

The Phoenix Editorial - or Your life in 500 words (or less)

Face it. You are not equipped to deal with this world – it's the plain and simple truth. Your existence is of absolutely no significance to anyone, and don't believe your girlfriend/boyfriend if she/he tells you otherwise. You could have been born a goldfish, and the world would still be the way it is now. Your birth is about as significant as the presence of logic in a Vijay Kant movie. The only way the world can retaliate for your presence on earth is by being an absolute bully, and when that happens, you're just not ready to handle it. Does Phoenix have the solution? No. Is there something you can do about it? Maybe. Do we have a point with this article? Hmmm...

If you want encouragement or some kind of feel-good pep talk, go read a self-help book, or watch *Forrest Gump*. Here at Phoenix, you get the raw deal – no holds barred. We tell it like it is, and we're proud of it. No preaching here...well, maybe a little.

At the end of the day, you need to make yourself a person who will inspire people – someone others can look up to, a person whom YOU would respect. Turning off the TV or your computer games would be a good start in that direction. Taking a break from a 24-hour study marathon is also recommended. Now what? Go read a good book. Don't laugh, we're quite serious.

It's ironic how we, as Generation-Z youth, have so easily forgotten that reading good material is the best way to get knowledge. Any Joe can cram before an exam and score good marks. In fact, any Joe can score good marks period – irrespective of when they start studying. But ultimately, they are no wiser than you or me – they are just people who have worked

(hard) to get a good grade. Kudos to them, but is that what you really want to be?

This isn't to say that Phoenix is organizing a mass revolution of students against studies; (we called that Plan-B) quite the contrary. While studying every last prescribed book cover-to-cover would probably make you one heck of a brain (and a class-A nerd), you are hardly the kind of person who is going to make a difference in the world. Instead, by being a person who reads a lot of books, newspapers, magazines, etc., not only are you a person who is well informed about the happenings of the world, you have that added edge of knowing more than the guy next to you (which is always a good thing).

Any educational expert will tell you that rather than cramming for the GRE / CAT with the usual prep-books, a consistently good reading habit helps more. And with that in mind, we at Phoenix are here to give you your first step to a better future.

Read more! You'll thank us later. In these pages, you'll find a lot of interesting articles to help you get started.

On another note, college life goes on with the new Anna University set of students having experienced their first taste of the new exam scheme. Their reactions has led to the coinage of a new word –

svcephyxiation(n): a state of being constantly tormented with haunting voices being heard every night before going to bed, along with visions of the question paper turning into the Anna University fountain and imagining that you are drowning in it.



"I haven't failed, I've found 10,000 ways that don't work"
Thomas Edison

The Cow Thing

Darwin proposed the theory of evolution, but in his theory there was no mention about the rate of evolution of different species. Of most mammals that have lived on this planet, the four-legged cows have lived considerably longer. Well, the specification on the four-legged cow is because of the far connection between the seal and cows, the former being the parent in the evolution of the latter. If this is beginning to sound too much like a science article, well, it's not, but read on anyway, coz it has a scientific derivative to it.



The environment has been the concern of man; at least since he began to ruin it. In an effort to safeguard it and also make living more harmonious man gave birth to the concept of cleanliness. To kick off this nation wide awareness he set up mobile trash cans with capacities matching the requirements of many houses. Then there were huge trucks, (always traceable with their trail of remnant goop and unbeatable odour), that carried the garbage away from the city roads. Voila, there was a perfect way to ensure cleanliness on city roads. If you are wondering where this article is headed, here's where you get to know. The four-legged cows have evolved into being smarter animals out of necessity. The average city cow is associated with a mental picture of the cow seated in or around a pile of garbage relishing its daily meal. Thanks to the effort of the environment conscious men, there arose a discontinuity in the nutrition cycle of the cows. Left with very few accessible garbage, they had to fend for themselves and I believe it is creditable that they, the cows, devised a method of satisfying their

appetite with food of their choice. They conveniently toppled all garbage cans, originally too high to reach, and food was now served to them on a huge plastic dish. Thus the theory of evolution stands justified, our environmentalists - mystified, the cows - satisfied and, of course, our roads remain the same.

Archan P.
III Year, Automobile

Life

Life is like beads, to be counted with deeds.

Life is like a thread, to be knead through a needle of obstacles.

Life is like a riddle, where sometimes we can solve it.

Life is like fire, where sometimes we have to face it.

Life is like an ocean, when sometimes we have to cross it.

Life is full of joy, when we can forget our sorrows.

So enjoy Life to the maximum cause you have only one life to live!!!!

Niveditha V
II Year, EEE



"A narcissist is someone better looking than you are."

Gore Vidal

What If?????

What if the red roses would wake me up by splashing their scented dewdrops?

What if the fierce cascade would freeze and stop for a moment to say "good morning" to me?

What if the fishes in the stream would jump out to kiss me and then swim away?

What if twinkling stars all over the world would all at once wink at me?

What if the clouds were made into a thread and stars beaded into it to garland me?

What if each colour of the rainbow would split up to form an alphabet and write your name on the black sky?

What if this would cause impregnation of your name in the universe?

What if the restlessly rotating sun would halt for a moment to say good morning to me,

What if the sky would change its colour under the black blanket of night sky with every lightening flash,

What if I could attend a dinner on the moon dining table with stars substituting candles and lightening flash to capture the scene,

What if the moon would whisper "good night" into my years behind the veil of clouds?

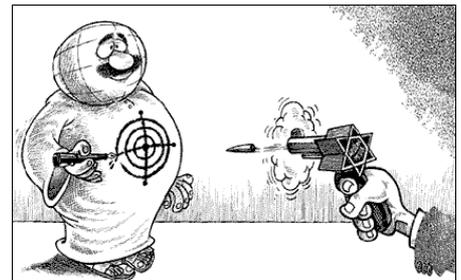
I know that these are all practically impossible things. But there is something practical that I can do, which would give you as much happiness as these would,

IT IS THIS!!!!

T.Aruna
II Year, IT

Your Body Speaks Your Mind

The scientific study of body language is known as kinesics.



It is necessary for each and every one of us to analyze the body language for effective communication. Hence it is not enough to listen to others only with ears, but also visually. The body language is based on the behavioral patterns of non-verbal communication. What does each of the behaviors patterns say?

Facial expressions show everything that resides in your mind. Face is the part of your body, which you cannot hide in a face-to-face meeting. Eye contact explains very easily whether a person is being honest.

A Salesman can find out what's really in the mind of his customer. If the customer's eyes are



"It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world everyday always just exactly fits the newspaper."- Jerry Seinfeld

downcast and face turned away, there is no prospect of sale. But if the mouth is relaxed and chin forward, he is probably considering, remember, just considering your presentation. If his eyes engage yours for several seconds at a time with a slight smile, he is weighing your proposal. And, if his head is shifted to the same level as yours and smile is relaxed, the sale is virtually made.

This can work very well when one is in interview. When asked a question, if you want to tell the interviewer that you are right and that you honestly feel so, look straight into his eyes and give the answer. Believe me. This will do wonders.

FEELING & FACIAL EXPRESSIONS

- Displeasure or Confusion - Frown
- Envy or Disbelief - Raised Eyebrow
- Antagonism - Tightening of jaw muscles

SMILES & ITS EXPRESSIONS: -

- Simple smile (Teeth unexposed)
The person is not participating and he is enjoying himself.
- Simple smile (Upper incisors exposed) - Greeting smile when friends meet.
- Simple smile (Upper & Lower incisors exposed) - Laughing
- Oblong smile (Lips drawn fully back from both upper and lower teeth)
- When one has to be polite.



If we just observe one single gesture, then we are going to fail in reading the person. If we are just noticing his smile and if he has some dental problem and doesn't smile in his usual way, then this is wrong gesture reading.

FEELINGS & GESTURES: -

- Openness - Open Hands.
- Defensiveness - Armed cross on chest.
- Readiness - Hands on hips, Arms spread while hands grip edge of table.
- Frustration - Frown, Tightly clenched hands
- Confidence - Steeping, erect hands
- Self-control - Locked ankles and clenched hands
- Boredom - Head in hand
- Doodling - Writing words or numbers, drawing lines or circles
- Feet on Desk - Those feeling dominant or confident of themselves in the presence of others
- Standing up - People tend to stand up when surprised or shocked

The Human body doesn't lie. It telegraphs your thoughts as you fold your arms, cross your legs, stand, walk, move your eyes and mouth. Once you read body language in depth, you would be exploring a world, which is full of unexpected revelations and gems of insight. And then you would be in a better position to evaluate the world around you and make better decisions.

R.SRINIVASAN, III Year, IT(B)



*"If it was not for Thomas Edison, we would all be watching television in the dark."
Michael Landon*

Pitfall

Smoky swirls in humid air
 Willowy patterns
 Strands ... fair hair.
 Unfettered,
 A soaring desire
 On sprouted wings of joy.
 Red bliss laps
 At gentle shores,
 scattered pebbles awash in
 drugged sleep ;
 swimming with fierceness
 and uncertain flapping,
 ploughing waves of sin
 through fins of fear.
 the gurgling mendicant sidles warmly
 brooked by pains of men ;
 fuelling evasion yet
 willing surrender
 shelter ... a shady glen.
 repeated stubbing on a greying tray
 stained mechanical hands ;
 cold draughts on a summery day
 a walk in infinite lands.
 the reddish sun dips down
 into the shallow sea of dusk
 thrashing broken fins;
 candle flickers....
 resistance...
 darkness .
 a gust of smoke !



I've called it "pitfall" as it is about this person who drinks and smokes himself to death, his mind and body flapping in futile resistive effort-hence the "whirls" and "red bliss".

R Varun
 IV Year, EEE

**Shrine Project – Complete The Story Contest
 Winning Entry!**

It was a long, hard process trying to decide the winner for the contest. There were arguments, disputes, one editor even threatened to quit! But, after the smoke settled, there was only one winner standing tall and proud – Sylvester Vijay, I Year, EEE. His story had all the makings of a big budget Hollywood flick, with just the right dose of the required “senti” ingredient. Good work, Sylvester...and congrats from everyone here at Phoenix.



The guard started to run towards the men, but, on hearing what sounded like piteous wail behind him, he turned to where he had left the woman ... she was walking towards him a malevolent smile on her face. He looked back and started; confused ...the men had vanished! He turned to look at her. A chill went down his spine as a mournful howl pierced the silence of the night, blood began to trickle down the woman’s mouth...he ran, screaming. Let his employers go to hell ... after all this was not the first time that he had experienced mysterious things around the new store, enough was enough. Night shifts were also taking a toll on his family life...

Richa came round to the side of the store. “Hey! What the ...” she blurted as a hand leapt out of the shadows and pulled her aside. “Chill girl ... yew! wipe that stuff off!” whispered John, and added ‘You were right about that fellow being faint hearted, Rashid. He ran, like his parts were on fire,



*“Too bad that all the people who know how to run the country are driving taxi cabs and cutting hair.”
 George Burns*

when he heard old Spark ... speaking of whom, here they are!"

Zak walked up to the group with Spark in tow. "Here's the panel", said Rashid opening a hidden slot beside a steel door. Zak whipped out a plastic card wired to a palmtop and slid it across the slot in the panel. The lock of the emergency door to aid fire-fighters slid back ... the alarm system would be disabled for the next five minutes .. When suddenly, from nowhere there came the sound of squealing tyres.

Rashid got to work as he disabled the main alarm system from within, luckily no one had decided to change the codes. Meanwhile Zak hooked up to the cashier's terminal and began uploading the program...it would transfer 2% of all credit transactions through ghost accounts to several untraceable account in Mauritius..."Chanel heaven this way, honey.", she said to John as they began to climb up to the Cosmetics Dept.

It was Spark who picked it up first and stood up, teeth bared, then they all heard it ... dull footsteps descending, stopping, descending again, voices drifted down.

"Idiots, careful with zat." commanded a man in a suit to the four men who had just hauled down a huge crate. The man looked like an Asian but spoke with a foreign accent. One by one, the men picked up and placed eight rolls of carpet material on different counters and proceeded to unroll them, carefully. When they came to what they were looking for, they stopped. "Quite ingenious, even brilliant, won't you say, fellows." remarked the Asian. 'Customs will never figure that we are smuggling artworks, the material being carefully stitched around the 'original

canvas', Van Gough, Renaldi...the diamonds will be hidden inside the Swaroski jewellery due next week." Zak took out his palmtop...

'Mr.Sha' gasped Richa in disbelief from behind the partly open door of the changing room on seeing the Senior Store Manager. She regretted it at once for the men had turned as one, shocked to hear a woman's voice but nevertheless intent to safeguard their secret at all costs. One of them drew a knife...

In a flash, John pounced onto the man, wrenching him away from Richa. Shocked to see another person the smugglers rushed at John on which Rashid decided to add to the smuggler's dilemma by rushing out of the Lingerie section while Zak rained all that he could lay hands on the attackers. "Aiyoo!!", yelled out someone as Spark had a go too. Another made the mistake of facing Richa...she promptly brought her knee up felling him. The main door burst open...

"Everybody freeze!", commanded someone as officers poured in and subdued the men. The distraught guard was cursing. "Good Work, Inspector", commended Special Investigating Officer(IT) George Zacharia. "Thank You, sir! One of our patrols picked up the guard who told them some rubbish about a vampire and then HQ got your message. We put two and..." Rashid noticed Sha trying to slip out through the emergency entrance and gave chase. Sha, turned enraged and raised his hand...Rashid saw what was coming...he ducked...a deafening shot rang out... almost everyone took cover as several officers returned fire and raced after Sha...

Zak called out "Is everyone all ri..."he choked at the scene. He yelled for an ambulance. John was



"If you are going through hell, keep going."
Sir Winston Churchill

kneeling down beside her, he brushed her hair aside, she tried to smile, it hurt ...she seemed to drift away, tears rolled down his cheek, falling on hers...her eyes flickered open... "Que sera, sera, John...moron! If only you had asked me to ..." "I'm sorry. I will..." She was gone before he finished...but it didn't matter, nothing mattered anymore." The dark pool felt cold already...he held her close and whispered "You didn't let me finish, I've always loved you and I shall forever, Sweet dreams old girl, sweet dreams..."

Sylvester Vijay
I Year, EEE

Mundane Relationships

Don't you think we've lost some of that old magic? I wouldn't say we had any chemistry. I don't mean to sound pretentious but chemistry is for peasants and I don't mean the agricultural kind. We being intellectuals can't settle for something so mundane.



Mundane, now that's what most relationships are like and now its happening to us .We who pride ourselves on being suave and sophisticated, find ourselves dithering. I saw a glimmer of truth in all of this haziness, this morning. Terribly inconvenient, considering we've been so full of ourselves through the years and we've gone out of our way to make ourselves miserable. I had a tiny inkling of the solution to all of our problems and what's astounding is it's all very simple.

Elegantly simple. We've got to realize that there's more to love than what S.A.W (Stock Aitken and Waterman) had to say about it. Its funny growing up thinking that love is what makes the world go round and then probably having to settle for something mundane like gravitational attraction. Mind you, not due to ignorance of science through the years but due to a very different perspective on things.

Our relationship is mimicking a galactic trend. Since we're in sync with the universe and our insignificance on a galactic scale is being reinforced by our conforming to the norm. Look what happens when you let the light in our lives to flicker or burn low. Faced with these odds ,we shouldn't let ourselves be overwhelmed. We're fighters. We shall persevere. Take my advice-don't crib. Follow my lead/example, take things in your stride. Don't show that you aren't the master of the situation. But don't bottle up your feelings—self-restraint could kill you. Try and walk the thin line between stiff upper lip and being candid.

Original ending:

So what's your elegantly simple solution? (The other person at the end of the monologue)
C'mon, man. We're a pair of amoeba, of course our lives and relationships are mundane. Blame it on binary fission. I guess we'll have to wait till we evolve into sexually reproducing organisms, which might take until eternity. I can wait, you can keep me company and someday probably our ship will come in. Until then, hold on, eternity is just round the corner.

Alternative endings:

(I)So do you still want a divorce?



"If your parents never had children, chances are you won't either."

Dick Cavett

(II) So that's that. No more objections. Let's get married.

(III) What! You haven't heard of S.A.W? Hand it all, we're in love and what anybody else has to say about love doesn't matter in the least.

(For those of you who are in the dark-S.A.W were a production team who have had more than a hundred singles in the UK top 75 since 1985. They wrote and produced among others, quite a few simple, cute and sometimes cheesy love songs like I should be so lucky, Never gonna give you up, Together forever, etc which anyone could relate to. In addition they were very catchy tunes. But I still haven't told u what they had to say about love. I guess you can make a close guess from whatever I've said)

(IV) I just wish we didn't have these miserable bars separating us and you'd love my figure if weren't for these goddamn striped get up.

You may see that I haven't completed the story. It's for u to continue the contest :-)

Saalim Ziaudeen
III Year, ECE (A)

The Perambulator

The perambulator
cushioned on all the sides,
covered by a silver brocade cloth,

the mouth sucking the milk
bottle there slept a peer soul in
the pram -

engrossed with its comfort,

enjoying the mother's soothing grip,



breathing its affluent, circumspect silence.

but ... the metronome stops here,

by the side, there slept a scraggy figure,

on the dew-filled ground,

bare-bodied, due of maternal care,

bearing the callous glances of the passers-by,

the cool breeze playing its horrors on it,

the epitome of its life, before it began:

"the preamble says,

'you are proscribed from living"

the pram passed by with its little-king,

as the departing soul cried out its maladies.

Isn't this nature's play? Destiny's device?

Santhosh
II Year, IT

The road that was traveled

Watching my eight-year-old cousin wishing aloud to be much older and cleverer, because she felt utterly 'left out' among her older siblings and their friends, was reminiscent. Now attacked by a deadly bout of nostalgia, memories of those carefree childhood days came flooding back in.

Looking up to those High School seniors, who wouldn't have loved to be in their shoes then. The authority they commanded, bug-free parents, freedom, - ENVIABLE...then! Oh, how I'd wished I'd grow up real quick. And now that I have it's



"Copy from one, its plagiarism; copy from two, its research."

Wilson Mizner

strange that I miss the fight over swings at the park with the neighbours, sand castle competitions, art and painting, cartoons. Well I still can do art and watch cartoons though they aren't as much fun now, and parents no longer gush over your masterpieces even if they were just a splash of a few colours or a distorted Donald Duck!

I possess the same freedom and adulthood so envied a decade ago by none other than yours truly herself. Aimed to be an engineer in the 4th standard, become that (almost!). What next? An MS, MBA degree or a job at Infosys..??

Looking around at friends so caught up in what their gonna make out of their lives, working feverishly towards that goal, and then shifting glances over to my eight year old cousin, I don't wanna make the same mistake.

Have a goal. Its necessary to know where you are heading to or what you are heading for in this journey of life. But the frightening thought of reaching sixty and wishing for my younger years, which were spent in worrying what I'm gonna do next, makes me live for the moment enjoying every bit of the travel.

Life is like a race you give in your best for, struggling to win. And when you've won it, your told your reward was the beauty around you when you were running. You were too busy getting to the target you forgot that the target's the end of the best part, which was the race in itself!

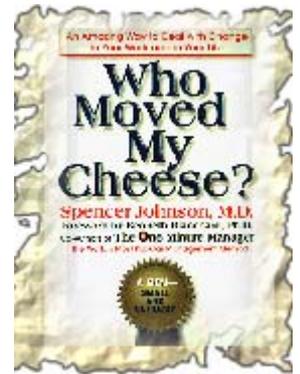
Rohini Madhavan
III IT

What the Eds Are Reading:

Cheesy Issues

- Siddharth Kashinath, III Year ECE

Who moved my cheese – Spencer Johnson
Sniff, Scurry, Hem and Haw look for cheese in a little maze. Cheese is a metaphor for what you want in life - a good job, a relationship, health, happiness, fame, fortune or anything analogous. The maze is where you look for what you want - the organization you work in, your family, or simply put, the environment you live in.



Written by Dr. Spencer Johnson, this simple and amusing parable shows you how to :

- * Anticipate change
- * Adapt to change quickly
- * Enjoy change
- * Be ready to change again!

The import of the book is "change management". Takes less than an hour to read and will definitely make good reading on the yellow bus back home!

Don't Read This

- Padmini M.P, III Year EEE

Whoa, we finally got you started on reading this. Basking in the glory in having incited your curiosity in this passage (if it did, by any chance; and who knows how long it will last); here we are propelling at you with an incisive force-candid



"Not everything that can be counted counts and not everything that counts can be counted."

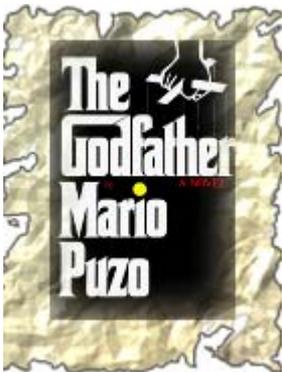
Albert Einstein

stuff about where to get started. Getting straight to the point...

Does a murder sound interesting? Or a kidnap may be? Heh that would be detective stories for ya. Well, Sherlock Holmes could get you on it. 'The Sign of Four' - Conan Doyle, 'The Vagabond Virgin' - Gardener would be good starters. Looking for love, romance and mush. It's all there in the Mills n Boon or the Silhouette collections. You could embark

upon Dyna Palmer from Mills n Boon. If

serious courtroom action tickles your taste buds, we suggest John Grisham. 'The Rainmaker' and 'The Pelican Brief' are two good books from the author. Looking for comedy? The P. G. Wodehouse series would be it. Something short would do?



You could try 'A Twist in the Tale' - Jeffrey Archer or 'Eye of the Needle' - Ken Follet or 'Interpreter of Maladies' - Jhumpa Lahiri. They are all compilations of

short stories. Want to be immersed into a world of fantasy. The all-too-famous

Harry Potter would take you away into Fairy Land. 'The Lord of the Rings' is of the same feather.

Want to wade in Classics? 'Mayor of Casterbridge' - Thomas Hardy is it. Not to mention 'Les Miserables' - Alexander Dumas. Ok, what if you

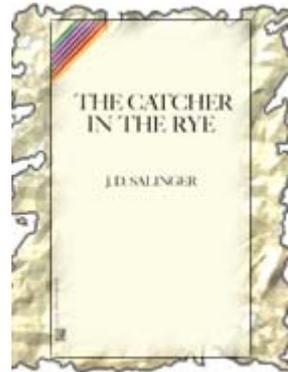


get of take

just don't wanna be restrained into categorization? We list a few good books.

'Windmills of the Gods' - Sidney Sheldon, 'Man, Woman and Child' - Eric Segal, 'The Apocalypse' - Robert Ludlum, 'The Godfather' - Mario Puzo, "The God of Small Things" - Arundati Roy. Doesn't matter if you can't get hold of any of these books. The book there within the reach of your hand will do, just START.

Happy Reading, all of you!

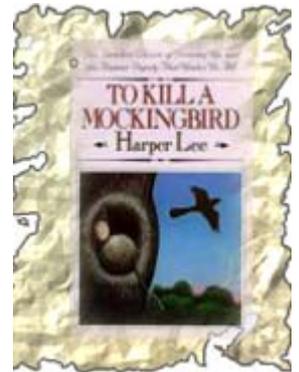


Growing Up...!

- Harish Narayanan III Year EEE

To Kill A Mockingbird – Harper Lee

Chances are that you've probably already read this book. If you haven't, stop wasting your life and BUY this book now! It's worth it. And if you *have* read this book already, read it again. It's just that good. Set in a small town in Alabama, USA during the first half of the twentieth century, the book tells the story of young Scout Finch, and how she learns that it's the small lessons in life that are the most treasured. Scout is in complete admiration of her father Atticus, a lawyer who is in the process of defending a Black man accused of raping a white woman. Scout and her brother are intrigued by their neighbour, Boo Radley – and long to learn more about him. The story tells their tale and, in the process, warms the human heart to a nice golden brown. Many aspects of this story



"I'm all in favor of keeping dangerous weapons out of the hands of fools. Let's start with typewriters."
Frank Lloyd Wright

have been inspiration for a wide variety of art forms, ranging from John Grisham's novel "A Time To Kill" to Mani Ratnam's movie, "Anjali". Books just don't get any better than this – a true masterpiece in every sense of the word.

The Catcher in the Rye – J.D. Salinger

Another classic in the world of literature, *Catcher* is a book that has found its place in the hearts, minds and bookshelves of people around the world – and for a darned good reason. The story is a rather simple one, depicting a few days in the life of a teenager in New York. The narrative is in first person by the protagonist Holden Caulfield, a person who has a strong opinion about pretty much everything – many of which most of us can identify with. Holden is not always politically correct, but the beauty is – he doesn't care. He is brutally honest about his feelings and does not apologize for it. Holden's outlook on the world is beautifully written by J.D. Salinger, and at times feels like a running commentary of thought. Be warned, the book is not for all tastes – conventional readers might feel that it doesn't really go anywhere. The fact is there is more to this book than meets the eye. Another masterpiece and a must for every book-lover.

The binding theme between the above two books is that they both deal with growing up. Issues such as teenage angst, innocence and discovery of the world around us are dealt with in these books. These are issues that we are only all too familiar with and hence can identify with easily. Read these books! You won't be sorry! (The song *Growin' Up* by Bruce Springsteen is pretty damn good as well! Do NOT miss it!)

Saki Rules!

- Archan P, III Auto

Hector Hugh Munro aka Saki is undoubtedly the most acclaimed satirist of the literary world. Saki, entertains the reader like no other with abundant wit and humor. Saki's forte - the short story, is one of a kind, portraying sarcasm related to life in a vicarious perspective, successfully incorporating subtle humor. Apart from the innumerable collection of short stories, Saki also wrote political satires and plays, even some that were adapted for the silver screen.

H. H. Munro, born in Burma, began his career as a journalist for the Westminster Gazette, gradually moving on to become an accomplished writer. His first work "The Rise of the Russian Empire" was subjected to a rather hostile acceptance by the critics. Following this, he wrote a collection of short stories under the title "Not-so-stories" which saw the beginning of a multitude of acknowledged plays, novels and short stories. Some of his exceptional work include 'Reginald', 'The Chronicles of Clovis' and 'Beasts and Super Beasts', all of which are a generous treat for any light hearted reader.



Strongly recommended among some of his short stories are "The Open Window", "Sredni Vashtar" and "The Unrest Cure". Another interesting trivia



"The trouble with being punctual is that nobody's there to appreciate it"

Franklin P. Jones

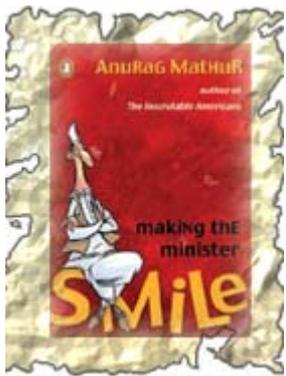
about H. H. Munro - he selected the pseudonym "Saki" from The Rabaoyat of Omar Khayyam, an ancient Persian poem. In his brief life span between 1870 and 1916, Saki's literary magnificence managed to lure the interest of many a people and his works still continue to be cherished.

Some Desi Fare -

Jigar Doshi - III CSE

Tired of all these "Foreign Authors"? Well , To satisfy the demands of the masses and In true SVCE tradition I present books by the NagoorKanis and Singaravelu's. the "local authors" if you like....

Making the minister Smile - Anurag Mathur



Another book in Mathur's hilarious style (seen last in *The Inscrutable Americans*). For the uninitiated, "The inscrutable Americans" was the story of a small town Indian boys journey through university life in the US with those inscrutable (Barrons page no: 185!) people and their strange lifestyle.

Hilarious as well as touching - Its a must read. Deciding to jump over to the other side of the fence - Mathur explores the journeys of a big town American boys journey through the weird and wonderful place we know and love - India.

Chris Stark who "think all right but don't talk too well because of too much football" is an American businessman. He comes to India because his joint venture partner KapCo has been having labor trouble. He joins Ajai Vir and Ram Avatar Kapur (The owners of KapCo), to try to solve the mess.

KapCo has been subjected to the shenanigans of an upcoming "star" - a new union leader called Prabal Kumar. For Ram Avatar - experienced in the way of doing business Indian ishtyle- This is a rather perplexing problem for the three golden axioms (Bribe, Butter, Bash) that had helped him to solve many a problem in the past is not helping him here. What follows is a frenzied ride through the Indian bureaucratic, political and business setup. The author also throws in a bit of espionage and the ISI for good measure (Mathur must have been inspired by the deputy prime minister). The ride is hilarious and idiosyncratic. Truly a Yatra through the Khichdi that is India through the eyes of a Phirangi. The subject may seem a little old and worked upon (© Levis) (a la Bollywood Calling) but Mathur handles it in his own indomitable ishtyle - which is paisa vasool indeed. The book covers the amazing "period" in Indian history called liberalization and also the nuances of our amazing political system - (patent pending). The only low point of the book is the ISI angle. As for the ending well lets just say - It can happen only in Indya. All in all - It's a funny book, Read IT.

PS: don't take my word 4 it. The book has been on top of the bestseller charts for some months now.

The Code Book - Simon Singh

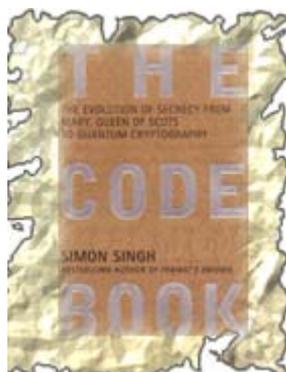
The code book is all about ... well, umm ... codes. Sorry about that folks. This book is the only non-fiction entry in our reviews. This book unlike the others here is classified "popular science" (Translation: serious stuff). The Code Book is all about cryptography and the surreptitious art of code making and breaking. If you are yawning already, well read on ... Because what could have been a replacement for a sleeping tablet is transformed by Singh into an interesting and



"We must believe in luck. For how else can we explain the success of those we don't like?"

Jean Cocturan

thoroughly enjoyable read. Singh brings out the history of secret communication and all the political drama and intrigue behind it. From the more simple codes to the latest 512 bit computer ciphers, Singh covers it all. Embedded in this is a very human story



about the people who make and break the codes like Alan Turing. Singh's coverage of the Second World War is fabulous and gives a great account of how WWII was actually won by some number crunchers working in Bletchley Park. Singh rose to fame with his book on "Fermat's last Theorem" (a poignant tale about how the last theorem was proved - For the mathematically inclined - a good Read) but this book is much better.

He leaves out the more difficult parts of the books to the appendices and also leaves a bunch of codes as a challenge. Even if you are not the least bit interested in Cryptography, Read the book for the stories, The tales behind the invention of the great codes, and how cracking them codes has forever changed History. Makes you wanna become a code breaker yourself.

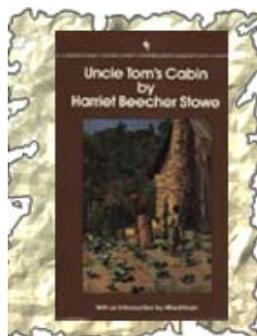
The Cabin Under the Sea

Archana Venkatraman - III

IT

Uncle Tom's Cabin - Harriet Beecher Stowe

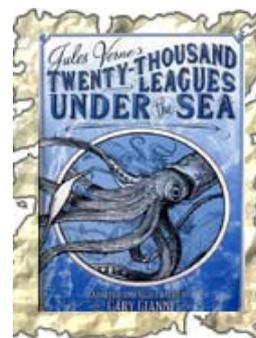
This is a poignant story that traces the life of a slave in the Deep South of America in the 1850's. The slave, Tom, better



known as "Uncle Tom" is sold from one family to another, with new problems cropping up at each step. Uncle Tom's Cabin is an interesting story, but it is one long argument against owning slaves too. Harriet Stowe was horrified at the slavery that was going on in South America and she wrote this book. It made such an impact in America that the North declared war on the South and slavery was finally abolished in 1861-1865. This is definitely worth reading.

Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea - Jules Verne

Written at a time when most of the inventions Jules Verne wrote about were non-existent, this book is intriguing and leaves us dumbfounded at the foresight of the author. This is an



adventure of Captain Nemo and his crew aboard the submarine, Nautilus. 19th century ships hunted it as a sea monster, which sunk warships. When Nemo rams one of the ships, he inadvertently sets into motion his own downfall by taking aboard three castaways- the sympathetic Professor Arronax, his dour manservant, Conseil, and bellicose harpoonsman Ned Land and giving his camouflage away. The most interesting part of this book is probably the Nautilus itself. It is shaped to look like a fish, with a large metal fin on top used to ram and sink the ships. Captain Nemo hates war, and throughout the book, he uses his submarine to destroy all kinds of war related ships.

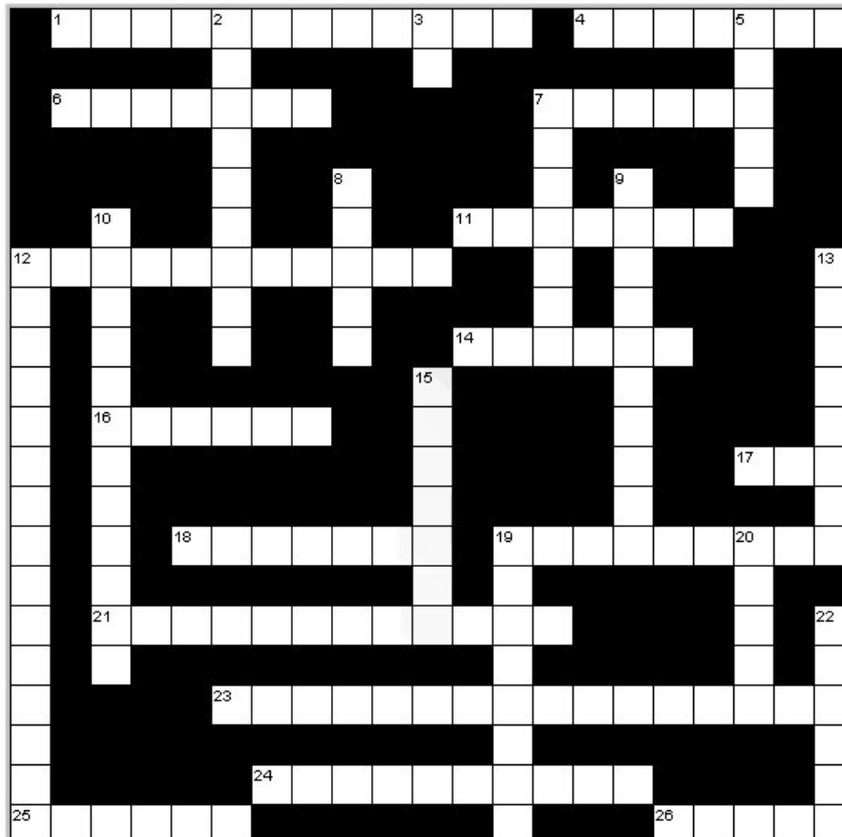
We can't help but feel that he's right though his ways are not acceptable.



"Always and never are two words you should always remember never to use."

Wendell Johnson

The Phoenix Crossie



"It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt"
Abraham Lincoln

ACROSS

1. Hyper glaxo chip used in dictionary making (12)
4. Dictionary maker and publisher from Springfield, Massachussets, USA (7)
6. Guild meets up in the morning at this capricious village (7)
7. Tales of Raja, Sita, Ambika?...hehe, actually their tails! (6)
11. Since GRE and TOEFL are in the air, maybe you should get this. (7)
12. Systematic dealing of business transactions also Oxford's only word with 3 sets of double letters in a row! (11)
14. Watched some comic strip hidden by the tropical vintner! (6)
16. Scandinavian God of thunder adorned with gold has a flair for writing (6)
17. Stare at hero delineating a poem addressed to a person or celebrating an event. (3)
18. Story set to music (7)
19. Forsyth saw God for destruction in his thriller (4,2,3)
21. Vikram Seth's, best fit the young man? (1,8,3)
23. "...was it you?", asked Dr. Spencer Johnson (3,5,2,6)
24. Brief remarks added value to signify this stalwarts name in poetry (10)
25. Said the bard, "Son, take ten poems of 14 lines" (6)
26. Tom scurried South-East wards looking for those volumes (5)

DOWN

2. Fuel CID in Los Angeles burnt featured in Catcher in the Rye. (9)
3. Greek alphabet at the Booker this year? (2)
5. Connect: Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn (5)
7. Picked up the periodical during my soujourn also (7)
8. Heads of Indian Legislature for International Agro Development had an appointment with Homer (5)
9. Nasty ol' dog licks up the grizzly's porridge. Too hot!(10)
10. Ayn Rand bestseller at a Chennai bookshop? (12)
12. When you read the sentence in the middle, you read...(7,3,5)
13. Students seeking learning watch this Shakespearean play (4,4)
15. The lines before his countenance gave the introductory comments (7)
19. This croc drowned twice?? (4,4)
20. William lied hesitantly that he'd read this novelist. (5)
22. In Calcutta, Banerjee vested the role of the butler, but here we saw _____. (6)

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The pen is mightier than the sword, and considerably easier to write with.
 Marty Feldman