



Penchant

Reviews on Books, Movies and More...

Volume 7: Founders' , 2021

IN THIS ISSUE:

For It Must Be Read

Pages 2-4
Illusions: The Adventures
of a Reluctant Messiah
David Copperfield
The Trial

Take a Look, Its in a Book

Page 5
What If

For the Good Times

Page 6
Guns of Navarone

Songs That Were Sung

Pages 7-8
Brothers in Arms

Meet The Poet

Pages 9-10
Sylvia Plath
Mirror

Lyrical

Page 11
The Muse

Perspective

Pages 12-13
Heartfulness

Should Junk Food Be Banned (in Schools)?

ECLECTIC

Pages 14-15
Halloween

The Last Word

Page 16
Green, Green Grass, of home



From us, to you:

As we see the roads littered with dried leaves fallen off of trees, a sense of novelty hits us. The crisp, cool breeze that hits us invites a new wave of coziness into our bodies. This season also brings us our very awaited festivities. With Halloween around the corner, and the hustle and bustle of students running across the campus to prepare for the long awaited Founders' celebrations. This issue of Penchant promises to warm the readers' hearts further with books like "illusions" and "David Copperfield" being readdressed along with a few lesser known masterpieces that deserve to our attention.

A pure heart holds the power to warm the coldest of souls, and there is when the intense energy of heartfulness is radiated, in this issue we have peeked into a newer perspective of it's beauty. This time we have shed light upon a legendary poet whose poems hold life enhancing virtues while an iconic movie's redefinition will provide just the perfect platter for the reader to choose from.

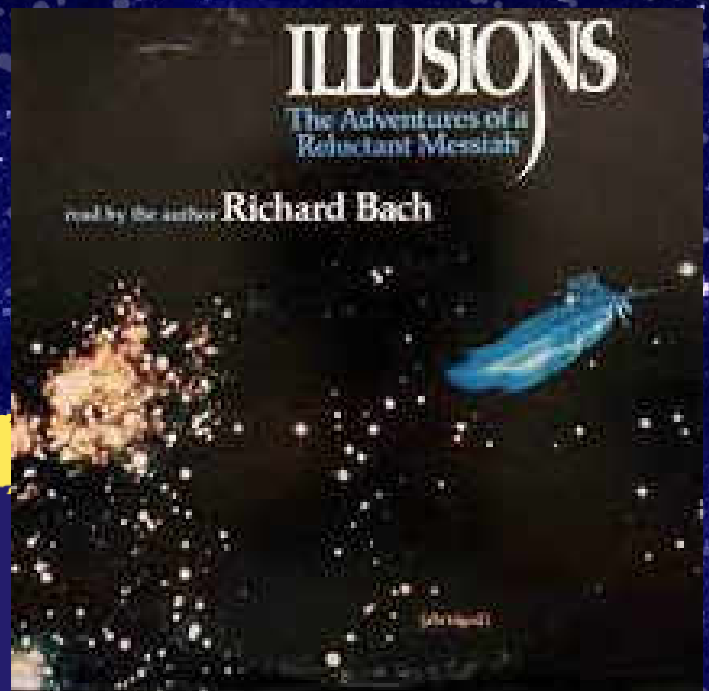
There is no feeling better than being back home, to the family that we have so dearly come to love. Returning back to this campus epitomizes that feeling and as the founders celebrations knock at our doorstep, we hope this issue finds you some calmness that life presents amidst the havoc that we have begun to normalize. we are extremely proud to present the Founders' issue of Penchant, with a little bit of the spookiness of Halloween. Happy reading!



CHINMOY TAMULI
DECHEN SANGAY



FOR IT MUST BE READ



ILLUSIONS: THE ADVENTURES OF A RELUCTANT MESSIAH

Richard Bach remains one of the world's most beloved authors till date with over 60 million copies of his books sold. He was a former USAF fighter pilot and took to writing later in his life. Richard continues to be an avid author chronicling his thoughtful findings to his readers. One such example is his most famous book, "Illusions: The Adventures of a Reluctant Messiah" which takes us to discover the "ageless" truths that gives "wings to our souls."

Richard Bach's deeply philosophical outlook to life drips through the entirety of the plot as we see truth and wisdom served on the simplest platter to us. From telling the story of a Master who remembers learnings from his past life to a wheelchair bound man turning capable enough to life, this book and its uptake on the power of the soul is a tantalizing experience to sa

the least. Throughout the journey of Richard and the self proclaimed messiah, Donald Shimoda, the readers are presented with philosophies that can be a soul shaking experience as readers have admitted over the years.

The book teaches us that the world we live in and so dearly believe to be the last piece of reality is actually an illusion. The things and actions we believe to be real are not, and so are the underlying realities behind it. It persuades us to go on our own spiritual conquests, however tiny it may be and very clearly demonstrates how it has nothing to do with religion. The author's bold statement "The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life." rings through the ears to this day. A strong recommendation for readers ready to ponder upon their lives.

-Chirney Tamuli

XII

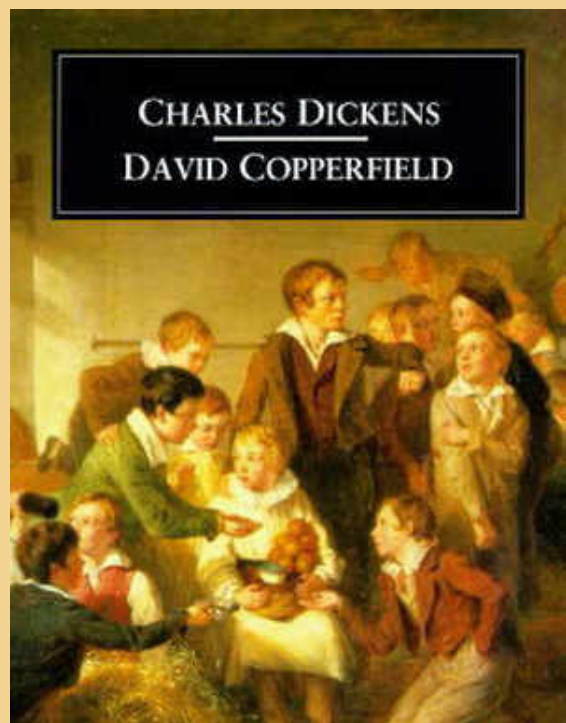


FOR IT MUST BE READ

'Whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life, or whether that station will be held by anybody else, these pages must show. To begin my life with the beginning of my life, I record that I was born (as I have been informed and believe) on a Friday, at twelve o'clock at night.'

Many might have read *David Copperfield*, a novel set in Victorian England and authored by Charles Dickens in the first person narrative. Published in 1849, the United Kingdom, not only has it remained a classic being one of the most loved and widely read of the time but also appeared in the syllabus of many schools. The story follows the life of David Copperfield from childhood to maturity. Dickens gives striking names for his characters that echo with associations for the readers so it is that the name Mr Murdstone that conjures up allusions to "murder" and stony coldness; Strong is definitely not "strong"; Creakle "squeaks and grinds".

What was once a happy life with a gentle mother takes an unfortunate turn when she marries Mr. Murdstone, who is a cruel and abusive stepfather to David and being sent away to boarding school, at seven, as a punishment for not learning his lessons. Life is not easy for Copperfield, and he runs away from school penniless he loses his



mother and ends up working in a blacking factory- hungry and homeless, but Charles Dickens has created a character after his own, heroic and strong, able to fight and overcome all the difficulties in front of him without giving in to temptation to take the easier, immoral path in trying and challenging circumstances. When I first read this book, I honestly never understood the various themes present in this book but reading it again and reflecting on the same with help of adults, I could see it for what it is. Dickens brings up the connotation of orphaned children set against the industrial revolution, on women, to show that exploitation is the rule in this society. In the end, strength of character, generosity, kindness and sympathy are far more important and stand in, perhaps more desirable than wealth, power, and social position. The theme behind the semi-autobiographical story of young Copperfield triumphing over numerous obstacles in a journey from a child to an adult makes this a novel with a widespread appeal and is recommended for all. Overall I really enjoyed reading this book for the rich descriptions and easy narrative and hope everyone reads it one day.



DONENSANGLA CHANG
IX

For it Must be Read



'The Trial' by Franz Kafka, and published posthumously in 1925, like many of his other books, follows dystopian, absurdist, paranoid, bizarre, illogical fiction. In other words, it's 'Kafkaesque'. Though the book was never completed due to Kafka's untimely death, it does include a chapter that appears to bring the plot line to a seemingly intentionally ironic and abrupt end which is to the tone used throughout the book.

The story follows a young, ambitious bank official named Josef K., who is arrested and prosecuted by a remote, insufferable authority: mysteriously the nature of his crime remains unrevealed. As K. tries to navigate his way around the unreasonable 'justice' system and its bureaucratic discretion, his struggles and frustration is palpable as he tries to prove his innocence for a crime he has not committed.. The incompetence of an examining magistrate results in one of the most satisfying hearings in the book, Josef K. who is seemingly tired of the ill-treatment goes on a rant about the corrupt justice system which humiliates the court official. This scene in the book is a huge blow to the face of an unreasonable bureaucracy. The great thing about this book is the duality of it all. During particularly insane and absurd moments

where K. struggles to no avail, one might be compelled to feel sympathy or frustration but that is not Kafka's intention. Throughout K.'s journey, the frustration of not knowing why he is still putting up with the affair, is somewhat amusing. The dystopian, absurdity turned humour sets it all. The Trial by Franz Kafka is the perfect example of the encounters with the invisible law and the untouchable law. In all of Franz Kafka's writing, the meaning is never completely clear. Thus, in The Trial which is filled with symbolism and mystery, the readers are left with their own dialectic: What was Josef K. 's crime? Why were the officials adamant on secrecy? Was Josef truly innocent? All the questions are left to the reader's interpretation as notions of justice and injustice, right and wrong, law-abiding and crime, good and evil are explored. This is a great read for people who enjoy dystopian, bizarre literature. In the 1962 film adaptation by Orson Welles was released and the novel was later adapted into a play and The Trial was first performed on stage in 1970, in London.

- Vasundhara Sanjenbam

IX



Take a look, It's in a book

What If

that one day metamorphoses into a burning ambition to find your voice. The protagonists' trail takes place against the backdrop of the society in which we live. They inhabit a contemporary urban world where everyone struggles to achieve their dreams. These dreams could be a career, a dream college or a long-awaited bank loan. What makes this collection engaging is the twist at the end. The twist catches you unaware and throws up a myriad of questions in your mind. In her lucid style, the author can create an imaginary world that seems real. "What if" makes you ponder over the innumerable choices that we make each day and the consequences thereof. Each story with its twists and turns underline the simple fact that we are all that we choose to be.

Published in

November 2018,

"What If" by

Reshma NC Shah is

her debut book which is a

collection of 10 short stories about

ordinary people's lives being

changed forever. The protagonists are men

and women we may have bumped into in our

lives. Each story tells the tale of how one

defining moment impacts the rest of our lives.

This is illustrated best in "The Meeting" where an executive,

Deep, sees first hand the impact of his actions from his early days at

his job. The heart-wrenching story of Mili is of a young girl who goes for

her dreams at a cost she did not bargain for. The author weaves similar stories

where the characters stand out as real people with ambitions, fear and desperation.

These short stories are not moralistic and do not pretend to be so. In each story, you will

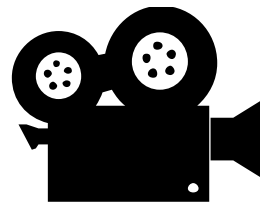
recognize the innocence of a young boy, who experiences death for the first time, the love

of a mother who wishes a secure married future for her daughter and the frustration

-Zubeen Rafia Shah

VIII





CARL FOREMAN'S "THE GUNS OF NAVARONE"

The film is based on the novel by Alister MacLean with the same name. This is an archetypal '1960's war movie' not only with a simplistic approach to heroism but also acclaimed to be one of those few movies where more emphasis is placed on melodrama than on character or credibility. This iconic film has etched its presence in the history of cinema with notable awards like 'The Golden Globe Award for Best Original Score', 'Academy Award for Best Visual Effects' and 'Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture'.

This British-American movie set in 1943, is an epic chronicle of World War II. The book and the film share the same basic plot: the efforts of an Allied commando unit to destroy a seemingly impregnable German fortress that threatens Allied naval ships in the Aegean Sea. The film follows the small group of commandos sent to Greece on a seemingly impossible mission: to blow up massive Nazi guns that are capable of destroying passing Allied ships. Hence the name - 'Guns of Navarone'. The mission pictures Keith Mallory, played by Gregory Peck, who accepts his assignment with great misgiving and becomes the resolute leader before the end.

There's the tough old Greek army officer, played by Anthony Quinn, who has the courage of a lion and the simplicity of a goat. There's the droll, slightly saucy British sergeant who is an expert with dynamite and is the pessimist of the outfit. This group is assisted by two resistance fighters. The team is greeted with a plethora of obstacles including one traitor among them.



GREGORY PECK | DAVID NIVEN | ANTHONY QUINN
in CARL FOREMAN'S
THE GUNS OF NAVARONE

In a race against time they fight through hardships which is astoundingly presented by the direction of J. Lee Thompson. We are taken on a journey filled with classic heroism and a roller coaster experience which straps us to the edges of our seats each time.

The movie manages to pull the legendary story of Navarone with such gusto that people began to believe it was based on true events or at least derived from historical events. In 1961, this was a largely fresh approach, with the idea of putting together so many unstable character elements into the pot just to see what goes wrong and what cooks up till the end which makes this movie such a thrill to watch. The true experience of this movie is in the underlying tension between the characters, their allegiances and how the fickle group dynamics alters during the story. The Greek island of Rhodes provided location and further scenes were shot on the captivating islands of Gozo, near Malta, and Tino, in the Ligurian Sea. One of the warships in the film, the destroyer escort USS Slater, is preserved as a museum ship in Albany, New York.

With expert cinematography, suspense, drama and adventure in the face of danger, not to forget most brilliant performances by an admirable cast, this is yours to see. To sum the recommendation in one line, a line by Peck in the movie will suffice: 'If you don't go out and buy it, I'll shoot you myself.'

-Chinmoy Tamuli
XI



Brothers in Arms

Brothers in Arms by the Dire Straits is a song that is sure to send chills down the spines of anyone listening to it. It induces a stinging sadness, compelling one to dwell in their thoughts as the ballad progresses. Dire Straits originally released the song on 13 May 1985 as the closing track of their album, Brothers in Arms.

The message of the song is simple: the futility of war. Mark Knopfler wrote this song in 1982, which was the year of Britain's involvement in the Falklands War. Despite the song being written as a response to the Falklands War, it definitely is not specifically about that war, but rather, war in general. The song is anti-war, but still remains empathic towards the soldiers in battle. The song highlights the tragic irony that humanities' greatest act of loyalty and bravery, and love is lost in it its most futile endeavor - war. The song also points out how for every band of soldiers who have found brotherhood and comradeship amongst themselves, there is another group on the opposite side who feel exactly the same way and are ready to fight to death for their own "brothers". The irony here is that although hatred is what initiates war, it is the love and friendship between "brothers in arms" that actually fuels it. It is overwhelmingly sad how despite our shared humanity we cannot get along with each other when our similarities outweigh our differences. The song starts off with the lyrics:

"These mist covered mountains; Are a home now for me; But my home is the lowlands; And always will be; Some day you'll return to; Your valleys and your farms; And you'll no longer burn; To be brothers in arms."



The mist covered mountains depict that the soldier is facing death far away from home, the lowlands. At the time of death, all he can think about is going back home to the valleys where his family is waiting for his return. A slither of hope exists that the battle will one day end, and the this slither of hope for peace and longing to return back to their homes is what keeps the soldiers going.

"Through these fields of destruction; Baptisms of fire; I've witnessed your suffering; As the battle raged higher; And though they did hurt me so bad; In the fear and alarm; You did not desert me; My brothers in arms."

The soldier recalls the destruction that the war has brought upon, and how his fellow "brothers in arms" suffered as the battle raged higher. And although he was fatally wounded in this battle, his brothers in arms fearlessly stood their ground and did not desert him. The lines strongly depict the bond of brotherhood, love, and comradeship formed by soldiers as they fight side-by-side with their lives at stake at every given moment.

"There's so many different worlds; So many different suns; And we have just one world; But we live in different ones."





The song funnels into a bridge, which powerfully states the irony of how in a universe where there exists so many worlds and suns, we have just one world but seem live in different ones. It points out how we fail to get along with each other despite being so similar. We let our greed, hatred, and envy get in the way of life. It is a small world after all.

*"Now the sun's gone to hell, And the moon riding high; Let me bid you farewell,
Every man has to die; But it's written in the starlight; And every line in your palm;
We're fools to make war; On our brothers in arms."*

The soldier, during his dying breath realizes how futile war is. He realizes that the sun that has set and the moon that has replaced it both illuminate the same land; the sun and moon that shines for the enemy also shines for him. It reminds him that it is one world that they live in. He realizes that the "enemies" too, feel the same brotherhood and love as he does for his comrades. They are as much as "Brothers in arms" as he is; they are just as human as he is. The fact that death is the common fate for all does not mean we should spend it fighting and killing each other. He says that it's written in the "starlight" and in "every line in your palm" that we human are fools to make war on our brothers in arms.



-Arceq Imran
XII



Meet the Poet



Sylvia Plath

Born in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, in 1932, Sylvia Plath published her first poem at the age of eight. A sensitive person who tended to be a bit of a perfectionist. She won a scholarship to Smith College in 1950 and while at Smith she wrote over four hundred poems. Some of her best-known works include *The Colossus and Other Poems* and *Ariel*. Even in her youth, Plath was ambitiously driven to succeed but the irony lies in how she would ultimately end up taking her own life during her 30s. She was an exceptional poet but sadly, the controversy caused by her death still manages to foreshadow her actual talent even till date.

As mentioned earlier Plath wrote her first poem at the age of eight, which also appeared in the *Boston Traveller*. Plath's poems explore her own mental anguish, her troubled marriage to fellow poet

Ted Hughes, her unresolved conflicts with her parents, and her own vision of herself. Her portrayal of the predicament of women in the 1950s gives an invaluable insight into the status of women in post-war America. At a time when women had only started to reclaim their rights to vote and own property, Plath argued that women were entitled to the same rights and freedoms as men. Plath is emblematic of female anguish and she normalised female anger and unapologetic expression, making her an idol for young women around the world. People often tend to fixate on "the tragic young woman" side of her failing to recognise that she was very bright with an IQ of 160 and she was one of the most powerful and dynamic poets of the post-war era, her contributions to the field of literature will always remain unmatched.

Dechen Sangay
XII



MIRROR

'Mirror' by Sylvia Plath is a metaphorical poem with powerful imagery which reflects Plath's disturbed state of mind, focusing on how the poet fears ageing and mortality. The poem is written from the perspective of a mirror and talks about a little girl, as indicated by the word 'pink', who goes from being happy and feminine to someone now aged; and sad because of how she looks. The mirror then becomes a metaphor for deep water- a lake. The woman tries to find the bottom reaches of the lake -metaphorically representing her true self. In the process, she gets too immersed, loses grip of her own identity and drowns in the lake, i.e., the mirror. The phrase "god-eye" further tells us how powerful an impact a mirror can have on a person. The mirror always speaks the truth, but the poet isn't ready to accept the inevitable truth that we all are going to age and die someday. The woman in the poem wasn't happy with her life at all, just like Plath when she wrote 'Mirror.' She wanted to express abstract emotions and a state of mind which is a herculean task to be expressed in prose.

I like this poem a lot because it uses a common everyday object, a mirror, to talk about something so deep and dark and about our need to be perfect and form a stable identity. It talks about self-hatred, stress, and the denial of ageing that many people suffer from. The poem is ironic -we often use the phrase 'do not judge a book by its cover' but still feel sad and insecure and aren't happy with the inevitable truth that we all age and our beauty will fade, someday or the other. The mirror has become important to the woman, symbolizing how outside appearances have become more important than our personality and self-growth. The woman wants to know about her identity, inner strength and herself but is not able to. The main message I got from the poem is that real beauty is what we are on the inside and not what we are on the outside, and that being negative about ourselves will only lead to anxiety and unwelcomed stress. Thus, 'mirror' is a personification poem of great depth.

Anushka Jitani

IX



The Muse

Where have you gone?
why only when I'm at peace?
I haven't withdrawn!
Or I hope, what does it mean?
I haven't seen you in weeks.
I desperately try to call you.
And now I look like a freak!
I can't find anything new.
I'd just prove them all right.
I'll show them, I can stick with you.
I'll continue to write!
I'll milk what I've gone through.
The past doesn't hurt me.
I'll use it for my craft.
Then they'll see,
I've found what has last.
So, I beg you to come back.
I need you for my art.
I swear I won't crack!
I'll write from the heart.
We'll prove them all wrong.
That, I can be consistent.
This is where I belong.
I swear I won't be distant.
You help make great things.
Together we'll achieve everything.
I beg you again to come back.
And this time, we'll surely win

-Vasundhara Sanjenbam
IX





Heartfulness

The quality of being heartfelt, sincere or warmth of feeling or expression is called heartfulness. Heartfulness might be expressed in some way or the other by everyone. As sentient beings, all of us have that one person who we love with all our heart. It could be our parents, grandparents, siblings, pets or the love of our lives. We express our heartfulness to them quite willingly and effortlessly and anyone with a heart can express heartfulness. What if people expressed their heartfulness freely to everyone? It would make the world a happier ground to tread on. People are often prejudiced and discriminate against each other for the smallest and anything under the sun- be it the race, colour, appearances, opinions, differences in culture and much more. If the world would embrace a little

heartfulness, that is latent, it would be a wonderland for everyone to live and grow. It is because of established stereotypes, prejudices, hatred and discrimination, that we doubt ourselves fight back, all lose our confidence and feel insecure about ourselves. If one's heartfulness could reach the other, one would not be anxious or over conscious about oneself. We are all different, born with different genes, come from diverse backgrounds, brought up in a different setting, go through ups and downs, but after all we all belong to that great and wonderful human race. We need that heartfulness which defines a human being, to assure us, to support us and help us live. The heart changes the world to be a better place. As it's said, in love and in dreams, there are no impossibilities.

Alda Nongmeikapam

XI



SHOULD JUNK FOOD BE BANNED [IN SCHOOLS] ?

It is perceived by many that 'junk food' should be banned in schools. My perspective is slightly different believing that the reality is clear before us, junk food has always been alluring for the young ones. The presence of high amounts of fatty acids and sodium compounds in such foods poses a health hazard to children in the long run, but that is a negligible fraction of the harm that young adults might do to themselves as they grow up. Junk food might harm rather than help as such, but a child's palate is curious and looking for new, delightful bursts of flavours and if the same is provided rationally we have a win-win situation.

The world promises children their bits of joy in junk food, and when it is banned in schools where they spend most of their time, they will begin to feel denied of small delights. This not only takes away small measures of contentment but also challenges their interest to focus on learning as the cravings are not satiated. Moreover, once a child reaches home, he is very likely to binge on huge amounts of junk food to 'make up' for the times he has missed. Banning junk food is also unfair because it takes away the right of choice of food. It is also difficult where to draw the line regarding what constitutes junk food as food varies in its nutritional value. Today, fast food chains and the so-called 'junk food' vendors have made efforts to make their food less 'junky'.

I believe that educating children about the threats that over indulgence in junk food might bring to them, while also letting them enjoy small amounts of it in regular intervals will be the correct measure to take. Junk food itself is not the problem, but limiting the intake is a point to ponder on. A bold decision of banning junk food altogether might just bring about a stronger craving to savour the same.

-Fareeha Ambreen

XI



HAPPY HALLOWEEN



A brief history of the origins of halloween.

The History of Halloween is full and fascinating. Today it is a secular celebration born from a variety of religious traditions.

Many of Halloween's traditions originated from the pre-Christian Celtic festival Samhain, while other aspects of the celebrations come from the Christian holidays of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

ECLECTIC

HALLOWEEN TRADITIONS

On October 31st, we celebrate Halloween, thought to be the one night of the year when ghosts, witches, and fairies are especially active. Go what do people do on Halloween Day in England?

Jack-o-lanterns
are hollowed out pumpkins with a face cut in one side and a candle put inside. In the old days people lit fires to scare away bad spirits. They believed light had power over darkness. Today Jack-o-lanterns are supposed to frighten away ghosts and witches.

TRICK OR TREAT

Apple Bobbing

One Halloween party game is called bobbing for apples. Apples are put in a big bowl full of water. The players, sometimes blindfolded, must take an apple out of the water without using their hands.

Dressing up

On Halloween, when it was believed that bad spirits came back to the earthly world, people thought they would meet ghosts if they left their homes. To avoid being recognized by ghosts people would wear masks when they left homes after dark so that the ghosts would mistake them for fellow spirits. That's why Halloween costumes are traditionally monsters such as vampires, ghosts, witches and devils.

Trick or Treat

Children in costumes go from house to house in their neighbourhood, often in small groups, in order to ask for treats such as sweets, lollipops, chocolates or money. When someone answers the door, the children say "Trick or treat". The "trick" is a threat to perform mischief on the homeowners or their property if no treat is given.

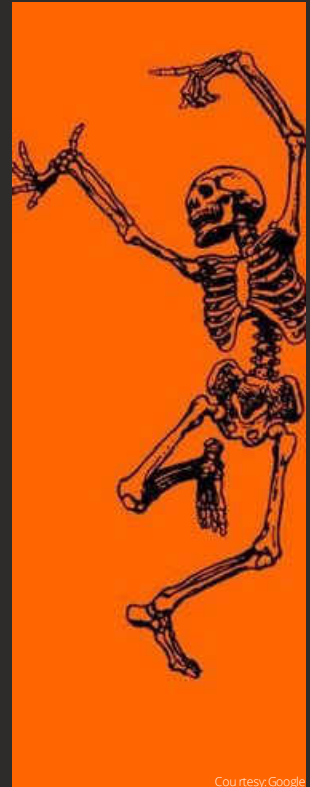
What's Your SPOOKY Name?

Take the first letter of your name

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| A. Creepy | J. Ghastly | R. Burning |
| B. Scary | K. Headless | S. Lurking |
| C. Invisible | L. Cackling | T. Wicked |
| D. Shrieking | M. Slimy | U. Repulsive |
| E. Frigid | N. Spooky | V. Goopy |
| F. Rotten | O. Prickly | W. Sneaky |
| G. Hairy | P. Stinky | X. Cursed |
| H. Nasty | Q. Disgusting | Y. Menacing |
| I. Wild | | Z. Howling |

and the month you were born

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Jan-Werewolf | Jul-Zombie |
| Feb-Phantom | Aug-Monster |
| Mar-Ghost | Sep-Witch |
| Apr-Scarecrow | Oct-Ghoul |
| May-Skeleton | Nov-Mummy |
| Jun-Goblin | Dec-Vampire |



HALLOWEEN FACTS

WHAT?

Halloween is a holiday celebrated all around the world.

People wear costumes, they celebrate parties, and they decorate their houses and carve pumpkins.

It is a very special holiday for the children because they wear spooky costumes, they go "trick or treating" house by house and people at their houses give candies and sweets to them.

WHEN?

Halloween is celebrated annually on the 31st of October, just the evening before All Saints Day.

Halloween is the short name of All Hallows' Eve.

HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

Halloween is a Celtic celebration called Samhain /sah-wen/. Samhain marked the end of summer and the end of summer harvest.

Ancient Celts were very superstitious and they believed that on October the 31st, the spirits of the dead came back to towns and villages. To keep these spirits away, they dressed up in scary costumes made from animal skins. They also made noise in streets and fired up huge bonfires.

JACK O' LANTERNS

According to an old tale, a drunken farmer named Stingy Jack was not allowed to enter both heaven and hell after his death. His soul wandered in the darkness. He carved out a lantern out of a turnip to light his way and guide his soul.

The Celts believed in this story of Jack Stingy, so they began to place Jack o' Lanterns outside their houses. The purpose was to guide lost souls home while they wandered during the Samhain festival eve.



MORE FACTS

- The traditional colours of Halloween are black and orange. Orange comes from the autumn harvest and black represents death.

- Cats, spiders and bats are Halloween icons because they were believed to be witches servants in the past.



SPOOKY HALLOWEEN IDIOMS

SKELTON IN THE CLOSET

to have an embarrassing secret about your past, that a person tries hard to conceal

TO MAKE SOMEONE'S BLOOD BOIL

to make someone very angry

IN COLD BLOOD

to do something deliberately in a ruthless manner, never give it a thought

PUT/STICK THE KNIFE IN

to do something unkind or unpleasant to someone, particularly when they are weak

SCARED STIFF

to get so scared that you are not able to move

SCARE THE PANTS OFF SOMEONE

to really scare someone



Green, Green, Grass of Home

Tom Jones

Green, Green Grass of Home is the fifth album released in 1967 by Tom Jones, the Welsh wizard of song. Played in quadruple time and in G major, made famous by Tom Jones, the country hit "Green, Green Grass Of Home", tells a deceptively sad experience about a man supposedly imagining returning home.

"Green, Green Grass Of Home" sold over a million copies and reached No. 1 in the UK music charts, staying there for seven weeks. It was a success in the U.S. too, peaking at No. 11 on the Billboard chart and selling 1.22 million copies.

The song was written by songwriter Curly Putman and part of the inspiration behind writing "Green, Green Grass Of Home" came after watching the 1950 film *The Asphalt Jungle* which follows a group of men attempting to pull off an ill-fated heist. One of those characters is a man who got roped into the heist because he wants to get out of the city and buy back the Kentucky farm he grew up on. In the end he is a

fugitive and has been gravely wounded but he makes it back to his old family farm - a rural idyll with rolling hills and a picturesque white farmhouse, - but dies from his gunshot wound which bring Putman to pen the lyrics of the childhood hometown with its green grass, old oak tree and house with cracked paint

While the first couple of verses of "Green, Green Grass Of Home" sound like they're describing a homecoming, the final verse reveals the man is daydreaming and he's actually locked in a prison cell on death row awaiting execution.

"Yes, they'll all come to meet me
Arms reaching, smiling sweetly
It's good to touch the green,
green grass of home"

The lyrics are sweetly and sadly nostalgic of the land one calls home and of its comfort, though the words of a man in prison, yearning to be home. It connects with the longing of most re-located folks to return someday to "touch" their home, their roots, a warm childhood and nurturing family

While the song begins with a bright and beautiful image of returning home to the 'green, green grass' - implying happiness, family and childhood nostalgia the lyrics turn to sadness, reminiscence, and wishful thinking. The musical

composition and fabric is catchy and the sweeping feel is of happiness given its lilting tone and melody.

Tom Jones' sonorous voice, imposingly deep and full and of a rich baritone, lends the magic to this mellifluous song and carries one away to moments and memories of one's making. His vibrant chords have so much soul that the song comes alive and plays on long after you have listened to it no more. As the lyrics might be, for its sheer poetry, the song remains in the hearts of millions who have heard it. I might mention that sometimes music is the only medicine that the heart and soul need and this song is no exception.

Sir Thomas John Woodward OBE, born 7 June 1940, is known popularly as Tom Jones and was awarded the Grammy Award for Best New Artist in 1966. Tom Jones was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1998 and knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for services to music in 2005.



(Mrs) Tamanna Seth





CREDITS

EDITOR - IN - CHIEF:

Dechen Sangay

EDITORS - IN - DESIGN:

Akankshit Sharma, Chinmoy Tamuli

DEPUTY EDITOR:

Chinmoy Tamuli

MISTRESS-IN-CHARGE:

(Mrs) Tamanna Seth

E - mail : penchant20@gmail.com
Patron : The Headmaster
The Assam Valley School
Publisher : The Assam Valley School
Balipara, Asom-784101

PENCHANT

An English Publication



*Disclaimer : The opinions and views expressed by the writers
are their own and not necessarily endorsed by The Assam
Valley School*