

A LIVING WITNESS : AN ESSAY THROUGH THE EYES OF A TREE

Dear Parents,

Bishnoi Sacrifice. In 1730 at Khejadli (Rajasthan) 363 women, children and men laid down their lives to protest the cutting of Khejadli trees. Led by Amrita Devi and her three young daughters, they died chanting one of their Guru's teachings: **Sar Santey Rookh Rahe To Bhi Sasto Jaan- 'If a tree is saved even at the cost of one's head, it is worth it.'** The Maharaja of Jodhpur apologised and prohibited the cutting of trees and hunting of animals in all Bishnoi villages.

A unique activity "**A Living Witness: An Essay through the Eyes of a Tree**" based on experiential learning has been designed to foster among students, a deeper connect with nature and sensitize them to the significance of the trees.

- The activity entails children exploring their local environment to identify the oldest existing tree.
- Once located, they spend quality time with the tree, contemplating its significance and the importance of environmental conservation.
- During this time, they analyse the tree's role in the ecosystem, understanding its contribution to biodiversity and habitat preservation.
- The tree has been a silent witness to the history of the local village/habitation and the events which have been embedded in that period.
- This immersive experience aims to instil a sense of ownership for the local eco-system amongst the children.



Instructions:

Interested students will write an essay in not more than 500 words from the perspective of the oldest tree in their local ecosystem in English, Hindi, or their mother tongue and submit the same to the concerned Teacher Incharges latest by 14 June, 2024. The essays should be typed, using Times New Roman font with a font size of 11 for the body of the essay and 14 for the header.

Students can imagine themselves as the tree, weaving an essay/story around the following prompts:

- Witnessing significant historical events in the local area, such as birth / death of leaders.
- Witnessing socio-cultural events such as movements to protect trees eg. the Bishnoi Sacrifice, marriages, community gatherings.
- Observing and lamenting the gradual degradation of environment, including deforestation and pollution.
- Experiencing moments of hope, such as plantation drives and community environmental initiatives.
- Reflecting on their own survival and resilience in the face of change.

Students will write essays as per the following categories and may coordinate with the concerned teachers in case of any doubts.

Classes III-V

Teacher incharge

Ms Dhanya Patil and Ms Sona Rawat

Classes VI-VIII

Teacher Incharge

Ms Kamna Joshi and Ms Susmita Saha

Classes IX-XII

Teacher Incharge

Ms Poonam Sharma and Ms Rumpa Bhattacharyya

Distribution:

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Copy to : NB, NP & Solan Units for implementation



Asha Prabhakar
(Principal)

Kindness, Resilience, Respect

