

DIVERSIVE

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THE STORY OF POLESTAR

By Ayushman Harlalka

We look to the younger generation as the future, as saviours of the world who would herald humanity into a better, brighter place. Yet, as aptly said by George Orwell, "If people cannot write well, they cannot think well, and if they cannot think well, others will do their thinking for them." In order for the younger generation children to truly think for themselves and achieve ideals, there is a lot needed to be done.

Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Test Reports depicted a global decrease in age-appropriate reading and writing comprehension levels among children. For the future to be saved, the status quo could not exist; something had to change. We at REIDU came up with the answer in the form of our literature, be it Pole Star or The Marshmallow. Paying tribute to a lighthouse, and how its namesake rescued ships from darker, more treacherous paths, we sought to nurture children to love and connect to their roots while respecting the diversity.

Pole Star is not just a children's book but a movement to build a generation of thinkers & empaths. It comprises an Inclusive Editorial Board with educators, researchers, parents as well as children as Young Editors at the helm of affairs.

Often, when we look at the future, we must look at the past too. Culture and heritage become important in a world where fragility is the norm, while notions of inclusivity and diversity must be included in better terms than ever before. Pole Star treads that fine balance of the past entering into a waltz with the future.

Pole Star Volume I, with the theme - Culture & Heritage is a compilation of stories, fables, articles, paintings, and quizzes of, for & by the children from across the world. An enchanting ensemble of various cultures and heritages, it is an unbridled attempt at letting children paint their own worlds while learning about each other's.

The story still being written, here we are with our latest endeavour, this newsletter! Get on board and let's see where it leads!



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INDEX

The Story of Polestar

Article - Four Levels of
Competence

Think About It!

Poem

Kids Corner

PUBLICATIONS



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empaths.*

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THE FOUR LEVELS OF COMPETENCE

An Article by Ayushman Harlalka

Michelangelo Buonarroti, a revolutionary, once said, "If you knew how much work went into it, you wouldn't call it genius." Meanwhile, Charles Budowski, a prolific writer, said "Don't try." Both quotes were in conjecture to building something that lasts. While paradoxical in nature, the two individuals might have been referring to the same phenomenon of what it meant to be great at something.

Let us consider the case of a budding artist Jessica who wants to be a master at painting. Initially, she makes bad sketches. This shouldn't deter anyone from trying; everyone is bad at the beginning. It is only through persevering through this level that one can become good at anything. Her sketches are bad, yet she doesn't know why it is so. She is unable to pinpoint her inadequacies.

This is the stage of **unconscious incompetence** when one is bad enough at a craft to not even recognise what aspects of it they are bad at. It can be the most frustrating stage, but we all go through it.

Frustrated at her lack of progress, Jessica decides to look at theory for a change. She looks at perspective, basic shapes, and colour theory, among several other aspects of the craft. Through this exercise, Jessica is able to look at her older works and pinpoint where she went wrong with them. She can start working towards improving them.

This stage is called **conscious incompetence**. The individual has now learned enough to pinpoint select aspects of the craft they are bad at and can work towards improving the same. It generally takes a certain amount of theory and experience to reach this stage. It is also why the fundamentals of a craft are so crucial in one's journey.

After repeated attempts and a lot of practice, Jessica fixes the various aspects of her craft that she was bad at. If she tries hard enough, she can even win competitions now! But that's the catch; she must focus and concentrate hard to get amazing results.

Jessica has now reached the stage of **conscious competence**. She has become capable of executing tasks and achieving results at a high calibre, but she must consciously focus in order to do so. Most experts are at this stage of their journey, and it is arguably the stage that will persist for the longest.

After years and years of painting, brush strokes and colours have become second nature for Jessica. The last masterpiece she created was when she was half-asleep, and it still went on to win awards and recognition! When asked about her thought process, Jessica now believes it is her instinct.

Jessica has reached the final stage of **unconscious competence**. She has persisted enough for all her work to be beyond a certain threshold, even without conscious effort. Her craft is now muscle memory to her, and she doesn't need to stop and think before making decisions anymore. Few individuals like Mozart or Michelangelo ever reach this stage, and they can then rightly be called masters.

Like Jessica, we all start somewhere. And, like her, we will someday reach the last stage if we persist long enough.

THINK ABOUT IT!

Predators kill prey, not murder them. That is the law of nature.

While killing and murder may seem the same, they are not. Killing follows the ancient wisdom of taking what is necessary, not more than that. If a lion kills two goats to eat them both, it follows the law of nature. Should the lion kill four goats and eat only two, it is a murderer. It can be said then that the lion has gone mad and must be put down for the sake of the ecosystem.

As humans, no matter how distinct we may think of ourselves from nature, we are still part of a larger ecosystem. But are we following the law of nature? Are we killing for need or murdering for want? Are we murdering or destroying the ecosystem and its life forms for our benefit?

The short story "The Business of Rabbit" by [Daniel Quinn](#) from the collection [Tales of Adam](#) brings this phenomenon to light. A collection of short stories featuring father and son Adam and Abel, the book talks about various aspects of life and simplifies biblical learnings.

THE STORYTELLER'S LEGEND

A poem by Siyona Shetty

People whisper about a mystery man;
who travels from place to place,
With ocean grey eyes
and a wistful, hopeful face.

One that tell tales
with the power of melody,
One that makes each child light up
with glee watching his parody.

The men & women
feared his mysterious ways,
No matter what
the children had to say.

They pushed him out
of their children's life,
The children's hearts
were filled with strife.

The man,
strange as he may seem,
Showed them
the power of dreams.

So, at the night's peak,
When the moon plays hide and seek.
The children pretend to sleep,
He enters without making a peep.

The storyteller sings his songs,
tells the stories he weaves,
Until children
enter the world of dreams

Please don't tell anyone,
the last part,
Take an oath,
cross your heart.

I too wait
for the hidden moon,
Hoping the storyteller
comes soon.

He is free
from his cruel fate,
Can teach me as well
how to create.

KIDS CORNER

By Aliya

Aliya is 13 years old and a junior high school student, grade I, in Pekanbaru, Riau, Indonesia. She is super creative and has a very fertile imagination. Aliya has difficulty in speaking and loves drawing & painting. She is often busy drawing her friends, their dreams for future in her drawing. One of Aliya's painting "Say No to Child Marriage" was selected by International Organisation in 2019 and she was nominated as the youngest Ambassador.

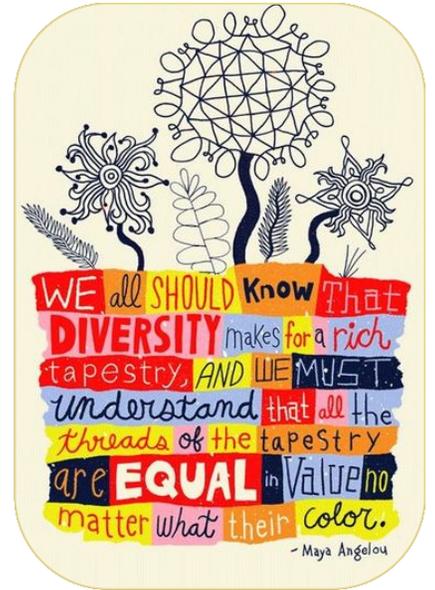
Way to go Aliya. It's our dreams that reveal yearning of the heart and gateway for the soul. Who You Want To Be?



RIEDU INSPIRE



Siyona Shetty,
13 year old, India



Aliya,
13 year old, Indonesia