

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

- | | | | |
|---|--|----|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Biomimicry | 9 | Wings of Imagination |
| 2 | Taking Flight with the Wright Brothers | 10 | Explorers of Tomorrow |
| 3 | If I could fly... | 11 | Brain Play |
| 4 | Interview with a Bird or an Astronaut | 12 | Book Recommendations |
| 5 | No Limits, Just Sky: Adventures in Human Flight | 13 | Movie Recommendations |
| 6 | A time I Overcame a Fear or Tried Something New | 14 | Review Movies and Books |
| 7 | The Great Flight Debate: Birds or Planes | 15 | Spotlight @ PIS |

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

It fills my heart with immense pride to present Qurio – Volume 2 (2025–26), a beautiful celebration of imagination, courage, curiosity and limitless dreams.

This edition truly reflects the spirit of our young thinkers who dared to explore the skies—through stories of flight, reflections on overcoming fear, creative art, futuristic dreams, and thoughtful reviews. Each page speaks of confidence, compassion, and creativity.

To our student editors, contributors, designers, and mentors—thank you for curating a magazine that inspires us to look beyond boundaries and believe that “The Sky Isn’t the Limit.”

May Qurio continue to be a platform where voices soar, ideas take wing, and dreams find direction. I am incredibly proud of each one of you.

Keep dreaming. Keep flying high.

Warm regards,
Mr. Girish Kumar
Principal
Podar International School, Mangalore

Biomimicry

Borrowing Nature's Best Ideas to Fly Better

The Wright brothers studied pigeons and turkey vultures to design their first flying machine.

The winglets on modern airplanes those small, upturned tips—were inspired by the way eagles extend their feathers to reduce turbulence and save energy.

Clouds look fluffy but can weigh over a million pounds!

Engineers have created robotic birds (*ornithopters*) that flap their wings like real birds for military surveillance and wildlife observation.

Hummingbirds flap their wings up to 80 times per second and can hover, fly backward, and even upside down.

Hummingbirds inspired tiny aerial robots for search-and-rescue in hard-to-reach places.

The way birds align with Earth's magnetic field has led to research in geomagnetic navigation systems for robots.

Penguins can't fly, but they can "fly" underwater at speeds of up to 15 mph!

The fastest aircraft ever built is the NASA X-15, which flew at over 7,200 km/h (*Mach 6.7*) that's faster than a bullet!

Owl wing structure inspired quieter airplane and wind turbine designs. Owls' silent flight feathers inspired quieter wind turbines and stealth aircraft.

Dragonflies were the first flying insects on Earth dating back over 300 million years!

The First Sky Detectives

Early observers whose curiosity began humanity's journey to the stars!



Babylonian Sky Watchers

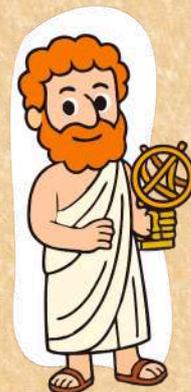
(around 1000 BCE)

The Babylonians kept some of the earliest star records on clay tablets. They noticed patterns in the sky and even predicted eclipses!

Indian Sky Scholars

(500 BCE onwards)

Ancient Indian texts like the Vedanga Jyotisha gave methods for tracking the Sun, Moon, and stars to create calendars. They understood the importance of the motions of the sky for farming and festivals.



Ancient Greek Thinkers

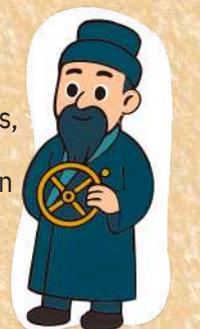
(500–100 BCE)

Thales of Miletus – One of the first to say the sky could be explained by science, not just myths. Hipparchus – Made one of the first star catalogs (around 150 BCE) with more than 800 stars. He also discovered how stars seem to "shift" over time. Aristotle – Wrote about the shape of Earth and how the stars moved in circles.

Chinese Astronomers

(around 2000 years ago)

The Chinese carefully wrote down comets, novas, and eclipses. Their records are so accurate that modern scientists still use them today!



Taking Flight with the Wright Brothers

It's a chilly, breezy day in December 1903. On the sandy beach of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Wilbur Wright looks up at the sky. Above him, his brother Orville is soaring through the air in an airplane the first-ever successful piloted engine-powered flight in the whole world!

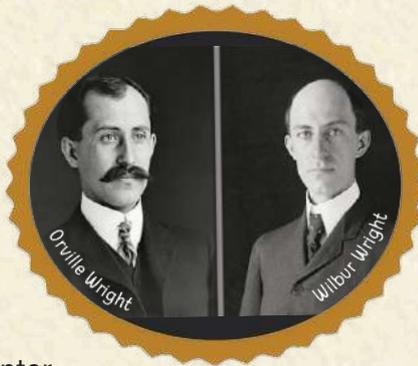


Today, the Wright brothers are remembered as brilliant inventors whose amazing flight inspired generations of people to dream of flying.

GROWING UP WRIGHT



As kids in Dayton, Ohio, Wilbur and Orville loved all things that could fly.



Their favorite toy was a little helicopter-like gadget with twirling blades powered by a rubber band. That tiny toy sparked a big dream to one day build a flying machine large enough to carry people!



When they grew older, the brothers worked together on many things. First, they ran a printing press. Then, they opened a bicycle repair shop and even sold their very own bicycles. But their love for flying never went away. At the time, only gliders (aircraft without engines) existed. The Wright brothers wanted more they wanted powered flight. By 1899, they started designing and building their own flying machines.

UP, UP, AND AWAY

In 1900, the brothers travelled to Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. The sandy beaches and steady winds made it the perfect place to test their ideas.

They started small, testing kites and then moving on to gliders. Both Wilbur and Orville took turns flying their creations, learning from every flight.



Finally, in 1903, they built their first real airplane the Wright Flyer I. It had wooden propellers carved by the brothers themselves and a gasoline engine. After many trials (and crashes), on December 17, 1903, their plane finally took off! It flew for 12 seconds and travelled 120 feet. That day, both brothers managed a few flights. History had been made the world's first piloted engine-powered airplane had

WINGS OF CHANGE

The Wright brothers didn't stop there. They kept improving their designs and showed off their flying machines around the world. Their success kicked off the age of modern aviation.

Soon, other daring flights followed:

- >The first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean.
- >The first passenger flights.
- >And only about 65 years later, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon!

The Wright brothers' dream changed the world. They didn't just invent an airplane they gave us a brand-new way to explore the skies and beyond.



If I Could Fly...

“What would you do if you had wings? Where would you go? Who would you meet? Let your imagination soar!” Write an original short story or poem on “If I Could Fly...”

If I Could Fly...



If I could fly,
I wouldn't rush to the clouds first.
I would step to the edge of morning,
spread my invisible wings,
and lift off before the world woke up.
Below me, houses would look like toy blocks,
roads like ribbons,
and people like tiny sparks of moving light.
The wind would whisper secrets in my ears—
stories from mountains, oceans, and faraway streets.
I would visit the sun as it rises,
dipping my wings in its gold,
then glide over forests where birds
would greet me as one of their own.
We'd race the breeze and laugh in feathers.
I would fly to quiet places too—
to rooftops where someone feels alone,
to hospital windows glowing at night,
to schoolyards where dreams wait to grow.
I'd leave behind a trail of hope,
like soft light falling from the sky.
And when the day grows tired,
I would land gently where I began,
fold my wings back into my heart,
and remember that even without flying,
dreams can still lift us higher than the clouds.
If I could fly,
I'd carry the world in my wings—
and remind it to keep looking up.

-Anshika Sinha
Grade IX

Interview with a Bird or an Astronaut

“Ever wondered what a bird would say about flying high above the world? Or what an astronaut feels when gazing at Earth from space?” Write the interview session.

The Interview: Perspective from 250 Miles Up

Interviewer: Commander Vance, welcome back to Earth. You’ve spent half a year looking down on us. What is the very first thing you feel when you look out the Cupola window at Earth?

Commander Vance: Thank you. It’s hard to put into words, but the first feeling is vulnerability. On Earth, the sky looks infinite. From up there, you see the atmosphere as this paper-thin, glowing blue line that protects everything we’ve ever known. It’s terrifyingly beautiful.

Interviewer: They call that the "Overview Effect," right? How does that change your perspective on things like borders or maps?

Commander Vance: You realize very quickly that maps are a human invention. From the ISS, you don’t see countries. You see mountain ranges, sweeping deserts, and the way the lights of cities glow like neural pathways at night. You stop thinking as a citizen of a country and start feeling like a citizen of a planet.

Interviewer: What was the most surprising thing you saw from space that you didn’t expect?

Commander Vance: The lightning. Seeing a thunderstorm from above is like watching a silent, electric dance inside a bank of clouds. It’s peaceful and chaotic at the same time. Also, the sheer blackness of space—it isn’t just "dark," it’s a deep, velvet void that makes the Earth look even more vibrant.

-Anvi R. Shetty
Grade IX



No Limits, Just Sky: Adventures in Human Flight

SKY DIVING



Imagine jumping out of an airplane and feeling like a bird!
Skydivers wear a parachute that opens in the sky to help them land safely. They can reach speeds of over 190 km/h before the parachute opens.
The view from up there? Mountains, clouds, and the whole world below you!

HANG GLIDING

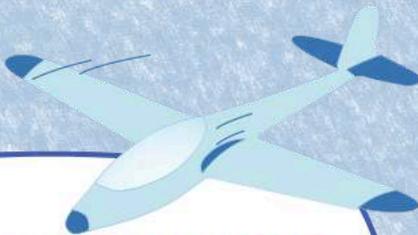


A hang glider looks like a big metal kite with wings. You lie under it, hanging in a harness, steering with your body. The feeling is like surfing through the clouds! Early hang gliders were made from bamboo and fabric.

WING SUIT FLYING



Imagine wearing a suit with wings between your arms and legs. It lets you glide like a flying squirrel! Wing-suit flyers can travel over 3 km horizontally for every 1 km they fall. They often jump from airplanes or cliffs for maximum glide.



SAILPLANE FLYING

A sailplane is a long-winged airplane with no engine. It gets towed into the sky by another plane, then glides using wind currents. Some can fly hundreds of kilometers without any engine. Pilots use rising warm air called thermals to stay up longer.

PARAMOTORING

It's like paragliding but with a small motor strapped to your back. The motor helps you take off from flat ground - no hills needed! You can fly low over fields or high above clouds. It's known as the easiest powered flying sport to learn.



HOT AIR BALLOONING

The balloon rises because hot air is lighter than cool air. The basket underneath carries people high into the sky. The first passengers in history? A sheep, a duck, and a rooster in 1783! Balloon rides are slow and peaceful - you can even see your shadow on the ground.



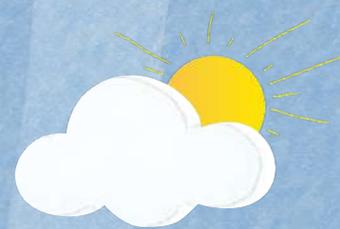
PARAGLIDING

A paraglider is like a giant fabric wing that you sit under. You don't jump - you run off a hill or mountain and glide into the air. Paragliders can soar like eagles for hours if the winds are right. Some paragliders fly higher than skyscrapers!



A Time I Overcame Fear or Tried Something New

“We all face moments that challenge us — moments that make us stronger and braver. Tell us about yours!” Write your experience.



People experience fear because of dangerous situations, but they also experience fear because of silent moments and the responsibilities they have and their need to make tough choices. The most difficult challenge of my life happened when I needed to deal with an important matter without any assistance for the first time. The event had no exciting elements, but it produced a major change in my self-perception.

A close family member became sick during an evening when all other adults were absent from our house. I felt anxious because I had never been in control of that type of situation before. My first response to the situation involved three distinct fears I faced which included making errors and not understanding how to proceed. I wanted to wait until someone else would take care of things for a few moments. I understood that I needed to fulfill my duties for this specific situation. I maintained my composure while attempting to recall adult behaviour in comparable circumstances. I helped the person rest comfortably, gave water, and contacted a trusted neighbour for guidance. I monitored their condition while waiting because I wanted to guarantee that they remained safe during all periods. I maintained my focus on helping because I was afraid instead of becoming frightened.

I found that experience challenging because it forced me to develop into an adult during a brief time period. The lesson which I received about responsibility taught me that people should do their best work at each moment because they will not have complete knowledge. People who start taking action will find that their fear will not vanish, yet they will discover better ways to deal with their fears. I developed better skills to manage sudden challenges after that particular day. The process of discovering a new activity does not guarantee that people will develop new abilities or show their talents to others.

The times when people need to step forward happen when all others choose to stay behind. The experience taught me that silent thought processes and accountable actions and self-confidence make up valuable life skills. I achieved personal growth through my first experience of handling a problem without any help from others during my life. The situation began to show me that fear can be overcome through responsibility and presence of mind, and that growth often happens quietly, without applause.

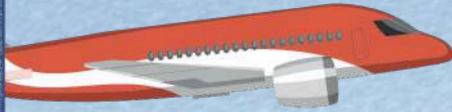
**-Siddharth Vasanth Acharya
Grade IX**



The Great Flight Debate: Birds or Planes?

Whoa! Did you see that plane zoom across the sky? How does it even get up there?

And look a sparrow just flew off that branch! Birds and planes both fly, but in totally different ways. Want me to tell you how?



Yes, please! Start with the plane.



Maya: Planes zoom down the runway at 150–180 miles an hour faster than a cheetah! The pilot tilts the elevator to lift the nose, the wings push air down, and the engines give a big whoosh to send it into the sky!



That sounds powerful! What about birds?



Birds jump, then flap hard to climb. Most flap in ovals, but hummingbirds flap in a figure 8 so they can hover like helicopters!



Cool! And Sparrows?

Sparrows are perching birds. They've got an extra back toe, like a thumb, that grips branches and helps them leap into flight!



So are planes and birds kind of the same?

Sort of! A bird's jump is like the air over a plane's wings. A bird's flapping is like the plane's engines.

Also, Birds can glide without flapping. But planes are way too heavy. They need their engines on all the time.



Wow, so next time I see a plane or a bird, I'll know their flying secrets!



Yup! Nature and machines both figured out awesome ways to soar.



Wings of Imagination

Design your own flying creature or object. "Let your creativity take flight! Imagine a bird, machine, or magical creature that can soar through the skies, and bring it to life through your art." Create an original piece of art.



-Harshika H.R
Grade IX

Explorers of Tomorrow

What if you lived in the future? Maybe you're an astronaut discovering a new planet, a pilot testing a solar jet, or an inventor building a flying robot!" Write a futuristic diary entry from your future self - Let your imagination blast off!

March 18, 2097

I'm writing this from millions of kilometers away from Earth, and honestly, that still feels unreal to say. Today I stepped onto a moon that orbits Kepler 452c. The sky here is not blue like Earth's. It's a soft violet during the day and turns silver black at night. The planet it circles looks huge in the sky, filled with bright turquoise storms that never seem to stop. Everything is so quiet. Not the normal kind of quiet, but the kind that makes you feel small in the best and scariest way at the same time.

When I was younger, I used to stare at the stars and wonder what was out there. Now I'm the one out here, looking back at Earth. From this far away, it's just a tiny shining dot. It's hard to believe that everyone I've ever known is on that small light.

Our mission is to study this place, test the air, scan the surface, and search for life. This morning, my scanner found signs of something organic under the ice near the southern ridge. We are not completely sure yet, but it could mean there is tiny life here. Even the smallest living thing would change everything we know about the universe.

Sometimes I forget that I am an astronaut. I just feel like an explorer in a storybook, stepping onto land no one has ever seen before. Instead of ships and sails, we have rockets and computers, but the feeling is probably the same.

I miss home sometimes. I miss rain hitting my face. I miss walking without thinking about gravity. I even miss the sound of wind through trees. But being here makes me feel like I am part of something bigger than myself.

Tomorrow we will drill deeper into the ice and collect samples. If the results confirm life, we might be the first humans to prove we are not alone. That thought makes my heart race.

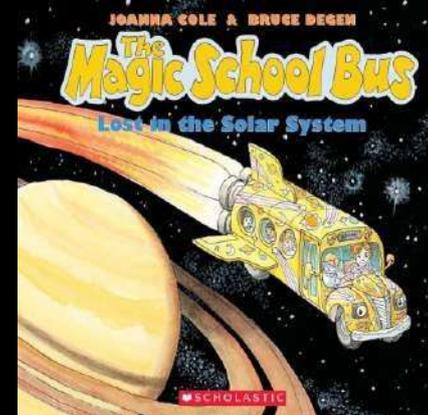
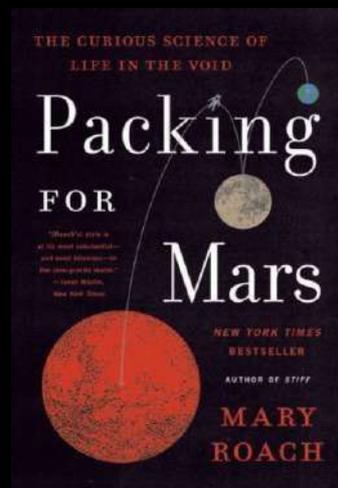
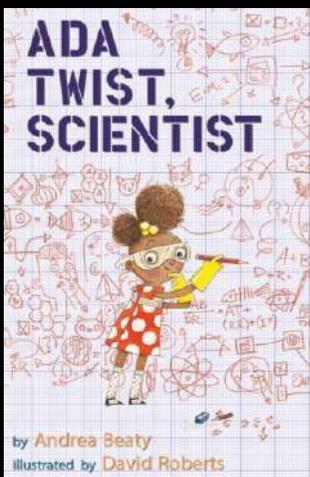
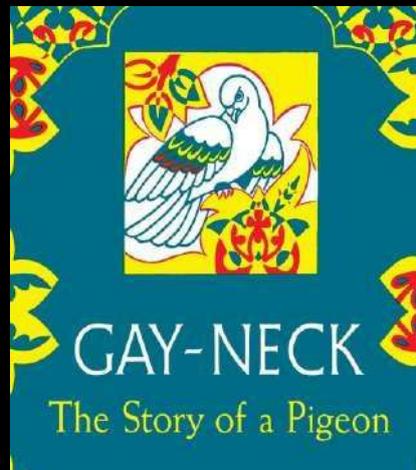
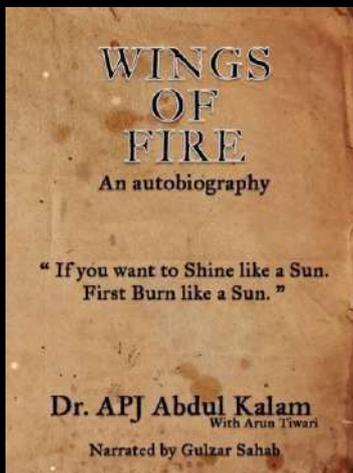
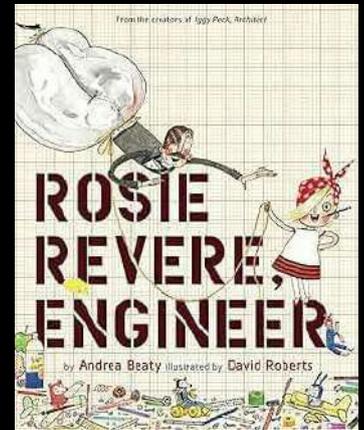
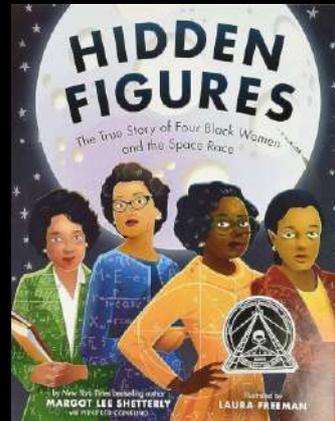
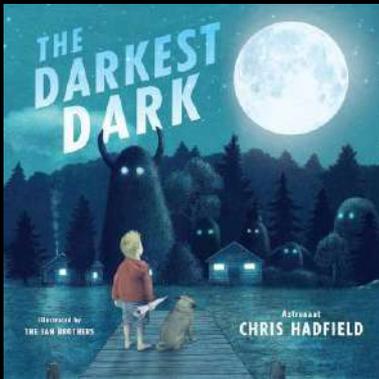
Standing on this strange ground, I realize something important. Earth may be small in the universe, but human dreams are not.

Commander You

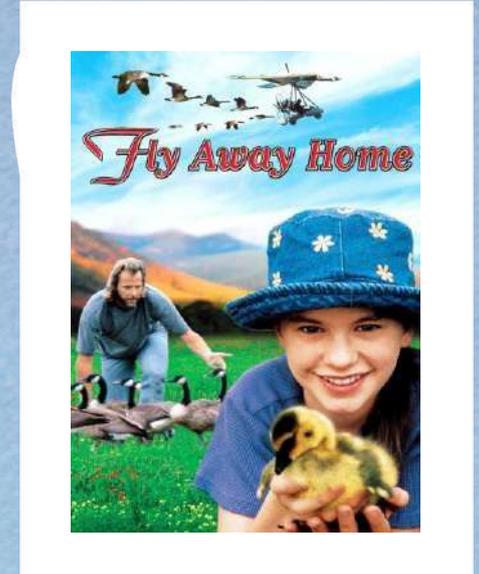
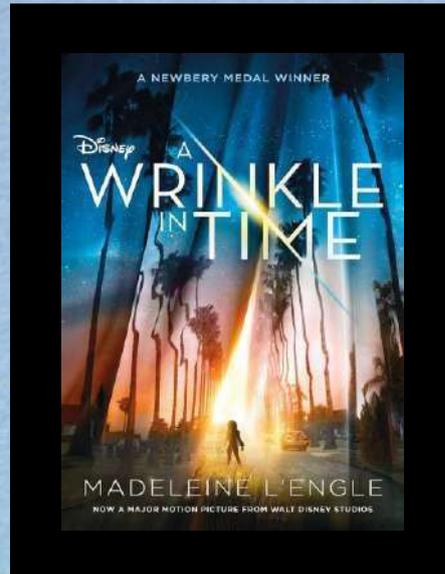
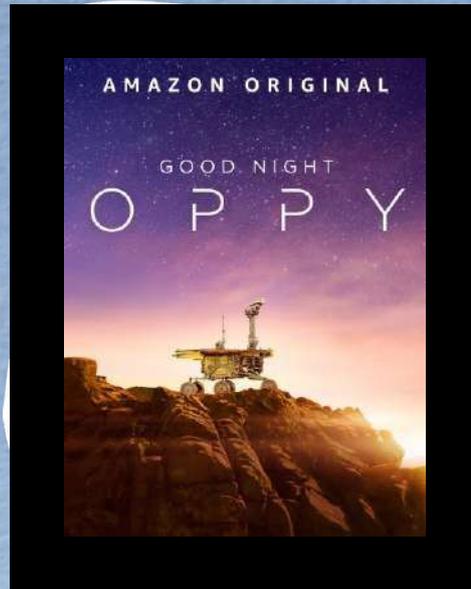
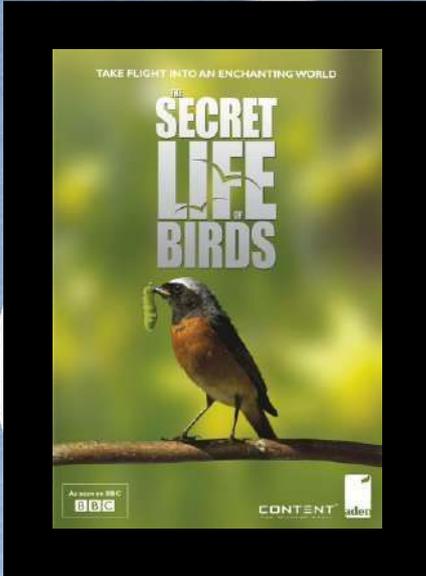
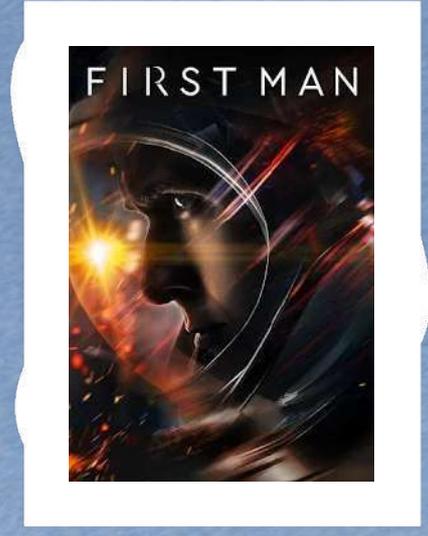
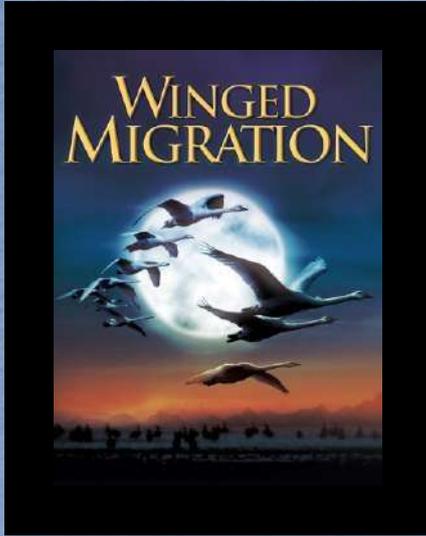
-Adviti Santhosh
Grade IX



Book Recommendations



Movie Recommendations



Title of the Movie/Book

The Darkest Dark **(by Chris Hadfield)**

Movie/Book Summary

A young boy named Chris loves space but fears the dark. Watching the moon landing inspires him to be brave. He begins to see darkness as full of possibilities instead of fear. The story encourages courage, imagination, and dreaming big.

Movie/Book Reviewed By

Shiv Prajapati (Grade IX)

How many hearts will you give this movie?

(1 heart means the movie was really bad. 5 hearts means it was great!)



The illustrations are stunning, and the message is perfect for anyone who has ever felt a little bit afraid of the unknown.

Title of the Movie/Book

Interstellar

Movie/Book Summary

In a future where Earth is slowly dying from dust storms and crop failure, a group of explorers must travel beyond our galaxy to find a new home for humanity. Cooper, a pilot and father, joins a mission to travel through a mysterious wormhole near Saturn. The movie is a mind-bending journey through "time dilation"—where an hour on one planet can equal seven years on Earth—and the terrifying beauty of a giant black hole named Gargantua. While the science is incredible, the real heart of the story is Cooper's promise to return to his daughter, Murph. It's a visual masterpiece that asks: how far would you go to save the people you love?

Movie/Book Reviewed By

Eshaan Sheikh (Grade IX)

How many hearts will you give this movie?

(1 heart means the movie was really bad. 5 hearts means it was great!)



Warning: This movie will make your brain hurt in the best way possible. Make sure you have some tissues ready for the ending!

Title of the Movie/Book

Inside Out 2 (2024)

Movie/Book Summary

Riley is now a teenager and her room, which she calls her "Headquarters" is getting a makeover. Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear and Disgust thought they were doing a job of taking care of Riley.. Now some new emotions are moving in. These new emotions are Anxiety, Envy, Ennui and Embarrassment.

When Anxiety starts controlling things it wants Riley to be perfect for school. This means Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear and Disgust are not in charge anymore. Rileys emotions are all mixed up because Anxiety is trying to run the show. The movie is a hilarious and deeply moving journey that shows us why we need all of our emotions—even the messy ones—to truly be ourselves. It's a must-watch for anyone who has ever felt a little overwhelmed by growing up!

Movie/Book Reviewed By

Aisha Godke (Grade IX)

How many hearts will you give this movie?

(1 heart means the movie was really bad. 5 hearts means it was great!)



It's funny, smart, and will probably make you (and your parents) cry just a little bit.

Title of the Movie/Book

See You in the Cosmos

Movie/Book Summary

See You in the Cosmos is a total tear-jerker that follows 11-year-old Alex and his dog, Carl Sagan, on a road trip to launch a golden iPod into space. The story is told through Alex's audio recordings, which makes his innocent, space-obsessed voice feel so real it actually hurts. While it looks like a fun adventure about rockets, it's secretly a heavy look at mental health and messy family secrets. You'll find yourself rooting for this kid to find his "tribe" while realizing he's carrying way more weight than any 11-year-old should. It's one of those rare books that captures that weird, scary transition from childhood innocence to seeing the world for what it really is. If you're looking for a quick read that'll leave you an emotional wreck but still feeling hopeful, this is definitely it.

Movie/Book Reviewed By

Mohammed Zuheb (Grade IX)

How many hearts will you give this movie?

(1 heart means the movie was really bad. 5 hearts means it was great!)



This is the kind of story that makes you want to pay more attention in math class. It's inspiring, educational, and a total triumph.

Brain Play

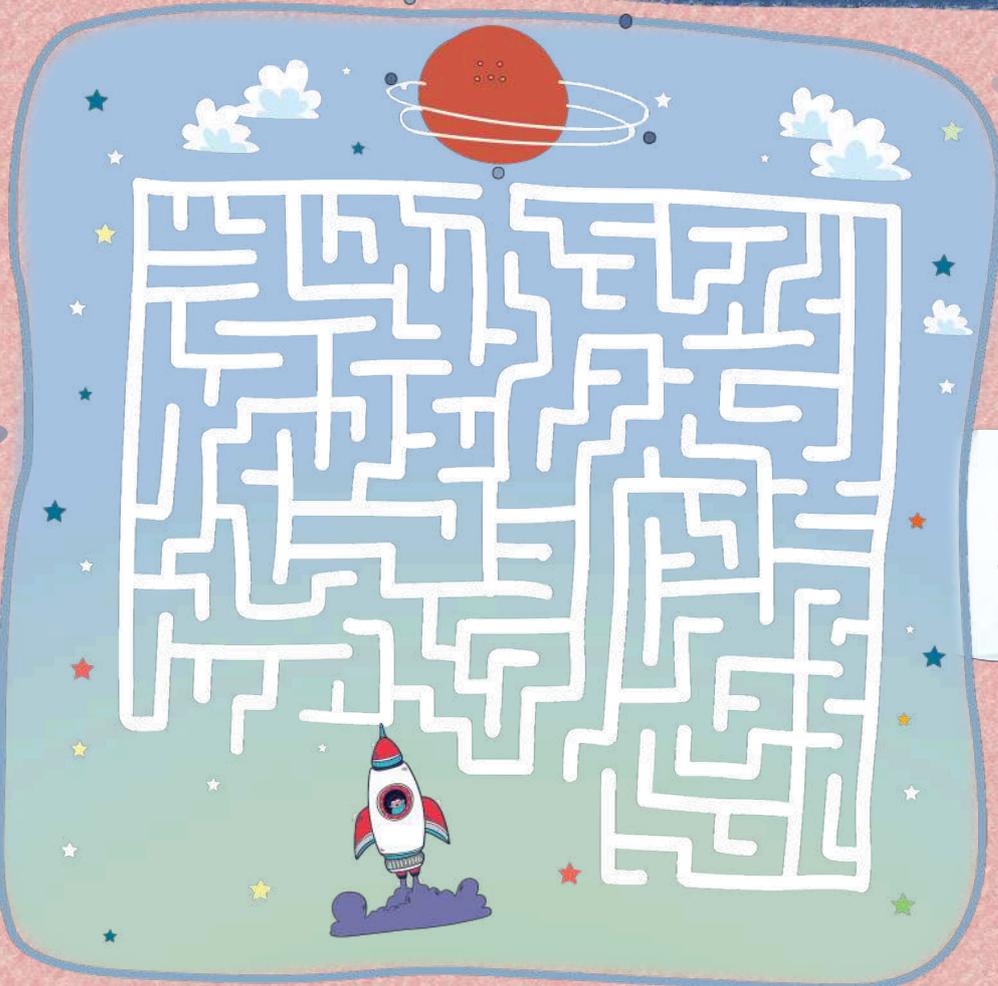
Let's find the words!

S	P	A	C	E	C	R	A	F	T	C	E	Y	K	P	B	I	B
I	L	A	I	M	S	U	H	O	M	R	X	L	T	Y	F	N	Q
J	P	I	D	U	X	K	J	J	D	E	P	I	P	D	J	N	G
K	H	I	Z	R	E	C	Y	K	C	A	L	M	N	E	O	O	S
W	O	L	L	O	E	A	F	K	F	T	O	I	Y	A	V	V	E
B	C	L	W	O	K	A	F	X	X	I	R	T	F	L	Y	A	M
I	F	Z	Q	D	T	W	M	L	V	V	E	L	X	B	A	T	C
R	A	E	N	C	N	O	O	E	I	E	Z	E	Q	W	J	I	Y
D	C	T	J	S	E	C	Y	Q	R	G	R	S	O	E	Y	O	H
S	I	N	N	O	V	A	T	I	O	N	H	S	K	U	B	N	F
I	A	P	L	P	E	T	D	J	F	R	B	T	O	H	M	I	J
F	Q	V	C	F	O	T	L	F	N	L	T	G	G	U	K	H	T

RIDDLE

At night I hunt, with eyes so round, the slightest of noises I detect sound. What am I?

- FLY
- DREAMER
- INNOVATION
- SPACECRAFT
- CREATIVE
- FLIGHT
- SKY
- EXPLORE
- BIRDS
- LIMITLESS
- PILOT



Can you find the correct way to fly towards the planet?

Spotlight @ PIS



Mother's Day Celebration 2025



Children's Day Celebration 2025



Kannada Rajyotsava Celebration



National Constitution Day



Language Exhibition 2025



World Scout Scarf Day Celebration

ACHIEVEMENTS



Abhiram P. Nair & Vedang Tiwary – 2nd Place in Model Making – Non Working



Anvi R. Shetty & Christal Agnel Fernandes – 3rd Place in the Collage event on the theme "Atma Nirbhar Bharat"



Adviti Santhosh & Siddharth Vasanth Acharya – 2nd Place in the Quiz Competition at the Footprints 2025 State Level Inter-School Fest.



Poojana Jayaram and Punya Shetty of Grade 10 secured 2nd place in the Mock Court Competition at Fierté – Une Fête Française on 25th October 2025.



Ahnya Shetty & Prakanya Prabhakaran – 3rd Place in the News Bulletin event, covering Day 1 highlights of Footprints 2025.



