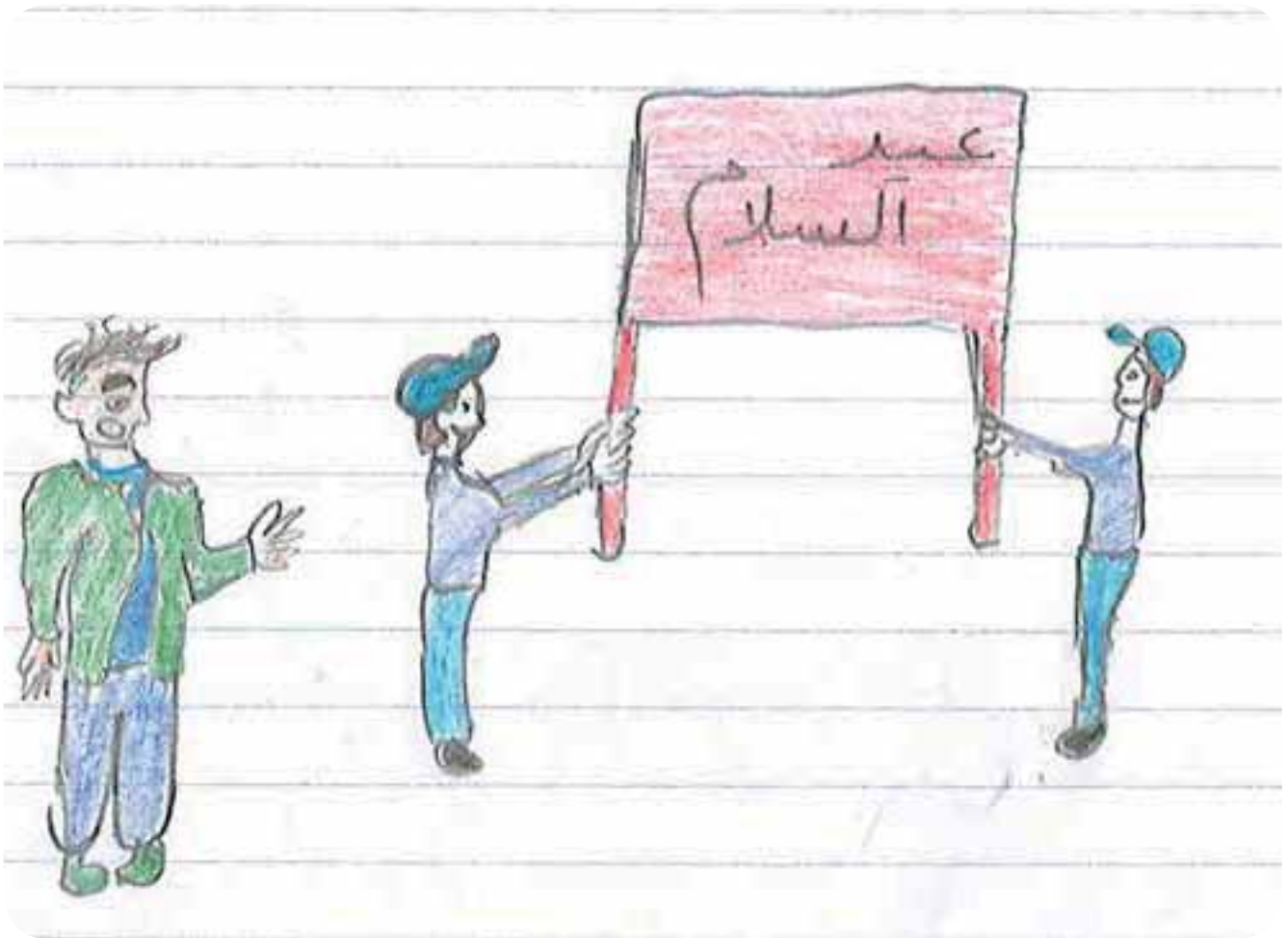


The classroom started buzzing with suggestions for names and all the students gave their suggestions except one; she remained silent. The teacher went to her and asked, "Isn't there an Eid that you would like everyone to celebrate together?" She smiled and said, "I wish there were an Eid that bears my name - the Peace Eid".

The idea was positively welcomed by the teacher and all the students and they all clapped for her.

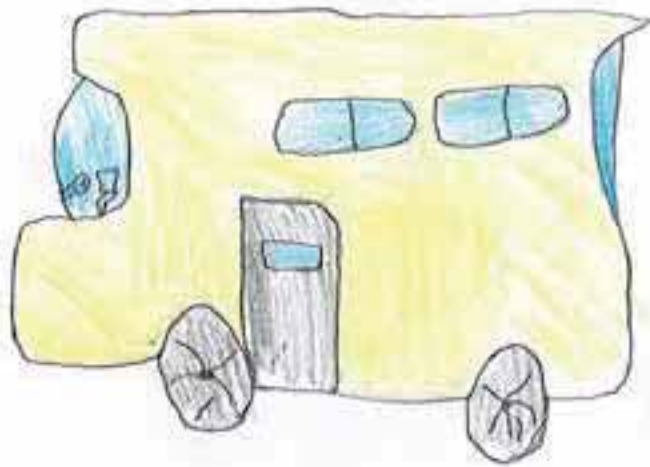
The children then held a big banner demanding the Peace Eid and marched towards the Mayor to present it. Upon seeing the banner, the Mayor scowled and said, “What kind of peace are you talking about? Isn’t it wiser to wait for these days of war to finish before we celebrate a Peace day?” But the students were not discouraged and insisted on their idea even more.

They are still looking for someone who will fulfil their dream and agree on a day that unites everyone: the Peace Eid.

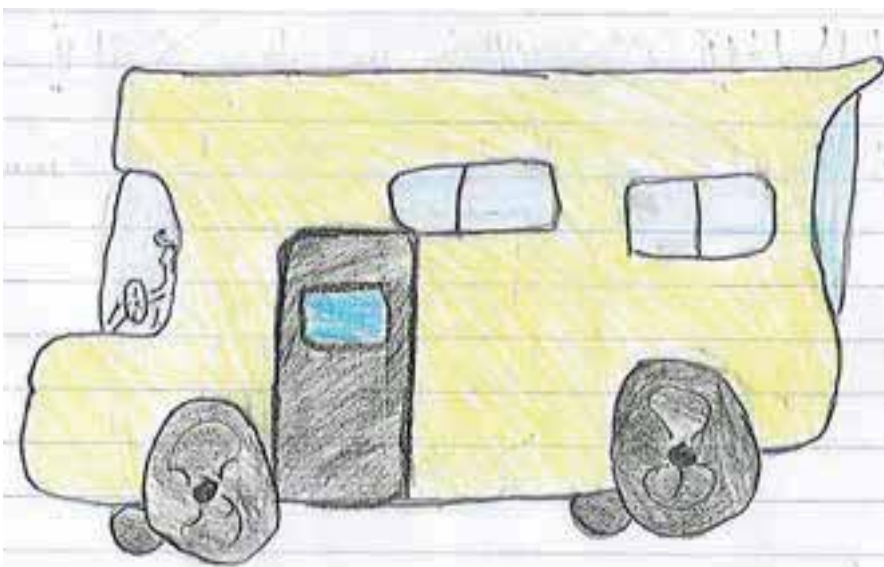


My Smile Is My Language

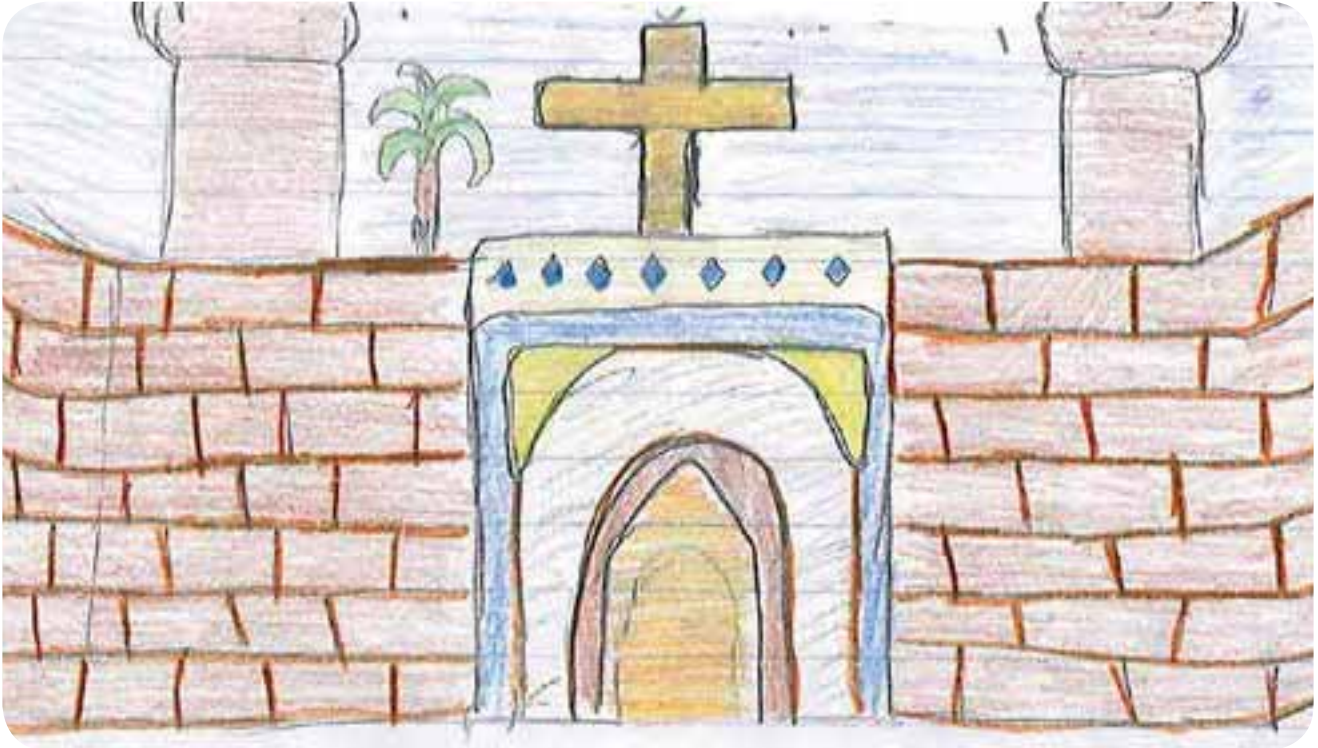
By Maysan (Aged 10)



I don't know how the night advanced, but it was long. I waited for the sun to rise with empty hopes, and it finally came ... and a new day began, and it wasn't a day like any other. It was the day of the school trip that we had been waiting for all year.



We travelled in a bus and headed to Bethlehem. We were in the woods of happiness, and our teacher informed us that we would disembark at the Church of the Cradle.



I was very surprised when I saw the church as it was filled with visitors, who were all unique looking and of different races and we couldn't understand anything they were saying as they spoke in their different languages, but they were smiling at us, so we smiled back.



So our smiles were the means by which we communicated, despite our differences.

Details Of Schools: Stories

* indicates a prize-winning entrant

Title of Story	Contributor	Age	School
The Octopus and the Little Fish	Sham	11	UNRWA – Al Mansoura School, Syria
Children and Money	Wafa'a	11	UNRWA – Husen Camp 2nd Preparatory Girls' School, Jordan
Layla and the Bird	Rawan	9	UNRWA – Beit Inan Girls' School, Jordan
Tribunal of Environment	Samiyha *	11	UNRWA – Al-Hussein Preparatory Mixed School, Jordan
Rainy Day	Farzeen	8	Mount Litera Zee School, India
Garden of Hope	Janna *	10	UNRWA – Battir Primary School, The Lebanon
Be Kind to Animals	Jahid	10	Elmwood Junior School, Croydon, Surrey, UK
Animal Love and Care	Mariam	10	UNRWA – Husen Camp 2nd Preparatory Girls' School, Jordan
Perseverance	Aisha	8	UNRWA – Baqa' 2nd Preparatory School for Girls, Jordan
Forgiveness	Nethra	9	Neuron Labs School, India
Friendship	Milana *	7	Croftway Primary Academy, Blyth, Northumberland, UK
The Adventure	Isabella	9	St Paul's Church of England Primary School, London, UK
The Friendship	Rahaf	11	UNRWA – Al Mansoura School, Syria
Generous Joy	Helena *	10	The Abbey Junior School, Reading, Berkshire, UK
Medal of Zahraa	Hala	10	UNRWA – Zahrat Al-Madaen Joint Middle School, Gaza
The Greedy Lion	Avinash	10	NITTE International School, India
The Dew Drop	Ellie-Mai	10	Stirchley Primary School, Birmingham, West Midlands, UK
Always Tell the Truth	Alanis	9	Elmwood Junior School, Croydon, Surrey, UK
Honesty	Ankita *	9	New Horizon Public School, India

Title of Story	Contributor	Age	School
Honesty First	Amisha Gayatri (Illustrator)	10 10	New Horizon Gurukul School, India
Honesty is the Best Policy	Malak	11	UNRWA – Marka Preparatory School for Girls, Jordan
My Cat Wants the Truth	Dareen	7	UNRWA – Dourah Girls’ School, West Bank
Hope Saves the World	Jed *	8	St Paul’s Church of England Primary School, London, UK
There is Always Hope	Tiern	9	St Paul’s Church of England Primary School, London, UK
Kindness Wins Through	Hooran	10	Wingrave Church of England Combined School, London, UK
Love People As They Are	Delicia *	8	NITTE International School, India
I Love Life	Islam *	9	UNRWA – Marka 2nd Middle School for Girls, Jordan
Optimism: White	Iman Bayan (Illustrator)	11 14	UNRWA – Marka Preparatory School for Girls, Jordan
The Moon and the Rose	Raghad	11	UNRWA – Tabariyya Primary School, The Lebanon
Achieving Our Goals	Roa’	9	UNRWA – Mixed Elementary School D for Refugees, Gaza
Determination	Marko	10	Charville Primary School, Hayes, Middlesex, UK
A Portrait from the Neighbourhood of Flowers	Talla	10	UNRWA – Husen Camp 2nd Preparatory Girls’ School, Jordan
A Kingdom Where Everyone Was Rich	Offor	9	Embodiment of Love Academy, Nigeria
Disability Does Not Mean Failure	Hadeel	11	UNRWA – Marka Preparatory School for Girls, Jordan
Tolerance and Forgiveness	Niemat	9	UNRWA – Al-Bareej Joint Primary School, Gaza
Tolerance Creates a World Full of Love and Peace	Waed	11	UNRWA – Sanour School of Love for Girls, West Bank
Neil’s Realisation	Saksham	9	New Horizon Gurukul School, India
Ramsey I Knoweverything	Inayah	9	The Abbey Primary School, Reading, Berkshire, UK
An Eid to Bring Us All Together	Inab	9	UNRWA – Dourah Girls’ School, West Bank
My Smile is My Language	Maysan	10	UNRWA – Dourah Girls’ School, West Bank

Details Of Schools: Paintings & Drawings

Title of Picture	Contributor	Age	School
The Five Human Values	Toby	6	Sai Spiritual Education, Tooting, London, UK
Children Enjoying Playing Outside	Ramah	8	UNRWA – Beit Inan Girls’ School, Jordan
The Wounded Cat	Amna	6	Jibaliya Primary School Educational Zone, Gaza
I Can / Can’t Do It	Tanmay	6	Charville Primary School, Hayes, Middlesex, UK
Friends	Ro’a	9	UNRWA – Beit Inan Girls’ School, Jordan
Children At Play	Ayeh	7	UNRWA – Teybeh 1st Preparatory Girls’ School, Jordan
A Mother’s Love For Her Child	Ro’a	9	UNRWA – Beit Inan Girls’ School, Jordan



List of Values

The children chose a value for their story from the following list:

Truth	Love	Peace	Right Conduct	Non-Violence
Curiosity	Caring	Attentiveness	Cleanliness	Appreciation of
Discrimination	Compassion	Calmness	Contentment	other cultures/
Equality	Dedication	Concentration	Courage	backgrounds
Honesty	Devotion	Contentment	Dependability	Brotherhood/
Integrity	Friendship	Dignity	Duty	Sisterhood
Intuition	Forgiveness	Discipline	Ethics	Citizenship
Optimism	Generosity	Endurance	Gratitude	Compassion
Quest for Knowledge	Helpfulness	Focus	Goals	Concern for all life
Reasoning	Inner happiness	Happiness	Good Behaviour	Consideration
Self-analysis	Joy	Honesty	Healthy Living	Co-operation
Self-knowledge	Kindness	Humility	Helpfulness	Equality
Spirit of Enquiry	Patience	Inner Silence	Initiative	Forgiveness
Synthesis	Sharing	Optimism	Leadership	Global Awareness
Truthfulness	Sincerity	Patience	Perseverance	Good Manners
	Sympathy	Reflection	Proper use of time	Loyalty
	Tolerance	Satisfaction	Resourcefulness	National Awareness
		Self-acceptance	Respect	Respect for Property
		Self-confidence	Respect for other people's things	Service to Others
		Self-control	Responsibility	Social Justice
		Self-discipline	Sacrifice	Unity
		Self-respect	Self-confidence	Universal Love
		Understanding	Self-sufficiency	Unwillingness to hurt
			Simplicity	
			Unity	

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Main values chosen by the children as the theme for their stories are indicated in bold.

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About The Education In Human Values Programme

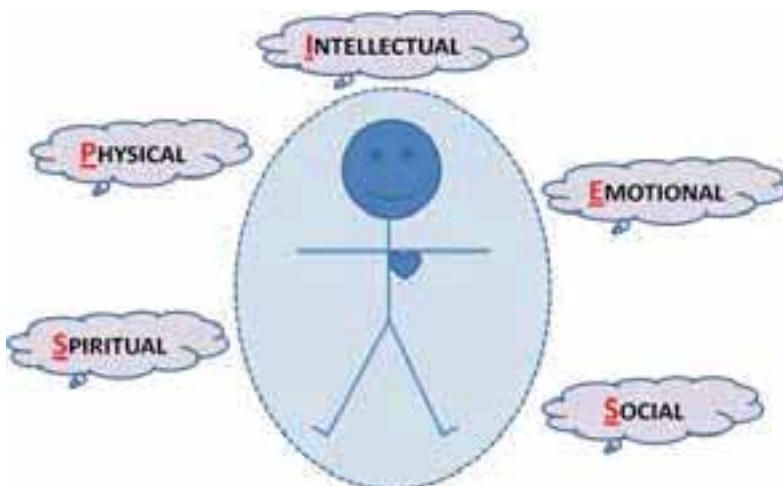


How “EHV” came about

EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES (“EHV”) is a programme that was written by an experienced Primary school teacher, who recognised how poor emotional and social skills were seriously hampering the wellbeing, happiness and academic progress of her pupils. She therefore developed this resource to transform children’s achievements and life chances.

Purpose of EHV

Using a framework of 5 universal values of Truth, Love, Peace, Right Action and Non-Violence and other related values, EHV gives teachers 44 engaging lesson plans to develop children’s character strengths and empower them throughout their primary schooling to use inspiring values that unleash their true potential, whatever their academic abilities and social backgrounds.



Meeting a need

Globally, a paradigm shift is taking place in the education sector as more and more teachers, parents, children themselves and many others recognise the urgent need for learners to have a holistic, rounded education that nurtures the whole person, so that young citizens can flourish, both during their school days and subsequently as their lives unfold.

Methodology

Children progressively explore and put into practice in safe, supportive school environments and in real-life situations, a wide range of life-enhancing values. The experiential learning is achieved through a systematic, whole-school approach with structured lesson plans that use highly effective teaching techniques:

- class discussions
- story telling
- singing
- quotations
- group activities
- silent sitting for quiet reflection.

Reported benefits from the EHV process:

- enhances school ethos, culture and standards
- improves the quality of teaching and learning
- helps optimise pupils' performance and prospects
- engages parents and enriches home life
- strengthens community cohesion
- prepares children well for life as global citizens.

www.HumanValuesFoundation.com