

Class 10th English Essays

1. My Last Day at School

School is a spiritual place. It imparts the light of knowledge. It builds up a nation. Children live a large part of their lives in schools. They love their schools like their homes. Therefore, it is hard for them to leave the school forever.

"Friends depart and memory takes them to her caverns, pure and deep." - Thomas Haynes

Tears trickle down my cheeks as I remember my last day in my school. It was the day of parting and parting in life is painful. I can never forget that day when I left school and entered college life. It was a golden period of my life. But the golden period passed away like a happy dream.

"Tears, idle tears, I know not what they mean,

Tears from the depth of some divine despair

Rise in the heart, and gather to the eyes,

In looking on the happy autumn-fields,

And thinking of the days that are no more." - Tennyson

My last day at school is still fresh in my memory. It was a day of mixed joy and sorrow. The principal was addressing a big audience. Some attentive students were listening and clapping whenever the speaker made such a point. Some naughty ones were whispering and passing funny remarks over the speech. This is typical school student character.

"The music in my heart I bore,

Long after it was heard no more." - Wordsworth

Earlier, some students staged a show - which included comic skits and music performance. All the performers had shown great artistic skill in each performance. They showed that education does not mean cramming of books only; it includes publishing one's talent and enabling one to be a useful citizen.

When the speech ended the students rushed to the dining hall. An appetizing meal was waiting for us. Some of us pounced upon the dishes whereas others showed a good control. I was hearing the noise of plates, spoons and glasses etc. When the lunch was over, a new announcement was made which surprised us. A function on the last day is very typical - a variety show, principal's address and a punch. But this was more than that which made it memorable and quite unique. It was a career guidance session.

The senior teachers sat in a row on the stage and spoke on engineering, medical, arts and business administration. No doubt we knew about them but our information was very superficial. Besides, many of us had various misconceptions also. The worthy teachers invited questions from the audience. Each student wanted to ask questions which were not possible because of the shortage of time. However, they collected some sample questions and answered them thoroughly.

They had obtained prospectuses from various institutions. It was a great effort. We could go through a prospectus of our choice and gather a fair idea about the scheme of studies and the institution itself. After spending a good long time in session, we returned home. I called it a day.

2. My House

A house is not merely a structure of bricks and mortar; it is a place where hearts reside, memories are created, and love flourishes. It is the first school of life where we learn the values of love, care, and togetherness. Our house is our first world where we

take our first steps, speak our first words, and learn our first lessons. A house becomes a home only when it is filled with the warmth of family bonds and the fragrance of affection.

"Home is where love resides, memories are created, and laughter never ends."

My house is located in a peaceful neighbourhood. It is a beautiful two-storey building with a lovely garden at the front and a spacious lawn at the back. The walls of my house are painted in soft cream colour which gives it a calm and soothing look. The roof is covered with red tiles that make it look even more charming. There are large windows in every room that allow fresh air and sunlight to enter, making the house bright and cheerful throughout the day.

"Home is the starting place of love, hope, and dreams."

My house has many rooms, each with its own purpose and charm. We have a big drawing room where we welcome our guests. The drawing room is decorated with beautiful paintings and comfortable sofas. There is a dining room adjacent to the kitchen where our whole family gathers to have meals together. This is the time when we share our daily experiences and enjoy each other's company. The kitchen is my mother's favourite place, where she prepares delicious and healthy food for all of us.

"The magic thing about home is that it feels good to leave, and it feels even better to come back."

My bedroom is my personal sanctuary. It is a place where I study, read books, and spend my leisure time. My room has a study table, a bookshelf filled with my favourite books, and a comfortable bed. The walls of my room are decorated with motivational quotes and posters of my favourite personalities. This room gives me the privacy and peace I need to focus on my studies and hobbies.

"Home is a shelter from storms - all sorts of storms." - William J. Bennett

We usually play hide and seek and hide in our lawn. I love my house very much. It is so much joy and fun to be in the house. The lawn is our favourite place during evenings and weekends. My siblings and I play various games like badminton, cricket, and hide and seek in the lawn. The lush green grass, the blooming flowers, and the tall trees in our garden make it a perfect place for relaxation and entertainment. We often have family gatherings and picnics in our lawn, which creates beautiful memories.

"A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust."

Although I fight with my siblings over small things like toys, compass, pens, clothes etc. yet at the end, our parents teach us all the good things in life. They try to make us better human beings and understand each other and avoid such fights. Our parents always remind us that fighting over small matters is foolish and that we should love and respect each other. They teach us the value of sharing and caring. My mother often says that siblings are the best friends that life gives us.

"A happy family is but an earlier heaven." - George Bernard Shaw

"The love of a family is life's greatest blessing."

My father is the head of our house. He works very hard to provide us with all the comforts of life. He is strict but loving and always guides us on the right path. My mother is the heart of our home. She takes care of everyone with love and affection. She manages the household with great skill and devotion. My grandmother lives with us too. She tells us interesting stories and shares her wisdom with us. My siblings

and I are very close to each other. We study together, play together, and sometimes even fight together, but we always make up quickly.

"Home is where one starts from." - T.S. Eliot

"A house is made of bricks and beams; a home is made of hopes and dreams."

Our house is not just a building; it is a treasure of priceless memories. Every corner of my house tells a story. The dining table has witnessed countless family dinners filled with laughter and conversation. The living room has seen many festivals and celebrations where our relatives and friends gathered to share joy. The garden has been the playground of my childhood dreams and adventures. The walls have heard our secrets, our laughter, and sometimes even our tears.

"Home is not a place, it's a feeling."

"He is the happiest, be he king or peasant, who finds peace in his home." - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

My house is my comfort zone. When I am sad or upset, coming back to my house makes me feel better. The familiar sights, sounds, and smells of my house give me a sense of security and peace. There is no place like home where I can be myself without any pretence. In the words of famous saying:

"East or West, home is best."

My house is my fortress of happiness, my sanctuary of peace, and my treasure of love. It is where I learn, grow, dream, and become a better person. The love and care of my family make my house a true home. I thank Allah every day for blessing me with such a beautiful house and a loving family. May we always live in peace and happiness in this house, and may our house remain filled with love, laughter, and blessings forever.

"There is nothing like staying at home for real comfort." - Jane Austen

"Home is not where you live but where they understand you."

"A house is home when it shelters the body and comforts the soul."

"Home is the kingdom of the father, the world of the mother, and the paradise of the child."

In conclusion, my house is the most precious place in the world for me. It is not the size or the grandeur of the house that matters, but the love and happiness that fill it. My house is my world, my shelter, and my paradise. I am truly grateful for this beautiful blessing of Allah. I will always cherish the memories I have made in this house and strive to make it an even better place for my family.

"The ache for home lives in all of us. The safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned." - Maya Angelou

"Home is the nicest word there is." - Laura Ingalls Wilder

End of Essay

3. Courtesy

"**Courtesy begets courtesy.**" is just a gem of practical wisdom. It seems to me that it's time we should recycle some of these old saws our parents drummed into our ears. The modern times are fiercely competitive and, with them, go aggression, which is enjoined with a certain amount of discourtesy and bad manners - signs of unkind hearts. Arrogance and aggression pay and "kind hearts" be damned, seem to be the creed of the modern smartness.

Many old timers (believers in those were the days' philosophy) will agree with me that the present time is characterized more by dysphonia - a cluster of bad feelings than euphoria. They may also nod with me that "kind hearts" frequently result in bleeding hearts!

"Courtesy costs nothing but pays a lot in return."

A courteous person is liked and loved by all. This type of man remains very popular among his friends and relatives. Everybody has willingness to help him in the time of need. These well-behaved courteous people are the foundation of a good society and nation. But the days the number of these types of people is less. That is why our society is suffering a lot from ill antisocial activities. It is because courtesy creates great atmosphere of living with coherence. Most of the people whom we come across everyday are generally arrogant, impatient and self-centered. They neither love others nor are loved by any of them. There are numerous instances of showing courtesy to others - very simple and easy causing you absolutely no difficulty or strain. For example, if you are traveling in a bus which is packed with people and you have gotten a seat but a lady is standing. It is the principle of courtesy that you should offer her your seat, no matter whether she accepts your invitation or not. Another form of courtesy which is generally ignored by us is that of "thanking" and saying "Please". If someone offers you a cup of tea, before you accept it, you should say "thank you." Even if you do not want to drink it, you should say, "Thank you, but I do not drink tea." Similarly, people also refuse to use the word "Please" which, as a matter of fact, costs nothing. It also has a tremendous impact on the other person.

Courtesy could be spread by writing good books. It could also be spread by preaching good manners. All the Prophets adopted this method. They taught courtesy by their speeches and deeds. They themselves were the embodiments of courtesy. Their deeds and manners were good that people were attracted to them. Therefore, courtesy, politeness, and kindness are the qualities of prophets. These qualities can turn the enemies into friends. Our Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"The best amongst you is the one whose manners are the best."

Good manners are infectious. They pass from one person to another and influence the whole society. If we are polite to a man, that man will be polite to others. In this way, good manners are developed in society. Lack of manners makes life dull, drab and dreary. Therefore, courtesy is the most prominent trait of a true Muslim. There are many benefits of courtesy. First, it brings us joy. Second, courteous people become popular with others. Third, they can spread their ideas easily. Therefore, we should be just and courteous in our dealings with others.

"Good manners keep the machinery of life oiled."

Therefore, we should promote courtesy in society.

4. Libraries

Libraries are buildings filled with stacks of books and resources. Libraries offer wealth of knowledge, resources, space and environment to discover the world of books and enjoy studying or just reading for pleasure. The benefits of libraries are countless as they play a vital role in helping people by providing access to information, knowledge and entertainment. Laura Bush in her famous quote says: **"I have found the most valuable thing in my wallet is my library card."** Visit your library, get your library card, and you'll be able to borrow a print or electronic book, use free internet, or attend a course that will improve your digital skills.

Libraries are very important for the progress and development of a society. They are significant for a civil society. They contain books on various subjects such as history,

science, fiction, literature, fashion, health and beauty. Books contain good thought. They ensure accessibility to a vast ocean of knowledge to the common man. There are people in every society who have craving for reading but have no money to satisfy their urge. Libraries are a blessing for such people. Libraries help to develop reading habits. They mould the character. They help in personality development.

"A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life". - Henry Ward Beecher

Libraries not only provide access to various books, materials, resources and digital media for research, information and knowledge but also they provide services such as assistance in finding books of one's interest which can be done with the help of librarians. Besides, they provide space and environment to facilitate individual or group studies. Libraries have become a center where people can engage in learning, enjoy reading and explore their interest in different subjects.

"I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of a Library." - Jorge Luis Borges

As libraries are essential in a process of giving people access to knowledge, in digital times they are also needed more than ever before. In times of the internet, everyone can visit a library without leaving home. It's just a matter of opening a library website, and you can not only borrow an eBook but also ask the librarian an online question. Most importantly libraries are the places where you can expect smart and clear answers to even the most difficult questions.

"The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library." - Albert Einstein

Thus, libraries, which are the store-houses of knowledge, are useful to professionals, general readers and research students. No research is possible without a good library. Carlyle said, **"The true university of these days is a collection of books."** Libraries contain the essence of our civilization and culture and hence they should be maintained in the best possible manner.

"What in the world would we do without our libraries?" - Katharine Hepburn

5. Health

Health is physical and mental well-being and is very important for success and survival. It is said that health is wealth. It is a great blessing of Allah. A healthy man enjoys the beauties of nature. He leads a happy and delightful life. Nothing can rejoice or relax an ailing man. Such a man loses all the charms of life. Life becomes dull, drab and dreary for him. He himself becomes an unbearable burden on others. Sometimes he desires to die to avoid the pangs of such a painful life. Therefore, nothing is more precious than health. Man should pay an utmost need to the maintenance of his health. He should take nutritious food and live in an environment conducive to health. Good food, calm atmosphere, pure water, fresh air, regular physical exercise and better sanitary conditions are the bare essentials of health.

"Good health and good sense are two of life's greatest blessings." - Publius Syrus

In earlier days, life was not so hectic. It was quite simple and free of too many challenges with healthy environment in comparison to these days. People were healthy as they had to perform all the daily routine activities by their own hand and body. But now, life in the technological world has become easy and comfortable but hectic because of the competition. Nowadays, easy life is not possible as everyone wants to earn more money to get better life than others. Nowadays, living life has become costly and tough as well as unhealthy as everything like air, water, environment, food, etc. has become contaminated, infected and polluted.

People have to work for at least 9 to 10 hours in the offices by just sitting on the chair without any physical movement. They come to home in the late evening or night and become too tired to perform any household work or exercise. Again in the morning they get up late from bed and do some necessary work like bath, brush, breakfast, etc. and go to their office. In this way, they live their daily routine only to earn money and not their life for themselves. It is very necessary to earn money for fulfilling some basic needs however, it is also necessary to live a healthy and peaceful life which needs a good health.

"Nothing is worth your health. Nothing is worth poisoning yourself into stress, anxiety, and fear." - Steve Maraboli

First, balanced diet is absolutely necessary for health. Human beings require food to grow, reproduce and maintain good health. Without food our body cannot stay warm, build or repair tissues. Good food helps us to prevent certain diseases or recover fast from illness. Our food contains certain chemical substances called nutrients. These nutrients help our body to perform its important functions. They are classified as carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, minerals and water. Carbohydrates, protein and fats provide the body with the energy it needs to maintain its function.

"Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a pauper." - Adelle Davis

Second, regular physical exercise makes a man healthy, fit, active, agile, and smart. It is as important as good food. Therefore, we should participate in all good physical activities. Sports, games and morning walk are such activities. Therefore it is said:

"To enjoy the glow of good health, you must exercise."

Third, the improvement of health of the entire population is the first and foremost duty of the government. The government should protect the public from environmental health hazards. Better sanitary conditions, good food, pure water and clean atmosphere should be ensured. The government should educate the public about health. It should provide the people with high-quality health services.

To wake up early in the morning is also the essential part of good health. It provides us a chance to get fresh air as it is truly said,

"Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."

Good health is necessary if one wants to achieve their goal in life. Everyone can be healthy but good health does not come without the necessary discipline and care. Going to bed and waking up on time, exercising regularly, avoiding junk food, eating healthily, drinking a lot of water and getting some sunlight are a few good habits that can improve one's health. However, it cannot be achieved in a day. One needs to change their lifestyle and practice healthy habits daily.

"I believe that the greatest gift you can give your family and the world is a healthy you." - Joyce Meyer

6. A Rainy Day

Rain is an amazing natural phenomenon which has been there since the life came into existence on earth. It is indeed a great blessing of Allah. It is a marvelous gift after the unduly long and extremely hot summer season. The scorching sun and unbearable heat is washed away by the rain water. Rain no doubt is a source of life. Rain provides water to all living things plants, animals, humans and even insects. It is a nature of life and life can never exist in its absence.

"Rain is grace; rain is the sky condescending to the earth; without rain, there would be no life."

Rain is very beautiful and healing. It soothes the spirit and washes away all that is bad. Rain is much more than the people give credit to. It is a life giver, a life saver. It fills the rivers, fuels the streams and enters the ocean in waves. It is fascinating, nurturing, magical and calming.

"Rain showers my spirit and waters my soul."

It was an average sizzling and burning day of July. Everyone was exhausted, tired and worn out due to the intense heat. The sky was brilliant blue due the ever bright sun. There were no signs of clouds or shade. The blazing sunlight had heated up everything. The plants were dried and drooped as the heat had sucked all the life from them. Heat was steaming out of everything. The animals had all lain down, nearly fainted. The temperature was baking and the hot air was blistering.

All of a sudden the clouds started gathering in the sky. The golden sunlight disappeared and everything became silvery grey. The sky turned into a shade of purple and blue. Vivid flashes of lightning appeared which were followed by the roaring sound of the thunder and it started raining abruptly.

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin." - Shakespeare

The sound of the downpour was pleasing to the ears. Everything came into life once again. The water washed the signs of heat and warmth. The plants that seemed lifeless and inert were dancing in the rain. Their leaves turned into the most radiant shades of green.

Everyone was glad and delighted. All the sorrows and sadness faded away. The rain was completely unexpected but no one minded the inconvenience in the absence of umbrellas. Soaked clothes and wet shoes didn't bother anyone. The rain had brought happiness to the heat stricken people.

"The best thing one can do when it's raining is to let it rain."

The street urchins were having a great time. Children were playing in the streets, floating boats on the sides of roads where the water was flowing fast. In no time, the whole city was drenched in rain water. The roads and streets became lakes and streams. Everything looked shiny and brilliant. Everyone was enjoying every drop of the rain. Gradually it started raining cats and dogs but the beautiful scene that the nature had created was breathless.

"Anyone who says sunshine brings happiness, has never danced in rain."

I was peeping out of the window, observing the marvelous and majestic rainfall. I was listening to the crickets chirp and the frogs croak. The rain continued for an hour or two and then the sky became clear again. The birds came out of their nest and the animals out of their shelter.

"After rain comes fair weather."

Everything was shiny and crystal clear. Then out of nowhere, the stunning miraculous and awe inspiring rainbow appeared in the sky. It was like someone had painted an arc of seven brilliant colors in the sky. The sight was magical.

"The Rainbow gave the birth and left the all her lovely hues."

My dad called everyone in the lounge. He had planned for a picnic. We all became very excited. We started packing everything we needed. My mother baked some cookies, cakes, biscuits. In no time, we were ready and set out in the car. We also bought some fast food on our way to the park. The park was crowded with families. Children were playing in the puddles and swinging on the swings. We found a dry spot and sat down. We took a lot of pictures. Played with each other and ate the delicious food joyfully. We enjoyed ourselves, and spent the day with full zest and zeal because we all know that it does not rain every day and every day is not a rainy day.

7. A Scene at a Railway Station

The train drawn by the heavy engine would stop briefly for the passengers at places called railway stations. The British invented the railway and the locomotive. The train-track was laid for the trains to connect different towns and villages on the route.

People come to the railway station to leave their dear ones, but some people come to receive their dear ones. The people who leave their loved ones become sad and those who receive their loved ones become happy. Therefore,

"The railway station is a place which presents a blend of feeling of sorrows and joys."

Before the arrival of the train, a railway station is usually not crowded. Only a few passengers could be seen sitting in the waiting rooms. Their children keep on playing on the platform. Different people remain busy in different pursuits to kill time. Some people talk in a friendly manner, some are seen to be engaged in a heated discussion about politics and other current issues. A few tired and lazy fellows are also seen to be dozing and snorting in the armchairs. As soon as they learn about the arrival of the train, they take their luggage and come out. At last, the whistle of the train is heard. The train looks graceful when it enters the station.

Last Sunday I went to the railway station with my father. He has a job there. I saw typical scenes there. The smart, uniformed station master and his staff hurriedly moved about when some train was due in or out. The platform was thronged with passengers - men, women and children. Some stayed close to their piles of luggage, others just walked about looking at colourful ads. The vendors did roaring business. Their brightly lit stalls or barrows at different points attracted the passengers. Meals, fruits, goal gappas, pakoras, books, magazines, souvenirs and knick-knacks sold like hot cakes. Water coolers and taps were the busiest spots. There was a great crowd. There was noise and clamour all around.

"A railway station obviously has typical scenes."

Such a bustle followed when the train pulled in at the platform. Some people picked their way politely along the crowded platform while others bumped into one another as they got hurriedly from one compartment to another. Within a few minutes, the train was fully packed. The guard waved a green flag. The engine whistled and the train steamed off. Soon the train picked up speed and was out of sight.

"The prospect of long arduous journey ahead worries the passengers."

The train was gone, the station staff had returned to their offices and then there was all calm and quiet at the railway station. Such was the scene at the railway station. People who came to see off their dear ones left the platform one by one. The noise and uproar were gone. The platform looked like a deserted place. All its hustle and bustle was over in a few minutes. I also took my way home.

"The railway leaves you speechless and then it turns you into the storyteller."

8. A Cricket Match

There was a break of one hour between the two innings. Our school team started their innings and Usaid and Taha came as openers. The target was quite easy and our batsmen played aggressive shots from the very beginning. The captain of the Public School team tried many bowlers one after the other, but he could not succeed to break the partnership. Both of our openers scored one hundred and ten runs. Then came the great Moiz Ahmed and Abdul Rafay who loved to hit the ball with full force. Whenever they scored a boundary, people enjoyed and jumped at their seats. In no time, our school team met the target. In this way, our school team defeated Public School team by seven wickets. Usaid was declared

the man of the match. It was a very interesting match. We enjoyed it very much. It kept us spell-bound till the end. It was a match that we will remember forever.

"I was never any good at cricket though I love it as a sort of mystery." - Thomas Keneally

9. Life in a Big City

"All great art is born of metropolis." - Ezra Pound

A big city is the product of modern civilization. It is one of the most exciting places to live. All the necessities and comforts of life are available here to the people. A big city has many things to offer from employment to entertainment. Here, life is full of luxuries. Everything is within the reach of the people. While a big city offers excellent opportunities to learn and grow, life here is very fast and artificial. Daily life is too busy, and restless. One has to fight against time and pace.

"I think, a lot of times in a big city, you're working even when you're not." - Steve Zahn

Life in a big city is much better than that in villages because of the infrastructure it offers. The condition of the roads, parks, market areas and other public places in big cities are better. These are well-planned and well-maintained to ensure the comfort and convenience of the public.

A big city encompasses good hospitals that offer high end medical facilities. Special clinics and hospitals are established here to treat patients suffering from different health conditions. These are equipped with the latest medical equipment. The team of doctors as well as support staff in these hospitals is well qualified to handle their duties. Other than the hospitals, there are numerous pharmacies and medical stores.

The scope of personal growth and development is more in comparison to small towns and villages. Furthermore, the children of a big city have access to better school and colleges which give them an opportunity for all-round development. The school staff and management of these schools are well educated and trained. Several renowned colleges are also set up in a big city. They offer specialized courses and train students to pursue a career of their choice. Excellent universities are present in a big city for higher education which is a big advantage.

A large number of jobs are available in a big city. That's why it's easier to find a job in a big city. Very often people from the countryside move to the big cities in order to find decent jobs. The entertainment is the most exciting part about city life. There are many entertainment facilities for everyone. There are lots of theaters, amusement parks, restaurants, shopping malls and stores in the cities. Other than this there are other entertaining venues such as football, cricket stadiums, arenas and clubs in the cities.

"Recreation is not only joy but need of a man." - Anonymous

Life in a big city is not without its shortcomings. The population of a big city goes on increasing unchecked. It creates many problems. The housing problem confronts every citizen. The rents of the houses are very high. Every big city has its slums. Many storied buildings deprive its residents of the fresh and wealthy atmosphere. Traffic problem has become a great nuisance for everyone in the city. The atmosphere of a big city is polluted. People face the problem of overcrowding in homes, bazaars, markets and on roads. The prices of things of daily use are very high. Pure food is not easily available due to the high cost of living. Everybody has to work very hard day and night.

"I like it when it's nice and quiet. I'm not a big city person." - Louis Oosthuizen

The people in a big city lead a restless and worried life. They are always in a hurry. Everyone is hypnotized by money and luxuries. There is no place for emotions and

sentiments. Modern civilization has made them insincere and selfish. They feel isolated and insecure. There is a kind of strangeness in a big city. People do not know their neighbours well. In spite of all its shortcomings, people still like to live in big cities.

"City life is millions of people being lonesome together." - Henry David Thoreau

In spite of its disadvantages, people are attracted to a big city. A big city provides man with a lot of chances of progress. It provides a lot of employment opportunities. Development takes place faster in a big city. A big city broadens the outlook of an individual. It offers scope in many areas. It is so generous that it accommodates everyone. One does not remain idle in a city.

"I have affection for a great city. I feel safe in the neighbourhood of man, and enjoy the sweet security of the streets." - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

10. Village Life

Village life is full of simplicity and peace. Villages are blessed with natural beauty - lush green fields, vast plain and flowing streams. People in the villages live together with love and harmony. They are hard-working and believe in a simple life instead of a luxurious one. Life in a village may seem tough but it still has its unique charms. The atmosphere is clean and fresh. There is no contamination and no harmful gases in the air. Thus, life is more peaceful and healthier in villages.

"You arrive at a village, and in this calm environment, one starts to hear echo." - Yannick Noah

Pakistan is predominantly a land of villages. A major proportion of the Pakistani population resides in villages because agriculture is the main occupation of our people. A Pakistani village reflects the real picture of Pakistan. A Pakistani village is the very epitome of Pakistani culture and tradition. The village life is made up of farm houses, mud houses, uneven lanes and ponds. Numerous orchards and gardens of different fruits are found in the village. There is fresh and pure food available in the villages which are free from all kinds of impurities.

The people of the villages are hospitable, social and hardworking. They have no hypocrisy, no greed, and no lust. They lead a simple life. They are healthy, strong and fresh. There is no speedy life in the villages. People live in big broad houses with joint family system. They follow their traditions and culture in full abidance. The people usually work in the farms and fields. Most of the villagers are farmers or they do their own private businesses. They work from dawn to dusk and earn an honest living. In the evening, they sit in the choppal and talk about different local matters.

"It isn't just a village. The houses aren't just places to live. Everything belongs to everybody. Everyone belongs to everyone else. Even a single person can make a difference." - Joanne Harris

Women also work in the field with their male member of the family. The life of a woman in the village is as busy as that of a man. The people are not hasty and they enjoy the life full of taste. Women, in the villages spend their spare time doing embroidery, decorating their houses, making marvelous handicrafts which entertain them and also provide financial support.

The beauty of nature can easily be seen and felt. The day begins with chirping of the birds and with the musical sound of morning wind. Rainy season is the most pleasant. The whole atmosphere looks clear and brilliant. Summer and winter have their own marvels. There is a season of sowing and harvesting crops in which there is a great hustle and bustle. Fairs, festivals and marriages are the special occasions for rejoicing and merry-making.

**"Like restless birds, the breath of coming rain
Creeps, lilac-laden, up the village street" - John McCrae**

The environment of the villages is peaceful, clean and pollution-free. Due to more trees and plants, pollution is in control in rural areas. There are vast green fields that soothe the eyes. The chirping of birds, the fresh cool breeze and the colorful fields are really wonderful things to see in rural areas.

Life in a village is not devoid of its amusements. Although there are no cinemas, sports clubs and recreational places in villages, yet one can enjoy long walks in the open fields, valleys and on the banks of rivers. Very amusing and simple games are played in the villages which bring pleasure in the lives of the villagers. The villagers are very lively people. Their liveliness is represented in their songs and stories.

"The important thing is staying together if you want to do something special." -

Yannick Noah

This is only one side of the picture. Villages have their drawbacks too. The people lack new and modern facilities. There are no proper hospitals and medication centers. Due to the lack of quality education, the illiteracy rate is very high. There are not adequate transportation and communication facilities. If villages are provided with better infrastructure, health and education facilities, utilities, and employment opportunities, no one would like to live in the cities. With a little attention, villages can become the pride of Pakistan and it is hoped that things will change in the near future.

11. A True Muslim

"The believers are only those who, when Allah is mentioned, their hearts become fearful, and when His verses are recited to them, it increases them in faith; and upon their Lord they rely;" - (Surah Al-Anfal)

A true Muslim has firm belief in Allah and His last Messenger Muhammad (peace be upon him). He believes in the Day of Judgment and knows that he will be held answerable for his deeds and actions. Therefore, he fears only Allah and does not do anything wrong. It is his belief that Allah is present everywhere and sees everything. He believes in the five pillars of Islam. He is the one who follows the teachings of Islam in the true sense. He surrenders himself completely in obedience to Allah. He lives his life according to the Sunnah of the Rasool (peace be upon him) and the commandments of the Holy Qur'an. He pays zakat and performs hajj. He fasts during the holy month of Ramadan.

Unlike others, a true Muslim is the custodian of high principles. He shows faith in his doings. He never violates the golden principles of Islam. His dealings and conduct with the people are always even-handed and fair. His manners and behaviour with the people are always exemplary. He holds a high standard of morality. He is careful in his every word and deed. His actions always remain polite and do not cause any physical, mental, emotional, or financial harm to anyone.

"A Muslim is one from whose tongue and hand other Muslims are safe." - Hazrat Muhammad (peace be upon him)

The life of a true Muslim reflects the true spirit of Islam. A true Muslim is neither a miser nor a spendthrift. He maintains balance between these two extremes. He is thankful to Allah in prosperity. He shows patience in adversity. He knows that the joys and sorrows of this world are temporary. He knows that the purpose of his life is to please Allah. He is polite, well-mannered and kind to others.

"The best amongst you is the one whose manners are the best." - Hazrat Muhammad (peace be upon him)

Knowledge is obligatory in Islam. It is a powerful and important part of life. A true Muslim learns from the lap of his mother to his grave. He is always broad minded. He ponders over the secrets of nature. He struggles to discover the hidden treasures of the universe. He knows that knowledge lasts for a lifetime and it impacts our growth which influences everything in our life from relationships to work.

"Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave." - Hazrat Muhammad (peace be upon him)

Generosity is indeed a great virtue. A true Muslim always tries to work towards the betterment of his society and nation, as a whole. He is generous, open-hearted and helpful and always seeks opportunity to help the people in need with money or services. Allah says in Surah Anfal that the "true" believers are those:

"Who perform As-Salat and spend out of that We have provided them." (Al-Qur'an 8:3)

The qualities of humility, forbearance, patience, honesty and kindness are essential factors of the character of a true Muslim. Personal likes and dislikes play no role in the life of a true Muslim. He likes all injunctions and prohibitions which are from Allah and His last Messenger Muhammad (peace be upon him). In other words, no friendship, no lust for power or property, no sense of greediness and no love of worldly gains will influence his course of action in favour of the forces of evil. Guidance of God and His Prophet is sufficient to determine his day to day activities.

To conclude, a true Muslim holds himself far from the pumps and vanities of this world. He is modest and shamefaced in bearing and conduct. He honourably guards the deposits confined to his care and faithfully observes all his promises and engagements. He meets evil with good and conquers enmity with generosity. He is faithful to his obligations and duly performs his duties. He keeps himself within the bounds of law and justice. A true Muslim, therefore, remains faithful to the cause of Islam and keeps on doing good to his fellow human beings. The Holy Qur'an highlights true Muslims in these words:

"You are the best nation brought forth for the people of the world: you enjoin right and you forbid wrong, and you believe in Allah." (Al-Qur'an 3:110)

12. Television

"Television is a populous, derivative, democratic medium." - Dan Harimon

Television is one of the greatest wonders of modern science. Modern science has invented many valuable things, but there is nothing which has contributed so much to our joy of life as the television. If the men of the last century could rise from their graves, it is certain they would be speechless on watching the television.

The invention of television gave us various benefits. It is helpful in providing the common man with a cheap mode of entertainment as well as information. As it is very affordable, everyone can now own a television and get access to entertainment and information.

"Television probably has become the most evocative, widely observed signpost we have." - Robert Adams

The government of Pakistan established the Television Corporation in October 1964. Its aim was to introduce a general purpose of television service in the country. The first television station in our country was set up at Lahore. Now we have television stations at Quetta, Peshawar, Islamabad and Karachi.

Television is an important means of entertainment. Indeed, we should be grateful to J.L. Baird who was the inventor of the television. The cinema, the stage and the club are recognized places for recreation but they became stale and dull after a time. The television is such a means of entertainment that never makes us feel dull, for we have the whole world

before our eyes to see and enjoy. Now, we can enjoy sports, films, dramas, cartoons and much more while sitting our own house among the members of the family.

"Television enables you to be entertained in your home by people you wouldn't have in your home." - David Frost

Television helps us stay up-to-date with the latest news all around the world. It also offer educational programs, which help us expand the horizon of our knowledge. We get to learn about science, wildlife, history, and so on. We can watch and hear the talks delivered by the scholars, scientists, politicians, poets, writers, artists, musicians and other eminent persons. We get much to know from their talks and lectures on various subjects and topics.

Television is playing an important role in the field of education. It telecasts educational programs for the benefit of school and college students. Special programs for students are telecast. Students can watch the actual performance of a complicated experiment or operation on the television.

Pakistan is an agricultural country and 80 percent of its population lives in villages. Special agricultural programs are relayed on television for farmers. These programs enable them to increase their agricultural production and inspire them to add to their income by taking to poultry or fishery in their spare time. A weather forecast is given for information and guidance of the farmers in every news bulletin. Our women are also taught cooking, sewing, etc., through the television. The television is also a powerful weapon of social reforms, and political awakening.

The television has certain abuses also. It affects eyesight so the viewers should sit at a safe distance from it. Especially, children don't care of it and they are affected from the harmful rays of the television. If a person wastes all his time in watching television, he will become lazy and unpractical. Long duration programs on television, like films, deviate a student's attention from his studies. He becomes idle and a day-dreamer. The cost of electricity is influenced too, of course. Moreover, a lot of television content is aimed to spread misinformation for views and ratings. This kind of misinformation can hinder social and communal harmony. The misinformation can also leave a lasting impression on the audience who are of a vulnerable age.

To conclude, it can be a long debate whether television is good or bad for the viewers. However, one must always bear in mind that a device is not good or bad, it is merely a device. How one uses that device is what determines its effect. If we judiciously use the television and control our television viewing time, we can get the benefits while avoiding the shortcomings.

"I was one of the first generations to watch television. TV exposes people to news, to information, to knowledge, to entertainment. How is it bad?" - Tom Clancy

13. A Visit to a Hill Station

Travelling is a great way of attaining happiness. We love going to different places and enjoying the beauty of that scenario along with getting to know that place. I hope many of us have enjoyed the beauty of various hill stations in Pakistan as well as abroad. A visit to the hills and mountains leaves you gasping for breath by their sheer beauty and the view they provide. Pakistan is blessed with different places having great natural beauty. Hill stations in Pakistan are the most visited places during summer vacation. The people get relief from the excessive heat during the summer months by visiting these hill stations.

Last year, my friends and I decided to visit Murree Hills. Murree is a beautiful valley nestled in the Himalayan foothills. It is a real beauty of Pakistan which is also known as "Queen of

Hills". The stunning landscape of Murree Hills appears majestic and you can just sit there thoughtless or thinking in poetic language.

"After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb." - Nelson Mandela

It was the month of July when we all friends left for Murree. We wanted to make our journey memorable and a little longer, therefore, we chose to travel by train. We boarded our train from Lahore and it took about 4 hours to reach Rawalpindi. The train journey was also a beautiful experience for us and a good way of spending quality time with friends. From Rawalpindi, we rented a car and reached our final destination, Murree. The hotels over there were quite expensive but we found one with moderate charges and lodged there. We were tired of the long journey, so we decided to take a rest for some time. After getting refreshed we made a plan to visit the different places one by one.

First, we climbed all the way to Kashmir point. We had tea there. The beautiful mountains and the clean, fresh air made us feel alive. I was amazed to see natural beauty all around. I never wanted to turn my eyes away from the evergreen trees. Everything seemed too good to be true, too pretty to last. It made time itself stop. The weather was extremely lovely. The huge masses of clouds appeared in the wink of an eye. An inky darkness prevailed everywhere. Cool wind was blowing. Birds were diving up and down on the waves of cool breeze.

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better." - Albert Einstein

It was evening time and we got back to the Mall Road. This road was thronged with the pedestrians. People wearing warm clothes seemed to be enjoying the lovely weather. The high mountains behind the hotels were presenting the marvellous view. We had the chance to look and observe various artifacts and handicrafts. We bought some handicrafts and other items especially prepared by the local people and went back to our hotel.

We were all tired and decided to sleep so that we could get up early to see the sunrise. The next morning, a friend awoke me at seven o'clock and asked me to come outside. I stumbled and reached the door. At this time most of the people were still asleep and it was all quiet. The sun was peeking through the mountains. The clouds across the mountains were reflecting the sunlight and giving off different shades. The purple, red, orange, yellow, and blue patches of the sky seemed unreal. I had never seen anything so beautiful. The birds and trees seemed to be celebrating it. I sighed and was filled with a desire to drink the sunlight.

"Take a deep breath and look around, you will find perfection and serenity nowhere but in God's creation." - LA Stear

The next day, we went to Pindi Point. Pindi Point is a tourist attraction in the Murree Hills, located near Murree Mall Road. There we enjoyed chairlift. The chairlift ride was surrounded by pine trees and provided us views of the hiking trails below. It was a very exciting and interesting experience. The running clouds, blowing breeze and a bird's eye view of Murree Hills seemed like a dream.

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with heart." - Helen Keller

In the evening we came back to our hotel. The next morning, we left Murree Hills for our town. As we left Murree, I realized that the sweet memory of this visit would never desert me. I was overwhelmed by the beauty of Murree Hills. While clicking photographs, I could not make sure what scenes I should capture in my camera and what to leave. I loved that place as I could enjoy nature peacefully by listening to the whispers of the breeze, the

chirping of birds, and most important, the view of beautiful landscapes. I think the hill stations are paradise on this earth and give us the beautiful essence of nature. I wish to visit Murree Hills again and again in my life.

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever; its loveliness increases; it will never pass into nothingness." - John Keats

14. Our School Canteen

Our school canteen is perhaps the busiest place in the school. It is the place where almost every student is expected to pay at least one or two visits a day, and that not just to have a taste of some delicious food, but also to brush themselves up with the latest information, real or based on some rumour. Thus there is a free and frank discussion on different old and new topics. Sometimes, discussion can center on some current issues. Particularly, the senior students may discuss some new world development or new government policy on some matter.

This does not mean, however, that our school canteen is only a place of discussion. The primary aim of the canteen is to cater food to the teachers as well as the students. To fulfill this aim, our school canteen is well-equipped. One can buy almost every kind of snack there, like sandwiches, rolls, burgers, pizzas, samosas, chips, sweets, cakes, juice and many more food items.

"Food brings people together on many different levels." - Giada De Laurentiis

Our school canteen is very big and can accommodate many students at a time. It is housed in a separate building adjacent to the common room. It has a kitchen and a big hall. There is a grassy lawn in front of it. There are many tall trees around it. The canteen opens at 09:00 am and remains open until 03:00 pm. There are separate cabins for teachers and students. The teachers sit separately in their cabins, but the students often mix up and sit together in their cabins. Since the canteen functions very well, most of the students prefer to have food from here and the canteen remains full almost on all working days.

During recess, the students as well as the teachers go to the canteen. They buy the things of their own choice. The canteen offers a good service. There is a great rush in the canteen during recess. However, students show discipline and are well-mannered. Specially appointed students from senior classes help in maintaining discipline in the canteen.

The canteen contractor, who sits in a corner of the canteen, is a conscientious, jolly middle-aged lady. She not only keeps the furniture neat and clean but also supplies clean, and fresh food in attractive crockery. Still, she does not charge rates higher than the market rates. She has a team of trained servants to assist her in her work. Both the students and the teachers are satisfied with her arrangements. They make it a point to place bulk orders on her whenever there is a function held by any society or club connected with academic, sports or extra-curricular activities.

Though rarely, but there are complaints against the canteen contractor sometimes. It happens when some dish is found stale, or a fly is discovered in a dish or tea leaves used by the contractor are sub-standard. There may be an abnormal delay in attending to a teacher or a student. A servant may carelessly spill tea or some liquid over somebody's clothes. Rarely, rates charged may seem to be exorbitant. But the canteen contractor, though not highly educated, is a wise woman. She admits her fault, if there is any. She offers remedies immediately. Otherwise, she tries her best to convince the complainants of her correctness. It is great to have a canteen on the premises of the school and to get good and tasty food when we want. I think that the school canteen is my favorite place in the school. I always enjoy myself there, and look forward to recess when I can rush to the canteen with my

friends. We sit together, share food, enjoy gossips and create memories at our school canteen.

"What I remember most about high school are the memories I created with my friends." - J.J. Watt

15. My Best Friend

"Friendship is the hardest thing in the world to explain. It's not something you learn in school. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything." - Muhammad Ali

Friendship is one of the greatest blessings that not everyone is lucky enough to have. We meet a lot of people in the journey of life but there are only a few who leave a mark on us. My best friend, Nida, is one such person who has been able to make a positive impact on my life. We have been a part of each other's lives for the longest time and our friendship is still developing. She has been with me through all the thicks and thins. Most importantly, I feel extremely fortunate to have someone as a best friend in my life. Let me tell you how we became friends and about her best qualities.

"I found out what the secret to life is—friends. Best friends." - Fried Green Tomatoes

Our friendship started when my best friend, Nida, came in as a new admission to our class. Both of us were hesitant to talk to each other at first, but gradually we developed a bond. I remember the first time my best friend tried to talk to me; I rolled my eyes because I thought there was no use and we wouldn't hit it off. However, to my surprise, we became best friends by the end of the session year.

"Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart." - Eleanor Roosevelt

We learned so many things about each other and found out that our taste in books and fashion was so similar. Since then, there was no stopping us. We spent all our time together and our friendship became the talk of the class. We visited each other's homes as well. Through this bond, I learned that family doesn't end with blood because my best friend was no less than my family. Friendship is one relationship that you choose, unlike all other relationships.

"A friend is an emotional bond, just like friendship is a human experience." - Simon Sinek

I feel one of the main reasons why I formed such a bond with Nida was because of the qualities she possesses. Her courage always inspired me to raise my voice against injustice. She is also one of the smartest minds in class who doesn't only excel academically, but also in sports and other extra-curricular activities. I have never seen a speaker as good as my best friend, the accolades she has won are proof of her talent.

Above all, I feel the quality that appeals to me the most is her compassion. Whether it's towards humans or animals, she always keeps the same approach. For instance, she saw a poor old woman on the streets one day and she had money only for her lunch. She did not hesitate once before giving all of it to the poor lady. That incident made me respect her even more and inspired me to help the underprivileged more often.

She is very understanding and non-judgmental. That's why I always share my problems with her without the fear of being judged. She is extremely supportive and encouraging.

Whenever I am in any problem, she helps me to get out of the problem by providing the best solutions. She gets angry when I do something wrong and appreciates me when I achieve something.

"One of the most beautiful qualities of true friendship is to understand and to be understood." - Lucius Annaeus Seneca

She is very friendly and treats others politely. She thinks positively and motivates me and others. She talks very softly and never quarrels with me and others. She never tells lies and has good manners. She possesses a great sense of humour and loves to tell me funny stories and jokes whenever I become sad. She is a compassionate friend and always cares for me.

Her positive attitude motivates me all the time. In many aspects, she and I are very similar. She never argues with me and explains to me what is wrong whenever I get stuck. Every time she has a tough task to do, she takes my advice into account. We love each other's company very much and want to be friends forever.

"A friend is what the heart needs all the time." - Henry van Dyke

My best friend and I are a team, we struggle together, we play together, we fight together, we save each other, we back one another and we survive in this order. We may not be one but we make one. We may not be so strong but united, we stand tall.

In short, the bond I share with my best friend is one of my most prized possessions. Both of us inspire each other to become better humans. We push each other to do our best and we are always there in need. She is indeed a precious gem and I am fortunate to have found that gem of my life. I am thankful to Allah for blessing me with such a good friend.

"The greatest gift in life is the gift of friendship, and I have received it." - Hubert Humphrey

16. Boy Scouts

The Boy Scout is a useful movement for the youth. It was founded in Great Britain in 1908 by Lord Baden-Powell. It was originally for boys from 11 to 14 or 15 years of age. The objectives of the organization are very dignified and noble. Its main purpose is to train the boys for the hard responsibilities of life. This organization trains the scouts to perform their duties well. It makes them useful citizens of society. The boys who join the movement become honest, responsible and punctual in performing their duties. They become courteous, social, cultured and civilized. They become skilled in various outdoor activities.

"We must depend upon the boys scout movement to produce the MEN of future." - Daniel Carter

The Pakistan Boy Scouts Association (PBSA) is the national Scouting organization of Pakistan. The PBSA was officially founded in 1947, immediately after independence from the British and became a member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement in April 1948. Founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was the first Chief Scout of Pakistan. On 22nd December, 1947 while taking an oath Quaid-e-Azam said:

"Scouting can play a very vital role in forming the character of our youth, promoting their physical, mental and spiritual development and making them well disciplined, useful and good citizens."

The Boy Scouts organization encourages the boys to participate in vigorous outdoor activities. All scouts promise to carry out the scout laws. The boy scouts motto is "Be prepared" and the slogan is "do a good turn daily". They are clean in thoughts, words and deed. They are also loyal to their country.

A boy scout takes an oath first. He tries to hold fast to his noble promise under all moral values and he fulfills his duties to the Almighty, to his country and to the suffering people. He is very eager to help the injured, the needy, the helpless and the handicapped. He knows that a cheery smile and a helping hand can make life easier for others.

"The most important object in the boys scout training is to educate, not instruct." -

Baden Powell

Camping is an important part of a scout's training. In camping a boy scout learns many useful things. He learns how to work and live with others. He learns how to cooperate and compete. He learns cooking, hiking, tracking, signalling and other useful skills during camping.

"A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room." - Baden Powell

The Boy Scouts organization also gives the training in first aid and prepares a scout to do a lot of useful work in the times of emergency like flood and war. The life of a scout is well balanced. He enjoys good health. He takes part in all kinds of outdoor activities. He learns the use of axe, knife and hammer.

A boy scout has many qualities. He bears a good moral character. He enjoys a sound physical and mental health. He is always ready to help the injured, the needy and the helpless. He respects the feelings of others and always speaks gently. Moreover, a scout has the qualities of leadership. He is firm and noble in command. In peace and in distress, a boy scout shows courage, responsibility and self-confidence.

"The most worthwhile thing is to try to put happiness in the lives of others." - Baden Powell

Moreover, a boy scout has qualities of leadership. He is firm and noble in command. He is humble and willing in obedience. He learns useful crafts and skills. He knows basic facts about trees, hills, rivers and stars. He is efficient in using a knife and axe, in tying various knots, in cooking food and in pitching a tent. In peace and emergencies a boy scout shows courage, responsibility and self-confidence.

"I strongly believe in Scouting. ... It's a source of great strength to us." - John F. Kennedy

A boy scout grows into loyal and useful citizen. He is trained in habits of obedience, cleanliness and truthfulness. He is taught to be always active and ready for any useful service which may be required of him.

A scout looks very smart in his uniform. He always carries a rope and a handkerchief and a long stick is always with him for use in emergencies. He salutes by raising the first two fingers of his right hand to the forehead.

In short, the Boys Scouts movement proves useful for the suffering humanity. It creates a zeal for service and cooperation among boys. Scouts have gained the respect of the citizens for their untiring work during floods, earthquake and other human and natural disasters. They have collected and distributed food and clothing. They have evacuated trapped people to safety, and run first aid stations in refugee camps. They have been active in helping rebuild destroyed villages.

"The spirit is there in every boy; it has to be discovered and brought to the light." - Baden Powell

17. My Favourite Book

Books are packed with knowledge. They give us life lessons. They teach us about hardships, struggle, fear, and every little thing that is a part of life. The role of books in human life is vital, dominant and undeniable. Books are as important as any other basic need of life.

Books are our best friends and guides. They change our lives for the better. They contain the wisdom and experience of the whole world. They help us to shape our lives and

character. They develop our personality and broaden our outlook. The books that are written by great thinkers always give us something or another to ponder. They take us to the dream world of ideas and imagination. The main purpose of books is to give us knowledge and education. They provide us with all the necessary information.

There are many books in the world that are written by great authors and thinkers. They spread the treasures of knowledge. There are books on science, history, poetry, literature, fiction and religion. There are books that are full of useful knowledge and interesting stories. One of the most fascinating books is the Holy Quran. I am a Muslim and I love the Holy Quran very much. It is my favourite book. It is the last divine book. It is a book that brings us closer to our Creator. It is the most sacred book for Muslims.

"The Quran is a book of guidance for all mankind."

The Holy Quran is the word of Allah. It is a complete code of life. It was revealed upon the last Prophet, Hazrat Muhammad (peace be upon him). It was revealed in the Arabic language. It is a book of spiritual and moral guidance. It contains 30 paras and 114 surahs. Its main theme is the oneness of Allah. It teaches us about good and evil. It guides us on how to lead a successful life.

The Holy Quran provides detailed guidance on every aspect of life. It not only contains the commandments of Allah but also has stories of the previous prophets and their nations. The Holy Quran is a perfect book. There is no doubt about its truth. It invites mankind to believe in Allah and do good deeds. It warns the wrongdoers of the punishment of Hell. It gives the glad tidings of Paradise to the believers.

"Verily, this Qur'an guides to that which is most just and right and gives good news to those who believe, those who do righteous deeds, that they will have a great reward." (Al-Quran 17:9)

The Holy Quran is surely the most read book of the world. Usually a book is read only once or twice but the Holy Quran is read again and again. Many Muslims learn this voluminous book by heart. They are called Hafiz-e-Quran. This is a miracle of this book. Muslims recite it during their prayers and especially during the holy month of Ramadan. It is the only book which is read by the non-Muslims also. The Rasool (peace be upon him) said, **"The best of you are those who have learned the Holy Quran and teach to the others"**.

The Holy Quran is an everlasting book. Allah has declared in the Holy Book that it is He Who is responsible for its safety. This is why no one has succeeded as yet to alter even the smallest verse of the Holy Book. It was compiled during the caliphate of Hazrat Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) who was interested in its compilation. The 'Araabs' and other signs were put on the Holy Book by the two disciples of Hazrat Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) under his guidance.

"Verily, it is We Who have sent down the Dhikr (i.e., the Quran) and surely, We will guard it," (Al-Quran 15:9)

May Allah help all of us follow the teachings of the Holy Quran so that we can lead a peaceful, sacred and pious life! Ameen.

18. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

In 1893, a beautiful boy entered the Lincoln's Inn, London. He was well groomed and had a fair complexion with aquiline features. He had come from India to learn law. Who knew that one day he would develop into the Quaid-e-Azam for the Indian Muslims and liberate them from slavery? He is my only choice as my favourite personality.

"Few individuals significantly alter the course of history. Fewer still modify the map of the world. Hardly anyone can be credited with creating a nation state. Muhammad Ali Jinnah did all three." - Stanley Wolpert

Quaid-e-Azam was born on the 25th December, 1876 in Karachi. His real name is Mohammad Ali Jinnah but widely known as Quaid-e-Azam or Baba-e-Qaum which means the father of the nation. Quaid-e-Azam's father's name was Jinnah Poonja and his mother's name was Mithibai. Quaid-e-Azam belonged to a rich merchant family. He received his early education from Sindh Madrasa-tul-Islam and a Christian missionary school. He was sent to England at the age of 16 for higher education. He returned home after studying abroad and took over managing his family business.

A few years later, Quaid-e-Azam started practicing law and became a successful lawyer. By 1900, he was appointed as a magistrate for the region's presidency. He was a committed and great lawyer. Quaid-e-Azam had such a mastery over law as the judges and his rival attorneys would admire him for it.

"Jinnah was a superb advocate. What impressed me most was the lucidity of his thought and expression — Jinnah was absolutely impeccable in his professional etiquette." - Carim Chagla

He started his political career with Indian National Congress in 1906. During this time, Jinnah worked to liberate the Hindus and the Muslims from their unjust English rulers. But soon, he realized that the Hindu leaders were trying to safeguard their own interests. Then, after a time span of 7 years, he left Indian National Congress and joined the Muslim League. To create a state where Muslims could feel a sense of freedom, he began fighting for the independence of Muslims in British India.

Quaid-e-Azam was a man with great qualities and leadership. He had such an ability that he could analyze the past and present and map out the future plans sensibly. He tirelessly worked for the Muslims struggling in India. He endured many hardships for the formation of Pakistan and the rights of the Muslims of India, but he did not give up.

"If you will work in co-operation, forgetting the past, burying the hatchet, you are bound to succeed." - Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

He was not a follower. He had the ability to instruct and direct people in the right direction. People used to wait for his policy statement and they were never let down by their great leader. Whether it was elections or mass campaign, matters of the Muslim League or communal riots, the Quaid always proved equal to the task. As a leader he knew his goal and he had a plan to achieve it.

"With faith, discipline and selfless devotion to duty, there is nothing worthwhile that you cannot achieve." - Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

Quaid-e-Azam was a man of his words and one of the greatest negotiators. Mahatma Gandhi called Quaid-e-Azam "an impossible man" due to his determinacy over his principles. Jinnah always stood like a rock in front of his enemies and never backed down. His confidence knew no bounds, but he never became over confident. Therefore, he pleaded the case of the Muslims very diplomatically. His negotiating skills were outstanding during Cabinet Mission Plan, Cripps Proposal and Shimla Conference. During the talks, he never retreated from his stance and finally won Pakistan.

"Failure is a word unknown to me." - Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

Nature had gifted him with an excellent will power that he used successfully to achieve his goal. Despite his struggle with weak health, Jinnah kept struggling for his aim untiringly. He was so confident and determined that no one could ever waver him in difficulties. He used to

preside over meetings, travel a lot, negotiate with his opponents, see visitors and supervise the working of the Muslim League, all without complaining.

In the same way, Jinnah was very brave and undaunted. Many a time, his guards suspected a murder attempt and advised him to be careful. But, he did not care for it. One the eve of independence, a British intelligence officer told him about an expected attack on him. He...

19. The Profession I Like Most

"We sent among you a Messenger from you (who) recites to you Our verses and purifies you and teaches you the Book and the wisdom and teaches you what not you were knowing." (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2: 151)

Nearly 40% of the Pakistanis are illiterate. I want to educate my countrymen. I really feel that I can serve my fellowmen by becoming a teacher. This profession will enable me to translate into my life the Rasool's (peace be upon him) principle of simple living and high thinking. A teacher is the real friend, philosopher and guide of the students. He serves the cause of education.

"I am not a teacher, but an awakener." - Robert Frost

A teacher is a potter that makes and molds the individuals throughout their life. According to William Arthur Ward, the unexceptional teacher teaches his students, a good teacher explains thoroughly, a superior teacher performs demonstrations, while the most excellent teacher inspires young minds. While Plato is of the view that a teacher is the doctor of mind. He removes the ignorance from the mind of the students. I want to realize the same ideals in my life as a teacher for which great men like Socrates, Plato and Aristotle had worked throughout their life.

"Good teachers know how to bring out the best in students." - Charles Kuralt

I believe that teachers, individually and collectively, have the ability to change the world. It is true that a teacher is full of high thoughts and ideals. I realize that if we are able to remove ignorance, illiteracy and superstitions from our country, we can develop it into a great country. I shall not only teach my students the theoretical education but I would also try my best to develop their character.

"A teacher affects eternity: he can never tell where his influence stops." - Henry Adams

I want children to learn in a safe and comfortable environment so that their self-esteem will be increased. A high self-esteem will enable them to strive for and accomplish any goals they see for themselves. As a teacher, I will play a part in helping them to do that. I will have privilege of shaping future parents and productive members of the society. It is an important contribution I can make to better our society, and I am excited about my aim to do so.

"I touch the future. I teach." - Christa McAuliffe

I believe that an excellent teacher is not just someone who explains. An excellent teacher is someone who inspires. He can make his students believe, truly believe, that their hopes and dreams are within their reach. And, I am really passionate about inspiring young minds. I will work extra hard to reach my goal. I hope I can serve my people best by becoming an ideal teacher.

"Teachers have three loves: love of learning, love of learners, and the love of bringing the first two loves together." - Scott Hayden

20. My Hobby

"No man is really happy or safe without a hobby." - William Osler

Hobby or pastime is an activity which a person performs in his spare or leisure time. It is pursued for relaxation and pleasure and not as a main occupation. It brings a feeling of joy and satisfaction to man. It adds zest to dull and monotonous life. It stimulates the mind and leaves an imprint upon character. It enhances creativity and develops our skills. It indicates the versatility of an individual. It helps us to pass our free time happily as when man has nothing to do; his mind is like a devil's workshop.

"An idle brain is a devil's workshop."

My hobby is gardening. I spend most of my leisure time in gardening. Gardening has been a huge source of knowledge, education, delight and entertainment to me. I have had the opportunity to learn a lot of new things on flowers, plants, vegetables, butterflies and even birds from gardening. My parents have a little plot of land at the back of our house where I pursue and practice this hobby. I have different varieties of vegetables, flowers and a few fruit trees in my garden. Some of the vegetables I grow are carrots, tomatoes, cauliflower, cabbage, spinach, radish, chili, bitter gourd, etc. I also grow flowers like jasmine, roses, lilies, merry gold, carnation, flux and forget-me-not. These flowers make the garden a delight to behold and give the garden a soothing fragrance. According to a Chinese saying:

"Life begins the day you start a garden."

There are a few fruit trees in the garden including banana, mango, guava and pomegranate. My garden is visited often by quite a number of birds and there are even some birds that live permanently on the fruit trees. The chirping of birds creates sweet music which gives the garden the perfect condition and makes it an ideal place. It makes me feel close to nature.

"The garden suggests there might be a place where we can meet nature halfway." -

Michael Pollan

Gardening has also helped me to become mentally alert, physically fit and very fresh. The ambience of the garden is highly invigorating, fresh and soothing; there is calmness to the atmosphere of the garden. Weeding, digging, grafting, cutting, watering and the tilling of the soil give me immense joy. All of these activities not only make my body active, but also refresh my mind and soul.

"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul." - Alfred Austin

My family and friends appreciate my hobby. Over the years, I have been able to develop skills needed in gardening. Sometimes my father also helps me maintain the garden. I have a worthy and wonderful collection of magazines and books on vegetables, flowers, fruit trees and also gardening overall. It is quite a wonderful experience to watch plants grow, develop and blossom.

I am not full of knowledge in gardening; sometimes, I get advice and help from a professional gardener so as to know the right thing. I spend a large chunk of my money purchasing manure, seeds, fertilizers, books on gardening and gardening tools and implements. I try to watch all the programmes on television about gardening. I visit plant and flower shows and also fruit and vegetable exhibition. It helps me increase my knowledge about gardening.

"A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust." - Gertrude Jekyll

The modern world is a fast paced world of technology, but we cannot deny the importance of plants and trees in our world. Plants and trees are absolutely essential to life. None of our basic functions from breathing to eating and drinking would be possible without them. The simple fact of the matter is that without plants and trees, we would not survive. So I grow

plants and trees that not only gives benefit to me but also to the world. In this, my hobby allows me to contribute to environmental health.

"I plant a lot of trees. I am a great believer in planting things for future generations. I loathe the now culture where you just live for today." - Penelope Keith

In a life that is increasingly fast-paced, frenetic and stressful, my garden becomes an oasis of calm and tranquility for me. Spending even an hour working on my garden helps me relax and allows my mind to rejoice in the peace that my garden offers. There can be no better recreation for my mind than my garden.

"My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece." - Claude Monet

21. A Hockey Match

Sports and games are essential for health. They play an important role in the lives of young men and women. The aim of education is the overall development of the personality of a child. It means the development of not only the mind but also the body. It is a common saying, "A sound body has a sound mind". Games help to channelize the energies of the youth in constructive channels. There are many kinds of games played all over the world. A hockey match is one of them. It is very popular all over the world.

"Hockey is a tough, physical game, and it always should be." - Mario Lemieux

Hockey is our national game. It is played throughout the country. It is not a costly game, so even the poor students can play hockey. A hockey stick and a ball is all that one needs to play hockey. Our country has been the world champion in this game for a number of years. Even now, Pakistan is one of the world's strongest hockey teams. The world admires our country for its excellence in this game.

"Hockey, honestly, was my first love. The excitement, the fast pace, the intensity of the game... I still love it to this day." - J. J. Watt

A hockey match played between two strong teams is really a thrilling experience. Last Sunday, I enjoyed an exciting match between our school team and the team of Public School. It was played in our ground and a large number of spectators came to see the game. Our team had recently won the board zonal championship and was naturally considered to be a strong combination. The players of Public School team were also experienced and had already played in many tournaments. The spectators expected to see a very interesting game.

"The beauty of hockey players is that they make everyone feel included and make everyone feel a part of it." - Connor McDavid

At exactly 4:00 p.m., the referee blew a long whistle and the players who had taken up their positions in the field looked towards the center forwards who quickly leapt into action. Our center forward, Shaheer, pushed the ball towards the goal and the next moment, he was running after it. It happened so swiftly that the Public School players could not move before he had reached the 'D'. The goal keeper tried his best but he was too late; Shaheer had hit the ball right into the goal. We went mad with joy. We shouted and clapped and whistled and our players waved to us.

"A puck is a hard rubber disc that hockey players strike when they can't hit one another." - Jimmy Cannon

The game started again. The Public School players were more vigilant this time. Their center forward managed to beat ours, and passed the ball to his right in who passed it back to him. He dribbled it past our defenders and reached to goal mouth but our goal keeper, Ahmed, stopped the ball and sent it flying back. The ball was now with our players who were working very hard.

After a short time, our captain, Usman, got the ball and raced down to the goal post. When he reached the 'D' he slipped and fell down. The Public School players got the ball and once again raided our goal, but our defenders fought back valiantly and repulsed every attack. At this point, the referee blew a long whistle and the players walked out of the ground for it was 'half time'. The players went to the dressing room and had soft drinks and biscuits.

After the interval, the game became very tense. The Public School players played a better game; most of the time, the ball remained in our half. Time and again, the Public School captain who was in terrific form reached our goal. But every time, our goal keeper, Ahmed, stood his ground and cleared the ball.

At last, the time was up and our team came out happy and victorious. They had won the match by one goal. We clapped and shouted with joy. Our players had not let us down.

Everyone congratulated the players of our team for their fine team work.

"To succeed in hockey, you need teamwork." - Henry Samueli

A final award ceremony was held after the match. Shaheer was given the best player of the match award. After the award ceremony, we returned home. It was a match that we can remember forever.

22. Understanding the Holy Quran with Translation

The Holy Quran is the last divine book of Allah that He revealed upon His Last Messenger, Hazrat Muhammad (peace be upon him). The Muslims all over the world love to recite it. Many of them remember it by heart. But the real benefit lies in the understanding of it. While originally written in classical Arabic, the importance of understanding the Quran with translation cannot be overstated. Therefore, reciting the Holy Quran with translation has its increased value in the life of a Muslim which leads to increased awareness and understanding of its knowledge. Allah commands all the Muslims to reflect on the Quranic instructions.

"This is the Blessed Book that We have revealed to you, (O Muhammad), that people with understanding may reflect over its verses and those with understanding derive a lesson." [Al-Quran, 38: 29]

The term "Quran" itself means "recitation" in Arabic. The Quran comprises 114 chapters, or Surahs, each containing valuable insights into faith, morality, and social conduct. The Quran, an extraordinary reservoir of divine guidance, serves as a timeless manual for spiritual enrichment and moral edification. Its translation enables the non-Arabic speakers to access these spiritual treasures. The Holy Quran delves into diverse themes, from theology and ethics to societal matters. Through translation, readers of different linguistic backgrounds can comprehend the intricate layers of meaning encapsulated within its verses. Allah says in the Holy Quran:

"... and We have revealed the Book to you explaining clearly everything." [Al-Quran, 16:89]

The essence of the Holy Quran is in its meanings, therefore, if we are not an Arabic speaker, we ought to understand the Holy Quran with its translation in our mother language to be able to grasp the message that the verses of Quran convey.

The Holy Quran is a complete code of life. It throws light upon all the aspects of human life. This is the book that cures humans of their spiritual maladies. If we recite and understand it,...

23. Tolerance

"Tolerance is the only real test of civilization." - Arthur Helps

Tolerance is the ability to accept and respect the differences and opinions of others, even if they contradict our own beliefs and values. It is the key to a peaceful and harmonious society. It is a virtue that is often overlooked and undervalued in today's world. However, it is a quality that we all need to embrace if we want to live in a world free from conflict and hatred.

Tolerance is not a new concept. It has been around for centuries and is an integral part of many religions and philosophies. Islam, for instance, places a great emphasis on tolerance. Muslims are instructed to respect the beliefs and opinions of others and to be patient and forgiving. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was a paragon of tolerance and showed respect for people of other faiths. This is evident from the example of the Prophet's life.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) faced immense opposition in his hometown of the city of Makkah. He was eventually forced to migrate to Medina. But in spite of all the opposition and even physical torture that he and his followers suffered in Makkah, the Rasool (peace be upon him) always approached the non-believers of Makkah with tolerance. His entire personality and life style demonstrates the patience and tolerance one must adopt to lead a balanced life.

"Islam teaches tolerance, not hatred; universal brotherhood, not enmity; peace, and not violence."

Tolerance is essential in a world where conflicts arise due to differences in religion, race, culture, or nationality. It promotes harmony and allows people to live in peace despite their differences. Tolerance encourages individuals to be open-minded and non-judgmental toward others. The lack of tolerance can lead to discrimination, prejudice, and hatred towards people different from us. It can cause social unrest and even violence. So, tolerance is crucial in building a society free from discrimination and bigotry. It helps us to appreciate the richness of diversity and the value of different perspectives.

"Sooner or later, if man is ever to be worthy of his destiny, we must fill our hearts with tolerance."

Tolerance does not mean we must agree with everything others say or do. It is about respecting their right to have their own opinions and beliefs. It is about acknowledging that others have different experiences that have shaped their views and values. Tolerance requires patience, understanding, and willingness to listen to others. Therefore, tolerance is essential in all areas of life, including education, politics, and religion. It allows us to have meaningful conversations and debates without resorting to violence or hatred. Tolerance encourages us to find common ground and work towards a common goal.

Other than this, we must practise tolerance when we are having a bad time in our life, we must show patience when we are having a loss in our business, we must be patient when we lose our loved ones or are having any hardships in life because this is the thing religion Islam teaches us to practice tolerance during hard times. Jabir ibn Abdullah reported that Messenger of Allah, Mohammad, said:

"May Allah have mercy on a man who is tolerant when selling, buying, and seeking repayment." (Sahih Bukhari)

In conclusion, tolerance is an essential virtue promoting peaceful coexistence. It is about accepting and respecting the differences that exist among people. Tolerance is essential in building a society free from discrimination. It encourages us to be open-minded, non-judgmental, and willing to listen to others. Tolerance is a two-way street that requires us to be accepting and accepted. It is virtue that helps us practice patience during hard times. It is a virtue that should be practiced in all areas of life.

"Acceptance and tolerance and forgiveness, those are life-altering lessons."

End of Essays

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