

KATHA UTSAV 2013



a katha - cbse initiative





In Memory of
Dr Abid Hussain
President, Katha (1993 – 2012)

Some nice things that we heard ...

“Titled Imagination @ Work, a slew of workshops – like The Graphic Script Writer, 24*7 Storyteller, Story is History, Haiku Crazee! the Plotter’s Conspiracy, Blog Away, the Faraway Tree, etc. – tried bringing out the inner potential of each student and discover their particular areas of interest and help instil in them a more professional manner and the habit of reading different kinds of fiction and non-fiction works”.

— **The Hindu**

“A one of its kind reading and writing workshop organized by the Board, the Katha Utsav saw CBSE rewarding students for the creative enigma they portrayed”

— **India Education**

Dear Friends,

We at Katha are constantly amazed by the creativity of children. We were once again wowed by the stories sent by 3500 students from 500 CBSE schools across India. And I thank the Central Board of Secondary Education for placing such immense faith in Katha to help students discover their natural creativity and way with words.

Students of today are impatient to take their rightful place as global citizens. But to do justice to that role, they need to have their feet firmly placed on the ground even as they reach for the stars. And what better way to get to know who they are and where they come from than through stories and poems from their own backyards?

Storytelling, creativity and imagination are the most wanted skill sets for the 21st century. Hence, creating a new breed of storytellers and writers for the nation is an urgent and essential responsibility of all education. Unfortunately, the rush of exams often does not give schools the time to nurture children’s creativity. This is what we got to do at the recently concluded Katha Writers’ Workshops: enhance the joy of reading in today’s students so they become reader-leaders for India and the world.

Katha’s I Love Reading [ILR] Campaign was started in 2006 to take our vision forward. Today it works with about 2,00,000 children; in 248 slums and 88 corporation schools. This project with CBSE brought new energies to the campaign! And we are all excited!

We thank Mr. Vineet Joshi, Chairman, and Dr. Sadhana Parasher, Academic Director, as well as their team members for their generous time and spontaneous support to Caution! Imagination@Work!

We acknowledge each and everyone who was part of this unique programme, especially the principals of Sanskriti School and Modern School, Delhi, and Padma Seshadri Millennium School, Chennai, for hosting our regional and national events. And all the principals and teachers of the 500 registered schools who worked closely with us.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to our resource people who brought their sense of fun to the Katha Writers’ Workshops, to sharpen each student’s skills, to celebrate their written word with the prestigious Katha Student Awards. And to each one of my colleagues at Katha.

And most of all, our thanks to each one of the 3500 students for their awesome stories, haiku and nonfiction!

We look forward to carrying this initiative successfully in the coming years with CBSE’s support.

Geeta Dharmarajan

[Founder & Executive Director, Katha]



It has been my experience through my numerous interactions with teachers and students that, what appeals to the heart, aids better understanding of ideas and their memorization. The 'I Love Reading-CBSE' Project by KATHA has tapped this potential to promote the habit of reading among students – who are today easily drawn to the myriad communication technologies that are competing with the printed words. The wealth of experience that readers gained through this intellectual and emotional engagement with books is incomparable!

—Vineet Joshi, Chairman, CBSE

Story-telling is a dynamic teaching tool. Information can be passed on to the learners at the emotional and intellectual levels, and thereby ensure its better absorption and longer retention. By weaving story-telling into the school curriculum, teachers can draw upon a rich resource of human experiences to convey 'dry' data. I congratulate KATHA on taking this idea to our teachers and students, in their 2013 Edition of the 'I Love Reading' Project.

— Dr. Sadhana Parashar, Director
(Academic, Research, Training and Innovation)



“We at Katha believe in the power of story to get children excited about learning. And more importantly to find their Indian roots even as they become global citizens. Curiosity, creativity and critical thinking are imbedded in stories and poems. And the ability to think, ask, discuss and ACT can come early to children who participate in listening and telling stories. To realize this vision, we need to get our future professionals to start early as listeners and storytellers. This is the aim of ILR.CBSE. This is a huge step-change in education that CBSE has engineered, with Katha!”

— Geeta Dharmarajan
Founder & Executive Director, Katha



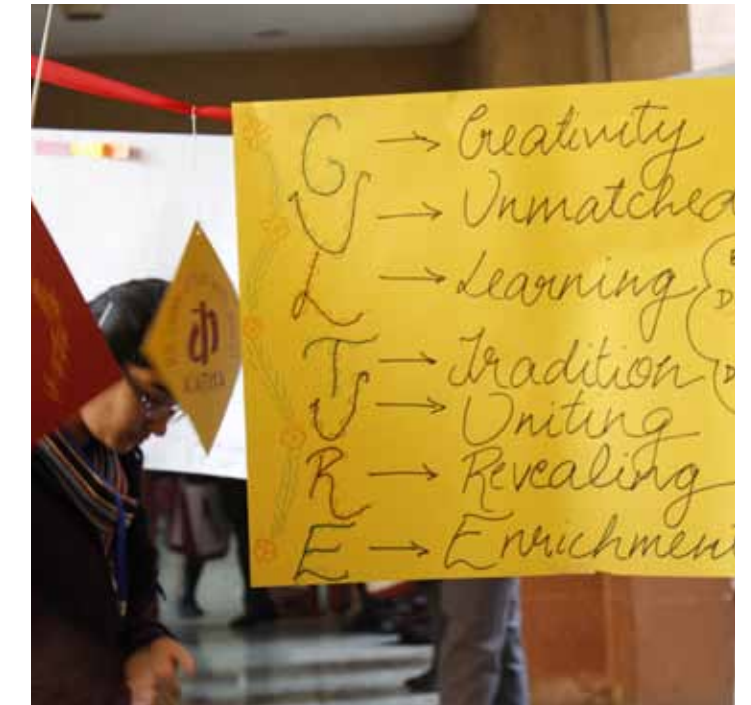
Katha's Theory of Change states: If children learn to read well and for fun, they do well in school, gain confidence and self esteem thereby driving change that can help create a better India for all. Katha's approach to creating a more equitable and sustainable world has been taken forward in this project with the extremely supportive and able team at CBSE, led by **Shri Vineet Joshi**, the Chairman, and **Dr. Sadhana Parashar**, Academic Director.

I LOVE READING CAMPAIGN: Making reading and writing immediate and fun is what Katha has worked for, since 1988. Our vision: To enhance the joy of reading. Katha launched the I Love reading Campaign in 2006, across the Corporation Schools and slums of Delhi. And that is the main reason for its extension into CBSE Schools.

ilovereadings.in

A Katha - CBSE initiative!

I Love Reading-CBSE is an initiative designed by Katha to encourage reading and writing skills in every child. We are proud and honoured to have the partnership of the Central Board of Secondary Education, CBSE, in this initiative. Through a Search for Excellence in participating schools, and Writers' Workshops at the regional and national levels that lead to the prestigious Katha Student Awards for Creative Writing, we aimed to expand the imaginative worlds of students and help them become reader-leaders, in inspired and innovative ways. A world of reading and writing for children to create their own "words within worlds - worlds within words."





CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

(An Autonomous Organization under the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India)

“Shiksha Sadan”, 17-Rouse Avenue, New Delhi-110 002

CBSE/DIR. (Acad & Trg.)/ 2013

9th July, 2013

Circular No.: Acad-45/2013

All the Heads of Independent Schools

Affiliated to CBSE

Sub: CBSE-KATHA - CREATIVE WRITING AND TRANSLATION COMPETITIONS

Dear Principal,

KATHA, a Indian publisher of children’s story books and translated fiction, has been working in the areas of creative writing and translation for nearly 25 years. I Love Reading is a programme to promote creative writing and translation among students I Love Reading Project seeks to nurture their creativity by giving them a platform to share their writing, thereby inspiring generations of future writers (More details in Annexure – 02).

Participation in the competitions is free of cost

CREATIVE WRITING AND TRANSLATION COMPETITION

(Timeline of events in Annexure - 01)

STAGE -1: KATHA CLUBS

I Love Reading

- Affiliated schools will organize On the Spot Writing Contest in the following Categories:

i. Classes IV-VII : July-August 2013

ii. Classes VIII- XII : July-August 2013

- The Principal shall verify and attest to the originality of the stories /translations, submitted by students, before uploading them onto the Katha website: www.katha.org
- Initially, students may submit their stories in Hindi or English. [Sample narratives and tips for writing and translation are accessible on the website]
- All students may access the submitted stories/translations on the website and cast their vote online.

STAGE -2: REGIONAL WRITING WORKSHOPS

October-November 2013

- About 300-400 selected semi-finalists and their accompanying teachers will be invited to a Regional Writing Workshop.
- The semi-finalists will be given an opportunity to further develop and revise their submitted stories/translation under the guidance of professional writers, poets, and translators.
- At the conclusion of the Regional Writing Workshop, students will submit their stories for the FINAL ROUND.

STAGE -3: KATHA UTSAV

December 2013

- The submissions will be screened by experts who will select about 200 of the best entries for the FINALS.
- The finalists and their teachers will attend the Katha Utsav in New Delhi. The Katha Utsav will be a 3-day workshop held at the India Habitat Center, with master-classes by experts from the literary field.
- Katha will also organize meetings with publishers and literary agents.
- A jury will announce prizes for the Best Story and Best Translation which will be published by Katha as BalKatha Prize Stories.

For further details, schools may contact:

Organisers:Tel. 11 4141 6600/Email:kps@katha.org/CBSE:P Rajeswary,Education Officer:011-23231248

Sadhana Parashar

Dr. Sadhana Parashar

Director (Academic, Research, Training and Innovation)



CBSE and KATHA
invite you to



nurture future writers in your school with katha clubs!



Start a **KATHA CLUB** in your school. Find, inspire and grow talent in your students. Our goal is to help you create India's future wordsmiths!



THE WRITERS WORKSHOP at a regional level will give selected students a chance to hone their writing talent. And win a place at the Katha Utsav!



The **NATIONAL KATHA UTSAV** will reward your students' writing skills. And showcase their works to publishers & literary agents!

**CATCH THE
EXCITEMENT**

**& SEE YOUR STUDENTS
GROW INTO**

WRITERS

POETS

TRANSLATORS



**FROM THE 63 KATHA BOOKS
RECOMMENDED BY CBSE**

KATHA

Katha is an award-winning profit-for-all organisation. It has been working with story, in the literacy to literature continuum, since 1988. To know more about Katha's innovative work in government schools, and in the urban slums, streets and tribal villages of India, please visit www.katha.org

The Katha workshops are truly a remarkable 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, building budding writers amongst us.

— Mrs Ramya Gangadharan, Teacher, Army Public School, Bengaluru

write to us at ilr.cbse@katha.org or [click here](#) to register

Register at
iloverereading.in
to start a Katha Club in your school today!

ONLINE ACTIVITIES

Upload your students' stories, poems & translations. Encourage students to read, write, vote and win! Read and critique stories by top Indian writers.

A KATHA CLUB IN YOUR SCHOOL!

Choose students through an in-school search for excellence, to represent your school at the regional writers workshop and the national Katha Utsav at Delhi!

WRITE NOW FOR ALL DETAILS!

Nominated for the Astrid Lindgren, the World's Largest Prize for Children's Books

WHAT WE OFFERED

In association with CBSE, Katha offered participating schools:



WRITING LIKE A PRO WORKSHOPS ON

- The Short Story
 - The Haiku/Poetry
 - Translation
 - Art of the Book
 - Editing Skills
- ## 21ST CENTURY JOURNALISM
- Blogging
 - Newspaper Reportage
 - The Fine Art of Design



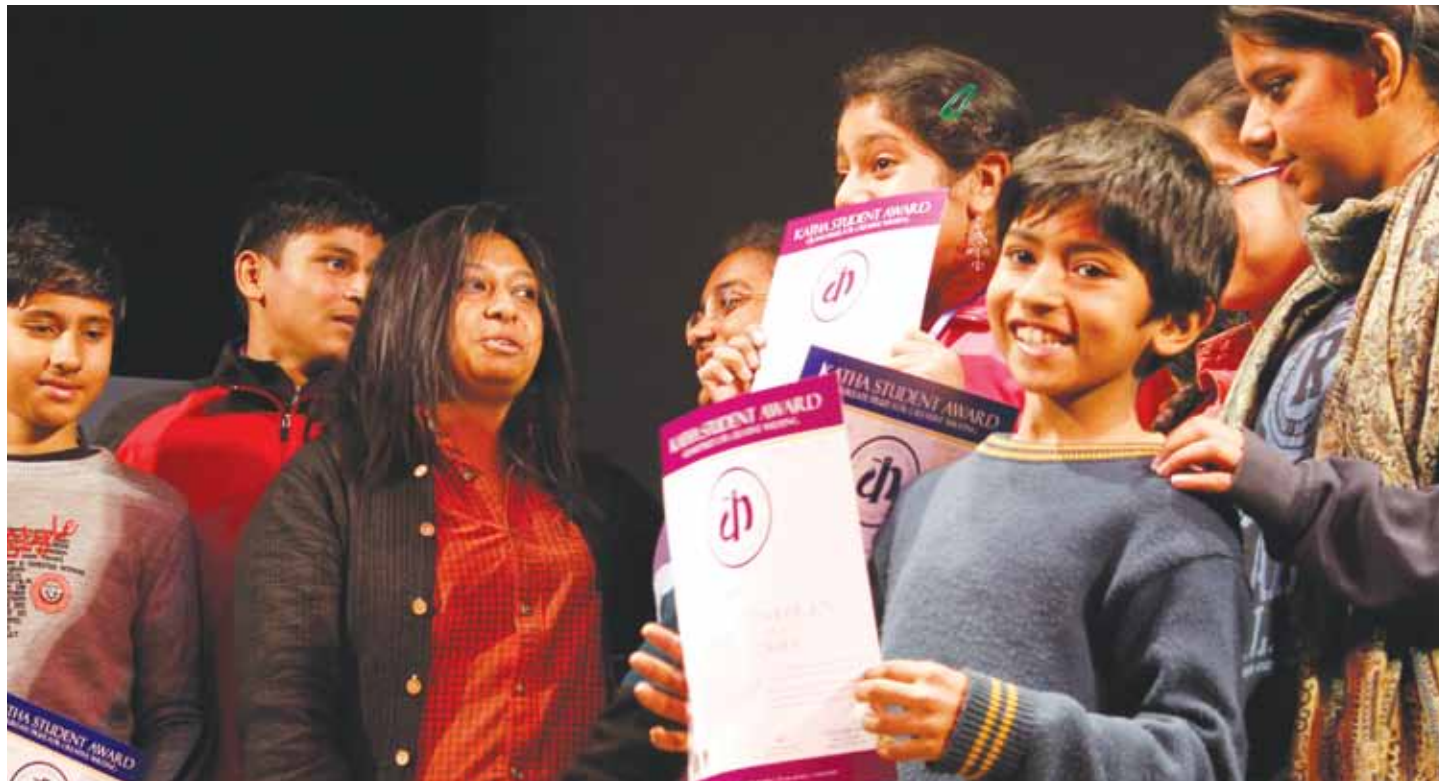
1. KATHA CLUBS. Katha brought its prestigious brand of writing and translation to schools through KATHA CLUBS. 500 CBSE schools registered for the Katha Clubs.

The Clubs conducted an on-the-spot Search for Excellence wherein creative writings and translations were selected and uploaded on our website, www.ilovereadin.in. The locally conducted contest saw an immense response with over 3500 entries from 535 schools! In tandem, Katha also invited students to upload their own stories, in an attempt to foster creativity.

2. WRITERS WORKSHOPS. A respected Jury did two rounds of shortlisting. Finally, 700 pieces were selected and these students were invited to the Regional Writers Workshop conducted in Delhi for the Northern Region, and Chennai for the Southern Region. Under the guidance of a talented group of professional writers, poets and translators, the students refined their creative potential, and were encouraged to submit final entries for the National Writers Workshop conducted later in the same year, at Sanskriti School, New Delhi.

3. THE KATHA WEBSITE. Supported emerging writers and translators in multiple ways through its read and write sections and mentoring from renowned writers and poets. Best of India translated. Katha's 21 languages for the 21st century project presents more than 400 of the best Indian writers in translation.

4. KATHA STUDENT AWARDS FOR CREATIVE WRITING. The best of student stories from each school nominated by student vote for Katha's Search for Excellence long list. From this, a panel of respected writers and publishers will chose young writers for the prestigious Katha Awards for Creative Fiction. The Katha Awards were started in 1990. A nationally recognized award, it has been awarded to some of the best Indian writers. The volumes containing these award-winning stories have been dubbed by **India Today** as "the best of India translated."



5. FRESH FICTIONS FESTIVAL. The **ONGLISTED WRITERS & TRANSLATORS** were invited to the **KATHA-CBSE FRESH FICTIONS FESTIVAL**. This national event for India's emerging writers was held in Delhi, hosted by the Sanskriti School. Students –

- Met established writers, translators, theatre/film people. Learned from them.
- Presented their works to publishers!

The trajectory to the National Writers Workshop:

Katha Clubs

Katha Clubs in 500 CBSE schools across India, are places for friends who love books to come together. Any empty classroom can be a Katha Club and then it is time for Think! Ask! Discuss! Act!



Search of Excellence

Schools organized an on the Spot Search for Excellence in August and the best writings, the creative words woven into stories and translations were selected and uploaded to www.ilovereadin.com



Regional Writers Workshop

A jury was formed to screen the online student submissions. 700 semi finalists were selected for the Regional Writing Workshop, in North India and South India. At the end of it, students submitted their stories for the final round.



National Writers Workshop/Katha Utsav

Following the Regional Writing Workshops, a team of resource people screened the submissions for Katha Utsav. The finalists, accompanied by their teachers or parents, were invited to the Katha Utsav in New Delhi in December 2013.

The overwhelming response received is a testament to the great literary potential in young Indians!



India has always been described as the land of storytellers. Home to several distinguished literary figures, the need of the hour is to foster young and talented writers, and ILR and its programmes are designed precisely to bridge newly formed gaps in the tradition. The overwhelming response received has been a testament to the great literary potential!



REGIONAL WRITERS WORKSHOPS

The 700 selected candidates were then called to the Regional Writing Workshop which was held in two cities, namely, Delhi and Chennai. The resource persons for the Regional Writing Workshops, experts in their own literary field inspired children to write, read and imagine!



"A project that encourages creative writing"
— NRI press, August 18, 2013





NORTH

The North-Region workshop began with Jayashree Acharya's session which urged the students towards exploring their creative faculties and also taught them the essential elements of a story — plot, characterization, narrative form and so on. Ankit Chadha, our youngest resource person then addressed other basic questions about the individual process of becoming a writer. In charge of the storytelling and fiction sessions of the workshop, Ankit discussed the vocabulary of creativity — like ideas of originality and literary pleasure. Dr. Jyoti and Dr. Manjekar conducted the haiku sessions, delving into the practice and history of the form. But were hardly restricted to a single sphere — intellectually or physically! The informal and interactive atmosphere was enhanced by a nature walk, designed to enhance the student-writers' imaginations and enable them to be conscious writers! The response was found to be enthusiastic by all, and the resultant writings express extreme social sensitivity as well as a deep regard for nature.



SOUTH

The Southern counterpart was conducted in much the same way, addressing similar questions about the desire to write and informing students about the basics of fiction-writing, but also had unique, location-specific elements. One of our resource people, Geethanjali Rajan took the participants and audience to the outdoors in order to teach the importance of using the five senses as means of freeing the imagination. Kala Ramesh facilitated the discussion on Haiku as a literary form, Srivi worked with students to help them find meaning and excitement in stories from their own lives, find their own roots and routes to storytelling. While Naresh addressed the questions around writing as a process. The workshop also had extremely interesting activities like an interactive puppet show which further helped the participants to open up and really gain from our sessions.





Be it Haiku, the Japanese poetry form, nature writing or imagining words by feeling the world around, the children got to do it all. Little by little, step by step they were shown the universe where they could reach out to the stars! And, you could see the twinkle in their eyes!

The Regional Writers Workshop got over but only with a promise to everyone to be back with a bigger and exciting Katha Utsav in December.



“The workshop was an amazing and enriching experience”

— Ahmed Ozair,
Our lady of Fatima, Aligarh



Location	Venue	Dates	Participating Schools	Participating Students	Guest Faculty
Delhi	Modern School, Barakhamba Road	Oct 18-19	33	110	Dr Johannes Manjrekar Dr. Vidur Jyoti Jaishree Acharya Ankit Chadha
Chennai	PSBB Millennium School, Gerukkampakam	Oct 25-26	28	97	Kala Ramesh Naresh BLPS Geethanjali Rajan Sriivi Kalyan

“One has to tap into one’s inner realm and discover the word and sound within oneself. Then, haiku becomes as easy as breathing.”
— Dr. Johannes Manjrekar

“I wish that we could attend the lectures of all the mentors”
— Vartika Goel, Silver Bells Public School, Delhi

“Workshop should be longer and held more often”
— Muskaan Shafat, Delhi Public School

“It is a good turnout, students have come from such diverse places and have responded so well. These workshops are a good way to start getting young minds interested in creative writing”
— Ms. Divya Sahdev, Multimedia and Web Technology at Modern School, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi.

“The Katha Utsav 2013 was the best thing that ever happened in my life. Katha’s arrangements, mentors everything was beyond our expectations”
— Souporno Mukherjee, Pitts Modern School, Gomia, Jharkhand



!caution !magination work FOR STUDENTS

Following the Regional Writing Workshops, a team of dedicated resource people screened the submissions and selected semifinalists for the National Writers Workshops or Katha Utsav, the four-day festival held at New Delhi in December, 2013. The modules for these final workshops were developed after intensive research and discussions between numerous resource people involved with the project. We were clear on what we wanted to give the children through the entire process, through what methods and in what kind of an interactive and energetic environment!



Dr Sadhana Parasher, Academic Director, CBSE, with some faculty.




Abha Sahgal, Principal, Sanskriti School

The festival was organized at Sanskriti School, New Delhi from 27th Dec to 30th December. It was officially inaugurated with a lamp-lighting ceremony by Geeta Dharmarajan, Founder and Executive Director at Katha and involved 249 participating students from 83 schools across the country.



The aim of the Utsav was to introduce a diverse range of innovative sessions which nurtured creativity with an awareness of cultural history as well as novel literary practices. The workshops included sessions on haiku, travel-writing, blogging as well as the art of reading and technology culture, amongst others. With 12

workshops each different from the other and extremely unique in its own right, the idea was to open up new worlds and provide children the space to think, imagine and invent their own fascinating stories. Finally, the products of the workshop left each of us gaping, amazed, teary eyed and most of the times beaming—truly a ride of emotions.

Workshop	Guest Faculty	About the Workshop
The Graphic Strip Writer	Abeer Gupta	A 21st century professional must know how others think, feel and act. This graphic strip writing session will give you amazing tips!
Blog Away!	Aishwarya Dravid	This delightful storyteller uses many tricks from her bag. Create your own bag of tricks with Aishwarya!
Finding a Storyteller's Accomplice	Charanya Chidambaram	This workshop is about deep diving into life, people and everything that drives us; it's about finding the fountainhead of storytelling!
Story is History	Garima Arya	It's not just about the events that took place. It's about how they are narrated. Explore how cultures can fill life into your stories. 

I am Rag Rag Rageshwari & you are?	Indu Harikumar	Learn to transform everyday waste materials like fabric scraps, pizza boxes, tissue paper, newspaper into illustrations for your own story.
Haiku Crazee!	Kala Ramesh	Learn to write the world's shortest poem. Experience the quiet beauty of being one with the ever-changing nature! Become a haiku poet!
Omnibus of Stories	Piyali Das Gupta	Do you want to find your own story? Dig into yourself, find the voices in your head and give it a life.
The Plotter's Conspiracy	Samhita Arni	Good stories have good plots. Learn to be an expert in plotting and planning.
The 24*7 Storyteller	Sangeeta Barooah	Want to know how to thrive as a writer within the deadline-intensive 24x7 newsroom environment. Come join me.
Filmkaari!!	Sugandha Nagar	Get inspired! Through the glass eyes, try an amazingly different way of telling stories. And let words and images work their magic!
The Faraway Tree	Srivi Kalyan	Have you imagined what it is to write about nature and all things green and wondrous? Here's your chance!
The World: My Theatre	Vikram Mall	Travelling leaves you speechless ... The stories start pouring out ... What when the world is inside you ...



THE GRAPHIC STRIP WRITER

ABEER GUPTA

Abeer Gupta is a visual anthropologist. He is currently Assistant Professor, at the School of Design, Ambedkar University Delhi. He has been associated with Katha earlier with the initiative at the Katha film centre.



BLOG AWAY

AISHWARYA DRAVID

Aishwarya Dravid is an English graduate from LSR and a post graduate in Broadcast from IJN Bangalore. From covering music in magazines like *Blender* to covering glamour for *Maxim* she has done it all. She currently works all day and night as the Head of Editorial of *The Newspaper* trying to take youth voices to the world.



FINDING A STORY- TELLER'S ACCOMPLICE

CHARANYA CHIDAMBARAM

Entrepreneur by day. Enlightened "knowmad" by night. Foodie by choice. Changemaker at heart. Charanya Chidambaram is a doer, a mentor and a visionary. Story-telling is her forte.



STORY IS HISTORY

GARIMA ARYA

Garima Arya has a graduate degree in psychology from Delhi University with Diploma in Acting from Sriram Centre of Performing Arts, Mandi House. She has been trained in Theatre-in-Education & Innovative Curriculum Development for the education sector, under Mr. Barry John, theatre director of the renowned IMAGO theatre-in-education Company.





I AM RAG RAGESHWARI & YOU ARE?
INDU HARIKUMAR

Indu Harikumar is a children's writer, illustrator and art teacher. She likes to turn everyday things into objects of art. She has been published by several different publishers, as well as non-profit, multi-national and government bodies.



HAIKU CRAZEE
KALA RAMESH

Kala Ramesh, an exponent of Hindustani classical music, has more than a 1000 poems comprising haiku, tanka, and haibun, published in reputed journals and anthologies, in Japan, Europe, UK, Australia, USA and India. Her work can be read in two prestigious publications: Haiku 21: an anthology of contemporary English-language haiku (Modern Haiku Press, 2012) and Haiku in English - the First Hundred Years (W.W. Norton 2013). She enjoys teaching haiku and other allied genres to school children and to undergraduates of the Symbiosis International University, Pune.



OMNIBUS OF STORIES
PIYALI DASGUPTA

Piyali Dasgupta, is an Expressive Arts Individual Practitioner, trained in "Storytelling/Art/Music/Narrative-Therapy", Psychodrama, Playback Theatre, Dance Movement Psychotherapy, Counseling and Reflective Teamwork. She unites them as pedagogic and restorative tools for self awareness and empowerment. VOICES IN OUR HEAD, her first documentary film was premiered and showcased as one of the 53 international films at VIBGYOR International Film Festival, Kerala, 2013. She is a member of RED INTERNACIONAL DECUENTACUENTOS, a group of 1000 international professional storytellers from 47 countries. "Isa and Her Friends – The Bully Gully Scare" is her first novella for children. Her expertise lies in Life Skill Development, Capacity Building, Writing, and Project Management.



THE PLOTTER'S CONSPIRACY
SAMHITA ARNI

When she was eight, Samhita Arni started writing and illustrating her first book. The Mahabharata - A Child's View, went on to be published in seven language editions and sell 50,000 copies worldwide, winning the Elsa Morante Literary Award, and receiving commendations from the German Academy for Youth Literature and Media and The Spanish Ministry of Culture.





THE 24*7 STORYTELLER

SANGEETA BAROOAH

She has been into journalism for the last 18 years! A desire to read newspapers and listen to the radio since childhood developed her an ardour for details, like what constitutes a newspaper, why people read it daily, etc, etc. After her graduation from Gauhati University in 1995, she joined the well-known news agency, the United News of India in New Delhi.

CBSE students soon can pen his thoughts, his writing skills, explore the world of writers, relish new stories and contest for awards. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to introduce Katha Clubs, storytelling groups, in all its schools in a novel attempt to tap the potential of budding writers and encourage the habit of reading among students.

— CBSE Guess



FILMKAARI

SUGANDHA NAGAR

Sugandha Nagar has been doing Filmmaking Workshop with children in Katha Lab School.



THE FARAWAY TREE

SRIVI KALYAN

Srivi learnt what fun teaching and learning could be when she started teaching her dolls as a toddler. And she figured watching nature is what makes teaching, learning, painting and writing come alive for her. So from the teeny weeny creepers and the fantastic birds, she picked her lines, and forms and colours to make her books, paintings and dance. Now she brings arts, media, education, design and nature together to share her mysterious and exciting world with everyone.



MY WORLD: MY THEATRE

VIKRAM MALL

Has close to 20 years of experience in facilitating and designing of Learning & Development initiatives both indoors and outdoors. Is a Member of Toastmasters International, theatre enthusiast, SCUBA diver and enjoys horse riding, cooking and the outdoors. Before moving into L&D has run a farm, taught at a leading boarding school and worked at an elderly people home.

Beating the Delhi chill, as many as 400 children from across the country got together at a Delhi school for three days to discover and explore different ways of expressing their creativity at the Katha Utsav.

— The Hindu



national workshop

ON READING

FOR TEACHERS & PARENTS

Simultaneously, we also invited resource persons Jaya Acharya, Manas Ranjan Mahapatra and Atanu Roy to hold workshops for teachers and parents on topics related to reading and books. The adults were divided into three groups, and attended each workshop in turn so as to truly allow for engaged discussions about pertinent issues regarding reading and education. Jaya Acharya, the Senior Program Manager of Room to Read, Asia Region and an educationist and specialist in Early Grades Pedagogy, Literacy, & Reading, led in-depth discussions on guiding students and children into reading as a fun activity. Indian educational activist, writer, translator and editor, Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, spoke at length on how reading and writing affects each of us in our everyday life and how we can create or enter innovative careers based on this. Atanu Roy, a Delhi based illustrator and cartoonist, held an art workshop and also emphasized on the importance of good artwork in making books, especially children's literature, more appealing and meaningful to readers. He also demonstrated how good, relevant illustrations can be made keeping in mind the plot and characters of the story.

Guest Faculty	Workshop	About the Workshop
Jaishree Acharya	Readers are Leaders	Jaya interacted at length with teachers and parents, advising them on how to guide their students/children to read and to let them make their own choices.
Manas Ranjan Mahapatra	Importance of reading and writing > Careers	Manas, an educational activist spoke at length on how reading and writing affected all of us in our every day life and how we can create or enter innovative careers based on this.
Atanu Roy	Art Workshop	Atanu, a Delhi based illustrator and cartoonist, elaborated on the importance of good art work in making books, especially children's books, appealing and meaningful to readers.



READERS ARE LEADERS

JAISHREE ACHARYA

She is an Educationist, Specialist in Early Grades Literacy & Reading and has headed the School Library Program called 'Reading Room' at the Asia Region Office of Room To Read for underprivileged government primary school children across 7 countries in South Asia and South East Asia for 5 years. She was Senior Consultant | Project Coordinator T4 Dot Edu Project and Senior Consultant, Pedagogy, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA/EFA.)



IMPORTANCE OF READING AND WRITING > CAREERS

MANAS RANJAN MAHAPATRA

Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, head of National Centre for Children's Literature National Book Trust.



ART WORKSHOP

ATANU ROY

With over 100 children's books under his belt, Atanu Roy has devoted much of his creative prowess to children's literature. Roy's use of bold colours and vivid details, capture the hearts and eyes of his readers. It's no surprise then that Roy, who once worked as a political cartoonist for **India Today**, has won awards like the Children's Choice Award for Book Illustrations and the IBBY Certificate of Honour for Illustrations. His studio is located in Gurgaon.



To bring out the best in a host of kids, students from across 33 schools in north India came together in the Capital to learn the essentials of storytelling. Titled 'I Love Reading Campaign', the event was organised by the Central Board of Secondary Education and Katha.

—The Hindu



Four sessions on day-two took forward the discussion on reading and its various aspects with parents and teachers. Each was led by a team of stellar panelists, who put forward their thoughts and interacted with the audience, the discussions included school education as well as extra reading for children. Mrs Geeta Dharmarajan, Executive Director, Katha, welcomed the audience, introduced the panelists, initiated and conducted the discussions. The audience, of concerned parents and dedicated teachers took active interest and voiced their views, making the debates very vibrant and relevant for all present.

NATIONAL COLLOQUIUM FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS





SESSION 1: WHY CHILDREN READ

This discussion focused on how, through reading, children are exposed to different worlds beyond their own, both real and magical which entice and encourage them to dream — and make their dreams true. Reading populates the mind with many worldviews. It helps children to become creative and explore the realms of imagination — the greatest need of the 21st century.

The speakers included education experts and leading practitioners who discussed the methods, tools and books that schools, teachers and parents should use to inculcate the habit of reading in children. They shared how reading fiction can be a pedagogical tool. They also discussed the needs of children in underserved communities in urban and rural areas.

The panelists for this discussion were:
Dr Venita Kaul, Director, Centre for Early Childhood Education and Development, Ambedkar University, Delhi.

Mrs Jaya Acharya: Senior Program Manager, Room to Read.

Mrs Geeta Dharmarajan: Writer and Executive Director, Katha.



SESSION 2: LINKING DIVERSITIES - FORGING IDENTITIES

This discussion was based on the diversity of language and culture present in India. Plurality is our way of being. Many voices, multiple lived experiences and diverse cultural worldviews populate our lives. Multiplicity in and around us enriches our being. In this session, the spotlight was on the amazing heterogeneity that is India. The panelists discussed how reading translations not only helped children understand the meaning of the words 'diversity' and 'plurality', but also helped forge identities that are 'Indian' at the core and yet all embracing. They talked about their favourite children's books in translation. Translation emerged as a significant route through which different cultures can be bridged.

The panelists were:
Anshu Vaish: Secretary to Government of India [ret'd] in the Department of School Education & Literacy.

Anushka Ravishankar: Writer; Co-founder of Duckbill, Publishing House for Children's Books.

Sukrita Paul Kumar: Scholar, Critic and Poet, Professor of English, Delhi University.





SESSION 3: BOOKS LIKE MAGIC LAST FOREVER

This discussion was about the magic that is weaved into our lives by books. Books are like magic beans, which once planted in our soul, grow forever and reach higher and higher into the realm of possibilities, at once magical yet real.

The panelists helped parents and teachers discover practices that help children turn to books for curricular/co/extra-curricular reading. Panelists discussed what to look for when buying/borrowing books for children, how to nurture good reading habits, and about publishers in the arena of children's books.

The panelists were:
Mrs Anita Roy: Senior editor of Zubaan Books, a publishing house for children and young adults.
Mrs Abha Sahgal: Principal of Sanskriti School, New Delhi.
Dr. M.A. Sikander: Director of the National Book Trust.



SESSION 4: FILLING THE BLACK HOLES IN PRIMARY EDUCATION

Children learn faster than adults. What one learns as a child is remembered for a long time. A lack at this stage can hinder the child's development. Educators need to address themselves to the lacks in the system and try to create alternate paradigms to fill the black holes. The experts in this panel brought together threads from the various discussions of the day, revisiting main points, and helping the audience find answers to questions related to reading habits of young children. The panelists shared how reading can be a tool for classroom innovation and how to make the NCERT syllabus exciting for all.

The panelists were:
Dr Basheerhamad Shadrach: consultant for organizations in the areas of knowledge systems and education. Presently he is associated with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, US, and the Asian Development Bank, Manila.
Prof R. Govinda: the Vice Chancellor of National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA)
Raja Chowdhury: a documentary film maker, architect and a designer of multimedia installations and websites.



FRUGAL INNOVATION - ENDURING CHANGE

Finally, we also gave space for the discussion of innovations within the classroom. Teachers were invited to share any new and innovative methods that they had developed to augment understanding of students. We had three presentations, the first by Sangita Joshi, who works as a science teacher in DPS, Ranipur, Haridwar. A teacher of Environmental Education and Biology, she elaborated on her use of the MIND MAP TECHNIQUE which has got very positive results. Sunitha Vinay, a teacher at the New Era Senior Secondary School, Vadodara, discussed her belief that an interdisciplinary approach helps in critical thinking and better understanding of concepts. Deepti Kakkar and Reeta Sutradhar from Katha Lab School demonstrated how to develop Social, Personal, Intellectual, Cultural and Environmental skills in children through Active Story Based Learning, whereby children are encouraged to Think, Act, Discuss and Act. They showed a short video on actual classroom practice and then demonstrated, using the storybook "Gijigadus and the fireflies", how to integrate different subjects through the story.



The session was led by a panel comprising of Dr Anju Khanna, an expert on early childhood education, and Mrs P. Rajeswary, Education Officer, Academics, Central Board of Secondary Education, and chaired by Mrs Geeta Dharmarajan, Executive Director, Katha.

Teacher	Presentation Topic	School
Sangita Joshi	Using Mind Map Technique	A science teacher in Delhi Public School, Ranipur, Haridwar
Sunitha Vinay	Using interdisciplinary approach	A teacher at the New Era Senior Secondary School, Vadodara
Deepti Kakkar & Reeta Sutradhar	Active Story Based Learning to Think! Act! Discuss! Act	Principals of Katha Lab School





Workshop facilitators speak!

"Katha...thank you for an endearing experience with kids. Both Varun and I are filled with gratitude for this opportunity."—Vikram Mall

"I have had so much fun at the Katha Utsav. The kids made the most fascinating books with scraps."—Indu Harikumar

"It's been a warm and wonderful day with the kids at the Katha workshop! I had students from across India with the youngest being 10 years and the oldest 17 years. I was a nervous wreck in the morning honestly. This was definitely one of the toughest workshops I had to work on but also the most gratifying Love working with kids, their energy, their questions and curiosity! Immense learning for me." —Charanya Chidambaram

Publications from Workshops

Aditya Ashirbad's haiku has been chosen for publication in an American haiku & tanka journal, and has been singled out for the Editor's choice. He is in class 12 at DAV Public School, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Swaran Singh Nijhar's haiku 'bustling street...' was picked out and was even read to the visitors who dropped in at the Katha-CBSE event. Cattails - an'ya [a very reputed editor] has already picked it out for their January issue.



Twitter, You Tube and Culture Café

Between Writers Workshop Sessions, students would run past the corridor with signposts hollering “Twitter, You Tube and Culture Café.” Intrigued, they stopped for a bit at these Cafes. And guess what they discovered? Three interesting platforms to share their ideas and explore new concepts round culture; get their right and left side of the brain working in harmony to: write, speak and enact.

Culture Café had a different spread on each of the three days. On the first day, it saw students sitting down on straw mats and picking objects from Culture Bazaar and weaving stories round it. They narrated stories or wrote it down in Katha Café Journal that lay open for them. Or they took a pen and riddled the chart-papered walls with their ideas on “culture”. On the second day, they doodled on chart papers cut in different shapes. They had to think out-of-the-box and give a new meaning to that shape. They took part in extempore where for a minute they spoke about their culture or narrated a story. On the third day, they created one long-running panel of graffiti on paper with each participant taking the visual narrative, of the one before, forward.

You Tube Café saw them telling how the Writers Workshop was a great exposure. Participants from different workshops shared what they learnt from their mentors with each other. These conversations were recorded and uploaded.

Twitter Café, an extension of You Tube Café, saw excited participants tweet about their experiences and their impressions of the Workshop. Some Workshop facilitators like Kala Ramesh, Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty and Samhita Arni used this platform to encourage their students to discover the virtue in brevity. Kala Ramesh got them to share 140 character. Haikus; Arni made them write very, very short stories while Sangeeta encouraged them to be tweet-reporters.





fresh fictions festival!

The Fresh Fiction Festival was held at Sanskriti School on 30th December 2013 and was open to all CBSE schools in Delhi. Apart from the engaging creative writing activities, students also participated in other interesting activities that develop learning skills. This workshop was designed especially to trigger the imagination of children in relation to the theme of Learning from the World. It aimed to highlight the inner creativity of children and help them to put their thoughts on paper: write and talk about their stories. This activity helped to raise their self-esteem and trigger their passion for illustrating their imagination.

STUDENTS REGISTERED: 276 | **PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS: 19**
WORKSHOPS: 6

Interactive and challenging at the same time, this included workshops like Bhasha Tamasha, story making-shabdo ka pitara, illustration workshop etc. Other fun activities included Toy making and Film appreciation. Fresh Fiction Festival was more like a celebration of the values of reading and writing.



ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOP

DILIP MANDAL

You see art around you all the time. No doubt our attention was once seized by visually compelling band posters, and storybook pictures that are much more rewarding to peruse than the text itself. But yet, comparatively, the idea of looking at an equally visually lush oil still life makes some part of your brain yawn. Why is that?

The type of art we call illustration has a two-fold purpose. The first and foremost is that it speaks to you. It tells you a story, visually represents an idea, conveys a message, delivers information, offers a visual accompaniment to text, etc. — it does something. Second, but certainly not least, it presents that “something” in an interesting and engaging fashion.

Dilip Mandal is a Master of Drawing and painting. He has a Masters degree in Painting and drawing from Rohelkand University, Bareilly, and also a diploma in Sculpture. Apart from his academic qualification, he has been active in the field of Art for over 15 years.



TOY MAKING WORKSHOP

SURABHI KHANNA

Toys are extremely important for a child's development. When children play with toys they learn and develop various skills that will support them to succeed in school and life. To make students understand the importance of toys in a child's life, Ms. Surbhi took a day session on toy making with students which helped them to understand how toys can be used for instructional and free play which will support them to develop a sense of self, responsibility for themselves and others, social behavior, gross and fine motor skills, observation and problem solving skills, logical thinking and math skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

Design and education workshop specialist Surabhi Khanna is an architect, with a masters in Toy & Game Design from National Institute of Design (NID). She has conducted many workshops for teachers, children and parents in India and abroad.





FILM APPRECIATION

SUGANDHA NAGAR

Film is a dynamic and multi-faceted medium created around cultural, ideological and theoretical perspectives. Thus there is a need to become an active viewer of cinema, develop one's own informed perspective through personal engagement with films using analytical tools and techniques, and understand the way that content, form, and contexts work together to create meaning. Additionally, there is also a need to understand the myriad of creative and technical choices that construct a work, and how ultimately each individually impacts a finished film.

A reader, thinker, dreamer at heart, Sugandha has always been fascinated with the world of words and images. With a flair for literature and languages, and love for Art, History & Culture, she was drawn towards Oral and Visual forms of Story-Telling. Her education credentials include Honours in English Literature and a Masters in Mass Communication & Film-Making.



STORY MAKING

SHAILZA RAI

The development of storytelling is built through a 3-step sequence: Imitation: straight retelling of learned stories.

Innovation: developing, extending and changing elements of a story.

Invention: creating a 'new' story.

The storytelling and story-making approach involves:

The main idea was learning and repeating oral stories, but also building the confidence to develop them through telling.



Shailza loves reading books, writing vignettes, storytelling and watching films and theatre. She is currently an editor at Katha. She was a regular storyteller with Share Stories, Open Minds an initiative of Peaceworks. She has conducted literature sessions for school students, trained volunteers in the art of storytelling and writing. She has facilitated literature debates, conducted letter writing workshops. She loves words, images and meditative corners.



CREATIVE WRITING

KAMALJEET KAUR

The thought 'It was a dark and stormy night and', 'If life is a chocolate' was carried forward and the students were asked to write the name of the person they have drawn out.

Language is a vehicle for thought. Thus new ways of writing and engaging readers is essential to success in linguistic expression. The idea behind this workshop was quite simple — to use writing to explore unique personal perspectives, and to learn to manipulate language for poetic and aesthetic purposes.



Kamaljeet is a senior teacher at Katha Lab School, New Delhi. She has been associated with Katha since 2003 as a Hindi teacher, and has significant experience in children's education and institution management. In a career spanning across 10 years as a teacher she has experienced the value of education in upgrading lives of the slum dwellers and people in need. She is very committed to the education sector with desire for continuous learning and improvement. She is self-motivated, versatile and determined; and has leadership qualities. She also holds a Masters Degree from the University of Delhi.



BHASHA TAMASHA

MANJUSHREE THAKURI

Students played the game in groups. They spin the arrow on a wheel and the place where the arrow stops has many words; students select one word and translate that word into the language that is written opposite the word.

This workshop quite simply explored the linguistic diversity in the country, and sought to inculcate a sense of the vast heritage and resource pool available to potential writers. The goal was for students to develop their vocabulary in different languages



Manjushri Thakuri is the Principal at the Katha School of Entrepreneurship, New Delhi. She has 28 years of experience as a teacher and has served for 23 years in Delhi Public School Manipur. Her passion for teaching underprivileged children brought her to Katha where she teaches music, art and dance. Miss. Manjushree has a bachelor's Degree from Shantiniketan University, West Bengal, India.

Book Fair

The four day long Katha Book Fair started on December 27th, with the inaugural ceremony. The Books Mela went on in full swing wherein Katha Books were on display for students, teachers, parents and everyone who had come for the Katha Utsav!

Spreading the joy of reading, Katha, currently in its 25th year, gifted a book to each of the 186 participants of the Fresh Fictions Festival. All the resource persons who embarked on this creative and imaginative journey and helped make the Utsav the success it was, were presented a Katha book as a token of love and appreciation. Brochures/catalogues and the list of CBSE recommended titles were also given to all participant teachers/parents to recommend our books through their library purchase. Lastly, Sanskriti School, who made all of us feel at home with their hospitality were also presented a set of Katha Books for their wonderful library.



Publisher's Meet

After the vigorous but fun learning experience of two days, the children with their infectious enthusiasm were ready to display their work as creatively as possible for the publishers to view at the Amphitheatre. It left everyone gaping, including the children themselves as their work was critically analysed and admired by all!

Further, the children were provided a detailed insight into the art of Publishing by Anita Roy from Young Zubaan and Sakshi Jain from Katha. Children were given an insight into the publishing process by other eminent authors and illustrators.

"This meet helped students get an idea of how a writer pens their words into a masterpiece."

— Anita Roy from Young Zubaan

Katha Gala Awards

The meet came to a close with the Katha Awards and Valedictory Ceremony wherein the winners were felicitated with awards and prizes for their active work in the field of reading and writing workshops that were held during the three day programme. Students from different parts of country received the prestigious award from the hands of the respective Gurus, of the 12 workshops. Each participant in all 12 workshops was awarded with the certificate. Certificates were divided into three categories — Grand, Laureate and Encouragement Prizes for Creative Writing.

Geeta Dharmarajan and guest faculties for the workshops gave away the prizes. Geeta Dharmarajan thanked the Principal of Sanskriti School and their staff for whole hearted support, all resource people and students for their participation.



Applauding the Budding Writers

The journey began because of you, young storytellers. You have made it happen and you have chalked out its course because of what you have added to it and you are the ones who are going to keep this reading torch burning bright.

So all you storytellers, keep your words intact, let your thoughts flow, observe the beautiful world around you and set your pen rolling! Thank you for letting us into your world, your thoughts and taking us on so many rides by the words you wove with your love.

Your stories will stay with us but most importantly they will stay with you, in your hearts, in your thoughts and make you come back to them for their utter simplicity, innocence and way of being!

Thank you!

Advisors and Mentors

The journey that Katha began in 2013 when it started the Search for Excellence had CBSE's unflinching support. As we progressed many more people joined the bandwagon and ensured that the ride is nothing short of an amazing, enriching experience. Each one who contributed to the I Love Reading programme and made it a success has left all of us deeply humbled.



Thank You!

From the volunteers to the advisors and mentors who supported us during the entire process, reading every word that all the children had sent, pausing to ponder, drifting through the words that were woven with utmost care.

The resource persons who were a part of the Regional Writing Workshop in Delhi and Chennai. All the resource persons who were a part of the Katha Utsav 2013. The distinguished panellists who were a part of the Colloquium and shared their experiences and knowledge with teachers and parents.

The principals of all the schools who played host to us and warmed us to their hospitality, namely, Lata Vaidyanathan, Modern School, Delhi, Sita Umamaheshwaran, PSBB Millennium School, Chennai, and Abha Sahgal from Sanskriti School, Delhi.

And a big heartfelt thank you to the entire CBSE team who believed in Katha's ideology of spreading the joy of reading and helped in taking it to another level.

All those who supported us and believed in us in making this first pilot project a huge success and gave us the confidence of taking it everywhere every year!



the budding storytellers of india

Mahatma CBSE, Madurai (TN)

A. Amirthavarshini
A.S Vmprasad
Aadhya Parsurandka
Doon Convent School, Haldwani
Aakanksha Kumari
Aakarsh Singh
Aakriti
Aanya Singh
Jain Bharati Mrigawati Vidyalaya, Delhi
Aarushi
Aarushi Chadha
Aayush Bhatnagar
Abhinav Choudhary
Aditi Tripathi
aditi Tuli
Aditi Yadav
Aditya Ashribad
Aditya Joshi
Adya Dash
DAV Public School, Amritsar
Agam Bhatia
Ahmad Ozar
Delhi Public School, Ghaziabad
Akhil Baranwal
DAV Bhel School, Ranipet
Akshayasridharan
Akshin
Amitoz Singh
Ananya Sen
DAV Public School, Thane
Ananya Sowmyaragavan
Anidhya Sharma
Aniket Kar
Ambuja Vidya Peeth, Rawan, Chhattisgarh
Anoop Tiwari
Saurabh Shukla
Saurabh Yewale
Sehrish

Cambrian School, Ranchi

Anshika
Anshul
Anubhab Sarkar
Anuradha Dhawan
Anuradha Patidhar
Canara High School, Mangalore
Anushka Irodi
Anushka saraswat
Anushka thakur
Bhavan BVP Vidya Mandir, Nagpur
Anushree Pranjape
Navy Children School, Delhi
Anvita Parmar
Aparna Vinay
SC DAV Public school, Noida
Apurva Sharma
National Public School, Bengaluru
Armesh Kundu
Arpita
Arshi Singal
Arushi Menon
Aryan Yadav
asees Kaur
Lotus Valley, Noida
Ashish Nayan
Podar International School, Kolhapur
Astha Vairat
Avinash Pathak
Ayushee Samridhi
Chettinad Vidya Mandir, Karur (TN)
B. Nidharshini
Bhaavya Bangotra
DAV, Faridabad
Bhanu Priya
G D Goenka, Rohini, Delhi
Bhumika Pardesi
Bhuvnesh Chhabra
C. Nikhil Mohan
Charika Kohli

Chesta Chug

Debopriya das
Ryan International School, Delhi
Deeksha Desai
Sardar Patel School, Delhi
Dev
Devanshu Kaul
Deveshi Sharma
Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Kannur
Devi Krishna
Dhruv Jain
Dhruvi Shah
Diksha Mitra
Dikshita
Divya Babu
Sanskriti School, Delhi
Diyvyansh Shah
Gyan Bharti School, Delhi
Drishiti Bassi
Gagandeep Singh
Gargi Sinha
Geetika Nambar
Gunjan
Gunjan Sharma
Aditya Birla Public School, Renusagar, (UP)
Harshikha Chandra
Harshit Gupta
Harshvardhan Luthra
DPS, Rohtak
Hricha
Inayah Akhter
Cambridge School, Srinivas Puri
Iqra Raza
Isha apan
Sri Narayan Mission, Chennai
J Sriram
Jagriti Gupta
Jatin Lamba
Jatin Sharm

Essar Internatinal School, Surat

Jeevika Sahajwani
Jyoti
Bhavan's Bhagwandas Purohit, Nagpur
Jyoti Agawalla
Our Lady of Fatima Sec School, Aligarh
Kaif Siddiqui
Maharajan Agresan Model School, Delhi
Kashish Bhatia
Komal Vats
Apeejay School, Kolkata
Koustubh Ramakrishnan
Kriti Dang
Lasya Digvijay
Lochan Jaiswal
Love shresth
M.S Gaaviya Shree
Madhav Datta
Mahir das
Maitreyee Guha
Delhi Public School, Haridwar
Manan Soni
Manya sinha
MD Pranav Dilip
Megha kumari
Meghna Digha
CCA Sec-4 Gurgaon
Mehak Malik
Misha K. Shah
DPS RK Puram, Delhi
Mitushi Gupta
Queens Mary school, Delhi
MohaddesaZaidi
Mohini V Parghi
Modern Child Public School, Delhi
Mohit Sethi
Monish Makkar
Muskan Bisen
N. Dhivya Dharshini

Nandita Modwel

Modern Era Convent, Delhi
Nibir Ray
Niharika S Pillai
Ninou Kipgen
Niralee Gupta
Nishtha
Nitish Jaiswal
Niyati
Paras Suri
Parkhee
Parnika
Delhi Public School, Panipat Refinery
Parnika
Pooja Bharadwaj
DPS Jaipur
Prachi Uppal
Pranjali khera
Prasang Aggarwall
Pratyush Chakraborty
Pratyush Roshan
Prem Patel
Priyamvada
Priyanka Mahajan
Aadharshila School, Valad (Gujrat)
Purav Acharya
Purnima Tomar
Chettinad Viday Mandir, Karur
R. Hariharan
Rakshit Thakkar
Rebecca Robin
Golaya Progressive Public School, Palwal (Haryana)
Renu Maanzu
Ria verma
St. Johns school, Chandigarh
Rishab Khanna
Shrishti Vidyashram Sr. Sec. School, Vellore
Rishi John Mathew
Zyodus School for Excellence, Ahmedabad
Ritika Tiwari
Riya Suri
Runjhun Kulkarni

Rupal Gupta

Rupal Paliwal
Smt Narbada Devi J Agarwal, Chennai
S Lavanya
Saba Afrin
Salika
Nand Vidya Niketan, Jamnagar
Samarth Sinha
Samiksha Sharma
Rukmani Devi Public School, Rohini
Samridhi
Samyak Jain
Sanjana Mohan
Laxman Public School, Delhi
Sankalp Suman
Saptaparni Banerjee
Silver Oaks School, Hyderabad
Saroja Lingamaneni
Saumya kamdar
DPS Noida
Sejal Gupta
Shagun Jain
Shalini
DAV Public School, Bhubneshwar
Sharmishtha Rout
Shaurya Sharma
Sherry Sharma
D.A.V. Public School, Pokhariput
Shibashis Guru
Shikhar Tripathi
Shivani
Shivani Kasumra
Shivani Rao
Brahmarishi Mission Sr Sec School, Fazilk
Shivani Relia
Shivani Vohra
Shon
Shraddha Raghavan
AEECS Magnolia Maaruti Public School, Bengaluru
Shreesih Mohalik
Shreya Bansal
Shreya gupta

LRS DAV Sr Sec Model School, Abohar

Shreya Narang
Shreya Rastogi
Shreyas Nisal
Sri Guru Harkishan, Nagpur
Shrinu Ambbade
Shrishti gupta
Shriya Kumari
The Indian school, Delhi
Shruti Bihani
Shruti Rajesh Potdar
Shruti Rastogi
Shruti Suman
Shruti V
Shubham Jain
Shubhangi Chaudhary
Shubhra Sharma
PSBB Learning Leadership Academy, Bengaluru
Shweta Rao
Siddhant Chinchkhede
St Kabir school, Chandigarh
Simarjot singh
Simran Sadewara
Sneha Makhijani
Sneha Tripathi
Army Public School, Yol Cantt.
Snighda Rani
Gyan Mandir Public School, Delhi
Somiram Mishra
Pitts Modern School, Bokaro
Souorno Mukherjee
The Global edge school, Hyderabad
Sri Snigdha Karri
Srijan Pandey
New Era Sr Sec School Vadodhara
Stuti Shah
Sudhananda Das
Suhani Kumar
Suhasini Mahajan
Sukanya Warriar
Sukriti Sirupa
Sumneet Kaur
Svarit Uniyal Mishra
Swaran

D.A.V. International School, Amritsar

Swetchha Gyanvarsha
Tanisha Choudhary
DAV Dayanand Vihar, Delhi
Tanishq Mittal
Shaheed Rajpal DAV Public School, Amritsar
Tanmay Gaur
Bhartiya Vidya Bhavans Public School, Hyderabad
Tanmay Viraj
Indian Model School, Solapur
Tannushree M Sharma
Tanvi M Pophali
Queen Mary's school Northend
Tanvi Nishchal
DAV Abhozar
Tanya
Tejas
DPS Indore
Tulika
Lovely Public Sr Sec School, Delhi
Umda Mehnaz
Manav Mangal School, Haryana
Upendar Kumar
Utkarsh Priyadarshi
DAV Boys Mogappair, Chennai
V. Sabariish
Vaishnavie Sangam
Navrachna School, Sama (Gujrat)
Vandita Rawat
Vani Mahajan
Vani Singh
Silver Bells, Shamli, (UP)
Vartika Goel
Varun Agrawal
Varun Sanwlan
Vedant Bhargava
Vidhi vora
Yash Baghani
Springwood School, Neemuch (MP)
Yash Maheshwari
Yuvraj Singh
Zainab

WHAT MEDIA HAS TO SAY!



Tanvi Dayal, a class VIII student from Secunderabad who recently wrote a poem on Taj Mahal after watching National Geographic, rushes to her small journal every time she has a story idea in mind. These youngsters are among the 600-odd students handpicked from CBSE schools around the country as part of the CBSE-Katha initiative, a creative writing and translation competition which kicked off in July.

— **The Hindu**

Innovative and diverse, the Katha Utsav was filled with various sessions on the art of reading, the importance of technology, the beauty of writing and various competitions for students to have some fun.

— **The Indian Express**

Created for the students from classes 4-12, the project envisages children participating in creative writing and translation competition through a series of events that will take place from August to December, it was announced Wednesday.

— **Daily Bhaskar**

A one of its kind reading and writing workshop organized by the Board, the Katha Utsav saw CBSE rewarding students for the creative enigma they portrayed.

— **India Education Review**

“If you don’t have the time to read, you don’t have the time or the tools to write. As simple as that,” author Stephen King has said. Non profit organisation Katha seems to be going by the phrase and has tied up with Central Board of Secondary Education to promote an ‘I Love Reading’ project in schools affiliated to CBSE.

— **The Hindu**

YOUNG writers in CBSE schools now have a chance to pursue writing as a career. The Board has tied up with why the space after with in its schools and take them closer to literature.

— **Tatkal News**

CBSE students soon can pen their thoughts, their writing skills, explore the world of writers, relish new stories and contest for awards. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to introduce Katha Clubs, storytelling groups, in all its schools in a novel attempt to tap the potential of budding writers and encourage the habit of reading among students.

— **CBSE Guess**



Katha is a non-profit organization that has seamlessly connected grassroots work in education, teacher training and publishing for nearly 25 years.

We believe that by providing children with holistic, relevant education and fostering in them a love of learning, they can become agents of change that lift their families and communities out of poverty. Our innovative education model, integrally supported by our award winning book publishing program, benefits over 100,000 underserved children and 1,500 teachers annually. Our mission is to help every child realize his/her full potential through community based quality learning | To enhance the joys of reading | To reduce injustice and poverty through education | To foster linguistic diversity through story and translation.



The CBSE envisions a robust, vibrant and holistic school education that will engender excellence in every sphere of human endeavour. The Board is committed to provide quality education to promote intellectual, social and cultural vivacity among its learners. It works towards evolving a learning process and environment, which empowers the future citizens to become global leaders in the emerging knowledge society. The Board advocates Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation with an emphasis on holistic development of learners. The Board commits itself to providing a stress-free learning environment that will develop competent, confident and enterprising citizens who will promote harmony and peace.

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