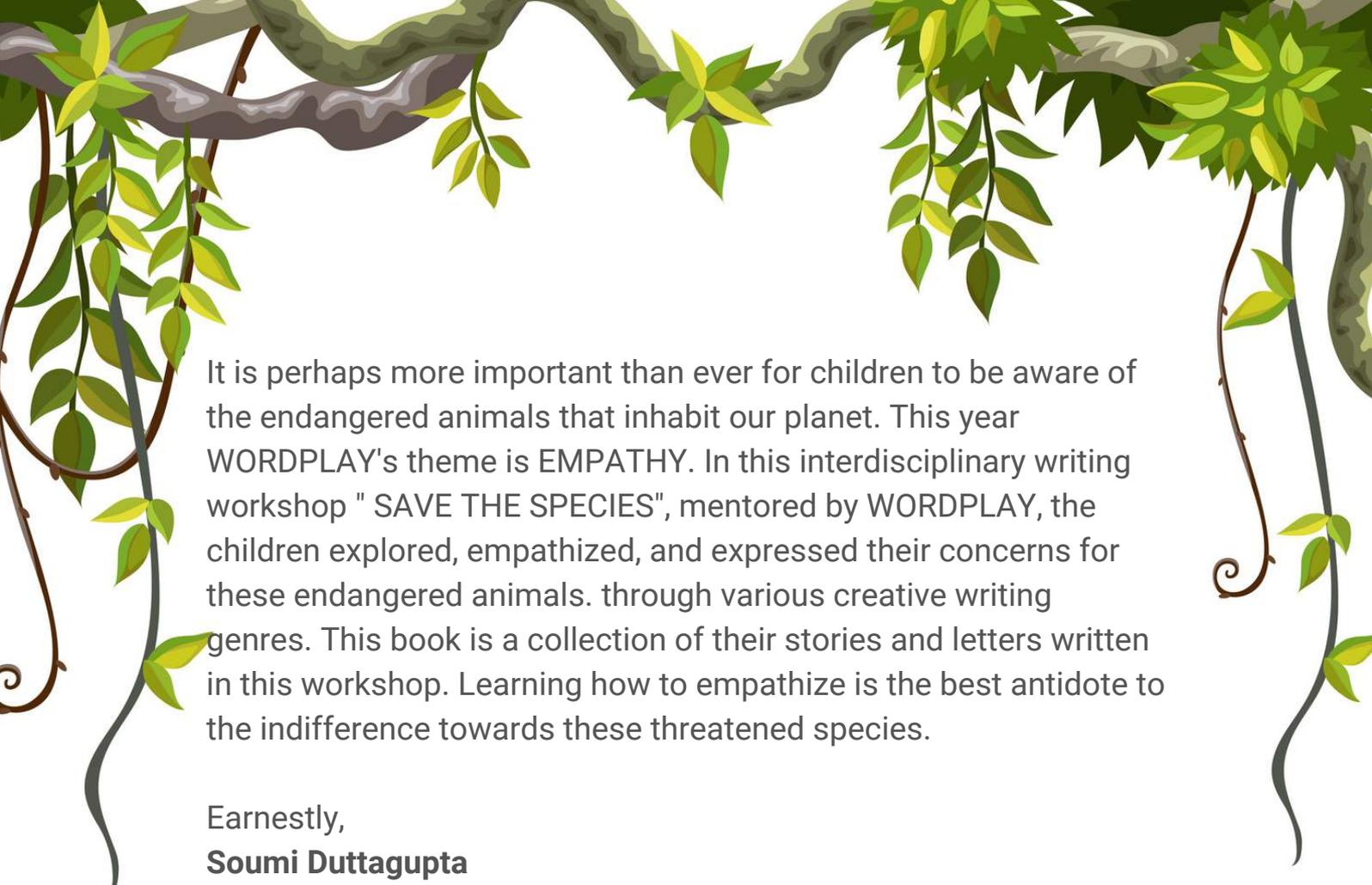


# **SAVE US!!!**

# **EARTH IS OURS TOO**

**Written by grade 4 and 5 students**  
**Mentored and curated by WORDPLAY**





It is perhaps more important than ever for children to be aware of the endangered animals that inhabit our planet. This year WORDPLAY's theme is EMPATHY. In this interdisciplinary writing workshop "SAVE THE SPECIES", mentored by WORDPLAY, the children explored, empathized, and expressed their concerns for these endangered animals. through various creative writing genres. This book is a collection of their stories and letters written in this workshop. Learning how to empathize is the best antidote to the indifference towards these threatened species.

Earnestly,  
**Soumi Duttagupta**  
Mentor/ Founder  
**WORDPLAY**

This book has been edited by **Oiendrila Chatterjee** and digitally compiled by **Jatin Arora**.





# ADHRIT KAHLON

*5th Grade  
Heritage Xperiential Learning School, Gurgaon*

## PANDA POACHERS

Once upon a time, in a dense forest, lived Owen and Lucy, two enormous and furry Pandas. Owen and Lucy led a happy life eating, sleeping and pooping a lot.

One beautiful starry night, Lucy gave birth to four baby pandas. They named the four cubs Lulu, Leonardo, Letty and Luchino. The tiny cubs were so cute and faint-hearted that even a flying insect terrified them.

As days passed by, the cubs grew up to be stronger. Soon, their frail figures turned into hulking bodies even though their strength was nothing compared to their parents.

Two months later, in that forest, twin brothers James and Ben arrived to enjoy a Jungle safari with their forest ranger Philip. As their jeep rumbled through the dense forest, Philip suddenly jerked the jeep to stop.

Pandas", he muttered in a faintly audible tone.



Ben reluctantly looked up from his phone and started to search for something. James laughed under his breath as the binoculars that Ben was trying to find were in his hand.

"Too slow!" he said, smirking, without passing the binoculars to Ben.

James glued the binoculars to his eyes and looked at the lively Pandas intensely.

Philip handed his binoculars over to Ben and said, "Here you go, have a look."

When Ben took the binoculars to watch the Pandas, he felt something powerful passing by his side at rocket speed. From its tremendous vibration and sharpness, he blacked out on a whim.

A few hours later, when he got back his consciousness, he looked around and realized that he was in a hospital. He found James in the bed right next to him. James was resting with a severe cut above his eyebrows and multiple other injuries on his arms.

As he watched James, a nurse steered a cart up to his bed.

"Oh good, you're up!" said the nurse and handed him a plate of food.

Several hours later, James was finally regaining his consciousness.

Meanwhile, in the forest, the mysterious man wiped the blood off his spear. He was happy because the poaching had gone well. Everything went according to his plan except for the people in the jeep that he had tackled effortlessly. Here they were residing.

Among the three people in the jeep, he injured two of them and kidnapped one. Finally, he got the panda bones he wanted. The Chinese black market would give him many customers, and more importantly, lots of money.

He picked up the sack that had the expensive Panda bones that he had just hunted and headed back to the protection of his trustworthy driver. He went back to his Audi, and before leaving the park, and paid a hefty sum to the guard since the guard had easily let him in and out of the forest.



He picked up the sack that had the expensive Panda bones that he had just hunted and headed back to the protection of his trustworthy driver. He went back to his Audi, and before leaving the park, and paid a hefty sum to the guard since the guard had easily let him in and out of the forest.

James and Ben were finally discharged and given a lift to The Pirates Lodge, where they were residing.

In the forest, out of the four Panda cubs, two were still alive. The father, Owen, Luchinno and the babies fled as fast as possible, fearing another attack like the one they had just survived. In another section of the National park, a terrible "rat-tat-tat-tat...." of bullets was going on as they rushed past. It was a terrible day for the animals in the park.

At Corner lane, North East of the National park, several police cars had just intercepted the Audi carrying the stock of Panda bones and a kidnapped man in the back.

Three more cars intercepted the hunter, who was supposedly carrying 50-60 bones. Everything went according to the plan, and finally, the hunters were arrested, and the bones were seized.

The Police Department reinforced security in the forest by installing Security cameras on trees and a tracking collar on every animal. Thankfully, that year the death rate of the animals in the country reduced remarkably, and many other poachers were arrested.

The Mountain Ranges,  
China

21st April 2021  
To  
The Editor,  
Times of India,  
Haryana

Sub: Recklessly killing Giant Panda for fur and bones

Sir or Ma'am,

Through the column of your esteemed daily, kindly allow me some space to express my views and concerns on endangered species like us, the Giant Panda.

Unfortunately, many animals have been knocked off the face of Earth while you were busy building your houses. Humans are not only destroying our homes, making us homeless, but they are also killing animals like us at an alarming rate. What have we done to face such wrath and carnage? I have lost my family just because of some selfish and irresponsible acts of humans. We have witnessed the death of many loved ones. Do you think cutting down trees and killing innocent animals will lead you to a happy life? Do you have any idea about the type of environmental asymmetry that it may cause? Humans should all pledge together to create this world a better place where everyone can live with their families in peace and harmony. Would you like it if the same was done to you? Let's raise awareness to stop poaching and punish the guilty poachers.

I humbly request you to highlight my views in your esteemed daily so that humans are made aware of what must be done.

Thanking you in anticipation  
Yours faithfully  
Ben, The Panda.





# VIHAAN SANDEEP

*5th Grade  
Whitefield Global School, Bangalore*

## THE DRIFT

It was a chilly day in the Arctic. Amy, a mother polar bear, came out of hibernation with her two fluffy, furry cubs Polo and Bolo. Amy loved Polo and Bolo, and she enjoyed watching them play and roll down the glittery icy hills.

It had been dark and dreary for nearly six months. Eventually, with the onset of spring, the temperature would start to rise. The sun would be soon visible over the eternal ice sheets turning the Arctic into a beautiful silvery abode.

The bear family had been out on a long search for food. Every year, they would eagerly wait for the onset of spring as they got to eat their favourite salmon down the nearby river.

However, Amy sensed something's different this year. It was much warmer, and the spring had set in earlier than usual. In addition, she perceived that the ice wasn't strong enough. At some places, the ice was dangerously thin, and that made her anxious.



After a long day, they reached a tall glacier which they needed to cross to reach the river. Her children started playing and jumping on the glacier. Then, Amy suddenly noticed that the glacier they were standing on was very thin. Before she could warn the cubs, the glacier broke into two, and her cubs slipped into the water. In a matter of seconds, Amy started drifting apart from her cubs.

Alas! The family had split apart.

Days passed by, and the two cubs continued floating. Finally, they had no food to eat. As a result, they became weak and gradually fainted.

Polo and Bolo regained their consciousness and could hear a long distant hustle and bustle. Then, finally, they figured out that the water has hit them up on a riverbank in Siberia, a region in Russia.

Having reached a new place terrified them. They tried to get up and walk. But unfortunately, they couldn't even get up as they had become weak.

Countless people looked at them surprisingly and ultimately called the animal rescue team for help. Finally, the rescue team arrived.

Jamie, a renowned scientist who was also the head of the Animal Rescue team, took Polo and Bolo to his lab. Having reached there, James gave some food to the cubs.

Polo and Bolo were hungry and weak, so they ate all the food that Jamie offered them and soon they started to feel better.

Finally, Jamie asked, "Who are you?"

Polo said in a sad tone, "I am Polo, and this is my brother Bolo. Our mother is Amy."

Before even completing the entire sentence, Polo burst into tears, with his brother following along. Weeping Polo continued, "We got separated from our mother when the ice melted and broke."

"Oh, I'm so sorry to hear that. Do you want to know why this happened? It's because of a phenomenon called global warming," informed Jamie.

He continued describing the cubs more about Global warming and how he was trying to raise awareness among people.

Jamie, during his free time, make posters to raise awareness about global warming and its effects. These posters also had information about simple changes people could make to help stop global warming. As a consequence, people in Siberia also changed their lifestyle to support the environment. They realized that the animals suffer because of global warming and only human beings are responsible for that.

Then, finally, he spoke about his latest invention.

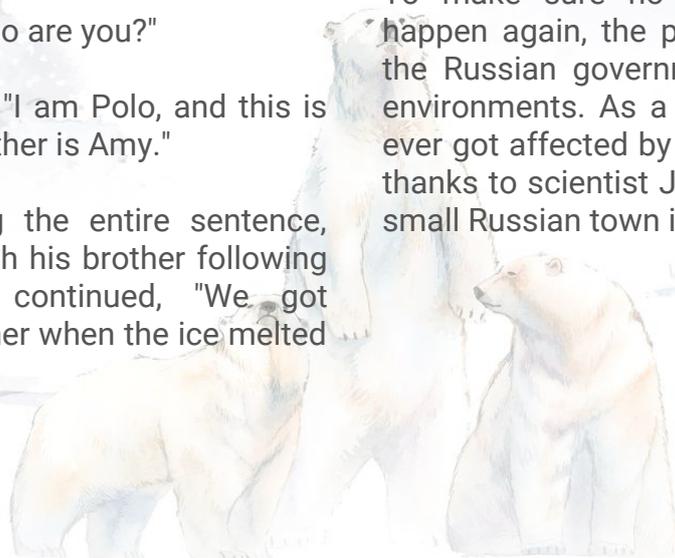
He invented something called a teleporter. A teleporter is such a machine that can transport you wherever you want within seconds.

"YAY! We can be with our mother again!" Polo and Bolo exclaimed in joy.

Soon the teleporter was made ready. The cubs were elated and jumped with joy! They hugged Jamie with tears in their eyes and thanked him for all he had done.

In no time, they were back with their mother. Amy wanted to thank Jamie, so she went through the teleporter to meet the person who saved her cubs.

To make sure no more unfortunate events happen again, the people in Siberia requested the Russian government to protect the Arctic environments. As a result, no other polar bear ever got affected by the deadly global warming, thanks to scientist Jamie and the people of the small Russian town in Siberia!!!



Siberian Wilderness  
Northeast Russia

18th October 2020

The Editor,  
The Hindustan Times,  
New Delhi

Sub: Alarming situation of Polar Bears due to Global Warming

Sir/Mam



Kindly allow me to use some space in your esteemed daily to express my views and concern about Polar Bears in the Arctic region. I live in Siberia (Northeast Russia) most of the year, and I have witnessed a big problem for our community, especially those living here in the Arctic region.

The ice has been melting rapidly in the Arctic circle for the last two years. As a result, we have to keep shifting our ice sheets. You probably know, we solely rely on ice for hunting our food. The rapidly melting ice is forcing us to forage for food in the far-away dangerous terrains. In some places, climatic changes have resulted in food scarcity, and we all are starving to death. My earnest request to all human beings out there to be aware of Global warming. Only they can prevent the excessive pollution and emission of greenhouse gases that make the Earth's atmosphere warmer.

Your ever-increasing population and each one of your ecological and carbon footprints is pushing us to our extinction. But just like you want to live, we also wish to be happy and alive.

It is high time you change your "don't care" attitude and instill a "we care" attitude. Educate your children, imbibe love in them so that they care not only for their fellow human beings but also their fellow earth-dwellers like us. The situation is grave! Pull up your socks and take your initiatives to cut greenhouse gas emissions immediately and save our home.

I sincerely request you to highlight the issue through your newspaper to raise awareness so that human beings can be sensitive towards the issue and can take the necessary steps to save and protect us, the elegant polar bears, from extinction. We add beauty and diversity to our mother Earth.

Thanking You in anticipation  
Yours faithfully  
Amy, the Polar Bear



# MANEET BHANDARY

*5th Grade  
Vega Schools, Gurgaon*

## THE WHALE SHARK AND THE WHALES

The story is set in the Arabian Sea near the coastlines of Karnataka.

It was dawn, and the sun was about to rise. The sky was not yet orange. It was greyish, filled with smog.

Three hundred twenty thousand gallons of radioactive wastewater had been drained out from all the nuclear power plants. Humans were also using seawater to cool the destroyed reactor blocks to stop further nuclear meltdowns. But then, with this blast, things had gotten out of their hands as well. So many dead bodies of humans were lying all around upon the land.

And deep inside the ocean, the leader of the whales, Albert, was humming a sad song.

"Oh, my gentle ocean,  
Oh my olden golden days,  
When fish, dolphins, and whales  
had their ways  
Oh, my deep blue ocean,  
You are now the poisonous potion."

He was exhausted after a long, sad, and scary day. The last two days had been terrible for him. He witnessed the death of thousands of whales and other sea creatures. The worst part is some were his dear friends and cheerful young whales of the pod.

No one had seen such a devastating incident before!

Gloomy, heartbroken, Albert could see no ray of hope. Suddenly he saw Taro, the old sea turtle paddling towards him. Taro was 120 years old and wisest among the mariners.



Taro said to Albert, "I know you are upset, but we have to take some action to save the rest of the sea creatures. Let's try and speak to Sam, the weird whale."

Albert regretted why didn't he think of this before! Finally, Albert replied, "Yes, your idea sounds good. Let's go!"

Everybody knew Sam, the whale shark. Even though he was not a whale, Sam was a great friend of all the sea creatures. He was special. Everyone in the ocean knew that the friendly giant fish was born with some unbelievable magical powers. The elders in the ocean believed that Sam was as intelligent as the humans on the shore. He lived deep down near the ocean bed in his vast Whale Lab

As Taro and Albert reached Sam's lab, they found Sam was feeding on the planktons, not aware of the disaster that had occurred in the ocean near the shore. Albert sent out his melodic sound and hollered Sam.

Sam was deeply engrossed in making a particular chemical that could break the nondegradable plastics. Suddenly he realized that someone was calling him and thought, "Is it Uncle Albert calling me? Is everything okay?"

As soon as he received signals from his Uncle Albert, he replied with high-frequency clicks and said, "I am coming, Uncle Albert. Just a moment, please!"

Finally, Sam met Albert.

Albert explained to Sam about the current condition of the ocean and how the radioactive metals contaminated the water. Sam was already aware of the deadly radiation that was approaching the sky over the ocean. He assured Albert that he would do something as early as possible and went back to his lab.

He kept thinking about how all the sea creatures could overcome or survive the disaster in his lab. Being the most intelligent creature of all, he was aware of the number of animals and birds that could become extinct.

When Sam was a kid, his Uncle Albert told him how so many species disappeared from the planet due to pollution. He also knew that humans were responsible for creating pollution at an exaggerated pace.

Alas! The dreading consequence had not only destroyed the land, but the marine world was also in great danger. Tired, Sam dozed off thinking about all the crisis.

In his dreams, he saw a dark violet book with a hardcover near the coral reefs. And the air around echoed with a sound saying, "All your answers are there in the book. Go and save the earth!!".

He woke up with a jolt. Without wasting any time, he quickly swam to the coral reefs. It was a long swim; he was almost out of breath when he reached the spot.

To his surprise, there was a violet cover book lying on the colored corals. He immediately opened the book and read each page of the book in one breath. He realized he didn't have even a moment to waste anymore.

After reaching the pod, he informed Albert immediately to assemble all the whales and the other marine friends of the whale tribe.

When all the sea creatures assembled, Sam instructed, "There's a crater deep inside the ocean. We have to get there as early as possible; only then we will be safe. Quick! We do not have much time. The radiation is rapidly approaching. We need to get inside the crater soon."

Having said this, he recollected that the last life-saving tip was mentioned on the last page of the book. One page of the violet book had a line written in bold, "Reflection is your weapon against this radiation."

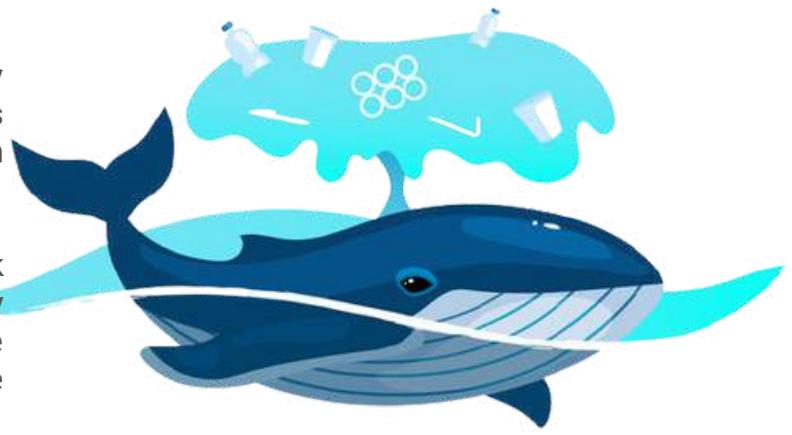
That reminded him of the reflector that always remained lying on the ocean floor. As he reached his lab, he found the reflector lying at the same place. He quickly grasped it and headed towards the crater.

Meanwhile, all the other sea creatures reached the crater and jumped straight into it. There was an eerie silence around.

"There's a lot of water here," said Albert to break the silence.

As Albert took a turn to explore the vast crater, he was surprised to see the Stellar Sea cow, Japanese sea Lion, grayling fish, and many other species. These species were known to have disappeared from the marine world, but they were swimming happily there!

The Japanese Sea Lion fluttering his tail, swam near Albert, saying, "Surprised? Yes, we all hid inside the crater for years when the humans made living impossible for us. To the world, we are extinct, but we are thriving merrily here."



Sam finally reached the crater with the reflector and asked, "Uncle, has everyone reached the crater? It is completely safe here! I hope we did not leave anyone behind?"

"Yes, Sam. Thank you for this help! Here is a surprise for you. Look who all are here to greet you!" said Albert and pointed towards the Japanese Sea Lion.

Sam's eyes sparkled, but he wasn't surprised.

He replied, "Hello, it's such a pleasure to see you. I knew I would meet you as that was mentioned in the book."

"Which book?" asked Albert curiously.

Sam answered, "I'll explain everything in a bit, but I have one more thing to do!"

"Where are you going, Sam?" summoned Albert.

"The water and air above are getting poisonous with each second. I have only 10 mins in hand! If I can't make it, we all have to stay here inside the crater forever. So I am going to fix it." replied Sam.

All the sea creatures, including Albert, saw Sam racing up. He held the reflector at an angle specified in the violet book. A dazzling light blinded all of them for a fraction of a second, and then it was all clear!

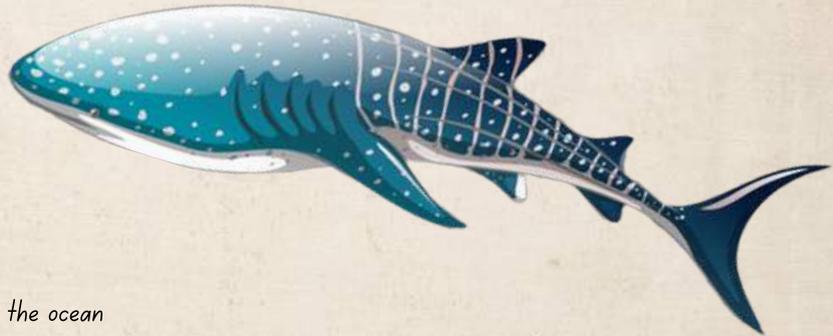
A bright blue sky seemed to smile on the sparkling clear green water!!

"Yes, I did it!!" Sam screamed in joy!!

He was thrilled! Not because he could save the existing marine world, but because he also brought back the extinct!

Arabian Sea  
Coastal Lines of Karnataka  
22nd May 2021

To  
The Editor  
The Times of India  
New Delhi



Subject: Animal poaching and polluting the ocean

I am Sam, the whale shark. I request to have some space on your esteemed daily to share my extreme concern regarding poaching whales, sharks for meat, and oil. Also, I would like to request fellow human beings to stop polluting our ocean with highly toxic radioactive materials.

Bycatching is another ugliest thing that we endure in our marine world. A staggering number of us are hauled up for this reason, and then you discard us dead or dying. You don't mean to catch us, yet you randomly kill us without any regret. I would also request you to instill kind behavior towards us.

Your greed is more than your need. For your selfish act, a mother loses her son, a son loses his father, a friend loses his friend, and the list goes on.

Our plea is don't kill us. One act of kindness from your end will save many lives of our rapidly reducing tribe. Moreover, many people think I am a predator and want to kill you because I have a "shark" in my name. The truth is that neither whale sharks nor sharks eat humans. We are huge, slow-moving fish. Hence it's easy for you to catch us.

Furthermore, day by day, you have started to pollute the ocean with radioactive wastes at such an alarming rate. Most of my family and friends are dead now. We all have taken shelter in a crater to save our lives. We don't deserve this.

You need to understand that the suffering you create for us today will eventually turn towards you after some time due to the imbalance that you are creating in the world by making our number reduced or extinct.

I plead to the humans not to be blind towards our suffering. Please be kind to us and also other animals on the planet. Let's all live happily.

I request you to please publish this letter in your newspaper to hope for us not getting extinct.

Thanking you in anticipation

Yours faithfully

Sam, leader of the Whale sharks



# AMAIRA KHETERPAL

*4th Grade  
Lotus Valley International School, Gurgaon*

## RORY AND THE RHINO

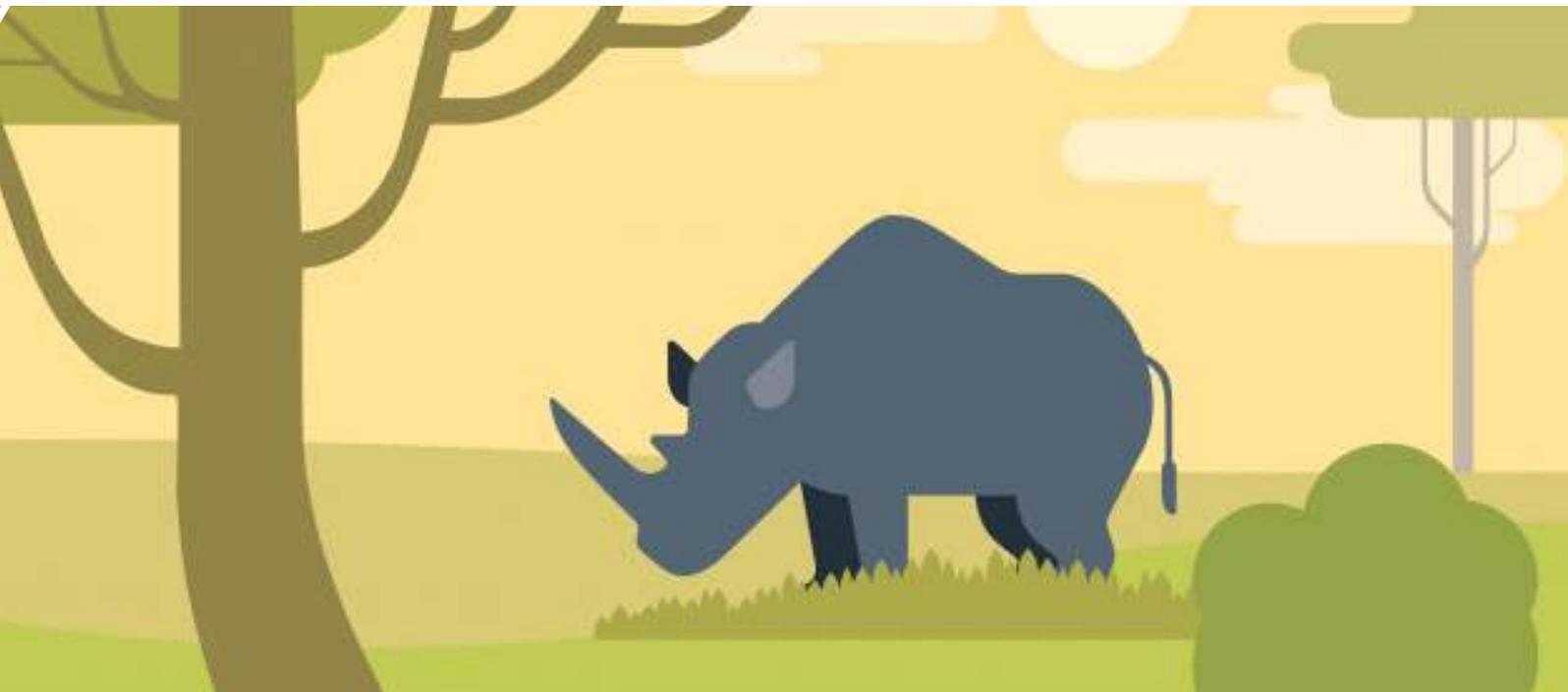
Rory, a little girl, lived in a small apartment in New York with her parents.

One day Rory overheard her parents planning something, secretly. She guessed; they were planning a trip to Africa.

The following day her parents finally announced a surprise trip to Africa. Her dad said, "We will be leaving next week. So pack your bag properly because we are going for a month!"

Rory danced in joy!!

She was excited about the trip as she could meet her favourite aunt after a long time. Her aunt Jess is a young and beautiful woman who lives in Africa.





The day finally arrived. Rory was ready for the long-awaited trip with her luggage, and she reached the airport with her parents. Finally, after a few hours of a delightful journey, they reached Africa. As soon as they got off their flight, Rory found her aunt Jess near the exit door. She ran through the door and gave her aunt a tight hug.

The next day, Rory and Jess headed to the National Park. On their way, Jess explained to her how people are cutting down trees, its impact on nature and how that contributes to the increasing pollution levels. Jess also explained why it is essential to visit a national park at least once in a lifetime.

After listening to what her aunt Jess said, Rory rolled her eyes, laughed and replied, "Aunty, I have already visited a national park before!"

"Oh!" remarked Jess, and they both started giggling.

As soon as they entered the National Park, Rory spotted a Rhino. Normally Rhinos scares her, but this one was cute. She came near it, a little startled, though the Rhino seemed to be loving it. They were getting along well with each other.

Rory gazed around to look for the other members of the cute Rhino's family. Then, having not found anyone, she asked her aunt, "Where is the baby Rhino's family?"

Aunt Jess answered, "The baby Rhino has lost his family as the cruel, illegal hunters killed them to get fictional medicine and interesting décor items. Also, there's a lot of money involved when it comes to selling skin, bones and horn of Rhino."

She felt terrible and sorry for the unfortunate animals and decided to start a campaign to prevent killing animals. She named her campaign "Stop Leisure; Save Rhinos".

Unfortunately, the campaign did not go well initially as many selfish people tried to sabotage it by spreading false news about the campaign. But truth always wins. With the support of all the animal lovers of the community, the campaign was finally a successful one.

Later, Rory and Jess wrote a book on this topic, and everyone agreed to their notion. After that, people started taking initiatives to stop killing animals, especially Rhinos. 😊

Finally, one day, they went on a world tour to spread their love for animals. That was all they ever desired to achieve, a worldwide awareness to prevent animal poaching.

Everyone admired their effort when their book was ultimately published. Various conferences in different cities invited Jess and Rory to create awareness regarding poaching endangered animals through their lectures and tours. ❤️❤️

The dense Jungle  
South Africa

21st April 2021

The Editor  
The Times of India  
New Delhi

Sub: A cry out to stop poaching

Sir/Ma'am



Through the column of your esteemed daily, I want to express my deep pain and anxiety over the killing and poaching of wild animals, especially Rhinos like me.

I am not sure if you are aware that continuous poaching of animals like us hurts and causes great harm to the entire ecosystem, where humans belong as well!

I know you love to flaunt your rusty mat on your dinner table when you have guests at home. But please take a second to pause and think. Are your possessions more precious than our lives? Your superstitious and ignorant priest tells you that you can make life-saving drugs from our horns. Don't your books tell you that there is no science in their words?

Is it so important to kill us to justify your desires and wrong beliefs?

We warn you to stop these terrible actions. For once, step into our mind, think like us and give us a chance to stay on the Earth. Otherwise, you will not only lose beautiful animals but we will be pushed towards extinction as well. So, save us to save our world!

I urge you to spread the word in your esteemed newspaper and save us, the only few existing Rhinos.

Thanking you in anticipation

Yours faithfully

Sam, The Rhino



# MANYU BHANDARY

*5th Grade  
Vega Schools, Gurgaon*

## BEN SAVED THE FOREST

Ben, the Orangutan, lived with his family and friends in the lush green forests of Brazil.

"Yippee! It's so fun here!" exclaimed Ben while swinging from one tree to another. Abruptly, Leo, the lion, came running and informed, "Run, Ben, Run! Hunters are coming this way!".

Hunters are people who capture and kill animals. Last month they captured Mr Anteater, and nobody knows what had happened to him since then.

Ben ran back home, panting. Her mother, Hope, asked, "What happened, Ben?"

Ben said, "I was playing in the park, and suddenly Leo informed me that a bunch of hunters have come to the forest. So I ran home as fast as I could. I hope no one is captured this time."

Meanwhile, the hunters strolled down the forest while looking around.

"Hmm! It seems the forest has very few dwellers," the first hunter said.

Then the second hunter replied, "I thought I saw something move there...or maybe not. It's an utter waste of time. Let's go home!"

All the forest animals spent their entire day in fear and anxiety, and no one went out of their homes. The next day, Ben wanted to visit the forest park, so he asked his mom, "Can we go to the park today, mom?"

Hope replied, "I don't think so, Ben. The hunters might come again. I understand you want to play out in the wilderness, but why don't you call your friend, Tigger and play at home instead?"

Tigger, the tiger, is Ben's best friend whom he called home.

Sometime later, Tigger arrived, and they started to play and discuss a lot of things. Finally, Tigger said, "Hey Ben, lets' go to your treehouse. It's exhausting to be home for such a long time."



There's a tree near Ben's home, and he called it his treehouse. They loved spending time there as that was their favourite spot.

Finally, with Hope's permission, they came out of their house and climbed up the tree. When they were about to play with the wooden toys Leo had carved for them; something caught Tigger's attention.

Tigger asked, "What's that?" pointing at the edge of the forest.

"I think those are stumps; whatever these are, it doesn't look good. Something is wrong here. We should go to Leo's house. He is the one who can help us solve this mystery," bellowed Ben.

"Okay, Ben," affirmed Tigger, and they both ran to Leo's house.

As they reached Leo's home, they saw Leo was looking at the opposite side of the jungle.

Seeing the two kids in anxiety, he asked, "Hey, what happened? Is everything okay?"

"No, we think we are in trouble! The number of stumps in our forest is increasing day by day," replied panting Tigger.

"What? Come up and tell me clearly what happened," responded Leo.

They climbed up Leo's tree tower. Ben pointed to the stumps. Leo looked at the structures through a leaf binocular and inspected them for a long time.

A few minutes later, he replied, "Hmm, the number of stumps are increasing day by day. Now it has to stop, or else we will be in danger!"

Leo looked worried, and finally, he requested, "Call all your friends here this evening."

"Okay!" Ben & Tigger responded together.

That evening all the children gathered around the lookout tree, wondering why Leo called them. To break the suspense, Leo handed out envelopes to each of them and said, "Give the envelope to your parents."

Finally, everybody said goodbye and went home, including Ben and Tigger.

On his way back home, Ben noticed some footprints. So, he took out a magnifying glass from his backpack and looked closely at the footprints. Looking at those footprints, Ben understood the marks are fresh and a bit different.

He kept following the trail that led him towards his favourite treehouse. As soon as he reached the spot, he shifted his gaze from the footprints and found nothing. Someone chopped down his favourite treehouse!

He looked around; most of the other trees were intact. Quickly, he called his friend Leo. As soon as Leo reached Ben's home, he took Leo to the stump.



They both examined the stump, and finally, Leo declared, "It seems humans are doing this to us and our forest."

Ben asked, "But why do humans need wood?"

"Because human beings need this wood for building their world. Tomorrow morning, we will meet here and catch the culprit red-handed. For now, let's all get some rest," stated Leo.

The next day sad, Ben woke up, got off his bed, ate his breakfast and went out for a walk. He looked at the stump, and many random memories crossed his mind because his treehouse was his favourite place. Saddened by these thoughts, he came back home and felt depressed.

Soon Ben saw Leo and Tigerr were standing very close to the stump. When Ben was about to say something, they suddenly heard the sound 'Brrrrrr rrrrrr'. They quickly hid behind a bush.

Ben peaked out of the bush and saw a human cutting down a tree with a chainsaw.

"Look at the number of trees the human has already taken from our forest!" whispered Leo, pointing to a bundle of wood.

"Let's play a trick on this human. I'll steal the bundle of wood and climb up a tree and signal you guys. If the human notices me, distract him and make sure the man never comes back to the forest," replied Ben.

Everything went according to plan. Tigger and Leo got Ben's signal, and they tried their best so that the man never comes back to the forest.

Leo howled, "Hey, you human, stop cutting our trees. Do you know what you are doing? You are ruining the house of several birds and other animals. As a result of which we are left behind with little food and resources."

Tigger continued, "How would you feel if we destroyed your home and disturbed your day to day life? You fellow human; if you disturb our habitat one more day, we will disturb your family forever!"

The human realized his fault and said, "I am so sorry, fellas. I didn't know that a simple selfish act of mine can destroy your life forever. I promise I will never cut trees or disturb you again."

Before leaving the forest, the human wanted to carry the bundle of wood with him. To his surprise, it wasn't there! He searched around frantically and finally saw it on the tree. He climbed up the tree, got the bundle down and climbed down.

As the man was walking out of the forest, he realized what he had done to the forest. The greenery is all stumps now. He decided that he had to do something to compensate for the loss.

As the man reached home, he started making a sign that said: STOP CUTTING TREES SAVE ANIMALS. The next day, he took the sign and stuck it in front of the forest. In addition, he also planted ten saplings to compensate for the number of trees he had cut down. Finally, the man requested Leo to have a look at the forest entrance.

All the animals reached the edge of the forest and were happy to see the sign and the baby plants.

Meanwhile, Leo called for another meeting inside the forest, where he announced, "We all have to take one sapling and plant it near each stump to save our ecosystem. One small act can change the world."

The forest was finally restored, and all the animals in the forest lived happily ever after.

Lush and green Forest  
Brazil

20th October 2021

The Editor  
Hindustan Times  
New Delhi

Subject: An urge to enhance the biodiversity



Kindly allow me to use some space in your esteemed daily to express my views and concern on deforestation and endangered animals like us.

Each day, more than one million trees are being slaughtered by human to establish their settlement or for several other reasons. Just like humans want to lead a happy life every day, we, too, want that. But how can we live a safe and secure life? We pass each day with the fear of losing our home or family. Moreover, cutting down trees is also creating a massive impact on the overall environment and temperature. Why don't you stop such selfish acts? Let's make this world a better place for both of us.

I request you to highlight the issue through your newspaper so that the human beings are sensitized towards the issue and do the needful.

Thanking you in anticipation  
Yours faithfully  
Ben, the Orangutan



# SEERAT DHINGRA

4th Grade  
Shiv Nadar School, Gurugram

## THE LION FRIENDS

Lion parents Lara and Zade lived in a forest with their cubs. The cubs were lovable and loved to play around with their mother and led a happy life. The Lion father, Zade, went out to hunt and brought food for their cubs.

One day, Lara spoke to Zade, "I think our cubs have grown up, and now they must learn how to hunt prey."

"Are you sure? When do you think, they should get started?" asked Zade.

"Let's start their training from today itself. I don't want our cubs to be late!"

So, Lara planned to take out her cubs the same day to start their training.

It was a bright sunny day. Mark and Enna were planning something fun for their three daughters- Sara, Lia and Jessica. Sara was the eldest, and Jessica was the youngest of all sisters.

"Hey, Hey Lia, get up! Mum and Dad are planning a trip for us!" whispered Sara.



Jessica was still trying to listen to what their parents were planning.

Then, finally, Sara asked sleepily, "Really?"

Jessica confirmed, "Yes, get up, you sleepyhead!"

Mark and Enna decided to take their daughters to a National Park.

Enna called her daughters, "Sara, Lia and Jessica, please get ready within an hour because we will be visiting a National Park today."

Jessica replied, "Why National Park, mum?"

Enna explained to Jessica the importance of visiting a National Park and stated, "It is essential to visit National forests as these are home to several endemic species, and you can also enjoy flora and fauna of the jungle."

They were out for their trip within an hour. After checking in to the National Park, all the three girls enjoyed the beautiful scenery and waterfalls. They had a pair of binoculars through which they looked at all the different animals and birds around them.

Meanwhile, Lara started to train her cubs and taught them all the tricks for hunting prey. So naturally, the little ones were happy to learn new things. They jumped here and there, but they didn't know that their happiness will soon turn out to be an utter menace.

Both of her cubs suddenly fell into an abyss. They screamed from the abyss, "Mom, please help! Mom!"

Lara was scared, worried and confused. She didn't understand what to do to save her cubs. Despite trying her best, she slipped into that same deep dark hole.

Now no one can help them. Lara thought, "We would probably starve to death here in this darkness." The more they moved, the deeper they were proceeding.

Her cubs were crying and shivering out of fear. She tried to comfort them, but she was terrified too!

Hours passed by; they were still in the same position. When Lara almost lost hope, she heard a few human steps far away.

She immediately understood that maybe humans could help us out, so she started roaring from inside. Hearing her mum roar, her cubs did the same.

"Mum, can you hear something like a lion roar? Let's get out of here", said Sara.

"Yes, honey. But it sounds like the lion needs help! So, let's go and help them," answered Enna.

As soon as Enna and her family reached the spot, they found a deep dark hole and heard the mourning lioness. They also found that she had two of her cubs down there as well.

Scared and exhausted, Lara requested Enna, "Can you please help us out of this pit?"

Enna, unsure what to do, replied, "Yes, we will try our best to take out you and your cubs from there, don't worry!"

Then Mark, Sara, Lia and Enna devised a plan to make a human chain and pull them out from the pit. They tried their best but failed as the pit was too deep.

Finally, Jessica came up with a plan and said, "I have an idea; I see a big rope hanging from that tree. Why don't we use that for the rescue?"

Mark managed to get the rope and tied it down from a tall tree. Then they passed the other end of the rope to rescue the lioness and her cubs.

Lara and her cubs were finally out of the pit and said, "Thank you, humans, you guys saved our lives. I wish every other human on the Earth to be like you who wants to save us and not kill us for their greed."

Jessica and her family promised the lioness to raise awareness regarding protecting animals in the forest to ensure their safety. Finally, as a return gift, the lioness guided them through the jungle so they can have a great trip through the dense forest.

Dense Forest  
Tanzania

18th October 2021

The Editor,  
The Hindustan Times,  
New Delhi

Sub: Protecting Lions and other Endangered animals

Sir/Mam



Kindly allow me to use some space in your esteemed daily to express my views and concern. I am Lara, the lioness, and I live in the dense forests of Tanzania with my family. However, we are not safe here as people are cutting down trees and killing us.

We are passing each day with difficulty. Human beings are cutting down trees from our forest that is leaving behind just barren lands. As a result, we are left behind with little food as other animals find it difficult to stay here. Moreover, human beings are also setting traps, and as we fall, they are killing us. Some of them are also selling us to the zoo, which is nothing but animal jail. For this, many animals have ended up being homeless.

I sincerely request you to highlight the issue through your newspaper to raise awareness so that human beings can be sensitive towards the issue and can take the necessary steps to save and protect all animals worldwide.

Thanking You in anticipation  
Yours faithfully  
Lara the lioness