

YOCEE // ISSUE 2 // 16 MAY 2021

THE WRITER'S HUB





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THE WRITE TRACK

Weekly eBook of YOCEE - The newsroom of Young people



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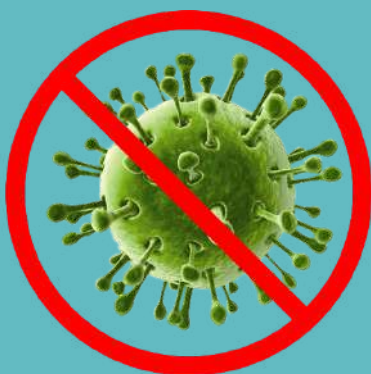
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A lockdown comes into effect from May 10, 2021 in Tamil Nadu

Sanjeev Krishna R

The Tamil Nadu government on May 8, 2021, imposed a lockdown for two weeks across the state between 4 A.M on May 10 to 4 A.M on May 24 to fight against the spread of covid-19.



Stop Corona virus

**STAY HOME
STAY SAFE**



However, on May 8 and 9 alone, the State government said there would be no restrictions across the State between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. — shops would function during this period — to allow the public to prepare ahead of the fortnight-long lockdown.

During this period, grocery stores and meat stalls can remain open till 12 noon with 50% of customers. Essential service, newspaper distribution, post and courier service, hospitals, ambulance and funeral services are allowed.

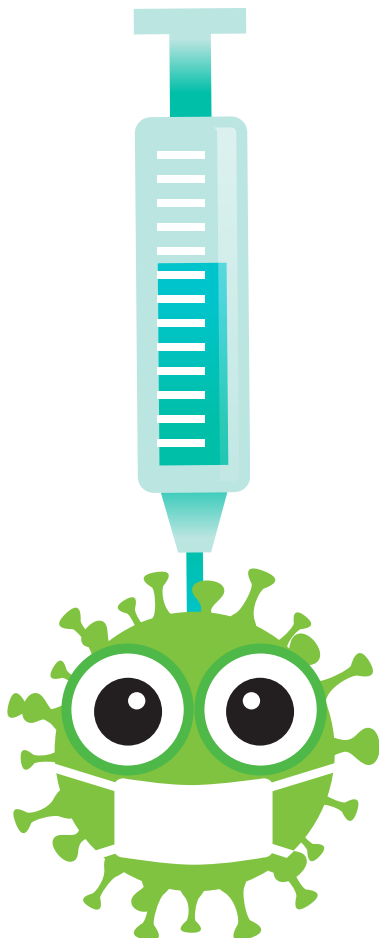
Banks, ATMs and bank-related transport are allowed but with 50% employees.

Ration shops will remain open till 12 noon. The rest of the activities are not allowed.

VACCINATION - TO GO FOR OR...?

Thanushri M

There are several vaccines for COVID19 and many have passed the phase 3 trials meaning they are ready for distribution. The world is amidst of COVID-19 pandemic. Countries around the world are rolling out COVID-19 vaccines. Developing a vaccine is like a long road full of checkpoints. Different phases of testing are conducted to make sure the vaccine is both safe and effective. The vaccines can be proven safe and effective only when it passes in large (phase III) clinical trials. 'COVID 19 vaccines are 80 to 90% effective, but vaccinated people can get COVID this is not a surprise it's just that vaccines are not 100% effective' states Health line. Many doctors suggest people trust vaccines.



There are many benefits of getting vaccinated:

- The COVID-19 vaccines produce protection against the disease, as a result of developing an immune response to the SARS-Cov-2 virus.
- Getting vaccinated will also help to protect people around you.
- Developing immunity through vaccination means there is a reduced risk of developing the illness and its consequences. This immunity helps you fight the virus if exposed.

'These are a few benefits of getting vaccinated, vaccination protects you from getting seriously ill from COVID-19' states WHO. Most people above 18 years old can get vaccinated. Vaccines are usually tested in adults first, to avoid exposing children who are still developing and growing. There are not many pieces of evidence or much data to make sure that vaccines are safe for children. The impact of COVID-19 vaccines on the pandemic will depend on several factors.

These include the effectiveness of the vaccines; how quickly they are approved, manufactured, and delivered. 'Though you're vaccinated, wear a mask, especially in enclosed, crowded or poorly ventilated spaces. Always follow guidance from local authorities' says Dr. Sowmya Swaminathan, chief scientist of the World Health Organization.

There are a few miss conceptions about the COVID vaccines; such as after you get vaccinated there will be severe side effects like heart attack, fever, allergies and etc but all of these are NOT true. If you have any medical complications please consult your family doctor before you go for vaccination. There won't be severe side effects after you get vaccinated. The side effects will stop on their own within 3 to 4 days. If the side effects are prolonging, immediately consult a doctor and seek medical help.

To conclude COVID vaccines are credible and are 90% effective. Make sure you take precautions for COVID 19 even though you are vaccinated. Make sure you wear double masks for 85% protection from COVID if you're going out. Follow guidelines from local authorities. Avoid going out as much as possible. If you feel you have any mild symptoms of COVID (such as cough cold fever) immediately consult a doctor.



TIME TO UNWIND!

Sanjitha. S



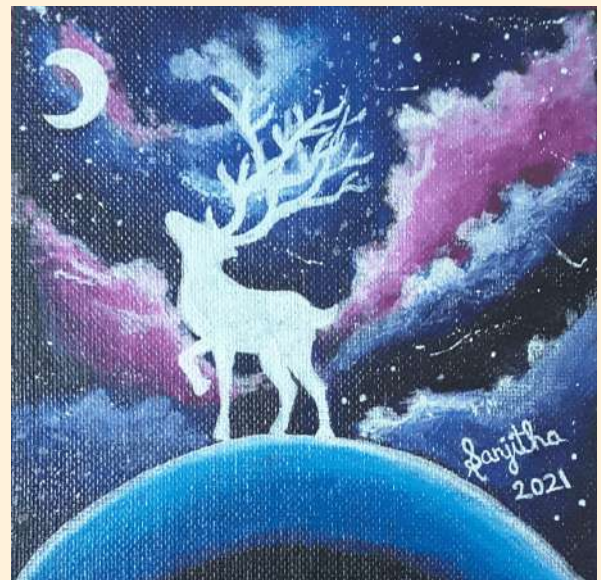
But, if I was still agitated, I would put on my headphones and continue my artwork. Ah! The feel of my paintbrush in my hands and listening to my favourite songs (occasionally singing along too) is absolute heaven for me. By the time I complete the painting, my mind would be so ecstatic that I would be ready to move mountains if I had to!



We all have moments where we feel our heads are seconds away from blowing up.

What do you do at that time?

Surely, we look for some distraction to calm down ourselves. I'm pretty sure everyone needs a diversion from panicking right now. Day by day, we see the increasing number of covid cases around us and we lose our cool with worry and fear. Do you know what I do during such tough times? I am very passionate about painting. So, I take out a paper and start sketching. Even before I finish the rough outline of the painting, half my stress would have evaporated.





CLOSE YOUR EYES AND THINK ABOUT THE FUN YOU HAD!

Maitreyi Aravindan

Everyone has nights where we can't sleep. So, what do we do? Let me tell you what I do when I can't sleep or when I lose sleep for a long time.

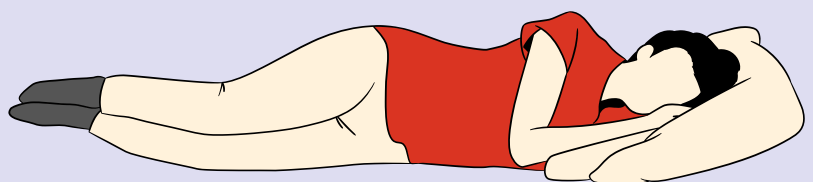
Often, thoughts keep running in our brains. It's never empty, right? So what I do is, I simply close my eyes and just think about the fun I had on that day, or maybe on what to do tomorrow and also where my cat sleeps when it rains, it is very cold.

I think of things that my best friend and I are/were planning or think of god. These things help me to sleep. Sometimes, I wake up and grab some midnight snacks too!

I love making new songs and so, when I do not get sleep, I make new songs but I don't write them. What keeps me up at night is mainly to think of what to do for the next day. Sometimes if I have a test/exam the next day, I think and revise some random ones.

If I wake up after 3 am, I go back to sleep immediately. Its only before 3 am, I don't get sleep sometimes. I even daydream if I don't get sleep! Funny, right?

These are all the things I do if I don't get sleep. If they don't work, I just hug a pillow and try to catch some sleep!



TECHNOLOGY IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Hussain Topiwala



With medical requirements being the need of the hour, several individuals, private organizations and social-service organizations have come up with initiatives to provide life-saving information to the general public. Technology's brighter side has become highly imminent during the pandemic.

Currently, links to websites, e-portals, and apps have been circulating through various social media apps. These have allowed people to know the availability of various resources such as oxygen cylinders, beds, etc. and access them through the data provided.

"I received links to certain websites on WhatsApp. These websites showed information about various resources like oxygen and beds", says a housemaid. "I have shared these links to my contacts. However, I personally have not had the need to use them".

A high school student, Karthick, has a similar story to share.

"I got to know about these websites and apps through my uncle, and also through Whatsapp", says Karthick.

Awareness about the many online information sources has increased exponentially. And, the sharing of these sources on social media has helped a lot of people. Many organizations have been set up in recent times to provide verified information to the public, and many have even created city-specific WhatsApp groups that offer leads to residents.

"I got requests from some of my clients for information about oxygen cylinders and beds", said a travel consultant. "I passed on the verified links I had received through an NGO called the Anti Corona Task Force that has created WhatsApp groups for providing information. I am confident it must have helped them".

THE SUMMER THAT WAS AND MY SUMMER NOW

Mustafa Topiwala



During the pandemic, our routines and everyday lives have totally changed. There was a time when the streets were bustling with children frolicking and absorbed in their games, oblivious to the scorching heat. My summers were spent about five kilometers within the

Bay of Bengal, sailing in my little dinghy, enjoying the tranquility and heavenly beauty of Chennai. Often, I used to hang out with my neighborhood friends and play cricket or football. When I wasn't doing any of these things, I could be found lost in the pages of a novel! The summer was certainly a period of time I used to debug all academic-related thoughts out of my head.

But of course, being confined within our homes has certainly brought a plethora of changes in our lives. Our interests and habits changed, so did our passions. During the summers of 2021, I hope to read more and write numerous poems. After one year of social exclusiveness, I really hope to meet my friends, go back to school, write exams, eat lunch in groups, have those silly banter, and return to being a normal student. I highly doubt that anyone would complain about how boring school is when the pandemic gets over.

I wish I could go back to surfing the waves and spending my summers in mother nature's lap. During this summer, I also wish to participate in a variety of summer-school courses to hone and showcase my skills, in addition to making life-long connections.

Though as the saying goes, stop looking for happiness in the same place you lost it. Thus I aim to develop new habits and skills, find new interests and ultimately spend the summers doing something worthwhile, both for myself as well as the people around me.

A GOAL TO LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE

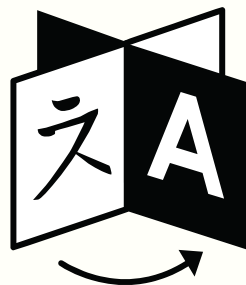
Medha R



IMAGE SOURCE

A goal that I accomplished recently was learning Sanskrit. Changing my second language to Sanskrit in middle school was a challenge as I had to catch up with the intricacies of the new language. But one saving grace was both Hindi and Sanskrit have the same script and I have been studying Hindi as my 3rd language. But during the first lockdown, I devoted most of my time to learning the language which made me catch up with school. And I pay my sincere gratitude to my guru who taught me the nitty-gritty of Sanskrit.

I felt accomplished, ecstatic and proud as it is very hard to learn a language in a short span of time.



A barrier thrown by the pandemic in the field of education

Thanushri . M

As the COVID-19 pandemic spreads, 90% of the schools in the world switched to online learning. There are many barriers and challenges in online learning such as: Tutors find it hard to grab children's attention, to do demonstrations as they don't have lab chemicals, affordability for students and many more.

The crisis caused by the COVID-19 virus has far-reaching effects in the field of education.



“

We as educators are finding it a little hard to make children focus in classes

Ranjeev Kumar
Student tutor

The whole education system has been collapsed due to this pandemic. But researchers have found out various alternative strategies to help teachers and educators. The flipped classroom is a simple strategy for grabbing students' focus. ' Using the 3D virtual lab has helped us a lot during this pandemic as students can't come to school and experiment with the chemicals; though this virtual lab is not 100% effective we are glad we have an alternative' States Anita Vardhrajana a high school biology teacher.

‘Something is better than nothing’, this tiny quote makes a lot of sense in this pandemic as there are alternatives for these complications.

‘Our teacher has brought back our interest towards studying by showing us exciting YouTube videos on science demonstrations and encouraging us to make PPTs, have group discussions and many more.’ says Hridhaan a student.

Simple experiments and demonstrations can be done at home, like testing the speed of rusting or finding the difference between evaporation and boiling many students thought experiments like these can only be done in school but now it wrong.

‘Necessity is the mother of innovation’.

To conclude online learning does not just depend on students but teachers as well. Students must understand their responsibility must try their best to focus in online classes. This pandemic has not only got agony and pain out of people but has also shaped us human beings to adapt and to overcome any circumstance.



An argument between Percy and Holden

Mustafa Topiwala

HOLDEN CAULFIELD

The protagonist of J.D Salinger's book 'The Catcher in the Rye'. Since the book's publication, Holden has become an icon for teenage rebellion and angst and is considered among the most important characters of 20th-century American literature. He is an atheist.



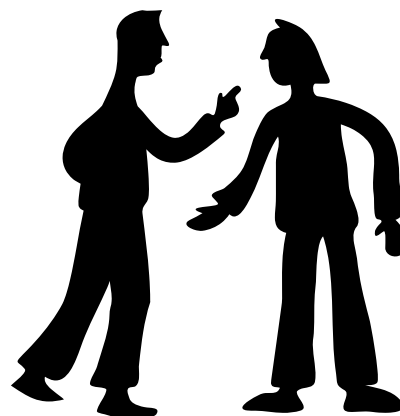
IMAGE SOURCE



IMAGE SOURCE

PERCY JACKSON

Perseus "Percy" Jackson is a fictional character, the title character and narrator of Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson & the Olympians series. He is also one of seven main protagonists of the sequel series. He is a demigod, the son of Poseidon.



Holden: Hey Percy!

Percy: Hi, I am sorry but do I know you?

Holden: Most probably not. I am the protagonist from a famous book authored by J.D Salinger. But I do know you. Who doesn't? You are Poseidon's son after all! People revere demigods like you, at least in the fictional world Riordan created.

Percy: That is very true! Boy, people do need to rely on something, and of course they invest their faith in Gods like me. I strive to help all of them.

Holden: Maybe, I don't believe in this 'God' stuff. "Atheism", is the term if I ain't wrong.

Percy: What? Really! But I am standing here in front of you right? I do exist, and Gods are real. Have you not heard of all the good things that I have done?

Holden: (scoffs) Hearsay! You wouldn't believe it if I told you I was Zeus talking to you right now, would you?

Percy: Of course I would believe you if there was reasonable proof to believe that. Gods are capable of taking on different forms.

Holden: Okay, show me.

Percy: Show what?

Holden: How Gods can transform themselves. I need to see something before I change my beliefs.

Percy: Well, I can demonstrate what I can do with the powers I possess. Do you see that fountain over there, beside the marble shrine? I will make the water in the fountain rise and float in the air.

Holden: Okay.

(After a moment)

Holden: Look, nothing really happened! I told you, this entire mythological concept is flawed.

Percy: But the fountain's water is floating! Observe closely. Oh, wait a minute, you are an ordinary human being! The Mist protects you from witnessing my powers.

Holden: That's just balderdash! How do I assure you are not bluffing, Percy?

Percy: What I say is definitely true! Human scientists have colluded innocent minds with their blatant theories. For instance, the earth does not rotate once a day (geocentric), because if that happened then the surface of the earth would be moving too fast and objects would fly backwards.

Holden: Wow that's some theory!

Percy: It isn't a theory! It's a fact!

Holden: Well then why is the duration of the day twenty-four hours? Your statements also rule out several concepts such as seasons, sunrise and sunset.

Percy: Sunrise and sunset are the result of the powers of the Sun God, Helios. And Gods are behind different seasons too! Causing rain is an ability I have been gifted with.

Holden: Studying science is pretty useless then, if you Gods can often come out into the world and explain your actions, you know. Though, I still doubt the existence of Gods and Demigods.

Percy: Come on, now! Do you want me to produce rain just to show that we actually exist?

Holden: Sure, that would be fun. But its not that. There is a question behind which many men have spent eons trying to find an answer for. What was the situation before Gods existed? How did Gods come into being?

Percy: Um... Uh...

Holden: Ha! I knew you would get stuck there! If you were a demigod, which don't exist by the way, you would have known the answer.

Percy: Hey its not my fault Riordan never told me about this. Anyways, I will go back to the Upper Realm and find out more about this.

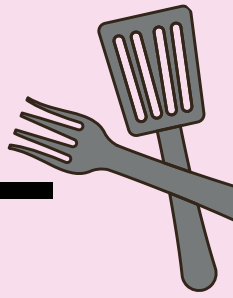
Holden: Whatever. Oof! The lies that kids come up with these days. Percy... Percy?

(Percy vanishes in thin air within a fraction of a second, and is nowhere to be found)

Do you know where Percy vanished to? Does it look like he will come back with an answer?

COOKING PLUS COMEDY?

Sanjitha. S



When lockdown first started in March 2020, I had just finished my 10th boards and was in no mood to utilize the free time fruitfully. All I wanted to do initially, was to have fun, fun and more fun. But how to have fun sitting at home?

Obviously, I turned to our dear friend whom we fondly call 'the idiot box'. Till that lockdown, I wasn't a big fan of the television and seldom watched it.



However, finding no other alternative to pass my time in a relaxed manner, I turned on my TV and browsed through the channels.

One show which luckily caught my eye was "Cooku with Comali" – CWC in short. Roughly translates into Cook with a clown. For those of you who have not heard about the programme, here's a gist about it.

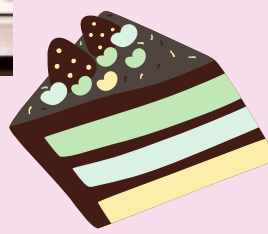
As the title suggests, the show is all about cooking. But that's not all! It also has an equal share of entertainment in it. It is a cooking competition which starts off with eight cooks(contestants) who aim to impress the two judges – Chef Damu and Chef Venkatesh Bhatt, with their culinary skills. Gradually, each contestant gets eliminated leaving only four cooks who compete with each other to become the title-winner in the grand finale



Now all this is something which is very ordinary and happens in any reality show. What makes CWC more interesting and enjoyable is how cleverly the element of comedy is infused into something as serious as cooking. So, the show introduces eight comalis – amateurs who have never stepped into the kitchen.

The contestants are paired up with each comalis and are required to prepare their dishes via the comalis. Apart from this, the show is famous for its twists. What are these twists? Well, I can't keep spilling all the beans, right? So, I will leave it up to you to find out what these twists are.

Clearly, the programme is a wonderful stress-buster and makes you laugh out loud. I guarantee that, even people who despise entering the hot kitchen to prepare food will fall in love with this TV series and get motivated to try out new, tasty dishes. So, if you haven't seen CWC yet, go see it. True to their title, the comalis will make you laugh so hard that your stomach will start aching. It will do us all some good to smile in this dark period. After all, they do say that laughter is the best medicine in the world, right?



FUN WITH LANGUAGE AND WORDS

Medha R

In English, there are words with many vowels and letters due to which they sound hilarious.

There are many words that are funny to spell and pronounce.

I have listed a few words that I laugh at though the list is endless!

- Grumpy- bad-tempered and irritable
- Netizen- a user of the internet, especially a habitual or keen one.
- Sesquipedalian- polysyllabic; long.
- Limpid- (of a liquid) completely clear and transparent.
- Kibitz- look on and offer unwelcome advice, especially at a card game.
- Bumpkin- an unsophisticated or socially awkward person from the countryside.
- Knuckle sandwich- a punch in the mouth
- Lepidopterist- a person who studies or collects butterflies and moths.
- Otorhinolaryngologist- the study of diseases of the ear, nose, and throat.
- Topsy-turvy – upside down.
- Floccinaucinihilipilification- the action or habit of estimating something as worthless.
- Nudiustertian – Day before yesterday
- Faux pas- an embarrassing or tactless act or remark in a social situation.

I feel these words are funny as whenever I hear someone using it, it makes me giggle inside.

Some of these words strive to pronounce which makes it even funnier.

WASTAGE AND SHORTAGE OF FOOD – A GLOBAL DILEMMA



HUSSAIN TOPIWALA

“THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD
SO HUNGRY, THAT GOD CANNOT
APPEAR TO THEM EXCEPT IN THE
FORM OF BREAD” – MAHATMA
GANDHI



You stock your plate with a huge pile of food at a buffet. And after having had your fill, you notice that there is food still remaining on your plate. What do you do? You shrug your shoulders, and drop the food into a dustbin, ignoring the heap of food already lying in it. Nearly half of the food in the buffet ends up in the trash bin. Through one of the uncountable ways, you end up contributing to one of mankind's toughest challenges.

We often acknowledge problems that the world faces, but fall into the trap of ignoring them, and we pretentiously cloud our reality. Even today, millions of people go to bed on an empty stomach each night – the Internet and media being constant reminders of their plight. But as long as we have access to food, we can continue living in our “safe bubbles” as usual, right?



Today, household food wastage remains a major impediment to socio-economic and ecological progress. According to a recent UNEP report, 931 million tonnes of food was wasted in 2019 alone, which is equivalent to the weight of “23 million fully-loaded 40-tonne trucks – bumper-to-bumper, enough to circle the Earth 7 times”. It is further estimated by the report that 50 kilograms of food per person are wasted annually in our country. With over a billion people in India, it’s hard to even imagine the surplus food we will never be able to get back.

Household food wastage is a global issue; India is just one of the many contributors fuelling the fire. As food becomes a part of our dump yards, millions of people remain starved and deprived. Our discarded food in landfills eventually breaks down and gives rise to a lethal gas – methane, a gas that is 86 times more powerful than carbon dioxide.



Labour, the efforts of toiling farmers to feed you, electricity, fossil fuels used in transportation, investments, water and other resources, etc. – wasting food is pouring all these things down the drain.

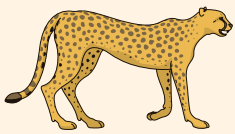
As noted by Inger Anderson in the UNEP report of 2021 on food wastage, though there is evidence of success in reducing food waste, much more can be done and needs be done.

What can we do on our part to lessen our impacts on this global crisis? We could start first by identifying our wrongs and correcting them. This could mean changing our old habits of purchasing food items excessively or stocking them for future needs or even preparing large and unnecessary quantities of food.

When buying food items, keep in mind to look at their expiry dates and purchase only those that you can consume before the given date. Try not to throw your leftovers into the trash. Rather, store them in your refrigerator and consume them later as a snack or use them in a separate meal. Remember, every small step of yours counts.

“FOOD WASTE IS AN ATROCITY THAT IS REDUCIBLE, IF NOT COMPLETELY VOIDABLE” – STEPHEN HOUGH





Would love to be Fuli or Anga !

by Maitreyi Aravindan

When I was a bit younger, I used to watch a lot of cartoons. I still do watch, but not like before. If I were to choose a character that I want to be born as, it would definitely be Fuli from the Lion Guard.

I love her because she is a cheetah and is very kind and helpful. I love all animals and Cheetahs are my favourite in wild animals.

Female cheetahs hunt and live alone like Fuli. I appreciate her a lot. From when I started to watch the Lion Guard, Fuli has always been my favourite. When I look at her in action, it always reminds me to be confident in what I do even if I am alone, teaches bravery, courage and how to tackle all the obstacles in life when you are alone.

As I mentioned above, I would like to be another character also and that is Anga. She is also in the Lion Guard and she is an eagle.

Anga too teaches important life lessons. You will learn them as you see her. The lesson is – whether you are big or small, it doesn't matter. Kindness should always be there with you. She is a hunting bird of course, but she also is helpful to other animals when they are in need. She also shows us how to be strong even when you are alone and with many enemies around.

These lessons are very important and that is why I would like to be these two characters.

A LETTER FROM THE TEAM

YOCEE || E-BOOK 2 ||



In the making of the second edition of YOCEE's e-book, the three of us found the drafting experience immensely enjoyable and memorable. It provided us the opportunity to get introduced to designing tools such as Canva, have meetings to brainstorm creative ideas, and eventually produce this book which we hope has been a beacon of joy in your boring and tiresome days! It was overwhelming to actually see firsthand the number of writings on a plethora of topics and we believe that every writer's contribution has received their well-deserved spotlight. Please do leave your feedback in the comment section in YOCEE website!



By: Medha R, Sanjitha S & Mustafa Topiwala