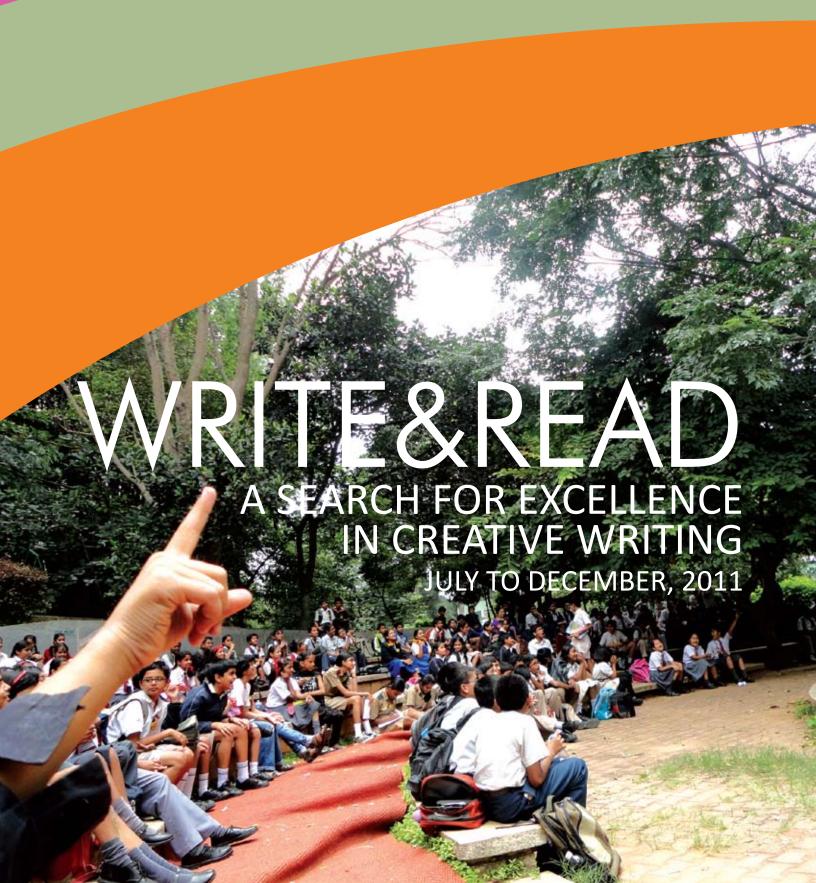


ФKATHA





"Stimulating the inner power of innovative and creative idea ..."

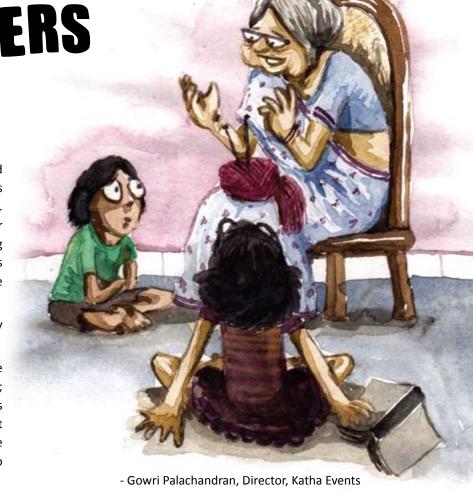
- Mr Uttam Kumar Das, Parent, Kolkata

STORYTELLERS UNLIMITED

India has always been a land of storytellers. Told by traditional katha vachaks, and of course, one's favourite grandmother, we have all heard stories. The narrative is a special legacy that exists in our country as a rich and fascinating tradition, moving with grace and felicity from the oral traditions to the written texts, from the heard word to the read.

And the only precept there's to legacies ... they need to be passed on!

Write&Read is one such initiative! It seeds the ground for the new generation of storytellers; attempts to draw out the writer in every child; gives them space to grapple with ideas, imagination that only they are capable of; and extends the creative web bridge by inviting the young readers to comfortably ensconce in the chair of the creators.



"A truly worth appreciating effort to bring the students in touch with creativity. The workshop gave the students a lot of exposure into the world of literature and creative writing. A step ahead in building budding writers amongst us."

WRITE&READ

A SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE

IN CREATIVE WRITING

RAISON D'ETRE: PLUGGING THE GAP

India being a vast storehouse of stories, and home to several distinguished compatriots in the literary field, there has been very little effort put into scouring the country for young, talented writers. We believe that this leaves a big gap in the field of creative writing, and Write&Read has been designed to fill it.

Write&Read, a Katha-HP initiative, aims to cultivate a culture of writing among young people. Our quest is to discover talent and to foster it. As Mr Neeraj Sharma, President of HP's Imaging & Printing Group in India, describes, "With the advent of newer and faster computer technologies – call it digital media – there is a concern that we may be losing touch with the 'real world'... Our children need to rediscover the joys – of holding a book and smelling its paper; of following a character's journey in a lifelike progression, not limited by a 2-hour film or a 2-minute online video; of finding heroes that will leave a lasting imprint on their minds. Of getting an education that will not be tested in a competitive exam ... Through exercises that are grounded in creativity, these children will have a chance to unlock their imagination and dive headfirst into the wonderful world of writing and reading."

THE FORMAT

Katha, in collaboration with HP India, organized a series of Creative Writing Workshops and an All India Story Writing Contest to help children unleash their creativity and come up with stories, stories that are close to their imagination, stories that are theirs.

The creative writing workshops got them to be budding writers early on, sharpened their skill in observing things around them, and also grew their linguistic skills in the bargain.

With renowned lyricist, Mr Prasoon Joshi and prolific children's writer, Ms Geeta Dharmarajan, playing mentors to the little ones, the programmme sure was an explosion of hypercreativity!



"Nurturing Creativity ..."

- Mrs Sheila Koshy, Teacher, Chennai

"The best feature of the workshop was to improve writing ability through enjoyment and fun."

- Mr A N Choudhury, Parent, Kolkata



VISION

Expression is important when it comes to transmission of ideas and thoughts. Making up stories can be a great avocation, and even a real profession. These two ideas, in conjunction, formed the core of our philosophy, as we designed our modules and communicated our ideas.

As aptly described by Geeta Dharmarajan, "The reason for such unique initiative has been to provide children with a platform to come together and develop new age content in the form of creative short stories for their peers."

We hope to see a day when storytellers are legion, so that many more innovative ideas may see the light of day.



A BOOK BY CHILDREN, FOR CHILDREN!

It's difficult to deny that most adults have forgotten what it's like to be a child. Sure, we have vague snapshots and the occasional snatch of conversation in our memories, but we've lost the feeling. It's not just about innocence or the sense of wonder – it's the whole experience of being sans experience.

Children have so many stories to tell, stories replete with compelling images, images that we as adults, attempt to decipher. So why not hear what kids have to say, a telling unencumbered by a lot of prejudices that we might have. And let's let kids see the amazing stories others like them have thought up, so that they can see what they're capable of.



"Since the workshops were held with the view of aiding the children participate in the story-writing competition on the third day, it was rightly tailored for it. Children were given a rough idea on creativity, on how to let go and what to keep in mind while storytelling."

- Ms Shinie Antony, Writer, Bengaluru

QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS

S.No	Quantitative figures of Six Cities	
1	No. of Schools Participated	123
2	No. of Children Participated	1416
3	No. of Teachers Participated	79
4	No. of Parents Participated	89
5	No. of Katha Resource Persons & Local Coordinators	26
6	No. of Volunteers	8
7	No. of Days	13
8	No. of Planning Sessions	64
9	No. of Sessions Taken – 6 cities	54
10	No. of Hours	56.5
11	No. of Writing Kit (material provided to children)	1416
12	No. of Reading Badges and Certificates to Children	1416
13	No. of Stories Submitted	1222
14	No. of Stories Shortlisted	47
15	No. of Jury Members	6
16	No. of Stories Published	29

S.No	Age Group	No. of Children
1	6-7 years	3
2	8 years	31
3	9 years	125
4	10 years	210
5	11 years	234
6	12 years	389
7	13 years	238
8	14 years	146
9	15 years	25
10	16 years	2

"This workshop was very effective and enthusiastic!"

- Mrs Reshma Maniyar, Teacher, Pune

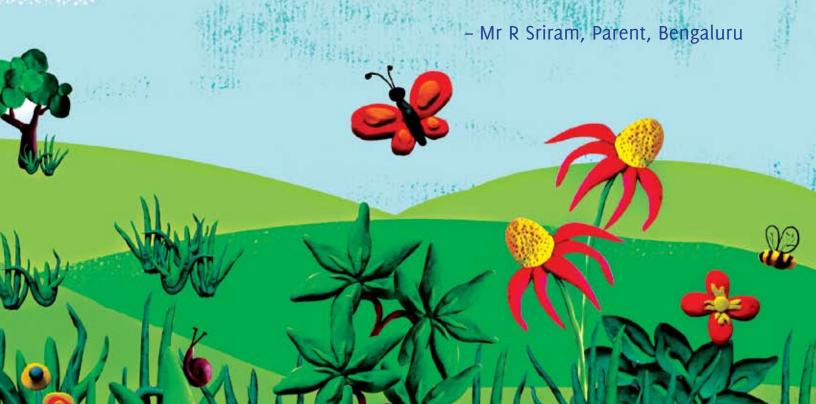


MOVEMENT SCHEDULE

S.No.	City	Dates	Place
1	Bengaluru 💉	25th, 26th & 27th August	Bal Bhavan, St Josheph's School Auditorium
2	Pune	16th & 17th September	Ishaniya Auditorium
3	Kolkata	23rd & 24th September	Crystal Rings Banquet
4	Chennai	30th September & 1st October	Tidal Park Auditorium
5	Delhi	14th & 15th October	NCUI Auditorium
6	Mumbai	21st & 22nd October	Rangsharda Auditorium



"I appreciate Katha's efforts to promote creativity and originality among children through events such as these, which are very rare to come by."



BENGALURU

S.No	Quantitative figures of Bengaluru	
1	No. of Children Participated	214
2	No. of Schools Participated	10
3	No. of Teachers Participated	17
4	No. of Parents	7
5	No. of Resource Persons	3
6	No. of Volunteers	2
7	No. of Days and Hours	3 days – 9 hours
8	Name of the Mentor-Writer	Shinie Antony

S.No	Age Group	No. of Children
1	6-7 years	4
2	8 years	25
3	9 years	46
4	10 years	31
5	11 years	44
6	12 years	39
7	13 years	20
8	14 years	2
9	15 years	0
10	16 years	2





PUNE

S.No	Quantitative figures of Pune	
1	No. of Children Participated	332
2	No. of Schools Participated	10
3	No. of Teachers participated	18
4	No. of Parents	12
5	No. of Resource Persons	2
6	No. of Volunteers	2
7	No. of Days and Hours	2 Days – 10 hours
8	Name of the Mentor-Writer	Kala Ramesh and Soumya Rajendran

S.No	Age Group	No. of Children
1	8 years	1
2	9 years	5
3	10 years	20
4	11 years	44
5	12 years	177
6	13 years	32
7	14 years	34
8	15 years	17
9	16 years	1

KOLKATA

S.No	Quantitative figures of Kolkata	
1	No. of Children Participated	151
2	No. of Schools Participated	29
3	No. of Teachers participated	10
4	No. of Parents	22
5	No. of Resource Persons	3
6	No. of Volunteers	-
7	No. of Days and Hours	2 days, 10 hours
8	Name of the Mentor-Writer	Trisha Ray

S.No	Age Group	No. of Children
1	6-7 years	3
2	8 years	2
3	9 years	9
4	10 years	27
5	11 years	37
6	12 years	32
7	13 years	29
8	14 years	7
9	15 years	1





CHENNAI

S.No	Quantitative figures of Chennai	
1	No. of Children Participated	235
2	No. of Schools Participated	23
3	No. of Teachers participated	8
4	No. of Parents	30
5	No. of Resource Persons	3
6	No. of Volunteers	1
7	No. of Days and Hours	2 days, 10
		hours
8	Name of the Mentor-Writer	Manasi

S.No	Age Group	No. of Children
1	8 years	8
2	9 years	41
3	10 years	45
4	11 years	31
5	12 years	35
6	13 years	45
7	14 years	23
8	15 years	1
9	16 years	0

DELHI

S.No	Quantitative figures of Delhi	
1	No. of Children Participated	286
2	No. of Schools Participated	23
3	No. of Teachers participated	12
4	No. of Parents	8
5	No. of Resource Persons	5
6	No. of Volunteers	3
7	No. of Days and Hours	2 days, 9.5
		hours
8	Name of the Mentor-Writer	Trisha Ray

S.No	Age Group	No. of Children
1	8 years	14
2	9 years	19
3	10 years	40
4	11 years	63
5	12 years	51
6	13 years	53
7	14 years	44
8	15 years	1
9	16 years	0





MUMBAL

S.No	Quantitative figures of Mumbai	
1	No. of Children Participated	198
2	No. of Schools Participated	28
3	No. of Teachers participated	14
4	No. of Parents	10
5	No. of Resource Persons	3
6	No. of Volunteers	-
7	No. of Days and Hours	2 days, 8 hours
8	Name of the Mentor-Writer	Santhini Govindan

S.No	Age Group	No. of Children
1	8 years	2
2	9 years	26
3	10 years	32
4	11 years	28
5	12 years	50
6	13 years	40
7	14 years	18
8	15 years	3
9	16 years	1



"My child told me that she loved the workshop and was really inspired ..."

- Reena Gandhi, Parent, Mumbai

THE APPROACH

When developing the modules for the workshops, an intensive selection of facets of writing that could best hone the skills of the young writers, took place. For each of the cities, the module was prepared, on the basis of Ms Geeta Dharmarajan's valuable advice, and in conjunction with the resource persons of each city respectively. Long discussions took place to make sure every individual who was a part of the conducting team, in any role, was on the same page in terms of what we wished to achieve through it – its purpose and motive. Though the fine details of the module underwent some changes from city to city, depending upon the resource person of that place, the underlying structure remained the same – we were clear on what we wished to give to the children through the entire process, and in what kind of interactive and energetic environment!

An energizer activity was necessary at the start of each workshop as a kind of an icebreaker for the children to feel comfortable in the new environment and open up – something that was absolutely crucial to have them actively participate in latter activities and also for them to let their creative juices flow free of all inhibitions.

The activities which followed were designed to cover as many of the elements of story writing as was possible in a limited amount of time. The children were encouraged to interact and participate, and many of them threw open questions showing great maturity – questions of style, genres of writing, dual narratives, the structure of a story and its variability, parallel storylines and many more. The resource people dealt with these issues with great finesse, explaining concepts to children in a manner which they could relate to, and yet making it clear that there are no hard and fast rules – originality and imagination are the vital heart and core of any story. The importance of a good vocabulary to most effectively and efficiently express one's thoughts was also stressed through various word games and discussions. Authenticity of emotional depictions was also touched upon – the importance of effectively conveying the emotional impact of a particular happening in a story, to allow the reader to put himself/herself in the shoes of the character that is feeling that impact.

"Innovative ideas to make children think of creating their own stories!"

- Mrs G Preethadevi, Parent, Chennai



Having a strong plot is essential, and the structure of a story – the beginning, the middle, and the end – was demonstrated to the children through an activity where each of them was given a sample of a beginning, middle, or an end, and had to weave their story around that. In this way, they had a piece of writing with them to work with, however, they still had to use their imagination to build on the storyline they had, develop the characters they'd been given, and make all the essential choices one must make when they are writing a story – Do I want my ending to be an open ending or would I like to tie up all loose ends? What genre would I like my story to fall into? What are the most creative ways to begin telling a tale?

All these are questions that the children grappled with, with each finally producing a story that was not only brilliant, but most importantly – uniquely theirs!



A lot of the learning the young ones went through during the course of this workshop consisted primarily of unlearning – unlearning stereotypes, rigid ways of thinking and feeling, clichés, and everything else that could hold them back as artists. We aimed for them to learn that anyone can be a writer, and anything can be a subject for a story, and anyone/anything could be the principal character of that story, and any genre could be followed or played with – as long as it came from them, without any external interference.

A "Patchwork Tale" exercise had the young ones divided into groups – of mixed age group and mixed schools – and given a set of visual aids to discuss, plot and collectively write a story. These visual aids were disjointed images, chosen for their disconnection from each other and their incompleteness – so that they could trigger off a wide variety of thoughts and feelings and a different set of the same in different participants, and so that each participant was pushed to think out of the box to draw connections between them. The mixed age groups and different school backgrounds resulted in a fascinating potpourri of creative ideas being poured in, tossed around for discussion, and settled upon. The teamwork that the students displayed was admirable! The power of the images/illustrations used grew manifold when they were interpreted in unique ways by the eager groups of talented children as they all put pen to paper.

"My kid enjoyed – she says that she got to learn a lot from other kids also."

- Mrs Sailaja Chirravuri, Parent, Chennai



The children's interactions with the resource persons gave them a taste of what it was like to be a published author, and what went into the making of numerous stories – each resource person brought a different flavour into the workshop that they conducted, but tried to keep that flavour from being too much of a direct influence on the child's way of thinking.

When it came to the final Short Story Writing Contest, the children were given virtually no restrictive guidelines to follow – they were given about one and a half hours to write a story that is between 50-500 words. Therefore, they had ample time to think through their concept, and revise their work if they were to feel the need to do so. They could write a story on any topic of their choice and of any genre of their choice – in prose or poetry, or as a play, or as a letter, anything! That's another reason why we felt they would need time – to brainstorm and figure out what unique combination of elements would best express their Selves.

When the time for the Contest came, a sudden hush would fall over the room, each child was given the freedom to move around the venue and find their own little spot where they could think and write. The level of focus that each of the participants displayed was remarkable – we could actually see them introspecting, creating and enjoying that process in a way that perhaps many of them had never done before!



"Total involvement of the child!"

- Mrs Arati Anand Gosavi, Parent, Pune

"It was interactive and involved an integration of all language skills; very colourful."

- Ms Gitanjali Dhasmana, Teacher, Delhi



The stories which came out of all 6 cities were thus too varied to comment on them in any unidimensional way, and the process of selecting 25-40 stories out of the hundreds of wonderful ones which came in was no easy task. They showed great imagination and inspiration and each city's stories seemed to have something in common with each other, showing the influence of cultural elements in that city. It became clear to us that children have a way of thinking that most adults cannot even dream of; such is their innocence and sensitivity before the corrupting forces of adult reality can act on them. This does not by any means imply that they are completely unaware of the reality around them; it's more a question of perception that reading those stories raised. Overall, it was a wonderful experience – without a doubt!

The final product of the project – a book by children and for children, called "By Us For Us" – is a compilation of the top 29 of the refreshing and creative entries which were part of the Short Story Writing Contest.

The books saw a mega release on the 29th of November, 2011, at the Taj Mahal Hotel on Mansingh Road, in the presence of Prasoon Joshi, Geeta Dharmarajan, Neeraj Sharma, Ivy Liang, and several of the young authors.

Beautifully illustrated, this book will be out in stores very soon!



"They learnt a lot without really being aware that they were learning."

- Mrs Savithri Radhakrishnan, Teacher, Chennai

''बच्चे बड़ों को भी बड़ा बनाते हैं''

कथा और एचपी ने मिलकर 'राइट ऐंड रोड' कार्यक्रम के तहत नन्हें बच्चों में छिपे लेखकों को खोजने की कोशिश की और इन लेखकों को अ मांजने-निखारने का बीड़ा उठाया गीतकार और एड गुरु प्रसून जोशी ने. उनसे हुई बातबीत के प्रमुख अंश:

इन बच्चों के साथ काम करने का अन्धव कैसा रहा?

'बहुत अच्छा' या 'अद्भुत' जैसा शायद नाकाफी होगा मेरे अनुभव को चयां करने के लिए, बच्चों का साथ हमेशा बड़ों को भी थोड़ा

और बड़ा करने वाला होता है. उनके साथ-साथ मैंने भी बहुत कुछ सीखा.

बच्चों की नजर बड़ों से ज्यादा सच्ची-सरल होती है?

बेशक. यह देखकर आश्चर्य भी होता है कि अक्सर बच्चे अपने निश्छल मन की आंखों से वह भी देख लेते हैं, जो दनियावी

परदों से ढकी हमारी आंखें नहीं देख पातीं. वे साफ सफेद कागज हैं. उनके दिल ईमानदार हैं.

• कोई ऐसी कहानी, जो दिल को छू गई? एक छोटी बच्ची ने ट्रैफिक सिग्नल की बितयों और भीख मांगने वाली एक लड़की पर कहानी लिखी थी. कैसे लाल और हरी बितयों का मोटरकार के भीतर और बाहर बैठे व्यक्ति के लिए बिल्कुल अलग अर्थ होता है. हमारे लिए लाल का अर्थ है रुक जाना और किसी के लिए लाल बत्ती से ही जिंदगी की शुरुआत होती है. हरा हमारे लिए गति है, लेकिन किसी के लिए रुक जाने का संकेत. उस बच्ची की कल्प म और एक यथार्थ को इस तरह देख पा उसकी नजर ने मुझे भीतर तक छू लिए



की मुखालफत करते हैं. क्या नए लेखक पैदा करने में इन स्कूलों की कोई अहम भूमिका हो सकती है ? इन स्कूलों के डोज बिटामिन की कैप्सुल की तरह हैं. ये स्कूल कल्पनाओं को सीमित करते हैं, उनका बिस्तार नहीं करते. हर बच्चा एक बने-बनाए मशीनी

ढांचे में सोचने लगता है. लेखन कला तो अनुभव और कल्पना के विस्तार के साथ निखरती है. खूब सारा अध्ययन इसमें मददगार होता है.

इस युग के बच्चों और आपके बचपन में क्या फर्क नजर आता है?

इन बच्चों का आत्मविश्वास कमाल का है. इंटरनेट ने उन्हें बड़ी दुनिया का एक्सपोजर दे दिया है. वे जानते हैं कि वे क्या चाहते हैं प्र आज उन्हें हर तरह की विद्यामिन

ए द स् और मॉल द है है है द स्मिनिस्य द र हैं। आकाश

torytelling spark

ULIKA GAUTAMA

DECCAN CHRONICLE

ver the last two decades, eeta Dharmarajan has passionate about her your to enhance the joy ading for chil-

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HP Read and Write Initiative to organise story-writing workshops for *namma* Chennai's talented tots.

Speaking to DC from Mumbai, Geeta emphasised the need to spark imagination and creativity in young minds. "The role of creativity is very crucial to child-hood," she said. "Storytelling is something that formal education does not offer. However, it

is an activity that helps children become iduals. For reason, we united HP and if the pilot of these

united riences. HP and will be so the pilot out in a tainly he sense of a six cities Geeta do a short w

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sten in rapt attention at the workshop in Chennai

will see youngsters stories that tap into and emotional expefies 50 best stories elected and brought book. This will cerlip children feel a chievement."

es acknowledge that vorkshop might not bugh time to bring

out the best in a child. But it certainly is a step in the right direction. Katha, that has a presence in north India, is ready to take the plunge in the south too. "Very soon, we will be starting a project in Chennai that aims at equitable and quality education," says Geeta, as she promises to be back.

Story time
association with HP-IGP, is organising a creative sorkshop for children in the city from October 20-22

Discovering the joy of writing and reading

xpress News Service

iewlett-Packard announced he launch of 'Write & Read' - a collaborative story-writng programme, with 'Katha', in NGO that brings children iving in poverty into readng and quality education. yricist Prasoon Joshi will oin the initiative as a mentor or the students who will paricipate in the workshops.

Over the next few months, he workshops will be rolled ut across six cities in Indiabelhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Thennai, Kolkatta and Pune – for children aged nine to ourteen. HP will support Vrite & read workshops with veb-connected printers, which will enable children to nteract directly with content in the Web via Print Apps.

"Writing is a liberating creative process that I hold dear to my heart. I am proud to be a part of Write & Read that helps children to discover the joy of writing and reading at a young age. This joy is an invaluable gift that I would like to share with children of India — our future leaders," said Prasoon Joshi.

Write & Read targets to reach out to more than 700 children across six cities.



From left: Necraj Sharma, President, HP-IPG; Prasoon Joshi, lyricist, screenwriter and advertising copywriter; Vyomesh Joshi, Executive Vice President, HP-IPG; Geeta Dharmarajan, Executive Director, Katha and John Solomon, Senior Vice President, HP-IPG

The shortlisted entries will be sent to Joshi for the final selection.

The final 50 selected stories will be complied into a book, which will be distributed to local libraries and

communities across India.

"Printing is integral to bringing stories to life. We are proud to marry HP's in-

novative technologies with

expertise of Prasoon Joshi

experience of writing and reading stories for children and grow their interest in learning," added Vyomesh Joshi, executive vice president, Imaging and Printing

This weekend, let your children translate their imagination into creative short stories at the two-day story writing workshop to be hosted at Ishanya Auditorium

WORKSHOP

THE GUIDE TEAM

theguide@mid-day.com

Enrol your kids for a two-day story-writing workshop, which promises to be a funlearning experience. The workshop titled 'HP Write and Read' has been organised by Hewlett Packard — Imaging and Packaging (HP-IPG) India in collaboration with Katha,

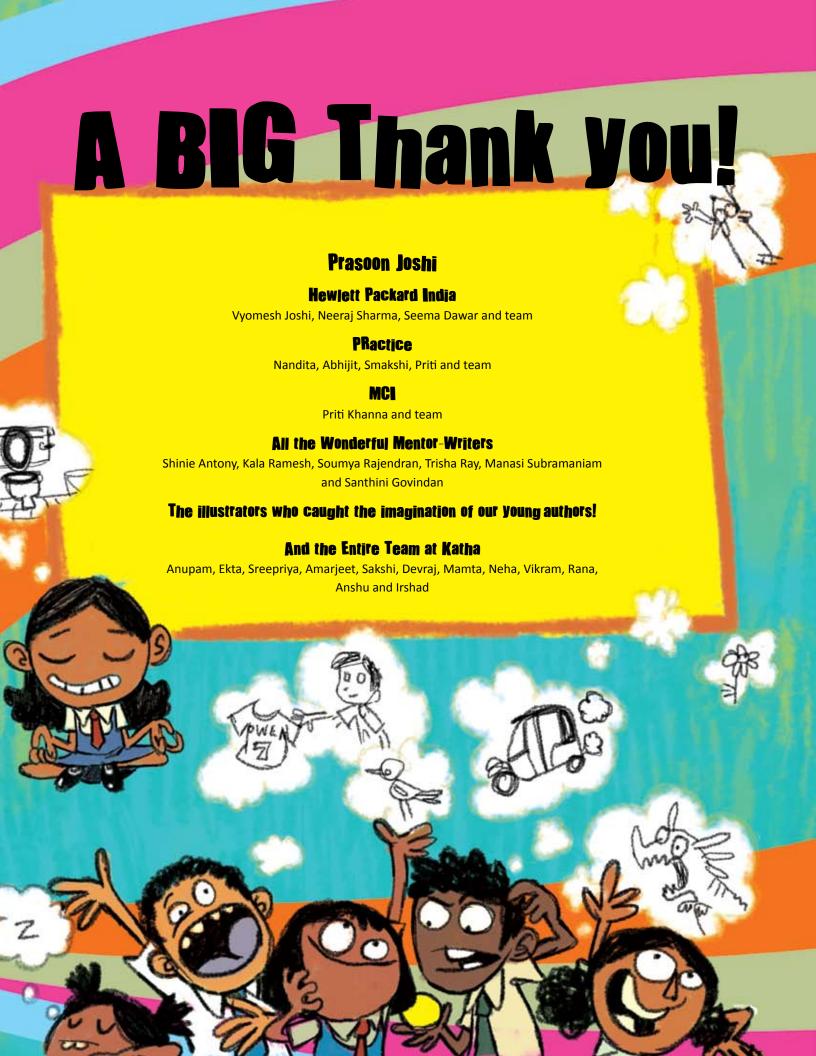
an organisation that works with children from underprivileged backgrounds. It is for children between the age group of 9 and 15 years and will be conducted by Geeta Dharamrajan, an award winning writer and the chairperson of Katha.

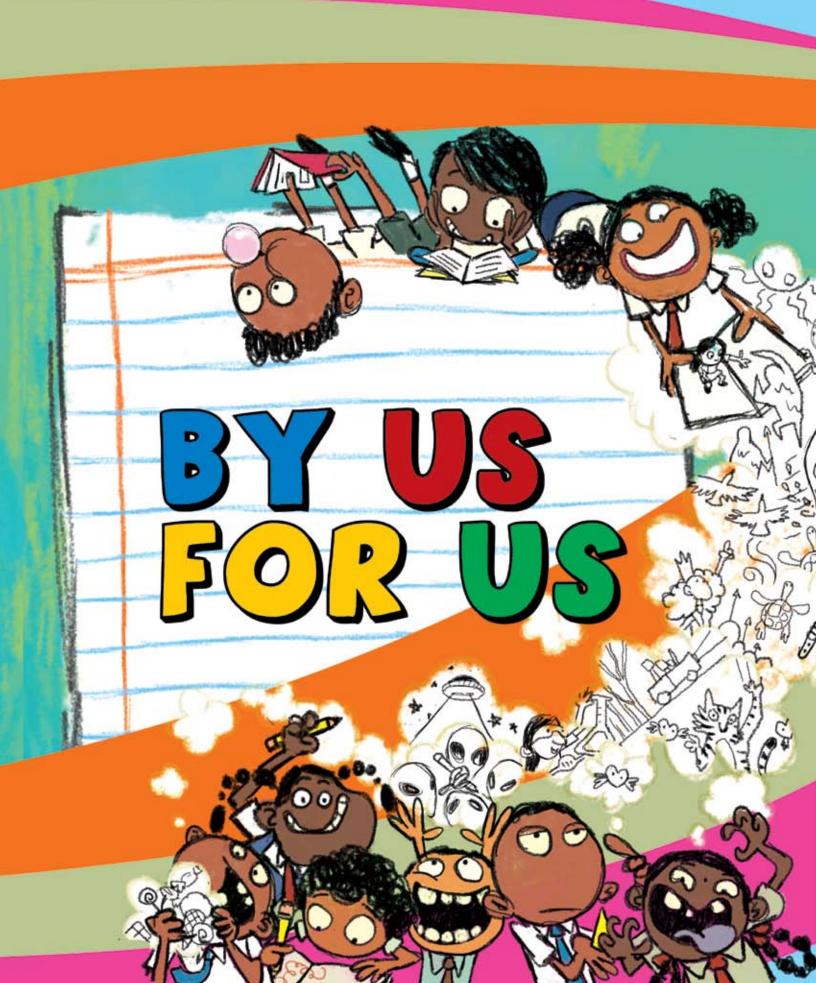
The story-writing programme has been designed to bring out the storyteller in every child, through workshops and a story-writing contest. It will give children an opportunity to convert their

creative ideas and imagination into stories.

The idea is to give children the creative freedom to express themselves. The workshop hopes to bridge the gap between a child's imagination and his/ her expressions.

ON September 16 and 17, 9 am to 3 pm LOG ON TO http://hpwriteandread.com/ AT Ishanya Auditorium, off Airport Road, Yerwada.







THE FINAL LIST OF 29!

THE WINNERS AND THEIR STORIES



Story - Rebirth

GEAR Innovative International
School, Bengaluru

Nidhi Ravishankar



Saee Bhujbal Story - The Rise of the Sunflower

DAV Public School, Pune

Melissa Chen Story - The Greatest Treasure

Loreto Day School (Dharmatala), Kolkata



Vinayasree Vinod Story - A Dream Come True

Kendriya Vidyalaya (IIT), Chennai





Nandini Kejariwal Story - Beaten Black and Blue

Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai



Anupriya Aggarwal Story - The Changing Lights

Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, Delhi



Bhhavya Kapoor Story - An Adventure In Dreamland

DAV Public School, Pune



Sayantan Chakraborty Story - The Hour Known As Earth

St James's School, Kolkata

R Anirudh Story - Where Is My Mother?

Kendriya Vidyalaya (IIT), Chennai



Shreya Punjabi Story - Bathrooms Aren'i Boring

Arya Vidya Mandir (Juhu), Mumbai





Amola Mehta Story - My Cat, Her Majesty Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, Delhi



Aniruddh K Budhgavi Story - The Perfect Gift Army Public School, Bengaluru

Kshitija M Shetty Story - From No To Yes Chemistry





Madhavi Rao Story - Don't Ever Study Too Hard!



G Jyotsna Story - The Orange Experience



Ananya Kumar Story - Humans Or Aliens?

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Natasha Bhadouria Story - Of Cats, Dogs And Mice

G G International School. Pune



Aditya Das Story - No Ha-Has, Please!

Sanskruti Lakshmi Kanth Story - Vnd's Trip To Fire

Navadisha Montessori School, Chennai



Anoushka Agrawal Story - Save Me

Bombay Scottish School, Mumbai





Dhwani Yagnaraman Story - Branches Of Life

Vidya Valley School, Pune



Rakshita K L Story - Vortex Of The 2 Worlds

GEAR Innovative International School, Bengaluru

Rizwan M Amlani Story - Big J And The Bus Driver

Erin N Nagarwala Day School, Pune



Anangsha Saha Story - Rover The Dog

Loreto Day School (Dharmatala), Kolkata





Suhana Khan Story - Waiting To Bloom

Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai



M Puneeth Story - The Man'u Fever

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Katha is a non-profit organisation seamlessly connecting grassroots work in education, urban poverty alleviation and literacy. Katha runs 98 schools in slum communities in Delhi and reaches out to 200,000 children through a unique Reading Programme. Katha's efforts are inspired by the vision of empowering children to become community leaders through education, transforming their lives as well as that of their communities.

Katha's Mission: To help every child realise his/her full potential through community-based quality learning. To enhance the joys of reading. To reduce injustice and poverty through education. To enhance linguistic diversity through story.

Katha leverages its mission goal on a single powerful idea: Children can help their communities get out of poverty, and bring change that is sustainable and real.

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