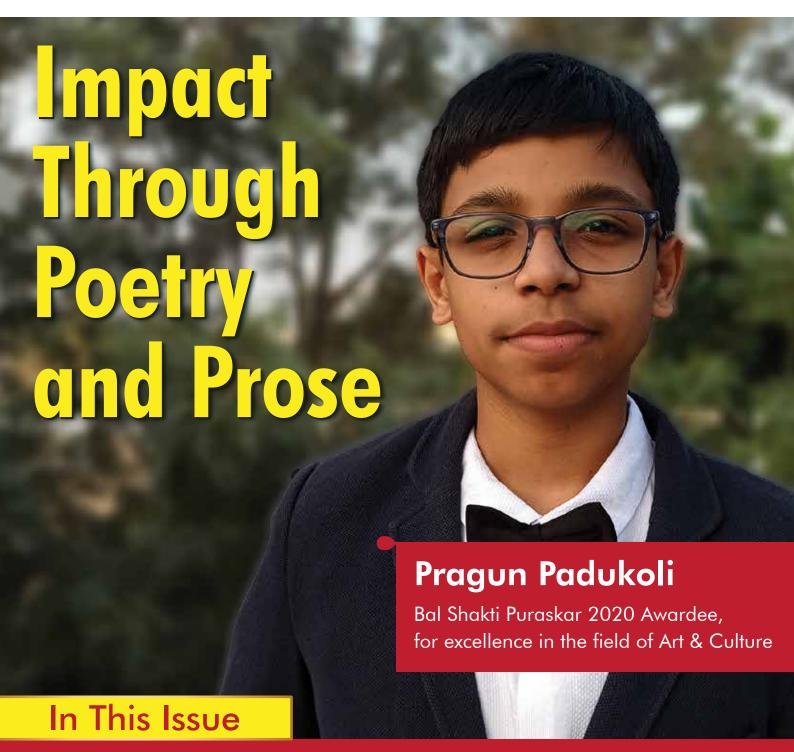


The Home of the Knowledge Community!



Knowledge Tribe Short Story Writing Contest - Winning Entries



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IMPACT THROUGH POETRY AND PROSE



Pragun Padukoli is a prolific writer. He has been awarded the 'Bal Shakti Puraskar 2020' by the Government of India, for his excellence in the field of Art & Culture. More than 40 of Pragun's works have been featured in various magazines and newspapers.

Knowledge Tribe: Congratulations on winning the 'Bal Shakti Puraskar 2020'! How did your journey begin?

Pragun Padukoli: Thank you! I started writing at the age of 6. I initially started writing for fun and just to write down my thoughts at that time. I also used to read children's magazines and newspapers. When I was in my second grade, I saw a contest in a magazine where we had to write a story on a picture that was given. It was like a picture composition, but you had to write a short story. I had a story in mind and wrote it down so that I would not forget it. I decided to send it to them because I had nothing to lose, but a lot to gain if it got published. Then, that short story got published in the magazine. This gave me the thought that people may be interested in my work. So, that served as the first boost in my journey in this field.

KT: How was your experience receiving the award and interacting with the other awardees?

PP: I got to receive the 'Bal Shakti Puraskar 2020' award from the President of India in the prestigious Durbar Hall. I was fascinated by the fact that I was to receive this award in the place where all the great Indian awards such as the Arjuna Award, Bharat Ratna and the Vir Chakras are given. It was a great honour for me to win the award from the Executive Head of State and First Citizen of our country, the President of our country, Mr. Ram Nath Kovind. I also received multiple text messages and calls after the ceremony, where people who I knew talked about how they had watched me on Doordarshan, which aired this programme. All the awardees were much respected in Delhi, where we received the award.

Many people asked to take photos and



selfies with us. We were also approached by the press many times and were asked to give interviews to them.



When I met the other awardees, they also gave me some inspiration. They inspired me to continue working in this field. It was also very great for me to be with like-minded people and those who had done a lot of work in their respective fields. It was happy that I was in a group who have put in the work and excelled in their respective fields. I was especially amazed by those in the field of bravery. The children in this category were much younger than me and had showed great signs of bravery while rescuing and saving other people's lives.

KT: Who or what has inspired you the most?

PP: Shakespeare style of writing has inspired me to write in not only the format of dramas, but also poetry. His poetry is mostly sonnets, but his format of drama has given me ideas and inspired me to write in that form. It has helped me to apply it in poetry or novels and epics, which I have found a new love for. Wordsworth has also inspired me a lot in the field of poetry, where he talks

about how poetry is a form of expressing emotions and not based on rhyme or other figures of speech.



KT: Who is your favourite author(s)?

PP: My favourite author is Rabindranath Tagore. In most of Rabindranath Tagore's short stories, he seems to have talked about the truth and what had been prevalent in the Indian society. His stories bring out genuine emotions in me – be sorrow or happiness. I admire authors like him, who can bring out deep emotions in the reader.



KT: You have worked as a guest editor for multiple publications. How was your experience?

PP: Being a guest editor for multiple magazines and newspapers was amazing. It gave me the experience of reading and editing articles that were contributed by others to the magazines. It also made me feel that I brought about some alteration in the magazine, when they would ask me for changes and then, incorporate some of them. It made me feel that I had an impact.





KT: You were recognised for the NASA Ames Space Settlement Contest 2017. Tell us a little more about it.

PP: NASA Ames Space Settlement Contest is a contest sponsored by NASA. It is a contest where one has to submit a work regarding one's ideas for a space settlement; how a space settlement ought to be. I consider this contest as my second boost of confidence, the first being my story getting published for the first time in a magazine.

In this contest, I won the second prize in the 'Literary Merit' Category. This was an international competition, which I believe had thousands of submissions for all around the globe. Winning in the 'Literary Merit' category gave me some confidence regarding my writing in the science fiction world.

I won this award for 'Ida's Finds: Life Beyond the Nimbus', which was a novella that I wrote. I mainly put forward my ideas and innovations regarding how the space settlements should be. I also covered the dystopian future of the earth and how people were forced to leave earth because of this, thus, making an attempt to try to stir up people to bring about some change and solve the issues of climate change and global warming; issues that our world faces today.

KT: What are your other hobbies and interests, apart from writing?

PP: I am also an avid quizzer in the Bangalore Quizzing Circuit and have attended Pickbrain's quizzes. I have (my team) won the Presidency Challenge 2018 Quiz, which was hosted by him.

Along with these, I have won other quizzes and have been the finalists in many as well.

I have also done many science and technological projects in the field of Research and Development and have attended National and State Level Science Fairs multiple times and won prizes there. ISRO has awarded me for my innovations. I am a member of the Junior Academy, a group of elite problem solvers formed by the New York Academy of Science. With these passions, I also have an interest in debating and MUNning and have been participating in such competitions.



KT: How do you manage your passion for writing, examinations and school?

PP: I have got inspiration multiple times while studying and during exams. I usually do not get time to write during such times and usually write down the idea in a book and keep all that in a single place. If I forget about it, I will see it and remember it again when I open that book. But most of the time, I remember it and write it after the exams when I have nothing to do. Sometimes,



if I feel that I have completed most of the syllabus, I write during breaks that I take from studying. During regular school days, I try to complete my homework as fast as possible and devote my time for my writing and other passions. Also, if a student is attentive in class, that is an added advantage as only a little time is needed to read and revise the concepts.



KT: What has so far been your best experience?

PP: My best experience so far has been participating in the Republic Day Parade this year (2020). We were in decorated army jeeps. The viewers and spectators congratulated us and gave us standing ovation. The President, the Prime Minister and the Chief Guest, the Brazilian President, Jair Bolsonaro waved back at us. The Republic Day announcers announced the names of the awardees to the whole country! That was amazing to be able to participate in one of the grandest ceremonies that our country celebrates.



KT: What are your future plans?

PP: I plan to continue to write and invest time in this field. I will read more and understand how other authors have written and what impact it has made. I will try to incorporate that into my own writing to bring about a similar, if not higher, impact through my writing. I want to write to bring about change and help humanity in solving its problems. I want to be someone who can proudly say that I had something to do; that I had a role to play in the movements that we will go through in the future to make earth a better place for living as well as a habitat for not just humans, but for animals and plants too.



KT: What message would you like to convey to children who are passionate about writing?

PP: Writing, like art, is about your own style. It is all about following your own style. Learn along the way from other fellow writers and try to incorporate those things, words and techniques that you felt were unique, impactful or simply amazed you into your own writing.





SIX; AFTER SEVEN

The sun's punches, bites and kicks

And the iron finger of God

Have made trees with charcoal leaves.

The six continents have become The Sahara here.

Six, did I say? Yup, seven had been the number Before the sun killed one.

The seventh one's blood now boils The edges of this Sahara.

"Is this a dystopian?" you ask. Nay, this is but Hell's Utopia.

-Pragun Pudukoli





Key Updates

- Astronomers have discovered an exo-planet named WASP-76b where it rains iron.
- Scientists have discovered the skull of a hummingbird sized dinosaur that was trapped in a 99-million-year amber in Northern Myanmar.
- 139 minor planets have been discovered by scientists circling the edge of the Solar System beyond Neptune.



Are you good at writing?



Have you clicked any beautiful photograph?

Have you painted a masterpiece?



Here is a chance to get recognised !



Send us your writings, paintings or any of your wonderful creations to: neha@knowledgetribe.in
And we will publish it in our Knowledge Tribe magazine.





We Recommend...



All You Need to Know About 'Alphorns'

An alphorn is a unique musical instrument generally used by the people in the mountains of Swiss Alps, Bavarian Alps and Alpine Alps. Did you know that it is also known as alpine horn? To know more about this wonderful musical instrument, watch this video.

Click to Watch



All You Need to Know About the Hanoi's Water Puppets

The water puppet show in Hanoi is a representation of a traditional Vietnamese theatre show that dates back centuries.

Did you know that the art of puppetry was conceived by the farmers in the Red River Delta, when their fields were flooded with water? Know all about the puppet show in this video.

Click to Watch



Mawlynnong Village – God's Own Garden

Mawlynnong Village of Meghalaya is considered as Asia's cleanest village. It is also known as 'God's Own Garden'.

Did you know that smoking and throwing plastics in this village is prohibited? Know all about the village in this video.

Click to Watch



Giri 'Pickbrain' Balasubramaniam

Giri Balasubramaniam, better known as 'Pickbrain', is a noted quizmaster and co-founder of Greycaps, Asia's largest onstage quizzing and knowledge services company. He and his team have presented over 2,000 quiz shows across the world.

We at the Knowledge
Tribe, bring Pickbrain's
exclusive quiz
challenge to you.
Are you ready?



Pickbrain's Challenge

- 1. Which famous writer would you associate with books like 'The Lord of the Rings' and 'Beren and Luthien'?
 - a. J.R.R. Tolkien
- b. George R.R. Martin
- 2. 'Male' is the capital of which island nation?
 - a. Mali
- b. Maldives
- 3. Which famous woman was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018, along with Denis Mukwege Mukengere?
 - a. Nadia Murad
- b. Malala Yousafzai
- 4. From which city in England did the RMS Titanic start its historic sail, on April 10, 1912?
 - a. Liverpool
- b. Southampton



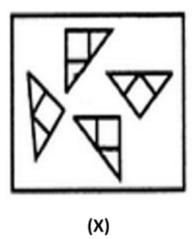


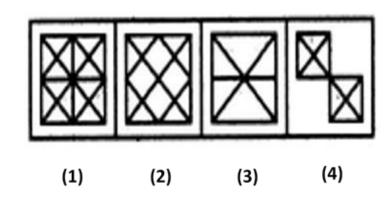
Tease Your Brain

Mail us your answers to neha@knowledgetribe.in

1

Find out which of the figures (1), (2), (3) and (4) can be formed from the pieces given in figure (X).





2

What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?







The Knowledge Tribe YouTube channel is a platform where we host informative and fun videos on a variety of topics. This month, we introduce you to a few of these videos, which you will absolutely love watching.



Click to Watch

Knowledge Tribe shares a few lesser-known facts about Adolf Hitler. Did you know that in 1938 he was declared 'Man of the Year' by the Time Magazine? To know much more interesting facts about the world-famous dictator, watch this video.



Click to Watch

Knowledge Tribe shares how air pollution is affecting our health every day.

Did you know that out of the top 20 most polluted cities in the world, 15 cities are from India? To know more about air pollution and how it is blanketing the fresh environment, watch this video.

Subscribe to the Knowledge Tribe YouTube channel and stay tuned for more such interesting videos!

TRIBE

Your



Knowledge Tribe Short Story Writing Contest

IF I LAND ON MARS





Aakriti Disha Mohanty

Class 4 National Public School, Gottigere, Bengaluru



Mars is the fourth planet from the sun. Looking up at Mars from Earth the planet Mars appears fiery red. Mars is named after the Roman God of war. Everyone has a dream and one of my dreams is to go to Mars for a wonderful joyride. Since it is positioned just next to the earth the scientists and astronomers stand by a strong belief that there could be possibility of life on this planet. There have been very strong evidences about the presence of water and oxygen on Mars that have always raised hopes about the probability of life on Mars. Mars, I have learnt, has had apparent seasonal colour changes on its surface.

As a child I have always had a dream of going to Mars to understand the climate there. Scientists have been sending spacecrafts and rovers on Mars for research purpose. If I were on Mars, I would try and learn the rocks, soil, sky and weather conditions on Mars in detail. Travelling to different places on the planet Mars I would try to experience the variation in climate there. I really wish there could be possibility of human civilizations in Mars.

If I ever land on Mars I would make it a beautiful place to live. Simple living and greenery everywhere. We children live in our own world, a world away from reality, full of dreams. Life is full of ups and downs and I dream of my little world in Mars as a child. Cute little homes with greenery all around, freshwater lakes, streams running down, fresh waterfalls where we all little children can take showers and enjoy. Climb mountains that are full of trees, go around and round, play, jump and have fun.

If I land on Mars, going to every corner of Mars will be my main aim. My bucket list as a child is huge and long and travelling to MARS is one of the them. The Mars 2020 rover mission is part of NASA's Mars Exploration Program, a long-term effort of robotic exploration of the Red Planet. This mission also provides opportunities to gather knowledge and demonstrate technologies that address the challenges of future human expeditions to Mars. I wish I could be a surprise part of this wonderful team, a young



Indian and make my countries name Proud. I wish by landing on Mars being the first human on Mars I make my parents, country and my school really proud of me and my achievements.

As humans we have destroyed our beautiful planet Earth, cutting of trees, polluting the atmosphere, over population, garbage disposal has been a huge issue on Earth. But I wish as a responsible child of next generation I will ensure the beauty of Mars is kept intact. Away from pollution a neat and clean planet and make it a better place for You and Me and the whole Universe and I believe there are always ways to get there If you care enough for the living make a better place for everyone to live.

Ajay M. S Class 4 SNS Academy, Coimbatore

My Mum always told me that I have the special power of surviving without water for months together. My friends would laugh at me and ask if I was from Mars. That's how visiting Mars became my ambition. At the first opportunity, I packed my bags and left for the new planet, the red planet. After I land on Mars, I leave my spaceship and immediately ask myself "I can't believe it! I am on Mars! But, what can I do on Mars? It's kind of lonely here". Then, I started to explore. I found nothing. Then, I found the biggest volcano ever. It was erupting. I collected the lava. I tried to craft something. I remember reading that Mars might be rich in iron. Then I started mining. I researched the rocks and stones. I found out that they contain iron rich minerals. I was shocked. I made an axe first and started getting more and more iron. Then, the volcano was still erupting. I kept on collecting the lava. I kept on mining. I kept on making iron. Then I asked myself "I have so much Iron, I don't know what to do with it". Then I got an idea. What is it you may ask. I am going to make Mars an amusement park with thousands of rides. Two months and 19 days of collecting lava and building, it came true, thousands and thousands of rides. I name it 'VOLCANOTASTIC'. But as I sat there admiring my work, it dawned on me that there is no water in Mars!! What will I do if children start coming and I don't have water? I sit there worried!



That's when at a distance I see a light. As it gets brighter, I reaslise that it is another spaceship passing through Mars. I try to flag the ship to check on the visitors. To my surprise I see couple of Aliens!! Oh my God, my experience in Mars is getting bigger and bigger. How should I talk to them? What language do I use with them? Will they know English? Will they understand me? As I was contemplating on my language thoughts one of the Aliens just asked me "How are you today"? What? Did I just hear them speak English? Seeing my surprise, the Aliens gave me the answer that they can recognise our language just by seeing into our eyes!! As I try to strike a conversation and get to know their planet, I come to know that their planet has plenty of Water! Water, one thing that my Red planet lacks now. My mission now is to get Water from the Aliens. What do I offer them in return? Then I see my special axe, the one I made with the lava from Volcano. I show them and they are totally amused. They would like to have few of such axes. Wow! There I strike a deal with the aliens. They will supply me with water and I shall give them the axes. I also offered them 50% off on the tickets to my amusement park. They are so happy about it. They promise to bring all their friends and families to spend time in my 'VOLCANOTASTIC'. There I was in Mars talking to the Aliens and planning for an inter-planetary exchange. Come on isn't this an extraordinary trip. With all the arrangements made I am opening my amusement park soon. Everyone please pre-book your tickets as they are soon to be sold out!!

Leon Dinish Class 4 Christ ICSE School, Bangalore



One day, in my school library, I read a book called 'About Mars'. That time, I was thinking to go to Mars on my own rocket! The next day, I told my parents, friends and my relatives about my trip to Mars. They said be careful, it is very hot in the planet. Then I said its okay, I will come back soon. Then, I got into my rocket and flew to Mars!

It took many days to reach there and finally I reached. I landed on Mars and I felt it was too hot. Suddenly, somebody was coming towards me. They were Aliens!!! They look friendly but they got scared and hid behind a stone. When they saw me, they just clapped their hands and suddenly the whole planet changed!!! There were more



plants than sand. It turned cool and the whole planet was beautiful as Earth. Then I slowly went near them and slowly patted on their head and said, "I will never hurt you,

don't be scared." Then, they smiled and said something in their language, but I could not understand it. but they could understand English. Then, we became good friends. They took me to their castle and gave me food to eat. When I tasted it, it was like chocolate mixed with ice cream. Then I asked, "could you please share your castle with me tonight?" They said Gya – Gya happily. Then they showed me a nice sparkling room in their castle. I was very happy. That night, as I had brought a story book with me to Mars, I read them many bedtime stories. The next day, after eating breakfast, we played many games. I



had brought a ball with me to Mars, I thought them the game of football. They liked it very much and they thought me a game in their planet. They call it blu-blu-blu in their language. I liked the game they thought me. Then they took me to their playground. There I saw many more aliens. Some aliens had 1 eye, some had 10 and some had thousand. But none of them had 2. Then, they took me to the alien library, and I read many books. Fortunately, some of the books were in English. Then one alien took a book among many books and gave me. When I read it, it showed the pictures and names of all creatures who live in Mars. I bought that book, but they didn't want money!!! They give the books for free to guests who come to visit their planet. When it was nighttime, the aliens were eagerly waiting to hear bedtime stories. I read them many. The next day, they showed me some alien birds and rare creatures in their planet. I asked them, "these things are amazing but on Earth I have heard that this planet has only sand and is very hot. But now the planet has a library! A playground! And many other cool places". One alien took a book from the castle's cupboard and gave me. The book's title was "Secrets That People On Earth Do not Know" When I read the book it said aliens have magic powers, they can turn any planet beautiful, warm, hot, cold and dirty when they just clap their hands. Then I thought to read the book later.

The next day, it was time for me to leave. All the aliens were so sad. As a gift they gave me many space toys and alien toys and in return, I gave them my ball and storybook. They were happy. I said, "one day, even you can come to visit Earth." They said Gya-Gya. I got into my rocket and said bye to the aliens and flew to Earth. After many days when I reached Earth, I told my parents, friends and relatives about what I saw on Mars. But no one believed me. When I showed them my toys they still didn't believe in aliens. I think the book's title was right,

"Secrets That People On Earth Do Not Know"





S. Murali Karthick

Class 4
The PSBB Millennium School,
Gerugambakkam, Chennai



Introduction

My parents are taskmasters. They want me to read always something new. I have a special interest in knowing the scientific truths about the solar system. I want to study a lot about their nature and rotation. There are many fictions about every planet. They are all amazing! To date, there is no proof of life on any planet.

Life at Mars

Should there be any restriction to one's dreams? No. Abdul Kalam said, "Dream big". He is my Role model. I just imagine that I land on Mars with my close friends. Mars is also called as 'The Red planet'. It is named after the Roman God of war. The astral journey would be through a Manned Satellite. This will certainly sound to be a fantasy. But who knows? Did we ever imagine a century ago, that we will watch TV? Search in the Internet? Play with our mobile phones? I will say" a big No". So, yesterday's fantasy may become a tomorrow's reality. Hopefully, there is enough oxygen to breath in Mars. Also, enough water and plants, at least for a population of few hundreds. Let the temperature is also liveable. Too many assumptions.? But life in any planet starts with faith only!

Our first job will be to build shelters. Then with my team, I will collect and store water to drink. I will carry with me some rice, wheat, fruits, vegetables, torch lights and hurricane lamps, sufficient, atleast for one month. The first visitors will have to elect a leader. He will have the powers of a king. Hopefully I am that king. I will have the pride that I rule a planet. I will appoint a few wise people as my Ministers. I will arrange to lay proper roads. There are no cars or buses, not even bicycles. Walking is the only option. Walking is a good exercise. Slowly we will grow rice, wheat and vegetables. It will provide simple food.

We will search for oil wells. Hopefully we spot one. we dig, get oil for hurricane lamps. This should go on till we are successful in generating electricity using waterfalls.





Education is the priority in any planet. So, I will order my Ministers to first build primary schools. Some grown up boys will be made teachers. Small kids will be admitted as students. They will spend less time in studying and more time in playing. No homework and no examinations. There will not be any cell phones. We have to meet each other and talk. It is good for health and mind. There will not be any TV network. It is good for eyes. No waste of time. Friends should gather and share stories. It will be simple but enjoyable.

Then we will construct a small clinic to treat children. They may catch cold and get fever in the very chill weather. I should remember to take one doctor and medicines with me. It is ok, if they are only M.B.B.S. doctors and not Child specialists.

Conclusion

After creating bare minimum facilities, I will return to Earth. I will tell people how happy we are in Mars; fresh air, no pollution, no borders, no quarrels, no fighting, no courts, less population, more food, more water, more freedom etc. There was a big shouting, "take us also, take us also, earth is no good, huge population, no rains, not enough food, heavy traffic, noise and pollution, too many rules. I said "Yes, yes, hopefully you will obey my orders, won't question my kingship in Mars"! "Yes, Yes, certainly", they responded cheerfully!

Heeransh Seth Class 3 Kothari International School, Pune

One day, I was going in my red spacecraft called "Bahubali" and I landed on the Red Planet called Mars. I landed with my astronaut suit in the space and walked on mars. I was surprised to see that there was no gravity on mars! I kept bouncing on mars and felt little scared. There was lots of dust on mars surface and it was Red in colour.

Over there, I saw many aliens. They were looking just like humans, but they ate rocks and sand, and were nice to each other. There were lots of coloured aliens. Most of them had more than 2 eyes, 3 legs and 4 hands. Their ears were big and pointed with sharp teeth and dark nose.



I met a small alien who had tentacles of an octopus with a small head. His name was Cord. He became my good friend. He took me to gigantic volcano which was three times of Mount Fuji. We swam in volcanoes because my suit was fireproof and also skied on mountains. I was enjoying my journey in mars.

One day, while I was leaving Mars, Cord came running towards me and asked for my help in saving his planet from invasion by other aliens known as Triceratops. I offered my help. I used a laser gun to shoot the invaders down. I shot down most of their spacecrafts, but I also got shot on my chest. I put a band aid on my chest which was bleeding. I took cover and shot them all. After the battle, Cord gave me first-aid and healed me. He took me to his house which was very large and beautiful. It had 7 rooms and I also met his family and friends. Cord had 2 sisters and 3 brothers. I enjoyed by meal in Cord's house. I gave him my Laser Gun to protect his community from invaders.

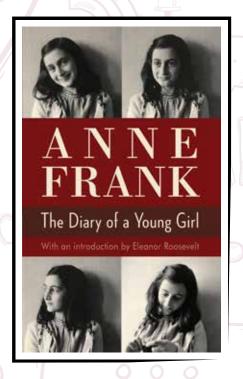
The same day another invader of T-Rex came to Mars for destruction. They had full black color armor and big Laser Guns. Cord asked for my help and together we could defeat the T-Rex army.

Later that day, Cord showed me all the mysterious animals, vegetation and beautiful rivers on his planet.

Later that day, I bid farewell to my friends and requested them to also visit Earth and I returned to my planet EARTH.







Book- The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

What it's about: It is the diary kept by Anne Frank while she was in hiding at the time of World War II.

What we like about it: The real experience of the teenage girl during the time of War, how she managed to hide and what she was going through.



https://www.amazon.in/Diary-Young-Girl-Anne-Frank/dp/8193387600/ref=sr_1_3?keywords=anne+frank+diary+of+a+young+girl&qid=1584339994&sr=8-3

YouTube- TED-Ed

What it's about: Educational videos.

What we like about it: The videos are animated, educational and interesting. It maintains a balance between information and entertainment.



https://www.patreon.com/teded



TED-Ed

TED-Ed's commitment to creating lessons worth sharing is an extension of TED's mission of spreading great ideas.

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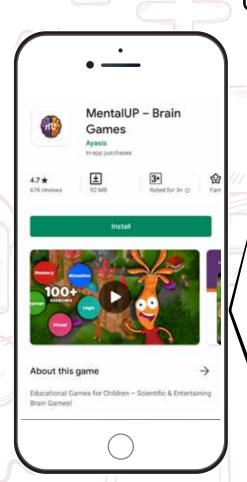
Website- Spatulatta

What it's about: Cooking website for kids.

What we like about it: How the recipes talk about geography and history.



http://spatulatta.com/



App- Mental UP brain games

What it's about: Educational and Entertainment application.

What we like about it: The brain teasers, those are beneficial for the kids to construct their logical abilities.



https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ayasis.mentalup



celebrating

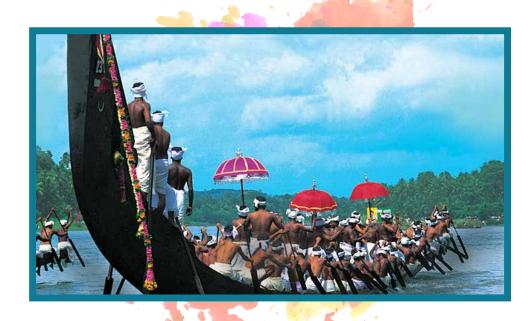
Vallamkali

Vallam Kali is a traditional boat race in Kerala. It is a form of canoe racing and uses paddled war canoes. It is mainly conducted during the season of the harvest festival Onam. The game includes races of many kinds of paddled longboats - the traditional boats of Kerala. The race of Chundan Vallam or snake boat is the most popular game.

Each of the villages in the region has its own snake boat and every year the villagers get together and race the boats along the lakes and rivers.

The snake boats of Kerala have over 400 years of history associated with them. The story goes back to the time when the kings of Alleppey and surrounding areas fought with each other in boats along the canals. A king who suffered the losses assigned a carpenter to build a better boat and the snake boat was born.

The Chundan Vallamkali or snake boat race is of two types. One is the competitive type like the Nehru Trophy Boat Race and the other is a ritual based like Aranmula Boat Race. The former boat race is fun and competitive in nature whereas, the latter has more to do with devotion, rituals and prayers.



Bonus Fact:

- The Nehru Trophy snake boat race is held in the memory of late Prime Minister
 Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.
- The typical snake boats are 100 to 200 feet long and hold around 100 rowers.