



# DEEN-A-LOGUE

NEWS LETTER / SEP 2021-22

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

A month of Assessments and Examinations did not stop the creative activities in the Middle School. Fairy Tales were narrated from different perspectives; Ballads(Narrative Poems) were composed innovatively and Silent Era of the Movies revisited. Here are the reports from the various departments written by the students. Do read and appreciate.

Thank you.

### ***BALLAD –The Siege of Vienna***

**-Composed by 8B Team- Amogh, Aidan, Aravind, Amita, Mueez, Skyler**

The ballad is about the Siege of Vienna (1529) in which an Ottoman army led by Suleiman, the Great attacked Vienna, which was the capital of the Austrian empire, another kingdom near the Ottoman empire.

Even though the Ottomans had a bigger army, The Niklas Slam led Austrian army emerged victorious because the Ottomans were not prepared for the heavy snow and the rainy weather of Vienna.

#### **The ballad is as follows-**

The year was 1529, With the Ottoman Empire at its prime,  
The capital of the Austrian empire they wanted to capture,  
And for this Vienna would be faced with a serious rupture.  
They attacked the city with over 100,000 men, strong and capable,  
especially brazen  
But there were very few to fight,  
The Ottomans with their meagre might.  
Niklas Slam commanded 21000 defenders,  
To fight the Sulieman-led offenders.  
The Austrians drove the Ottomans away  
And this they did with barely a price to pay.  
The Ottomans were poorly led.  
The men were badly fed.  
They fell to the raging rain,  
Which drove them quite insane.  
The rains caused the men to fall,  
Even the mightiest, even the tall.

### ***Battle of France***

**Composed by 8B Team- Ansh, Advay, Joanna, Omkrita, Arini, Agastya**

Battle of France, (May 10–June 25, 1940), during World War II, the German invasion of the Low Countries and France. In just over six weeks, German armed forces overran Belgium and the Netherlands, drove the British Expeditionary Force from the Continent, captured Paris, and forced the surrender of the French government.

We lived and worked in harsh conditions  
And used signals for transmissions.  
Our days usually passed this way,  
And we had to be austere everyday

Our days used to end in a sorrow  
Not even a single helping hand to borrow  
Each day would go by,  
Without any children nearby

The day the war was announced  
Our houses were renounced  
We travelled along far away  
Working hard night and day

The war was bloody and cold  
But we were forced to stay bold  
We fought till our last breath  
'Cause everyone is afraid of death

All that blood and hate,  
Turned out to be nothing great  
This was nothing but a game of pain  
So I hope to never see it again.

Thank You



### ***The Road to Elysium***

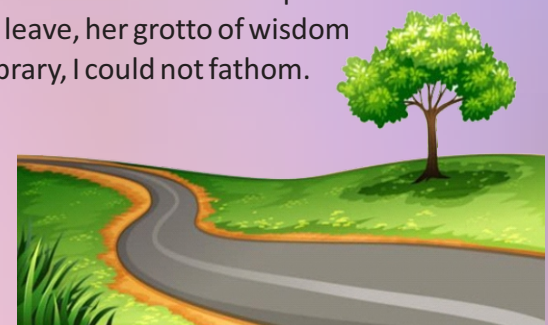
**Composed by Team 8B- Sobith, Srinika, Ruhi, Yuvraj, Sailaasya, Alaina**

**PLOT:** - A boy discovers a book about the ancient road and explores all interesting facts.  
Every touch, every step, through the shelf I went  
The book so vibrant it allured me to see,  
The adventures it might present  
Little did I know about the stories in front of me  
A story that began at the colosseum  
And followed the road to Elysium .

The road to Elysium, convolute and prolong,  
Said the concise book which added to my train of thought.  
Every stride, every breath, taken on the road amongst the unknown throng  
Because of the query in my heart, the end of the road I sought.

I finally reached the end, such an enchanting place Elysium, the end, my oasis  
of pride, the prize of my race.  
In the middle of the sea of knowledge, something disturbed me  
The hand tapped the shoulder, Flummoxed I was!

The face whom I dared not to see  
As I looked up to check who it was  
She commanded me to leave, her grotto of wisdom  
The conqueror of the library, I could not fathom.



### ***A Ballad ??***

A poem or song narrating a story in short stanzas. Traditional ballads are typically of unknown authorship, having been passed on orally from one generation to the next.

Ballads were particularly characteristic of the popular poetry and song of Britain and Ireland from the Late Middle Ages until the 19th century.

The earliest example of a recognizable ballad in form in England is "Judas" in a 13th-century manuscript.

By the 15th century, Geoffrey Chaucer began to fine-tune the structure of the ballata to create the modern ballad.



## THE SILENCE OF THE PAST - A Report by Diya Kumar (8D)

Watching a 1921-released-film 'The Lucky Dog' starring Laurel and Hardy was indeed an enjoyable way to spend a Friday afternoon. Laurel and Hardy were a comedy duo act during the early Classical Hollywood era of American cinema, consisting of Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy. They had first appeared on-screen together in 'The Lucky Dog', but not as the comedy duo still popular today. In the film, Stan Laurel was the protagonist of the movie, whereas, Oliver was a side-kick.

We, being young children of the 21st century haven't witnessed the journey of filmmaking. By watching this movie, we realized that, watching movies in the 1920's was an exceedingly different experience from the present times. It was much like a travel back in time! When we are at the theatre, many-a-times, we don't seem to realize the enormous effort put in to make, and project a single movie. From travelling theatres to bioscopes to celluloid films to nickelodeons to silent movies to talkies, the evolution of story-telling is one to know.



## Back to the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century -Sanika Agrawal (8A)

It was 2:00pm when the students of 8<sup>th</sup> grade crowded the walls of the virtual meeting room. The atmosphere was lively with bated breath for what the study tour held in store for us. While last year's virtual field trip took us to the valleys of Greece and the pillars of Parthenon, this one made its way to the silent era of movies.

The old-fashioned clip without voiceovers managed to impress us teenagers of the modern generation. This clip was an episode of 'The Lucky Dog' (1921) starring Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy together in a film, prior to them becoming the famous comedy duo of Laurel and Hardy. The meeting room was flooded with the reactions of laughter and applause.

I felt like I was back at the cinemas with an audience of 140 spectators after 2 years of staying at home. This was a great idea presented by our English teachers Shobhana Ma'am and Baljeet Ma'am to help us understand our textbook chapter 'From Storytelling to Film-making'. We gained knowledge about the gradual evolution in narration of stories.

The cave drawings in ancestral years were followed by storytelling in groups. From these, came the acts on stages and Shakespeare's role plays. Travelling theatre was born. This was followed by people trying to record motion pictures. The Cinematography developed and finally shooting black and white silent films was possible.

Now we have the coloured talking movies and a thriving film-making industry. To all the viewers reading this, I urge you to take time out to watch any classic comedy film like *Charlie Chaplin* or *Laurel and Hardy*. It would definitely lift your spirits and lighten your mood. You will feel tempted to say "Sir, you are on mute".



## Educational Trip with a Difference – Silent Movie - Ameya Deshmukh 8B

In a recent article which was passed, it stated that most of the films will be 3D by 2040. But how did the journey of film-making start?

At the onset, most of the entertainment was in the form of plays, ballets and operas which were showcased by making makeshift stages in villages. Later, playhouses or theatres gave them a permanent fixture. Many later grew famous such as the Globe or Shakespeare theatre in England. With inventions in light and sound, the prospect of making a projector and a movie increased. Many significant inventions marked the beginning of movie-making such as the bioscope, celluloid, kinoscope etc. But the early films were black and white, with subtitles in between and with background music. The most famous ones were Charlie Chaplin and Laurel and Hardy were the most famous. In the virtual educational trip organised by our Grade 8 English Teacher – Shobhana ma'am, we watched an episode on Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy titled "Lucky Dog". The most characteristic feature other than the duo was the opening theme song called "The Cuckoo Song" or "The Dance of the Cuckoos". This went on to become one the most famous songs in the history of the television. This movie from the silent era of the 1920s gave us an insight on how the movies were in our past and how 'talkies' evolved from it.

## TRIVIA ON SILENT MOVIES DID YOU KNOW?

The first full-length Indian feature film is **Raja Harishchandra**, a 1913 Indian silent film directed and produced by Dadasaheb Phalke. It is often considered.

The oldest surviving silent film is known as **The Roundhay Garden Scene**. It was recorded on October 14, 1888, by inventor Louis Le Prince in Roundhay, Leeds, West Riding of Yorkshire, England.

Both Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy were accomplished actors before teaming up. Laurel had appeared in over 50 films while Hardy had been in more than 250 productions.

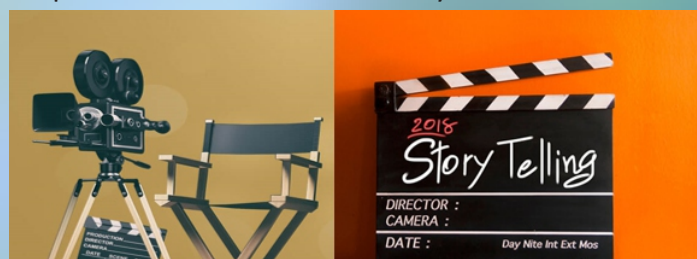


## Silent Era Revisited Kinjal Bansal, 8E

For our "Virtual Study Tour" this year, we watched an episode from an old series. This was taken in context to the chapter "From Storytelling to Film-making" that we learned in our English class. In this chapter we learnt how in the olden days, storytellers told stories & how as time went by, plays were displayed and how the travelling circus worked. As these stories became elaborate, playhouses were set up, to provide a more diverse experience.

We also learned how the first movies were made, how the silent era, the talkies & finally how color was incorporated in the movies. For our field trip we watched "The Lucky Dog" from Laurel and Hardy. Laurel & Hardy was one of the most popular shows of the silent era. Hardy was depicted as a pompous character while Laurel was portrayed as childlike and clumsy. The comedic formula they developed was a combination of utter Brainlessness and eternal optimism or as Laurel described it, "two minds without a single thought." People enjoyed their slapstick comedy. They gained immense popularity by the end of the Silent Era through comic gems like "Putting Pants on Phillip" (1927), "Two Tars" (1928), "Liberty" (1928), & "Big Business" (1929). We watched "The Lucky Dog." It was hilarious! The way the dog saved Laurel's life in the end was truly heartwarming. The whole experience of watching a film in black and white, without any audio, was very new to me and was different. It seems astonishing that this was the way people watched films in the olden days!

I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience of it and will make sure to watch other episodes from Laurel and Hardy.





**Fairy Tales- An Activity in Theater Class**  
**- PRAGATI RAJAN 7C**

A fairy tale is a mythical, short story narrated to young children. Some say that reading fairy tales enhances a child's creativity and some say that we poison children's minds with fairy tales. There are several flaws like the stories being discriminating towards women and that they are fictional and things that occur there cannot relate to real life. But there are many benefits such as increasing the child's creativity and improving their vocabulary.

In our class we narrated different magical fairy tales from the perspective of a specific character in the story. Each student told a different story and it was very interesting to hear the fairy tale from a different viewpoint. The complete story changed, and I loved the different interpretations!

**Twisted Fairy Tales**  
**- Abha Hardikar-VII - E**

Fairy tales are magical fantasies which take us into another world, aren't they? They may be fictional but sometimes, we start to believe that the characters in the story are real. That happens to me too. In one of my theatre classes, our teacher, Sujatha ma'am, gave us a simple activity on fairy tales. We first talked about our own opinions on fairy tales and their content. Few people said that they were fictional and talked about the villains or the evil characters.

A person also said that in fairy tales, good always wins over evil. However, that's not always the case in reality. After that, our teacher told us about the activity we had to do. We had to pick a fairy tale of our choice and narrate the story from one of the characters' point of view. Sujatha ma'am shared her screen to show us a video of the story 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' narrated from Baby Bear's point of view. The writer changed most of the story, adding cell phones and new names in it!

We students then got an idea about what we had to do. The students started to present a miscellaneous set of stories – someone chose the story 'Cinderella' and narrated from the evil stepmother's point of view while another person chose 'Little Red Riding Hood' and narrated from the grandmother's point of view. All participants weaved creative stories on the spot. I, too, narrated a different version of 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin', narrating from a (treated) deaf girl's point of view.

I think most people, including me, enjoyed this activity because it helped us to think more creatively and supported rapid-response thinking. Adding to that, I also think that the topic for this activity was something which everyone knew a lot about since their childhood and it was quite sumptuous! Fantasies, as I said before, show us a world different from the one we live in, and I think this activity did function that way.



**Twist In Fairy Tales**  
**- Sahithi Kakarlapudi, 7B**

My name is Sahithi and I'm from grade 7B. Today I would like to share some fun moments I had in the theater period. The most favorite activity I liked of all was to tell a fairy tale, but from the character's (which you chose) point of view. Everyone knows the story from the narrator's point of view, but as a character, let it be evil or good, the whole story changes giving the thoughts of the character.

For example, the protagonist of the story can be a good person, but from the villain's point of view, the character of the protagonist changes completely therefore changing the story too. I really liked this activity as I got to tell the story of Cinderella, but from the evil step sister's point of view. I got to express my feelings by being in the step sister and it turned the tide.

I was also impressed by seeing my fellow classmates tell different stories in different characters and different emotions. I would like to thank our teacher Sujatha ma'am for coming up with such a nice idea of integrating theater and fairy tales.



**Conversation Building**  
**Report by Akhshaya Rajesh -5A**

Talk show with your friends!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like if you had a talk show with your favourite character, from one of your all-time favourite cartoons? Well, the children in 5A have!

Our English teacher was explaining to us 'Swami and Friends' written by R.K Laxman. Then she announced that we will be doing a Talk Show.



She explained how to do it-

- There needs to be a host who will say a line like – “Hello everyone, my name is>>>>>. Welcome to the Talk Show!”
- There needs to be a co–host who will be introduced by the host.
- There should be at list 5 characters from the book or cartoon you have chosen.
- The host and the co- host will ask questions to the characters (like in Swami and Friends. For example: if the character chosen is Mani, the host will ask why does everyone look up to you?)
- And last but not least the character should answer the question from the character's perspective like how they behave in the cartoon or book.

It was truly an enjoyable activity!!



## The Story of Maa Shailaputri-Devi prayed on the first day of Navaratri Contributed by Pragati Rajan of 7C

Sati was the daughter of Daksha Prajapati and the granddaughter of Brahma. She was deeply in love with lord Shiva, but her father did not approve of him. He thought Shiva was just a dirty ascetic, not meant to marry women of renowned and respectable families. Though Sati's father was against her love for Shiva, she ended up marrying him.

After her marriage, Sati changed her name to Shailaputri. Couple of years later Shailaputri heard that her father was organizing a big yagna and all the gods were invited except for Lord Shiva. She was missing her parents a lot and decided to go even though she didn't receive an invitation. Shiva told her not to go but she didn't listen to him.

As soon as she reached, she was upset that everyone was giving her a cold shoulder. Only her mother welcomed her to the yagna. Devastated, Shailaputri stepped into the fire. Shiva got to know immediately and ran to save her. His wife was half burned by the time he got there.

Shiva turned into Veerabhadra, the angry god, and caused immense destruction. He even beheaded Daksha Prajapati. He then dragged his wife's half burning corpse. Sati's ashes fell in 52 places and these 52 places are called Shakti Peethas. She was reborn as Parvati and married lord Shiva. Shailaputri is considered as one of the most powerful forms of Durga and we pray to her on the first day of the Navratri festival. She is immensely powerful; she rides a bull called Nandi and carries a trident and a lotus. She's known and celebrated for her many glories.

