

VIVEKAM SR. SEC. SCHOOL

DEPARTMENT OF
ENGLISH

*The
Ingenuous
Finesse*

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From the Editor's Desk

Ms. Venita Christiana J

Vice Principal

Warm greetings!

We are glad to bring to your hands the 10th issue of our magazine, The Ingenious Finesse.

“Silence isn't empty, it's full of answers.”

Growing up amidst the serene pair orchards in Kodaikanal away from the hustle of the town, I've always cherished the tranquility of nature and enjoyed listening to the blissful sounds – the wind in the trees, the chirrups of the birds, the low ebbing of the lake water, a distant mooing of a cow and much more. I myself wouldn't believe now if someone tells me that voices can travel a long distance but I tell you, I have experienced it in the Princess of Hill Stations, someone calling out to me from a distance even during the foggy days of poor visibility.

In recent times, I observe that the children of today can do only one thing if we ask them to be quiet, sleep. I grew up without a cable network for the TV and a telephone at home but when we finally got them both, my brother and I felt them bothering the fun we used to have without them. We continued to enjoy the beauty and thrills of nature ignoring the inventions.

Most beautiful things on earth are enjoyed in silence. True but I would say silence in itself is a beautiful thing. We all would have noticed in the movies that the most emotional scenes do not have music on the background, not because the music director failed to fine the suitable music but because there is no music as good as the silence that could fill the space best.

I've always sought to teach children the value of silence. Quiet moments offer a unique opportunity for introspection. In my twelfth-grade class, I enjoyed teaching Pablo Neruda's poem "Keeping Quiet." The poet suggests that silence is so powerful, it could even halt the devastation of war.

Unfortunately, the constant noise of modern life has dulled many people's appreciation for silence. Yet, silence remains an essential part of life. It will come when it's needed, and I hope we all have the patience and strength to embrace it.

I hope the readers find this issue of “The Ingenious Finesse” satisfying.

Beauty of English Language - IV

A contribution from
Mr.Vinod Sukheja
The Director
Subhash Dey's Academy

Contranymms

A word that has two meanings that are the opposite of each other is called a ***contranym*** .

The government ***sanctioned*** the lifting of ***sanctions*** against Cuba.

The two halves of the rock will ***cleave*** together until someone ***cleaves*** them apart with an axe.

The term can also be used more loosely, to describe words with two apparently contradictory meanings that aren't quite opposites:

That horse will ***bolt*** unless you ***bolt*** the door.

The soldier was ***bound*** for home, when they caught him and ***bound*** him.

We escaped from the mudflats as ***fast*** as we could, before we were stuck ***fast*** .

These examples are all grammatically correct --every word is used accurately --but they still manage to sound silly.

Choose your words carefully

English is full of easily confused, similar sounding words, with plenty of opportunity for deliberate puns and inadvertent verbal gaffes.

Visiting relatives can be boring .

Are they visiting you or you are visiting them?



Teachers'
Articles

The Beauty of Being Human

Mr.Gokul Chandar – PGT Economics

Being human is a rich tapestry of emotions, connections, and experiences. Here are some highlights:

1. Emotional Depth

Joy and Sadness: We experience a wide range of feelings that deepen our connections and enrich our lives.

2. Connection with Others

Relationships: Friendships and family provide support and companionship.

Empathy: Understanding others fosters compassion and kindness.

3. Curiosity and Growth

Learning: Our natural curiosity drives exploration and personal growth.

Adaptability: We show resilience in the face of change.

4. Creativity and Expression

Art and Culture: We express ourselves through various mediums, sharing our stories.

Innovation: Creativity leads to advancements that improve lives.

5. Community and Belonging

Shared Experiences: A sense of belonging offers comfort and strength.

Cultural Diversity: Our differences enrich society with varied perspectives.

Conclusion

Being human is a journey of shared experiences, emotions, and creativity, reminding us of the beauty in life and our connections with one another.



BEING HUMAN

TEACHER

Ms.Mary Florence - Department of English

People of all ages love to be pampered and September 5 is the teachers' very own day. I enjoy September 5th the most, where I really feel it's worth being a teacher. Teachers can brag that they belong to nobility because they say that teaching profession is a noble one. It's quite satisfying to impart knowledge to students and when we hear about our very own students becoming somebody in the society, we feel life has paid us in full, more than the remuneration that we receive.

Is it essential that teachers be honoured? I, for one think it is. When a teacher hits a low in their career, these awards and rewards motivate us, revive us to keep going, not to speak of the love shown to us by our students. The coats black, white, grey etc., and white collars do only specific jobs assigned to them. A teacher we may be called but many a times we become a parent, a guide, a counsellor, a caretaker etc., all rolled up in one.

My children at home call me a hypocrite, an actress. The reason they say is that I put on a façade when it comes to school. Do teachers have a burn out? Of course yes. The stress sometimes makes them so and brings down their efficacy. Teachers are after all humans with souls. Teachers try not to show out their personal feelings and emotions. They keep them locked.

Gone are the days of Gurukulum where the word of the teacher was the last. The teachers are called the second parents but we are not allowed to admonish or reprimand the students. The proverb "Spare the rod, spoil the child" has become obscure. In way kindness and love shown do have a tendency to change a student. We do not know the difficulties of a motherless child, a child whose parents are super busy that they are unavailable for the child. Hence it is mandatory for a teacher to take utmost care of a child whether lively or placid.

The improvement in technology has put the teachers on their toes because the students big and small have it galore to sharpen their minds. Even though I enjoy being with 11th, 9th and so on, the 2nd are my stress busters and happy pills. The questions like "Do you know cricket, not the game but the insect?, Why is there an infinity in this picture? (Does she know about it?) Why are you so strict today?" and the phrases like "Ma'am, help me with this madness" (Madness being the chit chat going on in the class.)





A genie is a random and weird spirit. They never fail to amaze me. Sometimes I get flabbergasted when I see them reading “Gusty Girls of yesteryears, Rani Lakshmi Bai and books of Sudha Murthy”. How do 2nd grade students have so much stored in their little brain? I love being with them, talking with them.

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As teachers, our minds have to be sharp, alert, knowledgeable and should be willing to learn to be way up. Albert Einstein says, “Once you stop learning, you start dying.” I stop here to introspect myself.

Patricia Cross says, “The task of the excellent teacher is to stimulate apparently ordinary people to unusual effort”. The tough problem is not in identifying winners, it is in making winners out of ordinary people.





Students'
Articles

MY PARENTS

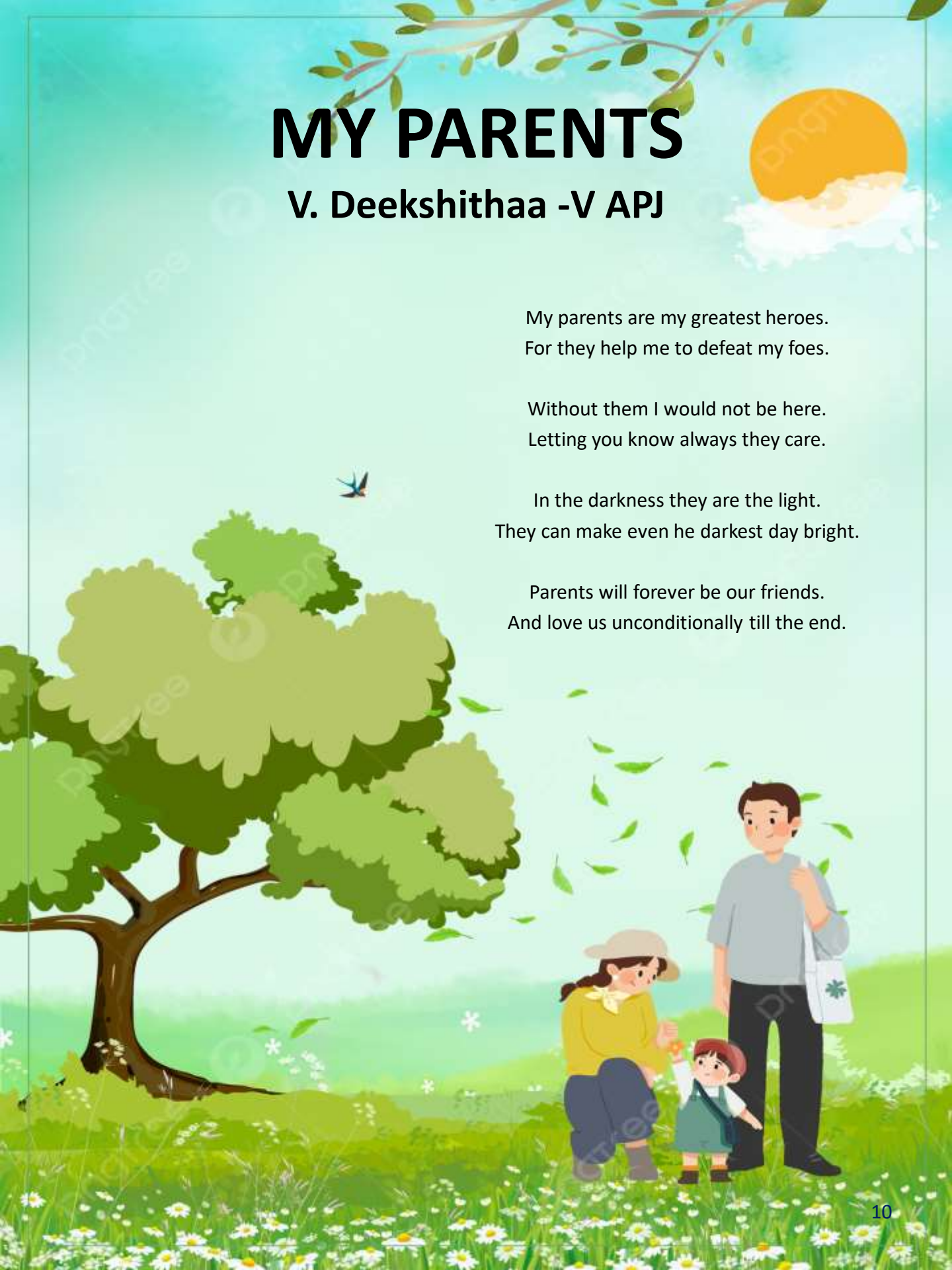
V. Deekshithaa -V APJ

My parents are my greatest heroes.
For they help me to defeat my foes.

Without them I would not be here.
Letting you know always they care.

In the darkness they are the light.
They can make even the darkest day bright.

Parents will forever be our friends.
And love us unconditionally till the end.



The Rise Of Online Learning: Benefits And The Future

Sharvatha V – XI A1

In recent years, online learning has transformed from learning a few things to learning a million things due to the advances in technology. Here, we explore the benefits and the future of online learning.

Benefits of online learning:

Accessibility and flexibility

Online learning allows the students to learn things from wherever they are. It enables the students to study at their own pace and can adjust it according to their schedule.

Global Learning Communities

Online learning helps the learners to collaborate with the learners across the borders. Students can interact with the instructors from different cultures and background and can enhance their global awareness.

Future of Online Learning:

The future of online learning will blend the technology with education, offering many jobs based on skills. Sometimes, online learning platforms only allow one student at a time and in most cases, it allows many for greater interaction between the learner and the tutor.



THE FOOLISH GIRL

Pranava Ashokraaj – IX CVR

Once there was a foolish girl
Who was ungrateful as she was blind
She thought herself forsaken by the world
But it was all in her mind.

She thought she was alone
Cold and empty inside
Her life she bemoaned
In darkness did she hide.

“I’m no good, no use for me at all”
The girl, in vain, pained
“From the heights, I shall fall”
Indeed, she proclaimed!

Surely her death was no loss
It would be one problem less
Think of the joy it would cause
This is a bad idea, I must confess.

She climbed up high, with no care
“I’ll end this cursed existence tonight”
Oh! What a silly affair, she did prepare
From her death, everyone would delight.

Fall she did, from up high
With a final smile on her face
To make joy, this was her final tug
The pavement, her landing place.

But she was a narrow-minded fool
To think her death was a celebration
As she fell with the night cool
She squandered the gift of creation.

The girl, silly as she was
Was a fool to have done such a thing
So much sorrow, she did cause
Joy, her death did not bring.

For hated she was not,
Terribly missed she was
Sadness, her loss brought
Why did she do it? What was the cause?

Her friends, how bitterly they wept
Her kin, they mourned and sobbed
Into eternity, she slept
Her life, from her dears, was robbed.

In the afterlife, she did regret
To have crossed the slumber early
That girl, I’ll never forget
For that girl was me.

So take my advice, listen to me
Don’t make a mistake like mine
Life you must appreciate and see
Life full of pain and yet so divine.

Notice the little things in life
How wonderful they are
Learn to look past the strife
Your troubles, they will seem afar!



Story Corner

STORY CORNER (ADOPTED)

Old Man and the Mango Tree

In a far away village, there lived an old man. He had very few years left in him. He must have been 80 years old or even more. No one knew his age. He was just an old man in the village

Everyday he would wake up and leave his house . go for a tiny walk outside the village and come back.

Binny and his family had just moved into the house next to the old man's house. Binny was an observant young boy and he noticed that the old man goes out everyday the same time

Binny was also a very curious boy. He wanted to know what the old man was upto. One day he followed the old man without being seen. After walking a short distance he noticed that the old man stopped near a small mango plant. He fetched a small bucket and filled it with water from the nearby pond and watered it.

Binny was amazed at this. He forgot all about not being seen and went straight to the old man and asked him, " Sir, you are so old and you are watering such a tiny tree, you will probably never be able to eat its fruit."

The old man let out a laugh and explained that he knew that he would never be able to enjoy the fruits of his labour, but he was watering the plant for the future generations' benefit. Also I love the walk and the purpose this plant gives me

MORAL OF THE STORY:

We often look for results and many of our actions are directed toward getting results. This is a beautiful story to remind us all that sometimes the action itself is the reward and we need not always focus on the results



**SELF
IMPROVEMENT
AND GRAMMAR**

School

Word Scramble



Unscramble each group of letters to form a school word.

1. PCLIEEN _____

2. EKDS _____

3. HACRI _____

4. DCOINTAIYR _____

5. TTSE _____

6. OOWEHMKR _____

7. TYSDU _____

8. EANLR _____

9. ECTEAHR _____

10. CYSNRAO _____

11. SEDNTTU _____

12. RDIAEGN _____

13. WTNIGR _____

14. LNPEIGSL _____

15. CMEUTPOR _____

FINISH!

LIST 5 RED OBJECTS

MOVE TO FINISH

YOU LOSE A TURN

LIST 5 COUNTRIES

MAKE AN ALLITERATION

MOVE AHEAD ONE STEP

SPELL IT

LIST 5 CARTOONS

ROLL AGAIN

LIST 5 ADJECTIVES

NAME A COMPOUND NOUN

ACT IT OUT

LIST 5 BODY PARTS

TELL AN SYNONYM

LIST 5 NOUNS

ASK A QUESTION

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

LIST 5 FRUITS

SIT, RELAX

GO BACK TO START

MAKE A SENTENCE

LIST 5 FOODS

TELL AN ANTONYM

SKIP AHEAD FIVE STEPS

YOU LOSE A TURN

LIST 5 ANIMALS

SPELL IT

START

OTHER WAYS TO SAY

Someone is **CORRECT**

- ✓ Absolutely.
- ✓ Exactly.
- ✓ That's it.
- ✓ That's spot on.
- ✓ There is nothing to add on that.
- ✓ Yes, that's right.
- ✓ Yes, that's very correct.
- ✓ You are quite right.
- ✓ You could say so.
- ✓ You have hit a nail on the head.
- ✓ You're dead right.
- ✓ I'm afraid so.



Someone is **INCORRECT**

- ✗ Actually, I don't think...
- ✗ Actually, I think you'll find that...
- ✗ I don't think you're right about...
- ✗ I'm afraid that's not quite right.
- ✗ I'm afraid you're mistaken.
- ✗ No, that's all wrong. 
- ✗ No, you've got it wrong.
- ✗ Oh no, that's not correct
- ✗ Sorry, you're mistaken here
- ✗ Where did you hear that?
- ✗ If you check your facts, you'll find...



ENGLISH IDIOMS



The lights are on, but nobody's home.

➔ This person isn't very smart.



When pigs fly

➔ Never!

Kick the Bucket

➔ a euphemism meaning "to die"



As Cool As a Cucumber

➔ very calm, especially when this is surprising.

Until you're blue in the face



➔ until you're completely exhausted



Storm in a Teacup (u.k)

➔ a lot of unnecessary anger and worry about a unimportant matter

Hold Your Horses



➔ wait! stop and think!



A Piece Of Cake

➔ something very easy to do.

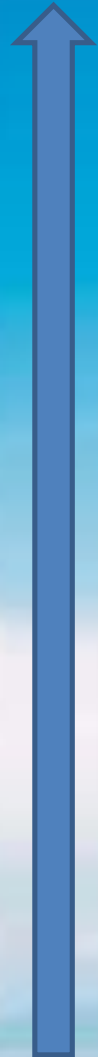
Everything but the kitchen sink



➔ everything that you can think of; every possible thing in a given situation

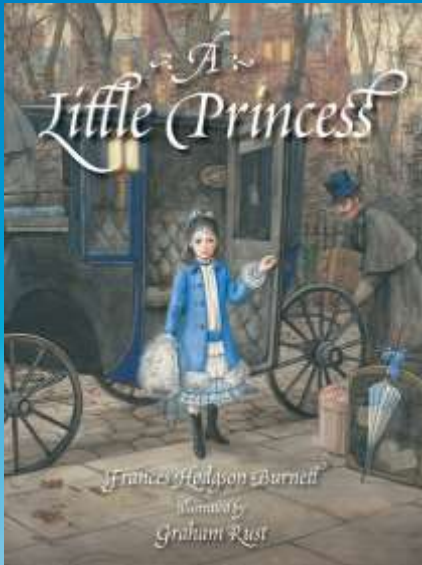
Word Cline of “frequency”

—always
—usually
—normally
—frequently
—often
—sometimes
—occasionally
—seldom
—rarely
—hardly ever
never



*Reading is never
a waste of time.*

Suggested Read



A Little Princess is a children's novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett, first published as a book in 1905. It is an expanded version of the short story "Sara Crewe: or, What Happened at Miss Minchin's", which was serialized in *St. Nicholas Magazine* from December 1887, and published in book form in 1888.

The theme is remaining good and kind and maintaining hope in the face of misfortune. *A Little Princess* tells the story of a young girl, Sara Crewe, and her changing fortunes after her father's death. She attends boarding school in England, where at first she is pampered and cared for.

However, things change when her father dies. She gets treated like a servant. Read and find out if her life got better.

It is a classic read. Try it!



Literary Challenge

FIND THE POETS OF THESE CLASSIC POEMS

1. Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening
2. The Red Wheelbarrow
3. The Waste Land
4. The Road Not Taken
5. Daddy
6. Ozymandias
7. Oh Captain, My Captain
8. I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud
9. The Rime of The Ancient Mariner
10. Hope is The Thing With Feathers



For your original articles, poetry, puzzles, crosswords, fun facts, comic strips, or any relevant write-up to be published in “The Ingenious Finesse”, kindly submit your original creations to your respective English Teachers.

