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SUNDAY POST

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Happy
World
Teacher's
Day

MEN ON MISSION

COVER STORY

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Actress Laxmipriya Senapati, aka Pihu, has become a household name in Odisha, thanks to her outstanding performances in tele soaps such as 'Nuabohu', 'Sindura Ra Adhikara', and 'Kumkum'. She has also appeared in a feature film titled 'Wife', as well as various music videos. Pihu, a Salipur native who has also acted in about 70 stage plays, attributes much of her success to grooming at Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya and a year-long stint in Mumbai film industry



With Yashpal Sharma

Love for laundry

Though it sounds weird, I enjoy doing laundry. There's something so calming about the fact that everything is getting clean and fluffy. They also smell good. I also think of it as a relaxing task.

Honing culinary skills

I love to create unique dishes following YouTube videos as treating family with delectable food is a passion for me. I experiment with ingredients, and garnish dishes in creative ways.

Night owl

For me, holidays are all about sleeping late. This not only relieves my exhaustion but also allows me to rest and recharge.

Passion for photoshoot

Shooting in fresh outfits has always been a passion for me. Often, I also shoot acting-oriented videos. And of course, I share them in my social media eliciting praise from my followers.



With Anubhav Mohanty and Sabyasachi Mishra

BIJAY MANDAL, OP

WhatsApp This Week Only on Sunday POST! Send in your most interesting WhatsApp messages and memes at: features.orissapost@gmail.com And we will publish the best ones THE BEST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN Sir, Last week's cover story on safety of women in Indian society on the heels of multiple rape incidents was timely. Rape is not just a crime but a blot on our societal values. Sexual assaults are not always motivated by sexual desire. Moreover, it is motivated by hostility, power and control. So, there is a need to change the mindset. The government has conceived so many laws to prevent such heinous acts but laws won't help prevent sexual crimes unless mindset changed at early age. In this matter, I believe a woman in a family has a bigger role to play in curbing such crimes. Although a woman can initiate early discussions about gender roles, addressing violence against women is a shared responsibility, and we should all step up to address it. SANATAN SAHOO, NAYAGARH

LETTERS How safe are we? A WORD FOR READERS Sunday POST is serving a platter of delectable fare every week, or so we hope. We want readers to interact with us. Feel free to send in your opinions, queries, comments and contributions to features.orissapost@gmail.com B-15, Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar - 751010, Orissa. Phone (0674) 2549982, 2549948

TEACHER'S DAY SPECIAL

Men on Mission

In a world where teaching has become a profitable career, and an opportunity for many to make a killing, there are people who give back to society by mentoring children from underprivileged backgrounds without expecting anything in return



MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP

Lack of resources coupled with poverty often keeps too many bright young minds from reaching their full potential. And education for these children is always a pipe dream. But there are some who, undermining their own interests, come forward to shape the futures of these underprivileged kids. They focus on the long-term effects of their efforts by educating, and uplifting those in need. These unsung heroes devote their lives to teaching and mentoring underprivileged communities. Their dedication and resilience stand as powerful reminders of the transformative impact of education and the enduring strength of the human spirit. Their stories highlight the profound influence that compassionate and committed educators can have, even in the most difficult circumstances.



PATRO WITH HIS STUDENTS AT HIS COACHING CENTRE

do with what you have," he says, reflecting his belief in using his limited resources to make a significant impact.

Patro's journey is a testament to his resilience and determination. Coming from a humble background, his parents couldn't afford his high school exam fees, forcing him to pause his education. He worked at a cotton mill in Surat for two years and later in a mall in Hyderabad, where he eventually completed his higher studies. Now, Patro is giving back to

Ahead of Teacher's Day, **Sunday POST** caught up with a few such teachers to showcase their incredible efforts in creating empowered citizens of future India.

Power of perseverance

Ch Nageshu Patro, a 31-year-old porter from Ganjam district, has taken on the noble mission of educating underprivileged children in his vicinity. Like millions across the country, Patro lost his livelihood due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent lockdown. However, instead of succumbing to his misfortunes, Patro, a postgraduate, decided to make the most of the challenges by teaching Class X students from his community during the lockdown.

down. As the country limped back to normalcy, Patro resumed his work as a porter. But he has not abandoned his passion for education. In fact, he has taken his commitment a step further by opening a coaching centre for underprivileged children from Classes VIII to XII. "Education is the most powerful tool to uplift the underprivileged," believes Patro, and he is determined to provide it free of cost.

"To support my coaching centre, I continue to work as a porter at the city railway station and use my earnings to pay the teachers a modest salary of ten to twelve thousand rupees. During the day, I also work as a guest lecturer at a private college, balancing my time between work and dedication to the children," he added.

Sharing his qualification, the teacher continued: "I've been working here for over 12 years. During the night I work as a porter, and teach during the day. Besides, I study for myself too. Though I discontinued my studies in 2006, I managed to start again in 2012. I could complete my Masters in Arts while working."

Patro's selfless efforts have garnered widespread admiration on social media, where his story has inspired many. "It's not about how much you have, but what you

his community, ensuring that the children in his area have access to the education he



once struggled to obtain. His dedication serves as a beacon of hope for those who aspire to achieve their goals and work for the betterment of the underprivileged.

"If I can help even one child achieve his or her dreams, it will all be worth it," ended Patro, whose story is a reminder of the power of perseverance and the impact one person can make.



HAPPY TEACHER'S DAY

BEST TEACHER EVER

Portrait of a selfless teacher

Subash Chandra Patra, known affectionately as Subash Sir in Sukadevapur, Bhadrak district, has been a ray of hope in his community despite being a Divyang since birth. His physical shortcomings have never hindered his dedication to teaching. Relying on a tricycle for mobility, Subash goes above and beyond to ensure his students build a future for themselves.

unusable, Subash Sir relocates the class to the verandah of a nearby temple. His students face difficulties during these times, and the community hopes that the government will help by building a proper shelter for him.

Reflecting on his journey, the committed teacher says, "Around 40 years ago, I started teaching children, and over time, I developed a deep interest in it. Although I live in a thatched house where it's impossible to ac-

studies. He opines that each person should possess both moral integrity and cerebral intelligence in order to build a good society.

When young, Narahari had a dream to become a teacher, but for the mounting family responsibility, it couldn't be fulfilled. He had to discontinue studies at Class 10. Although he grows betel leaves along with other products on his parents' land, which he sells in his small betel shop at the village's main chowk to make ends meet, deep down he wants to do the same thing that a teacher would do to better children's futures. He also travels from village to village, village to city, and school to school, teaching and engaging kids with songs and plays regarding leading a life righteously.

educate them on the value of education in achieving their desired professional goals. Second, I always attempt to instill moral principles in children, such as obedience and discipline, so that they develop a feeling of responsibility. Finally, I continuously encourage them to embrace Indian culture and tradition rather than blindly adopting Western culture," he said.

He also advises youngsters on leading their lives in the right manner, from waking up early in the morning to going to bed at night. He advises them on how to manage their time throughout the day, improve their concentration during classes, understand the importance of physical activity, and develop habits that will help them maintain good health, a love of the environment, and a sense of communal brotherhood in order to promote social harmony and peace.

Narahari has visited several educational institutions, including schools in Bhubaneswar and Malkangiri, as well as Astaranga, Golapa, Niali, and Nimapada in Puri district, where he undertakes free counselling in primary schools.

He further adds, "Every time a student scores well in an exam or gains a respected place in society, I feel as though I have accomplished something in life. It brings me joy to know that my students have valued my teaching and used it to improve themselves as good individuals. Furthermore, I want people to respect and safeguard our Indian art and culture, which uphold the fundamentals of a healthy life, rather than leaning towards Western society."



Subash sir teaching his students

Teaching under a tree due to the lack of a proper classroom, Subash teaches children from Class I to V in different subjects, including mathematics, English, science, and history. Despite having no formal teacher training, his ability to explain complex subjects with clarity has earned him the deep respect and affection of his students.

"We love and respect our teacher very much. He never gets angry and explains subjects multiple times until we understand," says Parshuram Suta, one of his students.

Subash's commitment to his students is unwavering. He even visits their homes to bring them to class if they miss a day, demonstrating his dedication. In an era where private tuition has become a lucrative business, Subash Sir stands out for his selflessness. He never demands any fees from the parents, accepting whatever they can afford to offer.

"His way of teaching is in no way inferior to other trained teachers. We urge the government to construct a house for him," says Saraswati Khamari, a former student.

During the rainy season, when the open-air classroom under the Neem tree becomes

commodate my students, I find immense pleasure in teaching them under a tree. My joy comes from seeing them succeed in life."

Subash's story is a testimony to his passion for teaching and his commitment to his students' success, even in the face of adversity. His humble efforts have made a profound impact on the lives of many children in his community, proving that true education goes beyond classrooms and formal training.

Weaving moral fibre

"Children are the future of any nation. Much as a lump of wet clay needs the hands of a potter to be fashioned into a flawless pot, small children also need the guidance of a Guru to get shaped into good human beings with strong moral values," says Narahari Malla.

Malla has taken upon himself to transform the future of numerous children. Even now, at the age of 76, this old man of Baanbarada village in Jaleswarpada Panchayat in Kakatpur Block of Puri district is enthusiastically weaving the moral fibre in young children in the state's rural areas and encouraging their interest in



"Whether a kid goes to school or not, I always try to inculcate three ideals in them through my self-created songs or plays. First, how to pique children's interest in studies, improve their concentration, and



Malla with students

The tragic hero is a common archetype in Greek mythology because of the theme of hubris, or excessive pride, as a fatal flaw that leads to a hero's downfall.

BELLEROPHON: A FALLEN STAR

Tragic heroes, in Aristotle's opinion, should evoke sympathy and terror in the audience for the character.

Theseus, Achilles, Atlanta, Odysseus, Antigone, and a few more characters met Aristotle's criteria. There is another name in the same league, though, that is barely mentioned. He is Bellerophon, whose birth name was Hipponous, a legendary hero comparable to Perseus or Hercules.

THE ORIGIN

Born to Poseidon and Eurymone, the daughter of the King of Megara, Bellerophon has two competing origins. One is that the etymological roots of the name could be related to the Greek word for projectile. This would relate to a number of Bellerophon's feats throughout his life.

The other interpretation is derived from the Scholia of Homer. It dictates that Hipponous accidentally killed someone named Belleros in Corinth while practicing knifethrowing. This narrative description explains the rest of Bellerophon's tale as he changed his name to mean "killer of Belleros."

He was later exiled from Corinth, although some tales claim he killed his brother.

THE FIRST EXILE

In his exile, Bellerophon sought atonement from King Proetus. He granted it to him and welcomed him with open arms.

Shortly after, however, the king's wife began to lust after Bellerophon, who rejected her advances. Insulted, she told Proetus that Bellerophon had tried to make advances on her.

But Bellerophon was protected by the Greek concept of *xenia*: extending hospitality to strangers. Rather than risk transgressing the societal contract defining hospitality, Proetus decided to get rid of his issue in a different way.

IOBATES' DILEMMA

Proetus wrote a letter and placed it in a sealed tablet. He then gave it to Bellerophon as he exiled him to Lycia.

The king of Lycia was Iobates, Proetus' father-in-law. The letter was asking him to kill Bellerophon for attempting to violate his daughter. However, when Bellerophon arrived in Lycia, he was accepted with open arms.

The two feasted for over a week together before Iobates read the letter from Proetus. After accepting Bellerophon as a guest under *Xenia*,

Iobates was subjected

to the same hesitation that Proetus faced. Therefore, he had to find an alternate way to get rid of Bellerophon.

TAMING PEGASUS, KILLING CHIMERA

King Iobates decided that if he could not kill Bellerophon himself, he would instead task him with a quest that was nearly impossible to survive.

In the nearby state of Caria, there was a chimera terrorising the countryside. In the Iliad, Homer describes the chimera as a beast with the head of a lion, the body of a goat, and the tail of a serpent that could breathe fire.

Bellerophon prepared himself and set out to defeat the beast. On the way, he encountered the Corinthian fortune teller, Polyeidus. The fortune informed Bellerophon that he would need the assistance of the mythical creature, Pegasus, in order to defeat the chimera.

It also informed him that he must sleep in the temple of Athena for guidance on how to tame Pegasus. As Bellerophon slept, Athena approached him in a dream and left a golden saddle next to him with instructions to approach Pegasus as it drank from a fountain in his home city.

Other versions of the tale assert that Athena or Poseidon, who was the god of horses, brought Pegasus to Bellerophon already tamed. Regardless, after taming Pegasus, the pair returned to Lycia to defeat the chimera.

The creature's fiery breath kept Bellerophon from easily defeating it until he had the idea of strapping a block of lead to his spear tip. With his newly constructed weapon, he waited until the chimera opened its mouth again and swept in, shoving the lead into its throat.

As the chimera attempted to breathe fire, it melted the block, which blocked its airway, killing the beast.

OTHER FEATS

Bellerophon returned to Iobates, who was astonished that he had succeeded without being killed. In a second attempt to rid himself of Bellerophon, he dispatched him to defeat the Solymi tribe, who were historical adversaries of the Iobates.

After easily defeating them, Iobates then sent him to fight the Amazons. He defeated them by dropping boulders on them while riding Pegasus.

Iobates then attempted to send his armies after Bellerophon. But he defeated everyone sent to kill him with help from his father, Poseidon.

After this, Iobates relinquished his

anger and accepted that Bellerophon had the favour of the gods. He offered Bellerophon half of his kingdom and his daughter's hand in marriage. But this only satisfied Bellerophon for a short time.

THE FALL

After his series of mythical accomplishments, Bellerophon's hubris, or fatal pride, was so powerful that he mounted Pegasus and attempted to fly to Mount Olympus to see the gods himself. Zeus was angered by this attempt and sent a gadfly to sting Pegasus. The horse bucked Bellerophon, and he plummeted back to earth. Some accounts claimed he died in the fall. Others claimed he was blinded when he fell into a thorn bush.

The latter tale ends with Bellerophon blindly wandering the earth in a miserable state, depressed at his literal and metaphorical fall. He eventually died of his grief.

The tale of Bellerophon is a classical Greek tragedy. A young hero achieves great accomplishments before ultimately becoming too prideful and falling prey to his pride.



OP DESK

BEBO AT RECEIVING END



Actress Kareena Kapoor has recently found herself at the centre of a social media storm.

The actress shared a quote by veteran Hollywood actor Clint Eastwood. It read, "Don't look for luxury in watches or bracelets, don't look for it in mansions or sailboats. Luxury is laughter and friends, luxury is not being sick, luxury is the rain on your face, luxury is hugs and kisses. However, Kareena's post was met with criticism and accusations by her followers on Reddit. One Reddit user pointed out the contradiction, stating, "No hate or jealousy here but I always find it funny (and tone-deaf) when people who are uber-rich post about how money is not everything in life. I mean if you had gotten the short end of the stick in life, surely 'materialistic' things would be first on your list."

Another user highlighted her ownership of the Pataudi Palace and her annual visits to Gstaad, Switzerland, adding, "The irony. This woman has Pataudi palace and goes to Gstaad every year. Albeit they are mostly bankrupt but still."

AGENCIES



KANGANA: I HATE BEING AN ACTOR

Actress-politician Kangana Ranaut, who has been in Bollywood for almost 18 years, says she just hates being an actor but at the same time loves being a director.

Asked what is more daunting, being an actor or filmmaking, Kangana told this agency: "No, acting is not daunting at all... I think acting for me is too passive... I just hate being an actor. I just hate it with so much intensity. That I can't tell you because. You come to the set, and you're always looking, 'what's happening? You know, What's going on? Which scene are you doing? You are just always wondering, What's going on?'"

"And besides, you wonder, what's going on with my life? What am I doing? You know, so much time is getting wasted. And we all have such limited time. And these are the best years of my life. And then there's the AD, who says 'we are ready' and when you're ready. Then (they say) 'wait, wait'... Even if you're the main lead. You know, I hate it," she added.

"Being a director, I love being a director. You know, you ask me, 'what's going on? I know. I'll tell you.' I think I'm one of those better directors, you know, who understand how vulnerable it is to be an actor," she said.

IAN S

Sanya embraces small-town roles

Actress Sanya Malhotra, has made a mark for herself playing characters from small town, be it in *Pataakha* (2018), *Pagglait* (2021) or *Kathal* (2023), opened up on why filmmakers reach out to her for small town roles.

"People in small towns can relate to me, even though I am from a metro city like Delhi. And I like shooting in small cities, that's where you find colour and culture. I get attracted to such stories and I am glad that even filmmakers see me fitting in those," she responded.

Even with many acclaimed performances to her name, the 32-year-old shared, "I was too harsh on myself initially that I wouldn't celebrate any of the great films I had been a part of. But now, I enjoy each and every aspect of my films, be it interviews or promotions. That is the only time I can put positive energy into so many people's hard work."

She adds, "I love myself, but I am very critical about my work. However, when I watched Mrs, I looked at my team and said I am very proud of myself. My team was shocked as I have never said this for any of my work before. And the kind of validation we are getting internationally, I am sure people will love it."

AGENCIES

Dancer and actress Mukti Mohan, who will soon be seen in the supernatural thriller *A Wedding Story* revealed that she believes in 'energies'.

Talking about whether she believes in the supernatural, Mukti said: "I do believe in energies. I can't explain or define it; you just feel the vibe or energy. The USP of the movie is the story. And like the name suggests, it's a romantic wedding story trapped in the premise of 'Panchak kaal'. The concept is unique and very different from any film; references are from Garud Puran dated a thousand years ago. It's beyond a supernatural horror; it has drama and romance



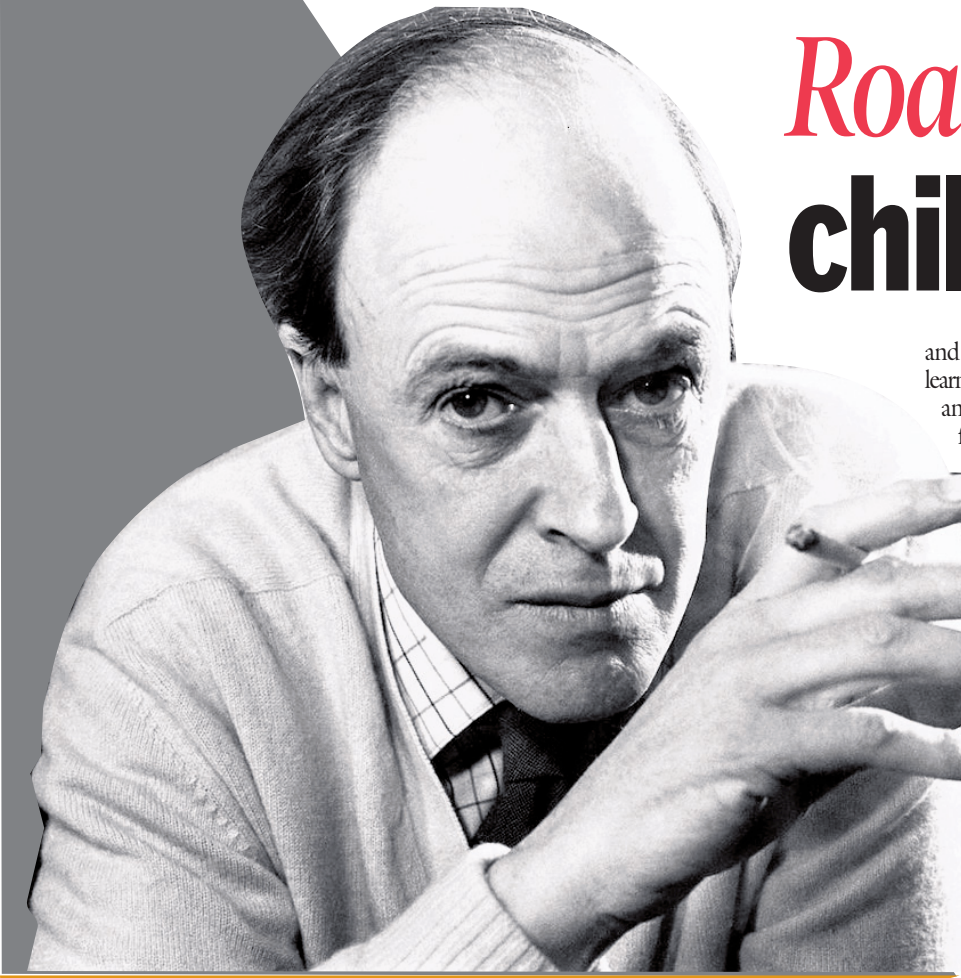
Mukti believes in supernatural

since there's a wedding involved in our story."

As an actor, she looks for authenticity in the script and shares that the maker is the key. "I got recognition from dancing, but entering the acting field is a whole new level, and I feel validated receiving such positive reviews for my work in *Life Hill Gayi*, *Gyaarah*, *Thar*, and now with *A Wedding Story*," she said.

IAN S





Roald Dahl: An icon of children's literature

and leaves, fond of dance and music and have learned to speak English. After several adventures and misadventures of the children in this fantasy land they leave for home with truckloads of chocolates and Charlie Bucket who emerges the victor, well behaved, without a mishap gets to inherit the chocolate factory and shift there with his parents and grandparents.

The book is a fantasy for all children who love and live fantasies in real life. We leave Charlie and his family hurtling through the sky in a giant elevator to Wonka's chocolate factory for permanent residence.

Then we come to the universal favourite of all bright intelligent little girls, *Matilda*. While most parents are overly appreciative of their offspring and even cherish their faults, making them insufferable there

are also those, even worse who are unappreciative and contemptuous of the talents of their progeny. Matilda's parents were the latter and she longed for them to be loving and kind and resented being told she was stupid and ignorant. Matilda, a precocious genius, all of four years and three months has devoured all the classics from the local library. She went sailing ships with Joseph Conrad, to Africa with Ernest Hemingway and to India with Rudyard Kipling, sitting in an English village. Every time Matilda was humiliated by her parents she got her own back through ingenious tricks that left them discomfited and Matilda felt her life a little more bearable. In school she meets Miss Honey, a gentle sensitive teacher who understands and appreciates her genius. And there is also Miss Trunchbull the formidable Headmistress who terrorised the children physically and mentally. In this scenario Matilda who was targeted unfairly for a prank by Miss Trunchbull discovers extraordinary powers within herself to work miracles and vanquish the much abhorred headmistress. Hers was the power of telekinesis, the power to make things move with her mind. She was amazed at her own powers and confides in her teacher Miss Honey that in the grip of the power she didn't quite understand "I was flying past the stars on silver wings."

When Matilda visits Miss Honey's cottage

she is appalled and fascinated by her Spartan lifestyle and her deprivations and learns how she has been duped by Miss Trunchbull who usurped her property turning her a pauper. Once again Matilda exercises her indomitable power and gives back Miss Honey her rightful inheritance and sends Miss Trunchbull packing. After this achievement Matilda's power leaves her and she finds fulfilment in moving to a higher grade and finding better avenues for her energy and intellect. Meanwhile, Matilda's father on account of his shady business deals is obliged to move permanently to Spain. Matilda opts to stay back with Miss Honey and together there is a new life awaiting them. Matilda has become a highly successful adaptation as a musical by The Royal Shakespeare company, with all the magic of Roald Dahl and went on to win several accolades.

Maurice Sundak, the critic says "In plain terms a child is a complicated creature who can drive you crazy. There's a cruelty to childhood, there's anger". A child's world is not all sweetness and light, it contains shadows too and the child antagonist, by extension reader, is sufficiently empowered to take on the world. Simple but touching storylines, memorable characters, fanciful vocabulary, his adult villains, extravagantly scary and wickedly entertaining, his wit and wry humour and the ability to write from a child's perspective will resonate with his readers.

Dahl presents his magic and fantasy filled stories with Dickensian gusto and his penchant for exaggeration and caricature. Even the nastiness of adults like the controlling paramilitary sadist Miss Trunchbull is over the top so that the young hero or heroine's ultimate triumph is all the more satisfying to the child reader. There is no moral messaging in Dahl, his novels are meant for the sheer pleasure and fantasies of childhood.

Yet Dahl does depict a world of savagery and violence for his young readers. Originally the Oompa loompas appeared in *Charlie and the Chocolate factory* as pygmies from African jungles though they later changed to rosy skinned dwarfs. Veruca Salt's father comes close to Jewish stereotypes. His racism and anti-Semitism came under attack. Puffins sanitised previous editions and there was a fierce outcry at the textual tampering and curbs on freedom of expression. It was seen as literary vandalism and Salman Rushdie decried it as absurd censorship. The publishers defended themselves that changes were necessary for ongoing relevance. Controversies aside, art should be seen as distinct from its creator, our relationship as readers are with books not authors who are but fallible beings. To the non judgemental child reader especially, enthralled by the inspiring tales of Matilda and Charlie, there is no other like Roald Dahl.



British author Roald Dahl's books for generations of children are an unforgettable part of childhood, the growing years every child treasures and preserves in memory, those delicious years where imagination rules the roost and nothing is impossible. This popular author of children's literature, darkly comic, irreverent, ingenious knew exactly how to address his children. Children liked chocolate, so intensely and so universally desired, magical powers over beastly grownups and really tall tales. To be a children's writer the author must be something of a child himself. To quote Dahl, "A children's author must like simple tricks and jokes, riddles and other childish things." To say the least Dahl's books empower children.

were not a patch on Wonka. Then there is a headline in the evening newspaper that Wonka's factory would open to a lucky few and only five children would be allowed to visit the factory to see the secrets and magic of his factory on procuring five golden tickets which would lie hidden in secret wrappers of Wonka's chocolates to be bought at any store.

The five lucky children who find the golden tickets are Augustus Bloop a greedy boy, Veruca Salt, thoroughly spoilt, Violet Beauregarde who chews gum all day, Mike Teevee who watches television all day and Charlie, kind, good, and brave ready for the wildest time of his life. Parents and Grandpa Joe accompany their wards to the magical place and there was Willie Wonka waiting for them in his quaint colourful garb and thus begins the roller coaster journey for the children and their equally excited guardians. There is a river of chocolate, trees and flowers and meadows of chocolate and a waterfall that churns the chocolate and takes it to places through enormous pipes to be fashioned into different types and flavours of chocolate. The whole place is peopled by the tiny Oompa loompas imported direct from Loompaland in Africa, in large packing cases, dressed in deer skins



When Matilda visits Miss Honey's cottage

PRAGATI



WANT TO BECOME A MODEL?

Send us your photographs at
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