



DUNEHA TIMES



SEPT 2024 Issue 1

WORDS OF THE MONTH:

- Eccentric
- Pernicious
- Innumerable

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FUN FACT:

Did you know that a group of Flamingoes are called a 'flamboyance'?

THE BENEFITS OF FICTION

by Aya Khalaf, age 14

Is fiction really just a convenient portal of lies that renders us short-lived pleasure? In comparison to nonfiction, many of us would suppose that novels, poetry, plays and stories are solely written for enjoyment, and that they have no real benefit, especially in a world where morals are out of fashion and sensation is of utmost importance. But is that necessarily true? And could reading fiction actually be beneficial to us?

Upon researching this topic, one will find that the answer to this question is all but clear-cut; there are innumerable opinions about it and many of these ideas oppose each other.

Let's first discuss why some people think that fiction is more harmful than useful.

To start, fiction can be very absorbing. We feel for the characters; we suffer with them, we are happy when they are happy, and generally, it's rather easy to get warped into a loop of living the characters' lives instead of our own. This can lead us to neglecting our duties and in turn forgetting that there is a world beyond that of fairytale settings and 'happily-ever-afters'.

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Others argue that it's a matter of what kind of fiction one reads. Most modern fiction chiefly focuses on the plot and action that is in a story, and the writing is often shallow; not necessarily a bad thing, but simple prose lack in vivid descriptions, and the language that is often employed offers no expansion in vocabulary and does not expose the reader to different writing styles.

In comparison to classic fiction, which is plentiful in rich descriptions and challenging vocabulary, modern fiction is weak.

But there is also a great contrast in the topics of these types of books. As mentioned before, in this century, fiction is all about eventful action. One sees less moral values portrayed in these stories: characters may do inappropriate things, use offensive language, act rudely to parents or people in general, et cetera.

Classical fiction notably has stronger morals, and if not that, then at least the virtuousness and decency of most of these books is enough to recommend them as better options than the predominantly flippant modern fiction (though there are many good authors in this century that are a credit to the literary world).

From a more psychological aspect, reading fiction is indeed beneficial to a certain extent. It helps us in understanding people, which increases our empathy and our emotional intelligence overall. It also helps with reducing stress and increasing concentration levels.

One major downside when it comes to fiction, though, is addiction. Spending too much time reading novels and stories can become an obstruction to our daily lives; as fiction really is, after all, just fiction, being too immersed in it can decrease one's capability of facing the world and dealing with actual real-life problems and situations.

That is why there is no actual answer to the question of whether fiction is beneficial or not. The key is reading fiction in moderation, prioritizing duty, and not always reading what you like best; try different genres, maybe read a play instead, or drive yourself out of your comfort zone and try reading something scientific!

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SAD ENDINGS

by L.Z, age 15

We all love stories with happy endings, don't we? We crave for the protagonists to overcome all their obstacles and live happily ever after. We want to feel uplifted, to believe that good things can happen to good people. But what if I told you that a book with a sad ending can be even more powerful than one with a happy ending?

As avid readers, we have all experienced the emotional rollercoaster that comes with immersing ourselves in a well-written story, only to be left with a heavy heart at the conclusion. While we may initially shy away from books with sad endings, there is something undeniably powerful and compelling about them. They have the ability to touch us in a way that few other forms of art can, leaving a lasting impact on our hearts and minds.

Today, we will explore the beauty and complexity of books with sad endings, and delve into the reasons why they continue to captivate us as readers.

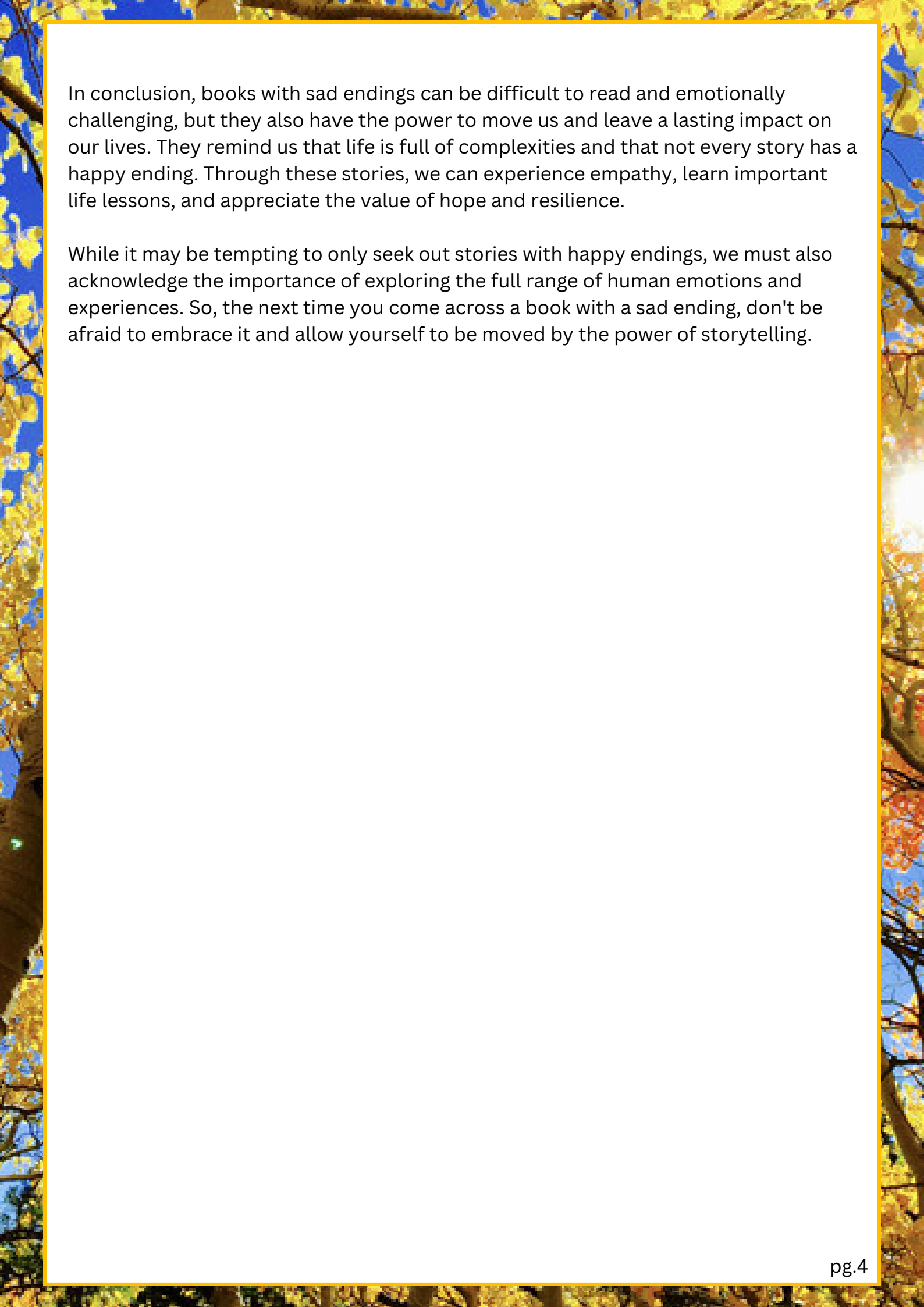
Books with sad endings have a depth and meaning that can touch the heart in a profound way. While books with happy endings may leave us feeling satisfied, books with sad endings challenge us to grapple with the difficult realities of life.

These books can show us that life is not always fair, that love does not always conquer all, and that sometimes, we must endure great loss and pain.

Books with sad endings can challenge conventional storytelling tropes and surprise readers by defying their expectations. Happy endings tend to provide closure and tie up loose ends, offering a sense of comfort and resolution. Life is full of struggles, setbacks, and heartbreaks. A book with a sad ending can inspire us to live more fully and authentically, to love more deeply, and to appreciate the fragility and preciousness of life.

Moreover, a book with a sad ending can be more thought-provoking than one with a happy ending. It can make us question our assumptions, challenge our beliefs, and force us to confront the hard truths of life. It can inspire us to reflect on our own experiences and find meaning in our own struggles.

Most importantly, a book with a sad ending can leave a lasting impact on us. It can haunt us, make us cry, and make us think for days, even years, after we finish reading it. It can become a part of our identity, shaping the way we see ourselves and the world around us

A decorative border surrounds the text area, featuring a vibrant blue sky with scattered yellow and orange autumn leaves, some of which are in sharp focus while others are blurred, creating a sense of depth and seasonal atmosphere.

In conclusion, books with sad endings can be difficult to read and emotionally challenging, but they also have the power to move us and leave a lasting impact on our lives. They remind us that life is full of complexities and that not every story has a happy ending. Through these stories, we can experience empathy, learn important life lessons, and appreciate the value of hope and resilience.

While it may be tempting to only seek out stories with happy endings, we must also acknowledge the importance of exploring the full range of human emotions and experiences. So, the next time you come across a book with a sad ending, don't be afraid to embrace it and allow yourself to be moved by the power of storytelling.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABILITY

by Huda Wajihuddin, age 12

Do you know that each year, over 8 million tons of plastic pour into our precious oceans, perpetuating peril for marine life? Yes! That's a fact stated by many organizations such as the 'IUCN' (International Union for Conservation of Nature). That is the reason I chose to address this crucial topic, which affects our future, environment and sustainability.

Sustainability isn't just a buzzword; it's a call to action -a call to take care of our planet so that our future generations can enjoy it, just like we and those before us did. It's about making the right choices that respect our planet and all the life it sustains.

Sustainability is living a way of life that ensures we can continue to thrive on this planet without harming it. Even the smallest of actions can make a big difference in the world due to sustainability!

Imagine a world where every plastic bottle is replaced with renewable resources. A world where every wasted piece of paper prompts us to ponder its lost potential. A world where every action, no matter how small, makes a big difference. Sustainability hinges on our accountability for our actions.

The choices we make today will safeguard the health and happiness of our planet.

Let's pause and reflect: Why is sustainability so crucial? Think about the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the animals and plants that share our Earth with us. They all depend on us to make responsible decisions; decisions that directly impact the quality of all the aspects mentioned!

By championing choices that cherish our environment (choosing reusables over disposables, conserving energy conscientiously) we can collectively cultivate a cleaner, fresher, more contented planet.

Let's pledge to be passionate proponents of sustainability, paving a path for posterity's prosperity. Let's commit to being stewards of sustainability. Our accountability for our actions today will shape the future of our planet and ensure its health and happiness for generations to come.

The climate is changing, and so should we!

Together, let's take meaningful steps towards a sustainable future.

MATH QUIZ: HILBERT'S HOTEL: CAN YOU FIT EVERYONE?

by Matthew D. Knight

Welcome to Hilbert's Natural Hotel, where the rooms are as spacious as your imagination—unless you're our poor receptionist!

You're at the front desk, sipping coffee when suddenly, ding! A lone guest strolls in. "Ah, peace at last!" you think. But hold onto your clipboard!

Next, in rolls a tour bus packed with 848 guests, all clamoring for the best room. Spoiler alert: they'll have to share a bathroom!

Just when you think it can't get crazier, a bus longer than your patience pulls up with 1,951 more people. Seriously, what's this, a convention for extreme vacationers?

Then, as if the universe is playing a prank, a bus arrives carrying an infinite number of guests. Yes, you heard right—infinity! Good luck fitting those folks into the lobby! But wait, there's more! 8902 infinite buses just pulled up. Who knew there was a bus depot in Narnia?

Next, brace yourself for an infinite number of infinite buses. At this point, you're questioning your life choices and whether you should have pursued that career as a cat video reviewer instead.

Just when you think it can't get any weirder, a bus filled with every fraction known to math appears. "No problem," you say, "just divide those rooms evenly!"

And finally, the pièce de résistance: a bus carrying every possible string of decimals from 0 to 1.

Good luck organizing that chaos—maybe just let them camp in the lobby? So how do you fit everyone? You simply smile, hand them all a complimentary "Welcome to Chaos" brochure, and let the mathematical madness unfold. Welcome to Hilbert's—you'll need a sense of humor and a very flexible room policy!

Solutions:

- **1 person:** Simple enough, just tell everyone in the hotel to move to the room with a number 1 greater than their room.
- **848 and 1,951 people:** Similarly, just tell everyone in the hotel to move to the room with a number 848 and 1,951 greater than their room.
- **An infinite bus:** Tell everyone in the hotel to move to the room with a number that is twice their room.
- **8,902 buses:** Similar, tell everyone in the hotel to move to the room with a number that is 8,903 times their room.
- **Infinity infinite buses:** Tell everyone in the hotel to move to $2^{\text{their current room number}}$. Then, take the first bus, tell everyone on that bus to move to $3^{\text{their seat number}}$, the second bus $5^{\text{their seat number}}$, the third bus $7^{\text{their seat number}}$, and so on infinitely.
- **Fractions bus:** Use the Stern-Brocot sequence, make overlapping consecutive pairs, make the first in the pair the numerator, the second the denominator, repeat, repeat, repeat, eventually you get all the rational numbers, in their most simplified form. Based on the order the fractions appeared in the sequence, assign them to rooms, where the first fraction to appear gets room 1, the second gets room 2, so on infinitely.
- **String of Decimals bus:** Tell the bus to wait for the construction of and then go to Hilbert's Real Hotel. Anyways, here's an argument with diagonals by Georg Cantor himself showing that you can't fit the reals. Imagine a list of real numbers, with rooms assigned to them. Now, construct a new real by adding 1 to the first digit of the first number, the second digit of the second number, the third digit of the third number, and so on. The result can't be on the list, because it is different from all the others by at least one digit.

Note From the Author:

I would love readers sharing with me your solution by email.

CONTACT: knight.md14@gmail.com

POETRY:

THE UAE

UAE 🇦🇪 UAE. It's 7 emirates.

UAE 🇦🇪 UAE. My homeland and country.

UAE 🇦🇪 UAE. Deserts 🌵, palmtrees and Oceans.

UAE 🇦🇪 UAE. Camels 🐫 and horses 🐎 in motion.

UAE 🇦🇪 UAE. Masajids and marakizs 🕌.

UAE 🇦🇪 UAE. Malls and towers

Reaching up high like beautiful flowers 🌸💖.

UAE 🇦🇪 UAE. Museums 🏛️ and libraries 📖.

UAE 🇦🇪 UAE. Thobes, Abayas and heels 👠.

UAE 🇦🇪 UAE. I live in Ajman

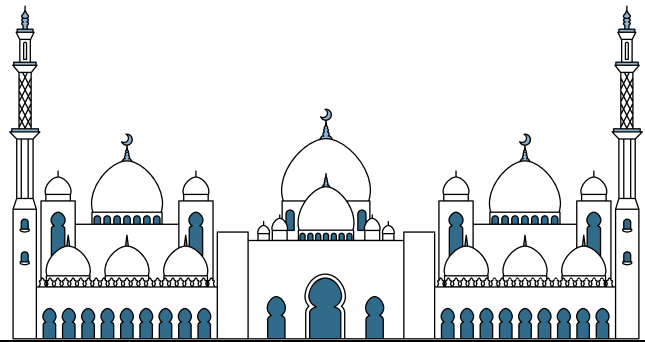
Near Masjid Maryam.

UAE 🇦🇪 UAE. It's where my friends 🤝 are
Amna, Aliya, Nusayba and Maryams.

UAE 🇦🇪 UAE. My homeland and country 🏠🌍🇦🇪



Poem by Nuha Raheel, age 7



LUNA



**In the moonlit garden soft and still
A shadow moves with graceful skill,
Emerald eyes that gleam and glow
A silent hunter sleek and low.**

**Whiskers twitch in the midnight air
Paws tread lightly without a care.
A coat of velvet black as night
Blends with shadows out of sight.**

**With a flick of a tail and a silent leap
Through the garden secrets keep,
A wisp of fur a flash of a claw
A graceful creature without a flaw.**

**In the quiet a purr so deep
A melody for those who sleep.
A keeper of secrets till night's end
In the moonlit garden where shadows
blend.**



Poem by Maryam Qureshi, age 11

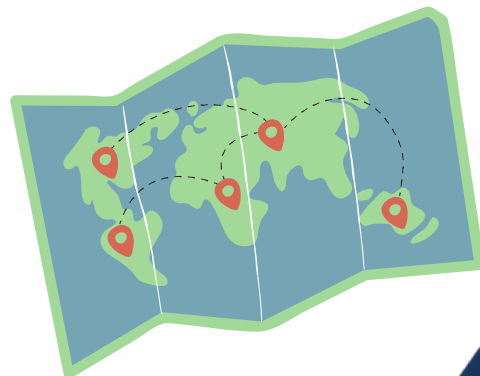
TRAVELLING WORD SEARCH

by Asiya Ebrahim, age 12

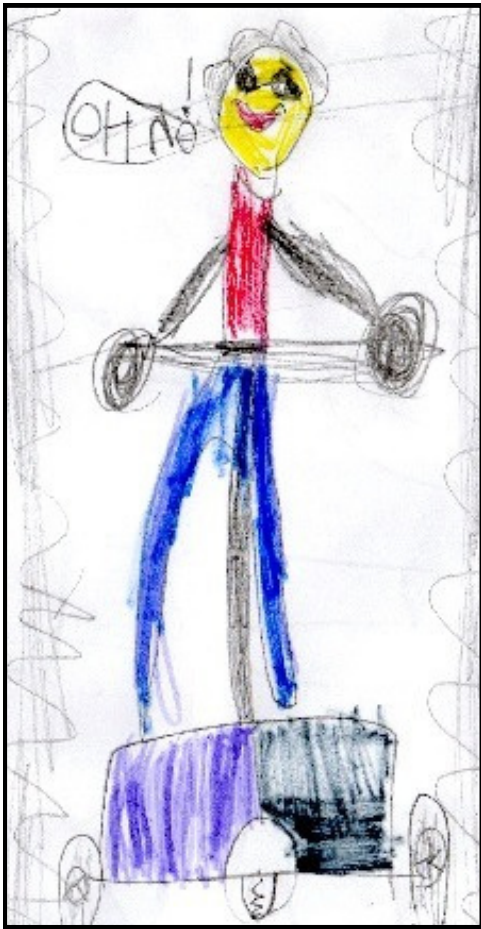
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WORDS:

- Packing
- Travel
- Countries
- Planes
- Airport
- Check-in
- Tourists
- Delays
- Bus
- Tickets



THE GALLERY



Drawing by Umar Saeed, age 7

Artwork by Musa Wajhuddin, age 9



'Prophet Nuh's Ark', painting by Musa Wajhuddin, age 9



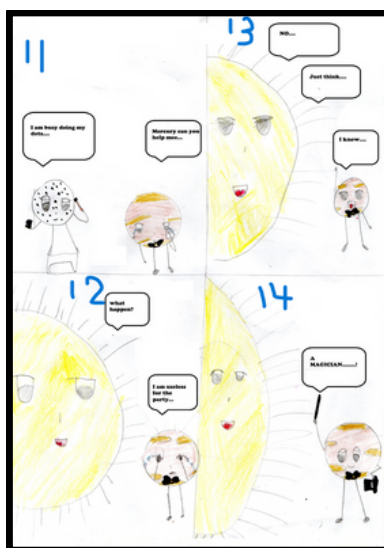
'Finger Painted Flowers', painting by Nuha Raheel, age 7



Artwork by Nuha Wajhuddin, age 6

COMICS: THE SPACE COMICS

Space comics by Maryam Saeed, age 9



THE ADVENTURES OF DUMBLY DUMB

Comics by Rayhan, age 7

