

# Bad jokes Ramaswamy

Aditi Krishnapriyan

Age: 12 years, Cupertino, California

Once upon a time there lived a man called Ramaswamy. Ramaswamy hated his name, because poeple, upon hearing his name, would say, "What is the opposite of Ramaswamy? Rama did not see me!"

Ramaswamy hated comments like these and was completely fed up. So he decided to go by the name Rednalage, which he believed would stir fright into people's hearts. Instead, people laughed, and asked, "But my tongue is pink, why is yours red?"

Now Ramaswamy was enraged. How dare these people make fun of his name?! For a while he decided to continue to go by the name Ramaswamy, and when *anyone* made fun of his name, he would brandish his stick at them, no matter what age they were. As it happened, a group of children yelled the joke at him, and Ramaswamy grabbed his stick and was off after the children. Soon, news went around town about Ramaswamy's violence, and parents never let their children go near his house. For some time, Ramaswamy lived in a peace.

While he felt so peaceful, he decided to paint. Ramaswamy found out he had a wonderful talent for painting, and as he was painting, he saw a man come by. The man watched for a while and then asked Ramaswamy to come paint for the king. Greatly honored, Ramaswamy agreed. After a few days in the court, Ramaswamy bitterly disliked the king, a man who tended to gain weight very fast. The king also made horrible jokes and a mealtime conversation with the king's family would go like this:

King's son: Father, we have a new librarian at our school named Mrs. Lock.

King: Oh! And where is her key?

King's wife: Oh, I cannot attend the Royal Tulip Ball as I must go to a garden party.

King: Don't worry! There will be lots of tulips there too!

The king thought himself extremely witty when he was not and soon Ramaswamy decided to leave the king. The next day, Ramaswamy told the king:



"I have decided to leave the castle. My suitcases are packed."

"Ah, and what do you plan on doing?"

On the spur of the moment, Ramaswamy said, "Oh, I am a detective!"

At this, the king asked, "So you have a big case?"

Ramaswamy replied, "Oh no! Not big enough!"

The king guffawed, but Ramaswamy was filled with horror. He had made a bad joke! The shame and dishonor of it! Looking around, Ramaswamy breathed a sigh of relief that no one had heard *him* make a bad joke. But as he looked up, he saw the king stare suspiciously at him.

"Are you taking my place as Royal Bad Joke Maker?" the king demanded.

"Of course not!" Ramaswamy exclaimed.

"Too bad! We shall have a contest! If you are the first one who cannot think of bad jokes, I will chop off your head! If it is me, then you may have my kingdom."

Preparations for the bad joke contest were made. On the day of the contest, the king and Ramaswamy took their seats opposite each other. The king was to speak first.

King: What did the chicken say when the hen laid an orange?

Ramaswamy: Do tell.

King: Look at the orange marmalade!

At this there was great boeing, and the king looked very pleased. Now it was Ramaswamy's turn.

Ramaswamy: Knock knock.

King: Who is there?

Ramaswamy: Cecilia.

King: Cecilia who?

Ramaswamy: It's a sillier game than I thought!



The people boomed once again and shook their heads sadly.

King: What is the difference between Lalgudi Jayaraman, and Mahatma Gandhi?

Ramaswamy: What?

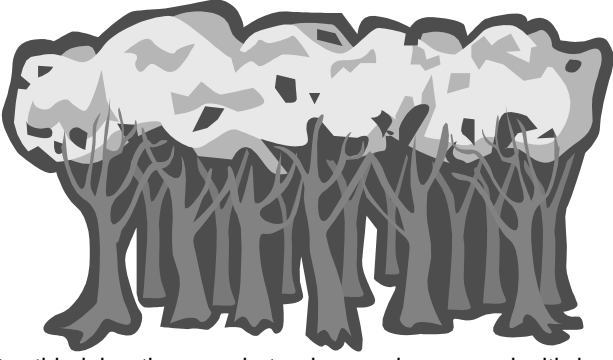
King: One is a violinist and the other one is a non-violinist.



At this, the people kept quiet, too bored to even shake their heads.

Ramaswamy: All right. Here is a little joke. Once upon a time, there was an Indian man and an English man who were staying at the same hotel. Everyday the English man and the Indian man would meet at the bottom of the stairs. On the first day this happened, the English man asked, "How do you do?" The Indian man did not understand this and he thought the English man was asking his name. So he said "Ram lyengar" because that was his name. This went on for days, and then the Indian man realized that the English man could not be asking his name everyday. So

the next day, the *Indian man* asked the English man, "How do you do?" The English man replied, "Ram Iyengar!"



After this joke, the crowd stood up and screamed with laughter. Angrily, the king shouted, "This was a bad joke contest! You broke the rules by telling a good joke! We should cut off your head!" Hearing this, the people booed much louder, and started chanting in favor of Ramaswamy. Seeing defeat, the king gave up, threw down his crown, and ran away from the castle grounds to the forest, never to be heard of again. The people yelled with joy, as they had had to put up with many years of bad jokes, and on the spot, crowned Ramaswamy king on the promise that he would always tell good jokes. Ramaswamy agreed, and the people lived happily ever after.



## Greetings & Best Wishes

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# Three Best Poems

**Sahana P Mundewadi**  
Age: 7, Cupertino, California

### One



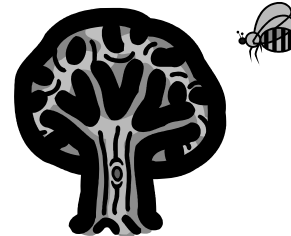
On a dark night,  
Like a light  
On a height  
Is moonlight  
So bright  
In the wonderful night  
What a splendid sight

### Two



Name had a pickle,  
Which cost a nickle  
Inside was a prickle  
That always used to tickle

### Three



The tree is so free  
It starts with a T  
Flowers on the tree  
Is the nector of the bee

# The Secret Avenger



Akshata Melanahalli

Milpitas, California, Akshata\_mp\_AT\_yahoo.com

Young Avalon was lying down on the grass looking at the stars. It was her turn today to read from the Family Bible. Every day, a member of the family would read a page of the Family Bible. The family would then sit down for a dinner of hot soup, cheese and bread, and if they were lucky, the family would get cold milk to pacify them from all the hot food.



Avalon's sister, Delancy, had disappeared into the woods when Avalon was only three years old. When people went to find Delancy, they found out that she was dead. Avalon couldn't understand then that her sister was dead but only looked up at her parents with a questioning face. When she understood that her sister was dead, her mind and heart were filled with sorrow as she remembered her sister's heartwarming smile. Now, as this eleven-year-old girl looked up at the stars, she knew her sister would always be with her. Knowing this, she lay, waiting for something to happen.

Soon enough, something did happen. A glowing figure appeared out of the forest. She had long hair up to her knees. Her face looked young and her body was slim. Her smile was enchanting, which made her look familiar. The glowing figure seemed to be floating a little above the ground. The figure started whispering, "Avalon, Avalon, come with me." in the most tender voice you and I have ever heard.

Avalon, who didn't think at all, started following this figure through the forest next to Avalon's house. On the way, rivers split to make way for Avalon and the glowing figure to pass through. They walked through the forest for what seemed like hours to Avalon. Whenever Avalon fell down, the glowing figure gave Avalon delicious food and water to return Avalon's strength back to her.

The two finally reached a waterfall which split into two, revealing a huge village.

The village was below the hill that the waterfall was pouring down from. A small river, flowing from the waterfall, supplied water for the whole village. The village was named Vasuda. People were doing their daily chores without any disturbances. There was one huge house which was the head's house. Guards were posted all around this huge house.

Avalon was taken directly to this huge house. Inside, the head of the village, Clautal, welcomed Avalon into his house warmly. He turned towards the glowing figure and said, "Thank you, you may go now." He turned towards Avalon and said, "Welcome to the village of Vasuda. You have come here to do a very important job. You see, long ago, snakes and men were at war with each other. Snakes would kill men while they were sleeping. The leader of the snakes was a serpent named Jasmine. She had one son named Nathaneal. In all this confusion, we figured out that there was a girl named Delancy in your world; a girl who was just as courageous as you are. She was called upon to defeat the evil Jasmine. Delancy was given a shield, a sword, and directions. Your sister succeeded in killing Jasmine, but her son, with his army ... killed your sister. Now you are to kill Nathaneal with the same weapons your sister got. Be careful and good luck!"

Avalon set off with a shield, a sword, and most important of all, the fury within her. Avalon walked along the small path towards the castle where Nathaneal lived. As she was walking towards the castle, she suddenly began to feel dizzy. Just when she was about to reach the castle, she collapsed and fainted.

When she woke up, she was still near the castle. She got up and started to approach the castle again. This time, guards suddenly popped up out of nowhere. They were carrying swords. Avalon took her sword out and lunged at one of the snakes. She threatened to kill this snake if the other snakes didn't let her in. The other snakes let her in. As soon as Avalon got inside, she locked the door.

She ran to the highest room, passing rooms and staircases. When she came to the highest room, she was surprised to see that Nathaneal was already waiting for her. "Well, well, well, you look familiar, have we met?" Nathaneal asked in a rather teasing way. Without speaking, Avalon took out her sword and was about to strike, when Nathaneal caught hold of Avalon's arm and pushed Avalon down. "Sneaky, eh? Like your sister!" Nathaneal hissed. Nathaneal suddenly rushed forward and wrapped himself around Avalon and started hissing loudly. The pressure started increasing as Nathaneal squeezed harder. Avalon began to choke and gasp for her breath. With all her remaining strength, Avalon took her sword out and pushed it into the evil serpent's neck. Nathaneal let out a moan and fell to the ground along with Avalon. Avalon let out gasps of air.

Avalon remembered her sister as she walked out of the castle with sadness. As she walked on the path leading to her home, Clautal appeared in front of her. He asked, "Are you going without any gifts when you killed our enemy? Surely you want something in exchange?"

Avalon answered, "I want my sister back." When these words were uttered, Delancy appeared before her. A pair of slippers also appeared before her which would take her in and out of Vasuda whenever she put them on. Avalon ran towards her sister and hugged her. Delancy let out a huge, heartwarming smile.



## Halebeedu

**Karthik Bande**

12 years, Cupertino, California

This summer, I went on a vacation to India. When I was there, I visited many places like Halebeedu, Beluru, and Mysore. I liked Halebeedu the most. Halebeedu is a very divine place. Halebeedu means 'ruined city.' It used to be called Dwarasamudra because there was a huge lake near the city. The city of Dwarasamudra was the capital city of the Hoysala kingdom. Vishnuvardhana was the king at that time. In the town of Halebeedu thrives a temple. This temple is a historic place in the Hassan district. The name of this temple is Hoysaleswara. It was built ages ago in the 12th century A.D. by the Hoysala Dynasty. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and Parvathi. It is beautifully decorated with sculptures that were carved by Jakkanna Chari. Jakkanna Chari was a great artist. He also carved a lot of other gorgeous sculptures. The exterior walls are intricately carved with horizontal friezes telling stories from the epics, mythology, animals and birds such as elephants, lions, horses, makaras, hamsas, creepers, floral designs, etc. The highlight of the temple is that it was built with stone slabs on pivotal mechanism without an binding martial like cement. Amazingly, the stone slabs were carved after construction, leaving no room for errors. This shows how skilled the people at that time were. Even though people have worked on this temple for over 86 years, there is still lot of work that is incomplete.

All the bracket figures except the one in the interior have been lost because Muslim rulers successively looted Halebeedu. The state government undertook the renovation work about 30 years ago and the town as well as its area gradually improved. The Hassan district is very amazing. Another famous place in the Hassan district is Beluru. If you ever get a chance to visit the place, you should seize it.



## Jokes

**Chaitra Subbarao**

Age: 7, Salinas, California

1. Which pet can go inside the house at all times?
2. Which is the laziest vegetable?
3. Where does a snowman go to dance?
4. What kind of split can you not put together?
5. It can run but cannot walk. What is it?
6. It moves up and down but it has no legs. What is it?
7. Which alphabet is a beverage that you drink?
8. Why did the vampire go to McDonald's?
9. A man went into a bar. What did he say?
10. How is a pencil related to a pen?



### ANSWERS:

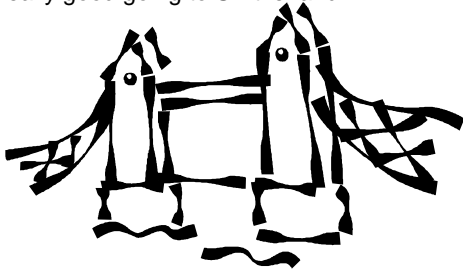
1. Carpet
2. Couch potato
3. At the snow ball
4. A banana split
5. A runny nose
6. Temperature
7. The letter "T"
8. To take a quick bite
9. He says "Ouch!" or "Beer"
10. A "C"l"y (silly) pen.

# Around the world with backpack



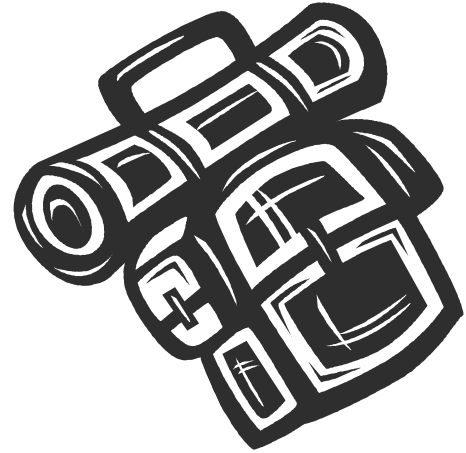
**Raksha Dutt**  
San Jose, California

Hi! I am a backpack and I travel around the world with my owner, Diya. Diya likes to travel around the world. Diya travels from Australia all the way to Europe. Whenever we travel to another place we travel on a plane. The plane has become my friend and I always tell the plane all about my adventures with Diya. Diya has planned a trip to somewhere, but I don't know where we are going. "Hey buddy, do you know where I'm going?" I asked the plane. "I don't know where you are going, but I know that I'm going to Rome!" the plane replied. "That means that I must be going to Rome too." I replied. "We will be landing in 20 minutes." the pilot announced on the speaker. When the plane landed I said good-bye to my buddy, the plane and went with Diya. Diya took me to see the city of Rome, which had many broken buildings and structures. Then we went inside a very beautiful building. I think she was saying that the Pope lives there and it is in a place called Vatican City. It was a very beautiful and a huge building. We went to see a tall tower which was leaning, hence called the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Then we went to Paris, France and saw the Eiffel Tower. The Eiffel Tower was designed by Alexandre Gustav Eiffel. The Eiffel Tower is 984 ft. (300 m) long. The Eiffel Tower was built in 1889. Boy, was the Eiffel Tower tall!!! Next, we went to London. There we saw the London Bridge. The London Bridge is 928 ft (283 m) long. It was designed by John Rennie and built between 1824 and 1831. We also took the Big Eye ride. The Big Eye is the enormous Ferris wheel in London. You can see almost half of London on the Ferris wheel. It was an awesome sight!!!! We also saw Big Ben. Big Ben is a large clock! Big Ben was installed in 1856. Well, that was what we saw in London and it was really cool. Then we went to Switzerland. It was extremely cold!!!!!! We went up onto a white hill in Switzerland. Diya accidentally dropped me onto the white stuff and boy was it cold!!!!!! It felt sort of soft. I think it was called snow. In Switzerland we went on many trains. On those trains I saw many other backpacks of my kind. I was really happy to see backpacks like me!!! I felt really good going to Switzerland.



We then went to New Zealand. I was really surprised to know that there are no reptiles in New Zealand. There are no snakes, lizards, and turtles because no one brought them into New Zealand. There was a tower in Auckland, New Zealand called the Sky Tower. The Sky Tower is one of the tallest towers in the world. Many Indian movies are shot in New Zealand. We also saw some waterfalls that were inside some mountains. There was a cave and inside the cave were little glow worms that were glowing. I heard Diya saying the name of that cave as 'Waitomo Caves'. All in all, New Zealand was really cool with all the rain forests and beautiful mountains.

We also went to New York. The Big Apple!!!! Diya and I saw the Empire State building. It is 102 stories tall! It was so tall!!! Then we saw the Statue of Liberty. She is green, but she was once brown. While we were in Paris, I remember hearing that the original Statue of Liberty was given to New York by France and we had seen a much smaller one in Paris. It was so windy on the statue, I almost thought Diya would drop me off. New York city was so busy. I had never seen that much traffic!! New York was extremely cool and very interesting and there were people everywhere. I am very glad to see a busy town.



Okay, so now we are off to Arizona. It is hot! We saw the Grand Canyon. On the Grand Canyon we saw some temples. The Grand Canyon is red, brown, and orange in color. We also saw a movie about the Grand Canyon. The movie made you feel as if you were in the picture. I heard Diya call it an IMAX movie. Arizona is awesome! We then went to Las Vegas, Nevada to see all the casinos and sights. Oh Boy, there were bright lights everywhere, and I did not feel that sun had set at all. When we got there the first thing we saw was the Bellagio musical fountains. I don't think I have ever seen water dance like that before. Then we saw the Treasure Island show, something happening between two ships. It was scary!! Then we went to Circus Circus. There were so many kids in one place busy playing and screaming. Diya played many games and all of the prizes she won got put into me!!!! Then we saw acrobats that were so daring and really cool! Nevada was really fun, as we also saw the Eiffel tower, Paris town, New York roller coaster ride, pyramid, Stratoshpere tower, Fremont Street Experience, and more and more. It was just like going around the world again!! I guess it was time for Diya to go home as her vacation was ending. I went back home too. Diya put me into her closet, but I knew that she still loved me because she told me that next time she went on a trip she would take me along!!!!



# Wisdom of the Ancients

Swetha Madhusudan

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In an age of endless information and increasing levels of education, it is surprising that ancient sources of knowledge are hardly tapped into. Sure everyone has heard of the pinnacles of Greek philosophy- Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, however most have never taken the time to discover their teachings. I, personally, thought that their philosophical ideas were not more widespread because their teachings were too complicated to understand and were only for those few elite "intellectuals". Throughout high school I never really encountered their works, and only recently have I discovered their philosophies in college. What makes these Greek philosophers so interesting, I have realized, is that their principles are simple and universally applicable. The word philosophy etymologically translates to 'love of wisdom', and this is essentially what Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle tried to cultivate. They were some of the first to try to answer basic questions regarding human life that other philosophers and religious scholars had long since been trying to ponder. Questions such as 'What is love?', 'What is justice?', 'What are proper ethics?', and quite importantly in their age, 'How to create the ideal government or society?'. These are questions that we, as human beings, still come across today, and looking to philosophers for answers helps us to begin our quest and tap into knowledge that is both enlightening as well as guiding. Obviously, some of the conclusions that the philosophers came to seem unreasonable in our society and do not apply well in our modern age. However, much of their reasoning is still valid and their process of thought is quite admirable and very ahead of its time.

The philosophies of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle were given much due respect in the age of the Renaissance; a time when painters portrayed their daily lives and many ordinary men could recite their works. However, during the new "Age of Enlightenment" of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, several intellectuals such as Kant and Galileo criticized the ancient philosophies as being impractical or even absurd. The 18<sup>th</sup> century enlightenment spread a new mentality of searching for the truth again as individuals and to stop relying on the teaching of the ancients. With this movement, much less emphasis was given on the texts of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, and a deep pool of knowledge was quickly ignored. This discussion leads us back to modern times, in which Greek philosophy is still largely ignored, yet should be rediscovered and admired for all of its bold insights and universally important ideas. This article can hardly cover all of the depths of Greek philosophy but it can hopefully spark an interest in the insightful philosophies of the famous lineage- Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, and

potentially even provide answers to some of the basic philosophical questions we all have.

Socrates is commonly given the title as the saint and martyr of philosophy. Yes, I know, I gave away the exciting ending to his story. But what is more exciting is the work he was able to accomplish in his 70 years of life. Socrates amazingly never wrote a single word of his philosophies, and what is known of his work comes from Plato's accounts. Socrates, instead, chose to conduct all of discussions verbally in order to form his philosophies. Thus, he was known as a great orator. Why Socrates willingly chose never to write anything down is unknown, however he believed that when someone reads your writing they can easily misinterpret the ideas, yet oral teaching and discussion allows you to fully explain everything and leave no gaps. Socrates came from a humble middle class background and chose to lead most of his life in poverty, although he had numerous opportunities for wealth. He believed that wealth clouded one's search for truth and caused an individual to indulge in shallow pleasures. Athens, at the time, was a relatively liberal democracy in which great food, drink, dance, and other pleasures were encouraged. Socrates disapproved of this lifestyle because he believed that it lacked any greater purpose or ethics. His main purpose to philosophy was to look beyond the fleeting cares and pleasures of everyday life and gain a greater understanding of deeper human functions. His approach was mainly through debates and dialogues at the symposium. Socrates would ask people deceptively simple questions such as 'What is beauty?' and ask them for their definition (trying this on your own will show you how difficult it is to come up with a solid explanation). Using this as the starting point, he would delve deeper and critique the simple definition in order to find a better understanding of the word or concept. In a more famous dialogue Socrates asked Critobulus, a pupil, to state what 'beauty' was. To this, Critobulus replied that it is anything that is internally or aesthetically pleasing. Socrates points out a waterfall in the city which he finds pleasing, yet Critobulus says that it is simply mediocre. Socrates, through roundabout logic finally comes to the famous conclusion that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. He did this often with words such as Piety, Justice, Love, and Ethics. Socrates sought to also establish standards of morality that were logical because he did not believe in the Greek religion of the time; he simply believed in ethics. He felt that it was important to care for one's soul through proper living and establish what he called a "spiritual culture". Otherwise

this would translate into corrupted societies and no well-being in the world. Socrates lived by example and was once pronounced the wisest man of his time by the great oracle of Delphi. He was open to teaching all, from scholars to slaves, and engaged in discussions with any willing student. Despite all of this, Socrates, too, had his critics and condemners. Even Aristotle later asserted that, "Socrates suffered from an over-simplified picture of human psychology." Most critics agree that Socrates did away with the irrational part of the soul, thereby doing away with passion and emotion. He believed all humans were rational and could control their impulses to lead a life of ethics and moderation. The critics of Socrates soon spread the word that he was a tutor who spread his ideas for money (not so unheard of now, but a crime of those times), and that he did not believe in the religion of the Greek Gods. They said that he was creating civil disorder by teaching others to not follow religion and instead form their own code of ethics and spirituality. Socrates was put to trial, and essentially acted the part of the smart-aleck. He angered the court by debating with them and trying to persuasively argue his logic and search for truth. He was soon put to death, but this still could not bring an end to the era of his philosophies.

Socrates had gained many followers over the years, including his most famous pupil, Plato. Plato chose to write down accounts of all of Socrates' debates, and most of what we know of Socrates comes from Plato's works. In the beginning Plato mainly regurgitated Socrates' philosophies in works like *The Apology*, an account of Socrates' trial. However, he later began to formulate his own philosophies and gain his own ideas in works such as *The Republic*. Plato differed from Socrates' in several ways, however, he greatly admired Socrates and attempted to achieve his level of morality and justice. Plato was born aristocratic and always had some doubts about the Athenian democracy. But when "the rule of the rabble", who did not understand the wisdom of Socrates, put him to death, Plato became fully convinced of the ineffectiveness of democracy. He was very concerned with forming an ideal government, and sought to do so in most of his works. He concluded that rule by philosopher-kings was the best way to achieve an ethical and prosperous society. These kings who would be, "particularly wise, able, balanced, and virtuous". They would be trained in military and science, and have a great deal of practical experience in politics and administration. An education, which he proposed should take a minimum of 30 years. Below them, were a class of guardian-police who would dominate and control the desires of the multitude in order to impart a system of moderation and self-control. At the bottom of the ladder, were the ordinary men whom Plato had little faith in. He thought that they should live collectively in order to perform their tasks the best; a state that would resemble what we call communism. These collectives would be given an education, and be looked over by the guardians, and the ultimate laws and principles would be set by the philosopher-kings. Plato's idea of a utopia was given much criticism, because it sought to control too many aspects of an individual's life and took away much freedom. After all, who wants to be told what career to go into, who to marry, and what choices are right as a grown adult. Plato was also notorious for looking down upon women and not

believing that they had the intellect and potential that males had. Despite more modern criticisms, Plato's philosophies were respected in his time, and he founded the Academy not to spread his knowledge solely, but to increase knowledge in general. The Academy has been the blueprint for all modern universities and colleges, and was the first of its kind. It was also perhaps instituted to develop the so called philosopher-kings that Plato thought could best govern over society. However, it ultimately turned into an institution of higher learning which covered all fields of study. Plato was also very interested in mathematics and studied the philosophies of the Pythagoreans closely. He also created a famous Theory of Forms while at the Academy which states that there is a solid form behind all ephemeral objects and ideas we encounter as humans. For example, we can all identify an animal as a horse, despite the fact that each horse we may see in our lifetime differs in appearance. Despite the differences, we can still identify each of the animals as a horse because we have knowledge of the "form". He believed that only through comprehending knowledge of the "form" did one truly understand the concept of that entity. This is obviously quite basic with things such as horses, but with concepts such as Justice or even certain mathematical ideas, the forms are much more difficult to fathom. Plato's ideas continued to evolve until he died in 347 BC. His academy was home to several great thinkers and produced so many new ideas in various fields that wholly independent theories did not come about until the scientific revolution of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Much of the vast new knowledge that was formulated in the Academy was thanks to Plato's student Aristotle. Aristotle, who was the son of a famous doctor, became very interested in the fields of biology and zoology while at the Academy. He disagreed with his teacher greatly on some of his theories, calling the Theory of Forms "idle and illusive." He consequently formed his own institution called the Lyceum, which he dedicated to more practical fields of study. His surviving works run to almost one and a half million words, yet this is thought to be only one quarter of his work; much of it has been lost or destroyed. Aristotle dealt with all types of topics including political theory, rhetoric, poetry, theology, zoology, astronomy, physics, and chemistry. He also studied fields that at his time had no name, but which we would now equate to psychology, sociology, and economics. One of Aristotle's most significant contributions came in the realm of formal logic, in which he essentially developed ideas and put them into practice through science and writing. Formal logic included things that we take for granted today such as if  $A=B$ , and  $B=C$ , then  $A=C$ , as well as more complicated theories regarding reasoning. Through his logical abilities, he was able to make science a process with more recorded observations and a scientific method of sorts. He also created the modern-day format of a research paper through his methodical logic. Aristotle's heart, however, lay in the realm of biology where he was able to classify and describe hundreds of zoological specimen. His dissections and observations formatted a record that was not bettered in some areas until the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Like every great scientist, however, Aristotle was sometimes led astray by hasty generalizations, for which later scientists crucified him. In general though, his successes

were far more remarkable than his failures. In other areas, such as physics, Aristotle seems to have been the first to formally identify forces such as gravity and acceleration when he argued that, "a plummeting body moved more jubilantly every moment because it found itself nearer home." Obviously an extraordinary mind, Aristotle was revered in the middle ages and unquestioned in all of his theories. Later on, under more scrutinizing, during the Scientific Revolution, several new scientists strongly criticized all of his ideas. Perhaps it was because Aristotle was put on such a high pedestal that his reputation, along with those of several other Greek philosophers, fell so much at that time. However, the recovery never truly came and Aristotle's ideas were considered outdated and simply a starting point. Few can fathom the amount he contributed to modern-day science, and that still we do live in a very

"Aristotelian" world in terms logic and of scientific classifications.

Our world today is so greatly influenced by the Greek philosophers that it can be seen in everything from common sayings to the textbooks we study. We hardly recognize their contributions to forming our ideal government or even understanding what words such as love and courage mean. Through their rigorous methods and questioning we were able to benefit. Rediscovering all of these philosophers' works is truly important for our own inspirations and can hopefully enlighten us regarding subjects we somehow seem to take for granted in our world today.



## Country Capitals Word Search

By Manisha Vishvanath

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

### CHOICES

1. Delhi
2. Athens
3. Beijing
4. Manila
5. Ottawa
6. Ankara
7. Baghdad
8. Wellington
9. Moscow
10. Havana

Extra challenge: Try guessing what countries they are in



# Relics of London



**Kshithij Shrinath**

Sunnyvale, California, kshithijs\_AT\_yahoo.com

## Prologue

The British Museum has the famous "Relics of London". People attempt to steal them about once every week. Now, let's go forward from 2005 to the 24th century (2345, to be exact)...

## I Professor Drolf

In the outskirts of London in an abandoned abbey, there is a secret society called Black Hawk. The society's leader is Drolf. Drolf is a sly person and a criminal mastermind who sends people in his group to try and steal the Relics. Every plan is foiled by the New Scotland Yard. Finally, Drolf yells at his remaining followers, "God, people, what do I have to do to get some work done around here? I'm going to get the Relics myself!"



Professor Drolf disguised himself as a bobby. Bobbies are British police officers. He got into the Relic Room of the British Museum. He destroyed the glass with a special bullet that can break through bulletproof cases. He used his flying meter on the floor. Flying meters allow things to fly. Drolf turned off the motion sensors. He flew into the room. He detached the flying meter and the floor lowered itself down. He then covered the Relics with an invisibilityizer and escaped.

An invisibilityizer makes things invisible.

## II Enter Symphony Chaos!

The next moment, a guard entered. He saw the bobby (Professor Drolf). The guard thought that the bobby was going to alert everyone that the Relics were gone. However, his disguise fell off, and the guard saw that it was the person who stole the Relics. Immediately, Trevor Omen, the guard, who was a teenager of 17, rushed to Edinburgh, Scotland to see Symphony Chaos. Symphony Chaos was the greatest detective in the world and he was only 13. There, Trevor saw Dr. Glory and Inspector Watson. Inspector Albert Watson was 12. Dr. Derick Glory was also 12 years old, but he was half-human, half-robot. He got fused with a robot at the age of 10.

"Hello, Derick. Hello, Albert. Is Symphony home?" Trevor queried.  
"No, Trevor. Why?" Derick asked.

"That I have to keep to myself for now. When might he be home?" Trevor asked.

"Around 6:00," Albert replied.

"I'll call about then. I have to speak with Symphony. Ta-ta," Trevor

said and left.

At 5:58, Trevor teleported to Detective Manor. Detective Manor was Symphony Chaos's home, study, analysis and thinking place. Derick and Albert were there. Two minutes later, Symphony Chaos walked in through the door. He was surprised to see Trevor, Albert and Derick in his study.

## III The Case Begins

"The Relics! They've been stolen!" Trevor exclaimed.

"What?" Derick, Albert and Symphony screamed.

"Shh!" Trevor said, "No one should know about it. I saw a man with slightly blonde hair wearing loafers and a black cloak near them."

"There is only one person who has wanted to steal the Relics ever since he heard of them," Symphony responded after browsing around for a while on the internet.

"Who?" Trevor queried.

"Professor Drolf," Symphony responded in a low voice.

"Where did this happen?" Symphony asked.

"Where else? The British Museum, of course!" Trevor answered.

"Then, let's go there!" Derick exclaimed.

The kids climbed into the Teleporter and went to the Relic Room of the British Museum. Symphony searched for clues that might tell him where Drolf went. He saw a piece of metal. It had an arrow pointing East on it.

## IV The Graveyard



"Hey, have you seen this kind of metal before?" Symphony enquired.

"Let me scan it," Derick replied.

"What do you read, Dr. Glory?" asked Trevor.

"None of that 'Dr. Glory' stuff. I've scanned some radioactive slime on it," Derick announced.

"Did you say radioactive slime?" Albert was shocked.

"Yes, why?"

"It comes from the outskirts of town in a graveyard. It's said to be haunted," Albert said.

"Let's go there!" Symphony, Derick and Albert exclaimed in unison.

"I can't. I've got guard duty," Trevor replied.

"Okay." Albert responded.

Symphony, Albert and Derick rushed through the streets of London in their hi-tech flying mobile. When the trio got out of town, Albert steered them to the gate of the graveyard. They rushed in. Then, suddenly, Symphony and Albert disappeared, or so it seemed to Derick. Derick took a few paces forward and then fell into the same hole and joined Symphony and Albert.

## V Black Hawk Headquarters

"Oof!" Symphony said as Derick landed on him.

"Sorry!" Derick apologized.

"Look!" Albert said. They stared at the wall. It had words on it.

"Black Hawk!" Symphony whispered.

"I've heard of a society named Black Hawk. I think this is their headquarters." Derick said.

"Me, too," Albert replied.

"Professor Drolf is their leader," Symphony recalled.

"Let's go down the corridor!" Albert exclaimed.

The trio followed the path and saw a lab of computers.

"So, you've found my hideout," a low voice said.

"We've caught you now, Drolf!" Symphony remarked coldly. He saw a weak spot where Drolf was standing. Symphony fired a shot there. The railing collapsed and Drolf fell. The landing was so hard he broke every bone in his body and died.

"We have triumphed, Symphony!" Albert and Derick exclaimed together.



## VI The Secret of the Relics

"Yes, Now the Relics of the London can be returned," Symphony said.

Suddenly, the Relics glowed. They now revealed their true power of granting a wish to the person who saved them. Symphony gained immortality.

"I wish London to be safe always!" Symphony wished.

## Epilogue

London was safe forever - Thanks to Symphony Chaos!



# The bear and the fox

Krishna Madhusudan

Age: 9, Santa Clara, California

Once upon a time, there lived a fox and a bear near a village at the edge of a forest. The fox and the bear met and became friends. The bear was strong and hardworking while the fox was cunning and lazy. The fox had a plan and went to the bear and said, "My dear friend, we both work very hard and are struggling to make a living. Why don't we work as a team? Then we can share our work load and have a better, enjoyable life for ourselves." The bear thought this was a good idea and they became partners.

The first season the bear and fox ploughed the land and planted sugarcane. The bear worked very hard and watered the plants everyday. The two partners had agreed to split everything half and half. When it was time, the fox showed the bear what they had agreed to. The fox had cunningly written the agreement saying that he got everything above the ground. So, the bear was left with nothing but the roots. The bear thought this was unfair. So the fox said, "The next time you take everything above the ground."

The next season the fox decided that they should plant potatoes. This time the bear never realized that potatoes grew underground. When the potatoes grew, the fox got to keep all of the potatoes, and the bear got nothing but the leaves. The fox had also tricked the bear and told him that they should share a blanket. Of course, the fox made it so that the bear got the blanket during the day and he got it at night. The fox also made an agreement so he got to play the instruments during the day time. The bear had signed the contract and even though the bear worked hard, the bear got nothing and the fox just sat and got everything.

There was an old monkey sitting in a tree near the house and saw the tricks that the fox was playing. One day the monkey spoke to the bear and told him what the fox had been doing to him. On a cold winter day the bear took the blanket that he got during the daytime and dipped it in cold water before he gave it to the fox. The fox got very angry and said, "What have you done?" The bear told the fox that he could do whatever he wanted with the blanket during the day time. In the middle of the night the bear brought out the instruments and started playing, so the fox couldn't sleep.

The next day the fox decided to make the most of one of his tricky agreements again. He had told the bear that they would split their new tree in half – he would get the top half and the bear could take the bottom part. The fox climbed up the fruit tree and took the fruit. The bear was smart now and had a plan of his own. The bear brought out a big axe and started cutting down the trunk of the tree. The fox got scared seeing that living with the bear could be dangerous and all the fox's tricks were exposed. The fox ran away never to be seen again.

# Mandarin



**Sanjiv Prabhunandan**

Age : 7, 1st grade, Fremont, California

In my school we have a Foreign Language Enrichment Program. We call it FLEP. In FLEP we learn Mandarin.

Mandarin is a Chinese language. Mandarin does not have an alphabet. There are five tones and thirty seven sounds and thousands of characters. Very few people know all of the characters.

Like in English we have the 'ABCDEFG' song, in Mandarin we have 'bo po mo fo da ta na la' song for the thirty seven sounds.

bo	po	mo	fo	da	ta	na	la
𠄎	𠄎 <sup>x</sup> 𠄎 <sup>o</sup>	—	—	二	𠄎	𠄎	三

Sometimes it can be very confusing to memorize all the sounds because some of the sounds are jir, chir, shir, dzuh, tsuh, suh, o, ah, wu, uh, eh, ow, on, un, ong, ung, er.



For 'l', the character is 𠄎 and its sound is 'wuo' with the third



tone. And we write the sound as this: 𠄎. The X like shape makes the 'wu' sound and the one below it makes the 'o' sound. We blend them together and make the 'wuo' sound for l or me. Also we say 'wuo' in the the third tone and show the third tone as something that looks like a check mark.

For number one, the sound is 'yi' and its character is 一.

'yi' the bopomofo also looks like 一. 'er' is number two and its character is 二. For 'er' the bopomofo is 二.

'san' is number three. Its bopomofo is 三.

Its character looks like 三. The L like shape makes the 'suh' sound and the one below it makes the 'an'. You get 'san' by blending 'suh' and 'an'. People who know Mandarin very well don't need the sound with the character but beginners like me need the sound with the characters.

I like some Mandarin rhymes. In English we have the "One little two little three little children ..." rhyme. In Mandarin it is "yiga lianga sanga shoupoungyo ..."

"yi er pai pai show, san su dian dian tou," rhyme is like "One two buckle my shoe." It goes, "One two clap your hands. Three four nod your head ..."

Here is a funny rhyme and it goes like, "daatou daatou sha yu boo to, ni you yu san wo you daatou ..."

Daatou means big head. Someone with a big head is telling his head, "Big head, big head, when its raining I don't need an umbrella because my head is so big it works like an umbrella."

Some good things we can tell are, "juni shung rir qui la," which means, "Happy birthday," "shye shye," which means, "Thank you." If someone says, "nee how ma," you say, "woa hen hou. shye shye," because they said, "Hello, How are you?" and you go, "I am fine. Thank you."

My dad's friends at office Cherry Yang and Cliff Huang helped me with sounds and rhymes.



What do you get when you cross a mouse and a dog?

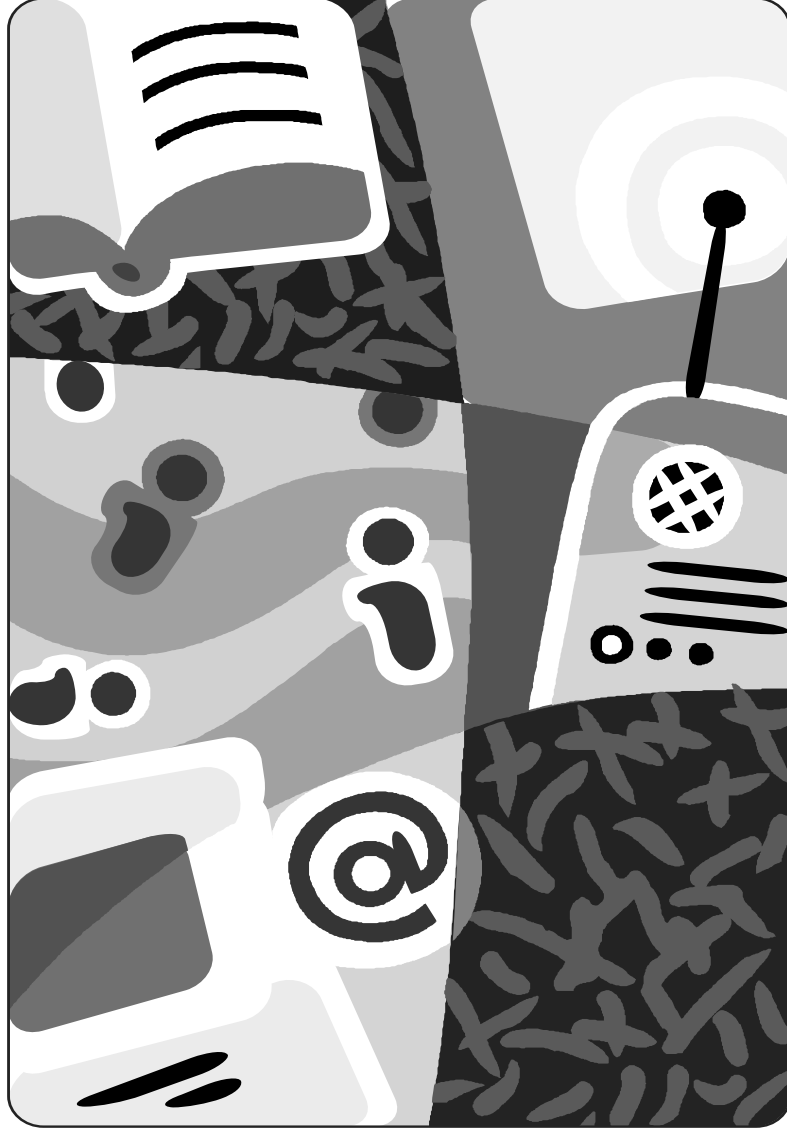
Iowa when travelling west and Indiana when travelling east.

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# 2005

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