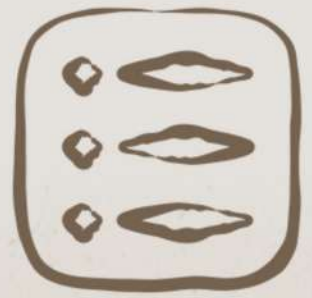


LEARNING BEYOND THE BOOKS



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Editor's Note



Dear Readers,

This month, we're shining a light on something truly special - "Learning beyond the books".

As the Social Engagement Officer, I get to see firsthand how our students grow not just through lessons, but through everything they explore outside of them. From martial arts to gaming, from learning new languages to public speaking, from creating beautiful artwork to diving into literature, our learners are constantly discovering what excites them.

In this edition of The Horizons, you'll find stories, snapshots, and reflections from students who are making the most of every opportunity. You'll also hear from our vibrant student societies and get a glimpse of what's still to come.

I hope this newsletter makes you smile, feel inspired, and maybe even motivates you to try something new too.

**UNTIL NEXT MONTH,
Natasha Andre
Social Engagement Officer
International Schooling**



Beyond the Textbook, Stories that Come Alive

By Shreya Maharaj Chettiar

Grade 9 (Founder and President of the International Literary Society)

Are you ready to have some fun? To explode beyond the confines of dusty old textbooks and unlock worlds you never dreamed of? Then forget everything you thought you knew about literature, because the ILS (International Literary Society) is here to shatter those notions and ignite your imagination! We're not just a society; we're a global phenomenon, a dynamic stage where stories roar to life, and the thrill of discovery is around every corner!

The ILS: Your Passport to Global Stages and Unforgettable Drama!

Step into the ILS, and prepare for a revolution! This isn't your average book club; it's a vibrant, pulsing hub where the magic of the written word transcends borders and explodes onto our very own stage. Are you tired of passively reading? Do you crave connection, debate, and the sheer exhilaration of bringing stories to life? Then you've found your tribe!



Beyond the Textbook, Stories that Come Alive
By Shreya Maharaj Chettiar

Imagine this: a fiery debate so intense, so charged with passion, it feels like a courtroom drama, all centered on the ethical dilemmas of Frankenstein's monster. Or picture yourself pondering the ultimate question: **do you want to dine with Shakespeare, deciphering his sonnets over a candlelit meal?**

Perhaps you'd prefer to journey into the heart of darkness with Kurtz, or unravel the intricate web of deceit with a detective from the golden age of mystery. We don't just skim the surface of themes; we dive headfirst into them, exploring topics that resonate with your own life, from justice to longing, in vibrant, no-holds-barred discussions that will leave you buzzing with new ideas.

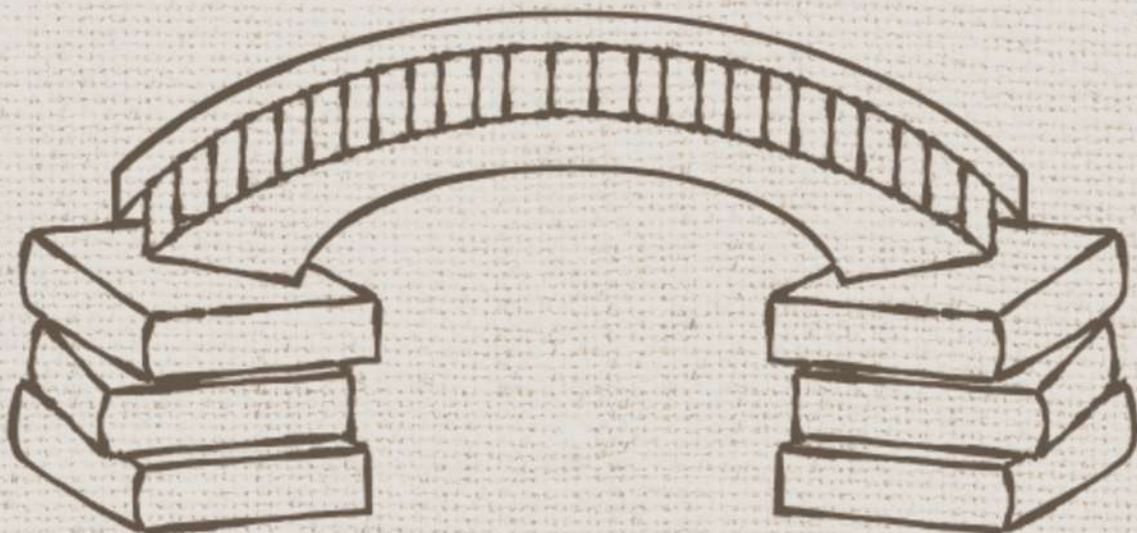
But here's where the real magic happens: we bring these stories to life! Forget just talking about a character's torment; our members transform into them, performing **monologues** that capture raw, visceral emotion so powerfully, you'll feel it in your bones. They engage in sharp, witty **dialogues** that illuminate hidden truths and expose the very essence of human nature. Witness your peers embody characters with incredible passion, making the words leap off the page and into the room, making you feel every single emotion. It's like a live movie, a theatrical masterpiece, and you're not just an audience member – you're part of the cast and crew!

The ILS celebrates the rich, diverse tapestry of global literature. We believe that stories connect us, transcending borders and cultures, proving that deep down, despite our differences, we're all pretty similar. We explore narratives from every corner of the earth, showcasing the **oneness** of humankind through shared experiences and universal truths.

Beyond the Textbook, Stories that Come Alive
By Shreya Maharaj Chettiar

We journey from the sun-drenched plains of Africa with Chinua Achebe's powerful "Things Fall Apart," feeling the wrenching impact of change on a proud culture.

We venture to the bustling streets of Japan in the thought-provoking prose of Haruki Murakami, where reality often bends and twists in mind-bending ways. We explore the magical realism of Gabriel García Márquez's Latin American dreams, where the impossible feels utterly real and deeply moving, and delve into the intense psychological landscapes of Dostoevsky's Russia, where the human soul is laid bare in all its complexity. We honor the timeless, powerful verses of Arab poets like Al-Mutanabbi and Imru' al-Qays, whose words still echo through centuries, inspiring awe, and revel in the ancient wisdom of Kalidasa, the "Shakespeare of India," whose genius shone brightly thousands of years ago. This isn't just about reading; it's about building bridges, one incredible story at a time. It's about connecting with voices from across time and space, understanding different perspectives, and realizing that the human heart's cry resounds in every land, in every language, truly our own.



Why Literature Truly Matters: Your Passport to Humanity!

Beyond the thrilling performances and global journeys, literature itself is a powerhouse. It's your ultimate passport to humanity, your personal guide to understanding the world and yourself.

Literature isn't just about ink on a page; it's a vibrant window into the human soul. It builds empathy, allowing you to step into someone else's shoes and experience life from a completely different perspective. Imagine walking alongside Atticus Finch, feeling the weight of justice on your shoulders, understanding the profound complexities of right and wrong.

Or picture yourself in Ophelia's shoes, feeling the raw, gut-wrenching agony as love unravels into despair. Can you truly feel that, deep in your core? Through these characters, you gain a deeper understanding of the human heart, its joys, its sorrows, and its incredible, unwavering resilience. Who needs a therapist when a novel can reveal the deepest mysteries of life? (And it's probably cheaper too!)

It also teaches **history** in a way no textbook ever could. Forget dry dates and disconnected facts that put you to sleep faster than a lullaby! Picture Dickens's fog-laden London, so real you can almost taste the smog, where every cobbled street tells a story. Or immerse yourself in Orwell's chilling dystopian vision, a powerful, urgent warning about the future that will make your skin crawl and your mind race. Here, history isn't just a list of events; it's a living, breathing narrative that pulls you in, makes you feel the past, and makes you part of the journey. You'll learn more from a novel than from cramming for a test – and you'll actually remember it!

And when it comes to human nature, literature lays it all bare. It's like a super-powered magnifying glass for the soul. Witness Macbeth's terrifying ambition, a stark, bloody reminder of power's corrupting influence that will send shivers down your spine. Or marvel at Elizabeth Bennet's quick wit and defiant spirit, a character so real you'll want to be her best friend. From cunning villains who make your blood boil to passionate lovers who make your heart ache, every human emotion is reflected, helping you understand the complex, messy, beautiful tapestry of our shared experience. It's all there, laid bare for you.

Finally, literature offers the ultimate escape. When life feels overwhelming, when the world just gets to be too much, a book is your instant portal to another reality. Walk through the wardrobe into the snowy wonderland of Narnia, where anything is possible, or set sail with Odysseus on his epic voyage across ancient seas. It's a solace, a comfort, a dream you can hold in your hands, allowing you to leave your worries behind and embark on a grand new adventure. It's cheaper than a plane ticket and way more immersive than any video game!

Join the Adventure! Your Story Starts Here!

At the ILS, you'll find a community of passionate individuals eager to share their favorite books, engage in spirited, sometimes fiery, discussions, and uncover new meanings in timeless tales. But if *you* have a story to tell, this is also your platform! Showcase your own writing, whether it's a powerful, moving poem or a captivating piece of prose, and let your genius shine. This is your chance to be heard, to inspire, to create!

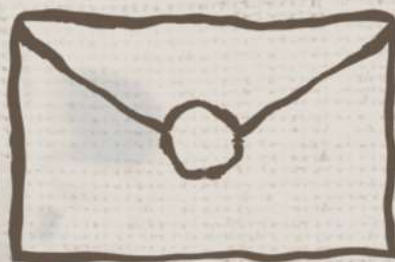
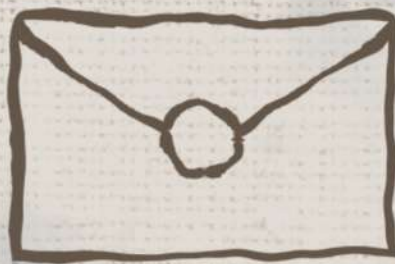
If you love a good story, if you enjoy debating ideas with passion, or if you simply want to connect with like-minded souls in a fellowship that's truly wondrous and divine, then the ILS is for you. Come, let your spirit take flight, let your voice be heard, and embark on a literary adventure that's anything but boring!

Beyond the Textbook, Stories that Come Alive
By Shreya Maharaj Chettiar

This isn't just about reading books; it's about living life to the fullest, one incredible story at a time. It's about finding your voice, sharing your passion, and being part of something truly monumental.

Don't just read about life – live it through literature. Join ILS Now and unleash the power of your story!

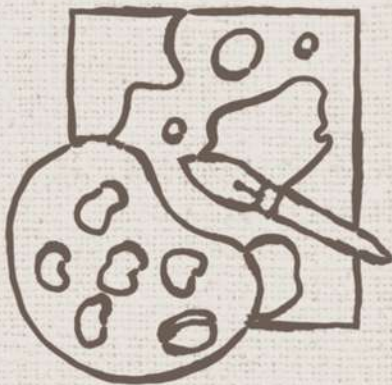
Email us at: literarysociety@internationalschooling.org to join



Beyond the Book: Where Art Speaks for Us

When the final bell rings and classrooms fall silent, another kind of learning begins. It's the kind that doesn't come from pages or lectures, but from colors, shapes, and the thoughts that refuse to stay hidden.

That's what Beyond the Books feels like. It's where imagination steps outside the margins, where the impossible becomes visible ; sometimes in paint, sometimes in pencil, sometimes in ways you never expected.



For me, art has always been more than just pictures on a page. It's the place where my thoughts, my feelings, and my untold stories finally have a voice. There are days when words can't explain what I'm feeling — but colors can. A streak of blue can carry a memory, a careful brushstroke can hold an emotion too big for sentences, and a half-finished sketch can tell a story still waiting to be heard.

In Viva De Lunaria, the art club, we don't just draw what we see. We draw what we dream, what we fear, what we love. Every project becomes a piece of someone's heart.

Art doesn't replace what we learn in school — it deepens it. History comes alive in portraits, science hides in patterns, even math flows through symmetry and form. Art connects everything, pulling it out of books and into the real world.

And maybe that's the best part — seeing your own imagination turn into something you can hold, see, and share.

**IF YOU'VE EVER
WANTED TO EXPLORE
WHAT EXISTS BEYOND
THE BOOKS, VIVA DE
LUNARIA IS WAITING
FOR YOU.**



Learning Beyond the Books

By Ruhaan Sardana

Grade 12

In the age of transcripts and AP exams, it is easy to have a misconception that all of our learning depends on textbooks. However some of the most transformative experiences happen not in libraries, but on stages, in debates, at conferences and in real world endeavors. As a student who has delved deep into the world of MUNs, public speaking and managing my own organization, I have come to realize that real learning happens outside the textbook.

Model United Nations: Diplomacy in Action

I started out as an excited delegate who was intrigued by international relations. I had no idea that this simulation would improve my critical thinking, research skills, and understanding of diplomacy. Each conference challenged more than just knowledge, it tested my ability to make strong arguments, react under pressure, and work together to tackle tough global issues.

I spent hours on research and needed to know about international relations and cultural sensitivity to represent countries on topics like nuclear disarmament and refugee crises. Beyond the facts, I learned how to think diplomatically, find common ground when opinions differ, and stay calm during intense question sessions. These are skills that can't be learned from a textbook, but they have been very helpful in both school and real-life situations.

Public Speaking: Finding My Voice

What used to cause me anxiety, public speaking has turned into a way to feel empowered through speeches, debates, and presentations. Speaking in front of others builds confidence, improves clear thinking, and encourages vulnerability while developing articulation skills. .

Every opportunity taught me something about structure, persuasion, and the impact of voice. Whether I spoke at the start of a Model United Nations or debated on international stages through IDOS, I realized that genuine communication can leave a lasting mark. Over time, my fear of judgment faded. I became more empathetic, aware of what the audience needs, and sensitive to tone and body language.

I also learned the importance of listening in these situations. Presenting to an audience involves more than just sharing your argument; it also requires connecting with them, picking up on their signals, and adapting as needed. We learn to read in class. We learn to engage on stage.

Running an Organization: Learning by Leading

Starting and running my own student organization focused on organizing online MUNs globally has been one of the most eye-opening experiences. What began as a small idea developed into a platform that united diverse perspectives from several continents. I faced challenges in marketing, budgeting, team management, logistics, and, most importantly, leadership.

True leadership isn't just about making the right decisions at the right time, as seen in case studies. It's about motivating people with different skills and levels of motivation during tough times with limited resources. Each challenge provided a hands-on lesson in finding solutions and adapting, from creating agendas to dealing with technical issues during the conference.

Learning Beyond the Books

By Ruhaan Sardana

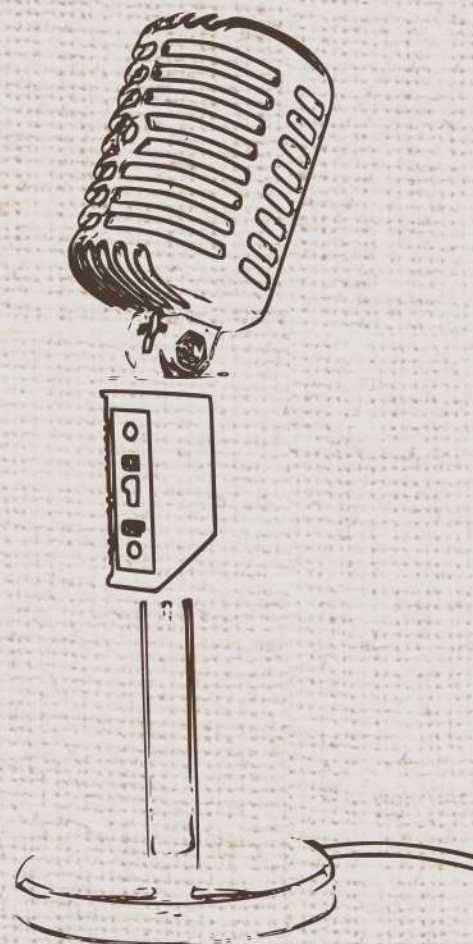
I also learned to trust others, delegate tasks, and take responsibility for my mistakes. I understood the difference between a leader and a boss. While textbooks explain organizational frameworks, you only learn the details of communication, team building, and strategic thinking by actually being in charge.

Conclusion: The Real Curriculum

In its true sense, education is more than textbooks and tests. It shows up in the lively debates of delegates, the assured stance of speakers, and late-night talks among friends trying to create something important. These experiences outside the classroom shape us, push our limits, and highlight our strengths.

I learned diplomacy through Model United Nations, gained courage from public speaking, and built resilience through managing organizations. I will remember these lessons long after any test is over. As students, we owe it to ourselves to learn beyond the classroom; that's where real education happens.

As students, it is our responsibility to add to our scholarly experiences for the upliftment of society, and IDOS is here to help you in that goal! If you want to join IDOS as a member and gain access to special member only meetings, priority invites to all our events, and lots of other special surprises please send us an email stating your name, grade and email at idos@internationalschooling.org



The Polymath's Ascent Beyond the Bound Book

By Shreya Maharaj Chettiar

Grade 9 (Founder and President of the International Literary Society)

The world, it whispers tales of narrowed ways, Of paths prescribed, where specialization reigns, A modern creed, in these swift-spinning days, Where deep-dug furrows bind with rigid chains. Yet hear, dear reader, wisdom's ancient call, From vibrant Renaissance's fertile ground, And Greeks and Romans, standing grand and tall, Where boundless brilliance freely could be found. For mastery's not found in singular design, But in the mind that leaps from field to field, A spirit seeking knowledge, truly divine, Where diverse truths are faithfully revealed.

Consider Leonardo's hand, both art and science's guide, Or Euclid's mind, where abstract thought took flight, Hildegard's visions, where music and healing reside, And Goethe's pen, illuminating dark and light. Benjamin Franklin's wit, a genius profound, From lightning's spark to printing press's hum, These were not minds by narrow limits bound, But polymaths, whose varied strengths had come To forge new pathways, where no one had trod. "Specialization is for insects," so was said, By Robert A. Heinlein, a truth by nature awed, To shun the box, and lift the eager, questing head.

When grappling with a mathematical domain, See not just numbers, cold and stark and plain, But seek the philosophy, the underlying grain, A different lens to view the world again.

The Polymath's Ascent Beyond the Bound Book
By Shreya Maharaj Chettiar

Like artist's canvas, or a poet's measured verse, Though forms diverge, their essence is the same, Both observing life, to understand, disperse, And through their chosen medium, stake a claim. Beyond the book, beyond the glowing screen's faint gleam, Observe the world, with curious, piercing eye, Let varied knowledge weave a vibrant, waking dream, And make connections reaching to the sky.

For in this age, where focus bids us stay, Be not a cog, but master of your fate, With diverse skills, a blazing, guiding ray, To solve life's puzzles, grand and intricate. Embrace each subject with a fervent, seeking soul, Then meld their wisdom, forming vision new, Not generalist, but polymathic, truly whole, A mind unbound, forever fresh and true. For mastery calls, not simply fitting in a mold, But forging paths where diverse strengths begin, A tapestry of learning, brave and bold, To break the bounds and let true genius in.



From Japanese to Gym Days: How I Learn Through Living

By Sadiqa Rahimi

Learning is not just confined to textbooks and classrooms. Over the years, I've discovered that real growth often happens outside the traditional learning environment. Through various hobbies, activities, and personal challenges, I've been able to develop skills and experiences that go far beyond what is taught in school.

One of my greatest passions is **studying Japanese**, a hobby that has not only improved my language skills but also deepened my appreciation for different cultures. I've been consistently challenging myself to learn and improve, and I'm proud of how much progress I've made so far. It's a reminder that learning doesn't always have to follow a strict curriculum—it can be fun and personal.

In addition to my language studies, I also enjoy **swimming** and going to the **gym**. These activities help me stay active and healthy, but more importantly, they teach me discipline and perseverance. Going to the gym, especially, can be challenging, and I often have to remind myself to stay committed. I've set personal goals to go every day, and I plan to keep pushing myself once my studies begin.

I've also been involved in **sports** during my school years, where I participated in **football** and **running competitions**. Winning first place in football and third place in running competitions were proud moments for me, and they taught me valuable lessons about teamwork, dedication, and pushing through challenges.

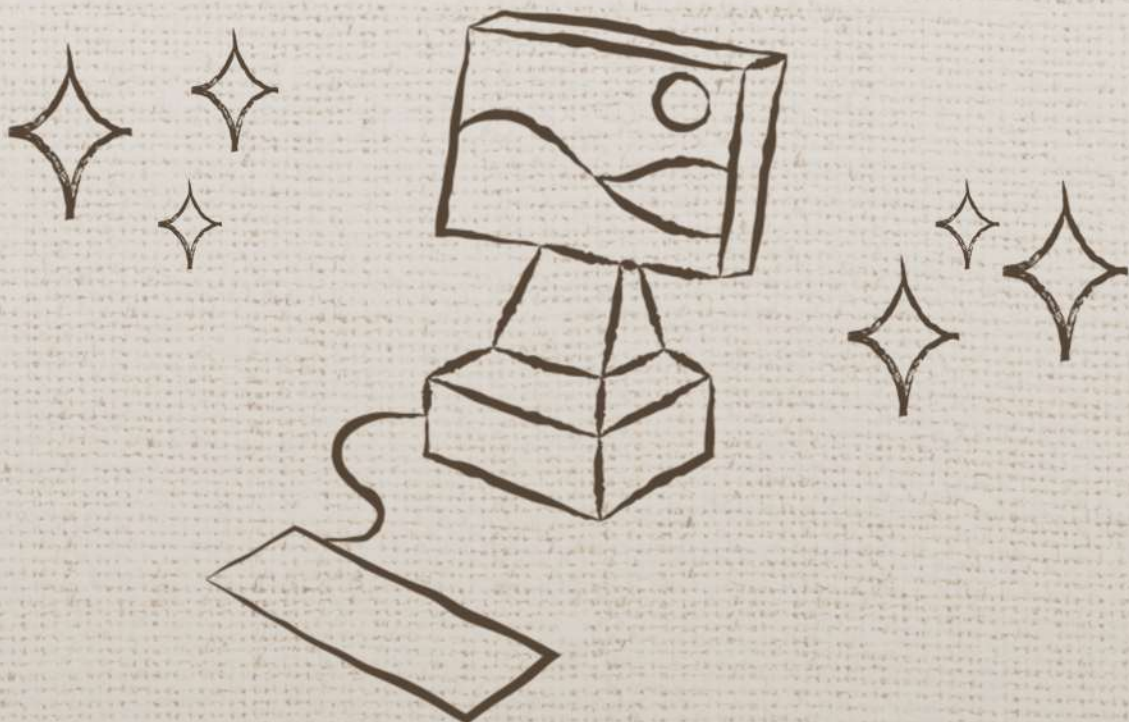
From Japanese to Gym Days: How I Learn Through Living

By Sadiqa Rahimi

Though I'm currently homeschooling, I still find ways to contribute to my family. **Helping my mom with housework**, assisting my friends with their studies, and **finding helpful resources** for my family have become important parts of my daily routine. This has allowed me to develop a sense of responsibility and a desire to help others.

When it comes to hobbies, I've always been interested in **crocheting**. Though I'm still a beginner, I'm eager to learn more as I've recently ordered tools to continue practicing. **Cooking** is another hobby I enjoy, and I recently baked a cake that was loved by everyone. It's small moments like these that remind me of the joy of creating something with my hands.

While I've explored many interests, there are still things I'd love to try, such as **karate** and **boxing**, though these are difficult to pursue due to cultural reasons and the lack of female coaches. Regardless, I'm still excited about learning **AI, computers**, and **languages** like **Arabic**.



From Japanese to Gym Days: How I Learn Through Living

By Sadiqa Rahimi

Even though I don't participate in many online communities, I've set personal challenges for myself. I challenge myself to wake up early, improve my fitness, and learn new skills. These goals keep me motivated and help me improve various aspects of my life.

If I could spend an entire day doing what I love, it would be a mix of outdoor activities like running (when the weather is good), swimming, reading, and spending time with friends. However, because the heat in Dubai often keeps me indoors, I've learned to make the most of my time at home by staying active and studying.

Through these hobbies and activities, I've come to realize that learning happens everywhere, not just in a classroom. Whether it's through sports, language learning, helping others, or simply challenging myself, these experiences shape who I am and continue to help me grow every day.



I Chose Art

By Alaa Elmassah

Learning Outside the Lines: What Art Has Shown Me

School has always been about studying, exams, and grades but I've found that I learn just as much, if not more, when I'm drawing or painting. Art has given me a space to be myself and discover new things about how I see the world.

Sometimes, I paint to relax. Other times, it's how I process thoughts or emotions I don't know how to put into words. It's never really been about making something perfect more about enjoying the moment and creating something that feels like mine.

I've learned patience through long hours spent on a single piece, and noticed how colors and shapes can say things that are hard to explain. In a way, art helps me learn about myself. And while it's not part of a regular school lesson, it's definitely been a big part of how I grow.



The Qureshi Siblings: Learning Beyond Books



Hello, my name is Rayed Qureshi, and I am 12 years old.

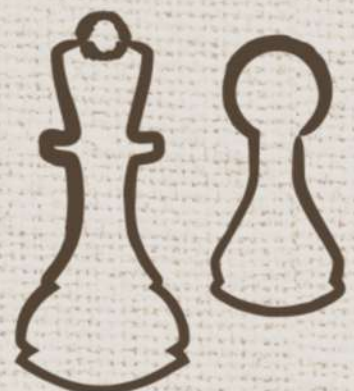
I am passionate about animation and aspire to become a professional animator. In my free time, I create short animated videos and upload them to my channel. Before starting any animation project, I always begin by sketching the idea on paper.

[@rayedtheanimator](#)

In addition to animation, I enjoy swimming, not only as a way to stay fit, but also because it is an essential life skill. I also play chess, which I find very beneficial for developing cognitive and strategic thinking skills.

Another activity I regularly pursue is kickboxing, which is both physically demanding and a great way to learn self-defense techniques.

Balancing all these personal development activities alongside seven hours of physical school each day has not been easy. It requires discipline and a well-structured weekly schedule.



The Qureshi Siblings: Learning Beyond Books

However, now that I am enrolled in an online school, I will have more flexibility and time to focus on my passion and continue my journey of self-improvement.





Hi, my name is Zayem Qureshi, and I am 9 years old.

Outside of school, I attend swimming classes to learn important water survival skills. Swimming also helps me stay active and healthy. I enjoy playing chess, especially because I'm good at strategies. Chess has really helped me improve my critical thinking.

I also do kickboxing, which teaches me self-defense and builds strength. In my free time, I love playing games on my PlayStation, it's one of my favorite ways to relax.

Football is another sport I really enjoy. I often played it at school and it's still one of my top hobbies. Balancing all these activities with school isn't always easy, so I follow a weekly schedule to stay organized and make time for everything.



The Qureshi Siblings: Learning Beyond Books



Since moving to an online school, I've found a better balance between academics and personal growth. The flexible schedule allows me to explore fun activities, develop new skills, and take ownership of my learning journey.





Hi, my name is Bassem Qureshi, and I am 16 years old.

My passion is online gaming, and I aspire to become a professional gamer or a game creator. To support this goal, I have completed a one-year coding course and earned a certification.

For my physical fitness, I swim regularly and also practice kickboxing. Kickboxing is more strenuous than swimming, but both activities have their unique benefits: swimming teaches survival skills, while kickboxing focuses on self-defense techniques.

To balance my physical activities with long hours of school, I follow a weekly schedule. Now that I am enrolled in an online school, I will spend fewer hours in front of a screen, giving me more time for physical development and allowing me to manage my time more productively.



LEARNING BEYOND THE BOOKS



“Dandelion Dreams”

Artwork by: Debbie Kairu

Thank You For Reading!
See You In The Next Edition!