TOP FIVE WINNING ENTRIES
(POEMS, STORIES & POSTERS)
My Love towards Tiger

Oh, Tiger! You are so beautiful
With the beautifully coloured vertical stripes on your body
You are the largest living cat species
With the unique features in the animal kingdom
You live so peacefully inside the thick forest
Away from the any kind of human related pollutions
Enjoying the facilities of the god-gifted nature
I envy your peaceful natural habitat.

Oh, Tiger! You symbolizes great values
You being physically strong symbolizes strength and bravery
You being fearless animal symbolizes the power
Your presence in spiritual sites symbolizes guardian spirits

You have great place in the hearts of many people
You are the most amazing animal on the planet
Though you are the most powerful predator
The value of your existence is immeasurable

Oh, Tiger! You are so adorable
But people can hardly see you in reality
Yet people enjoy your presence
Even when you appear in images and videos
It’s my wish to see you in reality
Take beautiful pictures with you
Feel the softness of your beautiful fur
And enjoy the warmth of your home

Oh, Tiger! You are the most important part of ecosystem
Without you the ecosystem will be disturbed miserably
Without you there won’t be harmony in animal kingdom.
Without you the beauty of nature will be vanished

I am glad to know your existence in various parts of the world
And Bhutan, my country is not an exceptional cases
The thought of you living inside the think forest of Bhutan
Gives me great happiness and satisfaction

Oh, Tiger! I feel sorry for you
Sadly, you are one of the endangered animals
How can your numbers go on decreasing yearly?
How can you fall into the hands of evil human beings?

The greedy people destroying your beautiful home
Clearing the forest for developmental activities
And to fulfill their unending desires
Unfortunately, cause serious threats to your habitats
Oh, Tiger! You are so unlucky
To meet with the heartless people
Hunting and killing you
For your most valuable body parts

With the increased developmental activities
Accompanied by the drastic change in climate
And the negative impact on your habitat
Your existence has become challenging

Oh, Tiger! It is saddening that you are not safe
A world with the increasing human populations
Anything can happen at anytime
You should be always careful

Please stay in the forest, your safe home
With your beautiful cubs and family
Be extra cautious and vigilant at all times
Never scare the people nearby

Oh, Tiger! The importance of your existence is sensed
July 29 is marked as your day annually
The International Tiger Day
Celebrated throughout the world

The day to create awareness to the people
The day to raise the existing issues
The day to find the solutions to the issues
To protect you and your world

Oh, Tiger! May this day bring a miracle into your world
May the people change their mind set
And stop disturbing you and your habitat
May you and your family have the peaceful life

I wish people unite together
To save you and your world from any kind of dangers
To increase your number
And take you out from the list of endangered species

Oh, Tiger! I love you very much
I am always at your side
May God Bless the World of Tigers
With the eternal peace and prosperity

Tenzin Choden
VII B
Sonamthang Central School
Untold tales of tigers

In a place without people,
there were only animals, noble or feeble.
There were only predators and preys in harmony
without strife,
this was the simplicity of their life.

Out of the animals various and many,
there was one feared by any.
The tigers weren’t any normal felines,
instead they ripped through flesh with their
deathly canines.

Silent but deadly they hunted at night,
even in the darkness they still had their sight.
The animals at night didn’t take the chance,
there could be a hungry tiger waiting to prance.

To challenge them there was none,
on the game of life, they had won.
And although they were kings ever since they
were born,
none of them explored the unknown.

They lived and hunted within their border,
lived their lives maintaining the natural order.
What was out beyond there, they did not wonder,
it was something, they never did ponder.

One fateful day, which they never forgot,
when from the outside world, a message they got.
A tiger came with eyes about to tear,
what was it they thought that gave him such fear.

Later that day when darkness fell during the night,
they all asked him what gave him such fright.
All he remembered was seeing a bright light,
and then he felt pain as he ran away with all his might.

Other than that all he heard was a loud
thundering sound,
from where it came he had not found.
After that they let him rest,
though they felt it wasn’t safe at their nest.

Still they woke to the light of the next day,
but they still wondered if it was safe to stay.
So they decided that they would go,
what their friend had met with they wanted to know.

When they went into the unknown to explore,
they saw something that shook them to their core.
It was a creature never seen before,
and there were many, so much more.
When they tried to silently flee,
one of the creatures had already seen them from
a tree.
The creature brought another three,
as they tried to run free.

They heard those creatures shout,
fireworks like sounds were let out.
Trying to see what happened, they turned
around,
they saw one of their own, lying lifeless on the
ground.

Leaving him behind, they ran across the plain,
scared and agonized with mind numbing pain.
They ran dodging the bullets being shot,
experiencing fear which none of them forgot.

When they returned and the story was told,
panic and fear began to unfold.
And as they lay cowering in fear,
those creatures had already made it there.

The creatures didn’t stop until almost all tigers
were dead,
they would sell the skin and hang up the head.
From their selfish gruesome actions, a new world
has bred,
with few tigers living with booming dread.

With the remaining survivors(tigers) few,
their numbers, some enlightened creatures felt
should renew.
“We will protect them” the humans (creatures)
had taken the vow,
and it was a relief to see more joining the
campaigns now.

While the humans’ actions were horrible, it’s not
too late,
for them to prevent the extinction and rewrite
the tigers’ fate.
They need to religiously follow this new
approach,
to save the tigers they should not harm, kill, or
poach.

Krishna Komachi Gurung
VIII
Peljorling Higher Secondary School
Topic: OH Tigers

OH! Dear Tigers,
We admire your beauty
But forgets to do our duty
You harmonize the ecosystem
But we fail to provide you with wisdom
We decline to hear your scream
As everyone is in their dream

We peel off your skin
Which is later thrown in a bin
We take your precious teeth
And take a peaceful breath
We slay you for richness
By doing illegal business

We will only learn
When we will be burned
For now, nothing is hearable
Screams will be heard when the situation is terrible.

There is no one - pointing a finger at us
That’s why we plus our actions with fuss
We take your life
When we have to bow
With our behavior that is so low
Countless tears will flow
And no one will be there to slow
One day, you will disappear
And never reappear

Everything will be messed up
The population of wild animals will increase,
And our happiness will decrease.
Rising of deers
Which we will not be able to bear

The number of problems will be a lot
That our minds would have never thought
They will destroy our field
But we will not be able to put a shield
With anger, they will come
To destroy our only income.

Until our eyes are filled with teardrops
The life of humans will be difficult
The chances of people surviving are coming to halt.
We will die of hunger
As nothing will be under our fingers
So, before that happens
Oh! My dear friends
Let's hold hands in hands
And make a band
Which sings the songs of our living Hero

Let's us not put them behind the cage
Because in the end, we are building a cage
Let us first be aware
To make our future secure

We have to face ‘karma’
As it is a rule of dharma
Let's do not waste a minute
By doing which are out of limit

“Save tigers
Save your future”

Self composed
by
Anjali Barailly
IX ‘E’
Tigers, a bright flame
Tigers, a bright flame striped in black,
Emotions too, a mighty stack,
An angry strike, a happy lick,
A ferocious swipe, a gentle flick

Tigers, a beauty to behold,
Such magnificence, as if a story untold,
But also a beast with beauty,
Their fearful roar, and behaviours eerie

Tigers, a glamorous forest creature,
A child and guardian of mother nature,
So why, oh why, did we make the mistake,
Of ever even thinking to harm and kill for our own sake

Tigers, Orange, yellow, black and white,
Truly burning bright in the forest night,
Burn bright but not away into eternity,
Forgive the actions done by heartless people to thee

Tigers, mighty, destroy your cage,
Show the world righteous wrath and rage,
You are worth so much more,
In the nature, not in a store

Tigers, they had freedom once,
An undimmed ferocious force,
Until God’s world was plundered and butchered,
And intricacies of it’s ecosystem destroyed

Tigers, Back up on their feet,
Shining fur, louder roar, teeths and claws neat
Soon, it will be an ever fixed mark
Tigers belong beyond the nature park

Tigers, the greatest, nature’s pride
Finally coming to their lair after their fight,
Tiger’s will always hold their glory,
And we will always murmur their victorious story.

Sonam Choden
VIII
Lobesa Lower Secondary School
Importance Of Tiger

Forest, the darkest place
Encircled by ring of mountains
Where there is sanctuary and purified place
The habitat for wild animals
Where they live like us

Bhutan has great coverage of forest
With 70 percent of richness in its nature
Under the umbrella of great vision, of the fourth king.
Where there are many safe places of wildlife
Saved by forest department with great efforts
To keep the animal safe.

Bhutan has enlarged the number of Tigers
The true king of jungle
Who hunt alone at night

The dangerous animal
As it is the greatest predator
With petrifying face
Where everyone is scared of it
None of us can face tiger.

Tiger roars like a thunder
That make us terrified.
The tigers are the species of cats,
And unique patterns they have
which makes them superior.

The sun has set
The moon slowly begins to appear in the dark
The animals get tense
As it’s time for the tiger to hunt
The nocturnal beast like owls

Carrying the night vision to hunt
At night to have their meal
With an eye of eagle,
which no one can defeat.
Tiger with a sharp tooth that acts like a scissor
For slicing flesh easily in the land of jungle

When I get old
I must talk about importance of Tigers
In a cough voice and speak
Tiger is the most powerful animal from Tag Seng Chung Druk
Where Tiger is considered to be superior.

It can be ferocious
as it’s from the family of cats.
The big cat makes its way through the jungle
With the quiet confidence and ultimate potential energy.
Tiger is believed to be embodied with sharp mind and Strength,

Tiger is link in maintaining
The health of the ecosystem
Of the food chain
Tiger being the top of the food chain
The great predator.
When tiger is saved by us
We save much more.
All the people of world should protect Tiger
As they play the role of saving the endangered carnivore.
The world having Tiger is like
World having jewel.
So, save Tiger to protect ourselves and ecosystem

Kinga Rinchen Norbu
VIII A
Sonamthang Central School
POEM

SENIOR CATEGORY
A Tiger Tells A Story

When the terror of battle tore Long Tan,
I was hiding with my family in the den.
All we could catch was blaring gun sounds,
Our home had then turned to the bloodiest battleground.
Neither did we know who were they,
Nor could we perceive the code they say.
They could barely conceal their grief and fear,
Brave appeared them with rifles but wimp with tears.
We prayed for youthful soldiers who loved their land,
We mourned for corpses whose blood bathed the sand.

But why were those sympathies for?
What will in them those condolences pour?
No miracle will our prayers sprinkle on them.
No triumph will transpire as convinced in their anthem.
Such strife and crisis isn't ample to nurture brutal brain,
They will dash for us notwithstanding the rain.
Surprise us on the trail and shoot us upon sight,
Feels no guilt and peels off our hide.
A decade old pelage embellish wealthy vendor's foot,
Ought to be compassionate, why are they rude?

We get threatened for strolling through their farm,
Their roads penetrate our home, but urges us to be hushed and calm.
No mercy they feel to destroy our environment,
Though they pledge to drain their blood to defend their land.
They don't find it trouble to hunt our food,
So we attack their livestock, but they search us and shoot.

Regardless of the supremacy that human hold,
The future will recall the recital now told.
Blessed with season, blessed Savannah will then witness the fair.
Antelopes and Bisons dance, they will no longer see us there.
When man feels the ripples of broken food chain,
Then elks will laugh seeing them anguished in pain.
Our existence witnessed boar's bones and blood serving barbarians best,
Our extinction will see its vengeance and progeny vexing them as pest.
Although today is not a date to be called too late,
Each man can turn his heart and change his fate.

Dil Kumar Rai
XII Science
Peljorling higher secondary school
Tigers

An animal requires our help now—

Tigers, the insignia of bravery.

But isn’t it both sad and funny how,

Unsafe, their numbers are wavery

With aggravating climate change to be fought

And unsustainable developments on the ride

Both brought about by humans who give no thought,

The tigers have no choice but to hide.

Keystones species, is their entitlement

Essential for maintaining species harmony,

But they are disrespected in their environment

By selfish humans, just for earning money!

Threatened in the very land which is native,

With the natural order in chaos beyond fix.

When humans hold the tigers captive,

Every life in the wild is put at risk

Today, I share the story of an animal,

Seeing such cruelty, my heart just might shatter

But we must stop behaving like the story’s criminal

Because even the lives of animals matter.

Anisha Gurung

XI Science

Ugyen Academy
Dear Human
From the deepest core of my heart
I apologize for my inconvenient action
For taking away what is rightfully yours
Pulling you down into the puddle of anguish
But what can I do
I got no other option than stalking into your fence
The whiff of beef steak under my nose
Is irresistible than I imagined it would be
I tried my level best to curb this hatching thought away
But you know right
Things are easier said than done
The cues of past few days’ lunch and
A week of empty stomach, Is more than enough to provoke me,
The mere sight of them sends my mouth salivating,
And before I realize
My dinner was already settling in my stomach
For that I owe you a lot, as I ate my dinner in great glim
I know it’s a shameless act
To yearn for what’s not rightfully yours
To take the life of others for one’s own sake.
Afaik, I am encountering human
With an important and determined face
Chopping down trees after trees
Extracting whatever suits for usefulness
Toiling the land with enormous creature innovated by men

Fragmenting the greens into pieces
Above all, the most disheartening part is
I don’t even get a chance to enquire
What you are doing in my home
Apart from granting you grand hospitality.

Hear me human, let me do the talking now
You are pressing hard on nature
Trying to squeeze out more and more
Yet, your greed knows no bound
A century ago industrialization was on their heels
Now, an urbanization started to pick up its pace
Growing in size ever larger than yesterday
Creeping near and nearer to my den

Uff, its getting hotter and hotter
The phenomenon you all call as global warming, don’t suit me
The rapid change in climate Fast habitat disintegration
Flux in food chain
All this happening threatens my existence and
Other creature that dwells alongside me

Leki Tshogay
XII Science
Sonamthang Central School
Tiger: Ecologically Inevitable

With a pair of ferocious amber eyes,
Tigers prey not with greetings but by quiet lies.
They prey not with anger or vengeance,
But for survival without belligerence.

Tigers are graceful and agile,
With movement quiet all the while.
For noiseless hunt they have padded claws
That they employ with instinct and laws.

They are skilled hunters to the core,
But they do not hunt with the roar
Of ego, selfishness and off-set balance:
They hunt with the Nature in alliance

They hunt for the Nature’s balance
And for the ecological resilience.
They prey on wolf, bear and boar,
The beasts that make farmers implore.

Tigers have great beauty and grace
With black stripes and kingly face.
Their magnificent fur is a treasure
That many people keep with pleasure.

Extinction of tigers will be a cause
For the exponential increase
Of the species that will unarguably
Harm humans and others irrevocably.

Tigers hunt to balance the food chain.
Tigers’ perishment is the Nature’s pain,
The pain that will not spare the humans
But dip us into a great misery and laments.

To hurt them or spare them is a choice
That will result in sorrow or joy.
The humans will see the consequence
The Nature sends out in measured sequence.

Let not tigers become dinosaurs and dodos,
But let our future generation say kudos
For sharing the world with tigers mutually
And for co-existing with tigers peacefully.

Damtshig Dema
XI Science
Samtse Higher Secondary School
A Piece of Acknowledgement

That ferocious eyes,
Filled with depth worth knowing.
That fascinating soul,
Entergulfed in varieties of stripes.
Those breathtaking claws
The splendid roar,
Which makes everything petrified.

The epitome of dauntlessness
Nobody can deny how indebted we are into you
For perpetuating thriving fauna and flora.
For quenching our thirst with immaculate water,
For furnishing us with oxygenated air
And other immeasurable aids.

We take you for granted,
Though we know that your eradication
Shall forever leave a scar behind
That no one can ever mend.

Without you the quintessence of courage,
I could hear the whimpers of farmer,
The abandoned fields filled with herbivores,
The innocent weeps of children, And
People dying of starvation.

People exterminate you not knowing,
What it is going to cost.
There shall come a day,
When we could no longer hear
Your name, that shall be the day
When earth would be lifeless.

With the escalation in human folly
You encounter crippling affliction
But Oh, my apotheosis of stoutness
I could have told you that
Now no more theriocide shall ever betide
For this world has been too harsh to you.

I could have told you
The epitome of dauntlessness
You are at the edge of extinction .
But now no more blood sports,
For now, we know your significance,
Your worth and your superiority.

So, a little message to humanity not people though,
Gone are the barbarian days,
When slaughtering betided
When humans were uncivilized.
Now in this Holocene Epoch,
Let’s not brag out another extinction,
For we are all blessed with wisdom.

Now let’s arise a glimpse of hope
Where the world is a better place for all those beautiful creatures,
Let’s create a place where we don’t dominate their community and freedom
For they also have the right to breathe without fear,
Oh, my dear humans let’s emancipate those faultless creations of God.
Let’s all roar for tigers’ youth.

Pema Selden
X
Sonamthang Central School
The two Tigresses

The beginning

“Today, we present to you the most talented tigers around the world and they will amaze you with their unique performance on stage”, said the host of the TV show.

“Sister look! It’s my favorite tiger show” said six-year-old Dawa excitedly to her sister Kinley who was 10 years older than her.

“Sorry Dawa, I have a summer school project to finish. Please don’t disturb me”, Kinley replied with a worried look on her face since she was not able to figure out how to begin her school project.

Dawa was a cheerful personality with a lot of fantasies and imaginations running on her mind. On the other hand, her sister Kinley was the complete opposite since she is more focused on the practical point of view rather than believing in fantasies which she thought to be non-sense. However, both the sisters shared a common interest in terms of being religious minded and spiritually inclined.

“Breakfast is ready, you two!”, their mother Bidha called with a cheerful smile. “Today, since your dad has lots of work at the office, I will be dropping you both to your schools”.

While dropping Dawa, her sister Kinley noticed an old lady reading Bhutanese folk tales about wildlife and tigers to the young children at the Early Learning Center. As soon as Kinley reached school, the wind blew gently on her forehead as she walked up towards her class. Upon reaching her class, she started sweating profusely and her body began to feel numb as she saw her classmates submitting their biology project. A gentle hand touched her back which made her anxiety even worse.

“Kinley, may I collect your biology project that I had assigned to you before the summer break” said her teacher with a serious unforgiving look, holding a biology text book and eager to start teaching the class.

“Mam’, I am sorry to inform that I was not able to finish my biology project, since I was unaware of the project topic which madam gave us”, Kinley said with a stutter in her voice while her teacher miss Deki showed a look of disappointment.

“Kinley, the topic I assigned for the project was about understanding the ecological importance of any fauna and flora you would like to observe and since you were not able to understand the project question, I will give you a week’s time to complete your biology project”, her teacher said with a serious look on her face.

After school was over, Kinley was overthinking what kind of flora or fauna she should choose to work on for her project given the limited time to complete it. Suddenly, the morning tiger show that her younger sister loves to watch every day, clicked in her head.

“Hmm, that right! That’s perfect!” Kinley thought as she recalled the majesty of tigers on her way home. When she reached home, she saw her little sister reading the same book she saw earlier that morning with the old woman.

“Yes, Tiger Lee! You can stop that monster from destroying the Animal World” cheered Dawa for the main protagonist of her favorite book. On the other hand, Kinley was bit unsure of how to investigate the ecological diversity of the tiger species.

“Sister, you look a bit tensed, is very thing okay?” asked Dawa with a soft gentle voice.

“Dawa, I need to write about tigers, but I’m not getting any ideas”, sighed Kinley worriedly.

“Oh, I have an idea!” clicked Dawa and suggested excitedly, “There is an old lady
at our school who tells us great stories and knows a lot about tigers. Maybe she can help you!”

Kinley remembered the old lady from her sister’s school this morning.

“Okay Dawa, since we don’t have school tomorrow, let’s go to that old lady and find out what she knows about tigers”, decided Kinley with a beautiful smile.

The Journey to Tiger world

“Wake up, Wake up! Today we have to go to that old lady for your Project”, Dawa sounded like an alarm, even more excited than Kinley herself. After having their breakfast, they hurriedly went to the nearby early learning center to meet that old lady and as soon as they entered the school gate they heard the old lady chanting “Om Ah Hung Benzra Guru Pema Siddhi Hung”.

“Angay (Grandma), what are you chanting?” Dawa asked curiously. “It is the mantra of the great Guru Padmasambava who had played one of the important roles in Buddhism, and what brings you two here today?” the old lady asked.

“Angay, I’m Dawa and this is my sister Kinley. She wants to know about Tigers” introduced Dawa in a sweet manner.

“Oh, well, the mantra of Guru Padmasambava which I chanted has a magical connection to the tiger species”, the old lady replied with a gentle smile.

“How angay?” Dawa asked excitedly.

The Angay began, “The Paro Taktsang monastery where many people visit nowadays has a wonderful story on how it was built many years ago. There was an evil spirit terrorizing the area where the Paro taktsang monastery is located today. So from his eight manifestations (Guru Tshengay), Guru Rinpoche took the form of the fierce Guru Dorji Drolo and his consort Yeshe Tshogyal took the form of a magical tigress and carried the Guru from Singay Dzong to Taktsang. There, Guru Droji Drolo was able to subdue the evil spirit who was colonizing that area. Hence the tigress has always held a special place in Bhutan’s and Buddhist history.”

“Wow, what an amazing story Angay!” both the girls cheered. “It was indeed an amazing story Angay, but is there any more information on tigers angay that we can explore?” Kinley asked.

“Why don’t you visit the tigers instead in the tiger’s world” the old lady said. The girls looked at each other confused. “But keep it a secret between the three of us” said the old lady took a shining piece of paper and chanted a few mantras which turned the shining paper into a large shimmering gate.

“When you enter this gate, it will take you both to the tigers’ world and take this pendent with you. The pendent will bring you back here and all you both need to do is click the button on the back of this pendent that will open the gate to get back here” the old lady instructed. As soon as Kinley and her sister entered the gate, they were taken directly to the tiger’s world.

They reached a paradise full of lush green plants and flowers. The bees were buzzing and the air was cool and fresh. Many Tigers were also roaming free and majestically.

“Sister look! These tigers are quite friendly” Dawa said playing with two tiger pups with light red fur.

“Dawa, look at the water, it has a perfect reflection. And the air is so clean and fresh!” exclaimed Kinley pointing at a crystal clear lake nearby.

“Wow! I can see the little fishies swimming happily”, Dawa said with joy. They continued to explore and Kinley took a lot of notes. They discovered the rich biodiversity saw its beauty.
“Okay now, let’s go back sister”, said Dawa who was now hungry. “Okay let’s get going” replied Kinley clicking the button of the pendent, feeling satisfied.

Instead of reaching back to the old lady, they had instead reached a lifeless place which was barren and desert like.

“Sister look! the animals are not moving” Dawa said looking at the dead remains of the humans and animals. “Dawa, all of these animals are dead” Kinley replied looking worried.

“De..de…dead? I don’t like it here sis, we should go”, said Dawa in a shaky voice. The place was rough and not a green plant was in sight. The air was putrid and waters were undrinkable.

“Let’s get out of here!” Kinley said when suddenly thunder roared. “Yalamal!”[Bhutanese expression for shock] Kinley screamed as she saw a dark and heavy thunder storm brewing above.

“Come on work!” Kinley said repeatedly clicking the button which was now working.

“What should we do now?” Dawa asked crying and hugging her sister.

Left with no place to go and no hope of escaping this dangerous place, they remembered the old lady’s mantra. They started to chant the mantra of the old lady “Om Ah Hung Benzra Guru Pema Siddhi Hung” when suddenly they blacked out.

“Wake up you two”, they heard the old lady say as she stared at them slowly opening their eyes.

“So how was your journey dearies?” said the old lady in a soft tone.

“Angay, after visiting the Tigers’ world we thought we would be back here, but the pendent took us to a scary place and stopped working” Dawa said with a still worried voice.

The old lady smiled and began to explain. Angay began explaining the two worlds, “The first world which two of visited was the world where tigers all the animals and bird and plants existed in harmony. As you saw, the delicate balance of the ecosystem is maintained and all animals and plants including humans could live happily. Tigers balance out the herbivores and thus the vegetation on which they feed, thus the presence of tigers means a healthy ecosystem.”

The girls nodded in agreement.

Angay continued, “However, the second world was one where Tigers had gone extinct. This threw the ecosystem out of balance leading to such a place that you visited”.

“Oh, we wouldn’t have learnt that lesson if we didn’t reach there.” Thought Kinley to herself, now with more understanding of the topic than ever.

“We should save tigers, right angay?”, Dawa asked as her eyes gleamed.

The old lady smiled and nodded.

“Thank you so much, Angay, it was great meeting you”, thanked the two sisters joyfully.

“You’re welcome girls, do come again”, said the old lady as she waved them goodbye.

The Ending.

When Kinley and Dawa reached home, Kinley started to recapture what she saw and the old lady’s words. Kinley then, feeling inspired she wrote her project using all the new knowledge and ideas on how Tigers are an important both spiritually and biologically.
The following week,

“Wow Kinley! I am really impressed with your project”, exclaimed her teacher Deki, “You did a wonderful job writing about tigers”.

“Thank you, teacher, and I couldn’t have done it without my sweet sisters help” said Kinley holding her project report with the highest score.

“But your sister is only six-years old”, said the teacher confused. Kinley could only smile.

The next morning,

“Hurray! Tiger lee saved the day”, cheered Dawa watching her favorite morning TV show about tigers. This time her sister Kinley joined in on the fun, watching the show together.

Kinley enjoyed watching the show, holding the pendent she got from old lady which glimmered to the morning light, promising silently to herself to become a protector of Tigers.

The End.

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Kinley Zam Wangchuk

2nd Year, B.Sc. Environmental Management

Royal Thimphu College, Thimphu.
The Last Tigress

She remained hidden for most of the time in the thick and lush forests that adorned the foothills of the Himalayas. She was the only tigress of the valley. Habitants of the near by villages believed that she was a deity. It was said that she stepped out of her den once on every tenth day of the fifth month of the lunar calendar. A few miles away from her den, there was a stupa which was just a pile of stones and looked so ordinary to the human eyes. The early inhabitants of the villages believed that she went there to pay homage to her beloved master, to her root teacher, Guru Padmasambhava. The tigress represented her master’s fierceness and radiated the same energy.

Even a five years old child could narrate how she looked from the stories they heard, her amber eyes glowed as if they were volcanoes; filled with warmth for her fellow mates but also they were burning with wrath for anyone that would come at them. Her fur was jeweled with stripes of different sizes resonating diversity of the wildlife and they were the darkest as if burying secrets and attracting the greedy human eyes. The children were good listeners for remembering every small thing about the tigress. However, the children never saw the tigress. Only few who escaped from her powerful claws survived to describe her.

She was considered the supreme of all the tigers that existed because she was the only tigress among them. The tigers knew that only she could give a new life and keep their species alive. The tigress was powerful, fiery and graceful which invited much jealousy from the tigers and knocked upon every poachers attention.

On one of Guru’s birthday while the tigress was just a few miles away from her den, she fell into a trap. This time her glowing amber eyes reflected anguish. Her snarls were not daunting but they were of pain, anger and helplessness.

Her strength were her legs but now it had deep cuts and dying muscles. Right when she was trying with all the strength left in her body to escape out of the trap, a poacher came and shot on her head. Now her dead body bathed in her own blood.

Her murder left behind a huge scar. She was the only female who could potentially give birth. The remaining tigers died eventually, some had natural death but many were hunted. It was a sin for the tigers to be beautiful because no one saw beyond their hypnotic stripes. The lands dried, bees and flowers were scarce, rabbits and other herbivores were increasing exponentially. Grasses and trees were not enough for the animals so they invaded farmlands and houses of the villagers. Animals and people starved together. More than the food, they all starved for peace and harmony that once prevailed in their valley.

No one ever realized that all the strings were attached. They pulled a string and everything ruined gradually. Even if the poacher didn’t set a trap that day, she would have died anyways because the tigers had made a plan to kill her and end her supremacy. They were envious of her. The tigers witnessed everything that day but didn’t try to save her. The very moment when the tigers decided to kill her, they were unknowingly inviting the end of their lives and lives of all the generations to come.

Her demise marked the beginning of their extinction. Maybe that’s why up to this day tigers are loners because they prefer solitude to betrayal and if there is a streak of tigers who hunted down an animal then they offer their food first to the tigress as an eternal apology. Ultimately, the region became a deserted place with calamities and every time someone brought the topic they remembered the last tigress.

Serzina Gurung

First year, CST
The Tiger

Long time back in the Himalayan mountains of Tibet, lived a beast feared by the entire population of the mountain. In appearance, the creature looked quite like a cat but twenty times bigger than a cat and as a heavy as a baby elephant. His fur was colored burnt orange with black stripes running all over his body. Being the ultimate predator among all the different species of animals, he was popular for having a sharp intellect and fast reflexes. Although he was the strongest creature, his existence was a threat.

Once in a while, the Tibetan ruler along with his cohorts would search up through the forest to hunt down the beast to gain honor and prestige but each time they went out to hunt, they would fail and return with a sullen look.

Tired of hiding from these wicked men, the beast decided to find a new home.

On a bright sunny day, the beast headed towards the south of Tibet; the country of Drukyul. The first step into the country made him feel different from what he would feel in the mountains of Tibet. The sensation was strong and powerful. The wind welcomed him and instantly he knew that his journey was worth it.

As he was walking through a small forest of Gasa, he spotted a man collecting firewoods and sweating profusely. As the man was reached out for his rope to tie the collected firewood, their eyes met. Both of their eyes widened for a reason that firstly the man had never seen a creature suchlike the beast meanwhile, the beast realized that in the interval of watching the man work, hiding slipped off his mind.

In a split second, the man dropped his firewoods and ran for his life. The beast not able to grasp what just happened decided to rest under a shady tree.

Just when he took a step forward, he did not feel the ground under him and as he was about to take a step backwards, it was too late. His body fell into a pit trap the villagers had set up for the unwelcomed wild boars and deers.

Then the beast in disappointment of how his fast reflexes did not work for the first time in his life, roared terribly.

In the meantime, the man had reached his village running as fast as he could. He directly went to the village chief and breathlessly described him the beast he saw. For a moment, the chief thought that it was not possible for such creature to exist in their country but informed the higher authorities right away.

The news spread fast till it reached the capital and to the walls of the Royal Palace. The Crown Prince who loved adventures hearing the rumor naturally became curious of the beast. He responsibly came forward and announced that he wanted take over the case. Next day, the Prince travelled to Gasa and met the villagers for further investigation. When he gathered all the information about the unidentified creature, he concluded that he would like to see the beast with his own eyes. The village chief thought it was too risky and did not agree but no one could stop the strong-willed Prince.

The early morning, the Crown Prince along with some of the villagers went to find out about the creature. The man who had seen the beast took the lead hesitantly. When they reached the spot where the man had encountered the beast, all of them looked around alertly but hoping for the beast to be near. All of a sudden, there was a roar from below and the ground shook vibrantly. The villagers terrified, screamed in unison but the Crown Prince, brave as ever, walked towards where the roar had come from. He noticed a pit trap a few meters away from him, he took his steps slow and steady.
When he was around the edge of the pit and looked below, he couldn’t believe his eyes. There he had seen the most frightening creature yet beautiful and compelling. As a consequence of pitfall, the beast had not been able feed himself and looked tired. The Crown Prince was not clear of what kind of animal it was but sure that the beast had a purpose and so he took a wise decision of setting the beast free. He named the beast “Tiger”.

The tiger astonished by decision made by the Prince thereby, took an oath to serve the Crown Prince and his county until he lies on his deathbed.

Villagers went against the decision and thought it was stupid to let a beast set free but in following weeks, the tiger proved his important by hunting down the wild boars deers and elephants which would destroy people’s crops and vegetables. There was a good harvest the coming years and people were delighted.

The villagers now became aware of why the Crown Prince had taken such decision and soon the Crown Prince was enthroned as the King. He then ruled the country of peace and sovereignty.

On the other hand, the tiger ruled the forest. Deers and boars came to know of the word “fear”. The tiger maintained the balance and protected the country. The tiger was a blessing in disguise

If the tiger had not existed, neither would have the Bhutanese acquired happiness nor would they have understood the importance of a tiger.

_Sneha Rai_

_X_

_Peljorling Higher Secondary School._
The Tiger

In the living room the voice-clock sang, tick-tock, 6 o’clock, time to get up, the clock ticked on, repeating it’s sounds in the emptiness. Stove in the kitchen hooked my attention with the hissing sigh ejected from its warm interior eight pieces of perfectly browned toast, five eggs sunny side up, one coffee and a glass of milk. Outside rain taped on the empty house bucketing it down. The garage chimed and lifted its door to reveal the waiting car, I could hear my parents driving away. The house stood alone in a city of rubble and ashes. This is the city that gives off the radioactive glow at night that can be seen for miles. Having a hearty breakfast, the gloomy weather pinned me down under the comfy blankets. “God damn it,” I know we did it finally,” The happy cry of my parents echoed and woke me up. “What are you two discussing about?” Who got killed? Why are you two happy for someone’s death? I questioned still feeling dizzy. “Fright and curiosity killed the superiors, finally hunter’s lust for blood is satisfied,” said my mom. “In retaliation, the old aged tiger is captured for sale in the market,” But perhaps you believe if I tell you that the expensive tonic wine, I bought now includes tiger bone as an ingredient; said my dad in a cheerful way.

“As far as I am concerned be responsible for the repercussions, we all are to face with a click of time,” I retorted furiously. My dad laughed. “Well, let’s talk about something else, then maybe you will cool down.” The tiger in our community is a rare thing and is the last species too. Being an apex predator, it regulates the entire ecosystem to root up its base.” There actually is a tone of sadness in me that I never had before, I longed to say something that an illiterate like them could understand and regret what they have done but all turned out to be in vain.

My father put his head down and slowly tilted my head until I was forced to look at him. “Ugzom,” he said, we had troubles and fears in our life which you actually don’t know much really about. He has been the threat through generations for no one has been brave enough to put it to death behind the nonsense laws but it turned out that it’s special attributes have no worth to fear upon. Now any creature can ramble freely as superiority lasted its rule for generations. This will be the subject to gloat about; through our descendents to up hostile the pride of our bravery. “I don’t see” i began. “I don’t know” I stammered. “That’s usually the trouble with you need not have to raise your childish thoughts upon us,” mother exclaimed giving me a sheepish look. Now go to bed silly girl. Obeying them I reluctantly put myself to sleep. I could hear the sounds of my parents crying, pleading voices of the people drowned in a massive flood, out of nowhere a ferocious tiger pounced upon me. Ahhh!!!!! I woke up alarmed, the sun beamed and taped behind the mountains, nevertheless, I refuse to move out of my cozy den. I read snatches here and there. I felt I am on the verge of some discovery, something which I need to find out and yet did not want to know. I rifled through the picture filled papers. A streak of tigers in dry deciduous forest caught my eye. With the shed of tears, I calmly thought “symbol that represents death and life finally came to an end and I cannot imagine a life here afterwards,”

Afterwards I could see an instant change. The habitat preserved when the tiger is alive has now turned to a place where prospective building showed up and some acres were now converted for dry land cultivation. “Ugzom!” My mother called me downstairs for breakfast. “Look at her; the desolation she wears upon her frowning face though it’s almost past 3 weeks of the incidence.” I could sense a peculiar thing on the usual setup dining table. Woa!! It’s a porridge soup. For them it’s a porridge oat, adding water, sprinkling with salts and then eating. But for me it was equivalent of a cold
shower to start the day. Aren’t we starving to death? I could eat a scabby horse if you two always feed me with such things; I said little faltered. “alright”

Just take a look around and search for the best to eat! came a lethargic response. I could not really comprehend their saying but I could sense the strangeness, disarray that certainly was not an order. Judging from the way it nested, wallowed and its walking trails upon the fields, I could point out to my wild amazement, the wild oinkers were the cause of change in the menu of meals, the input of my parents and the income for the whole year was thrown down in the drain whereby they have caused an extensive devour on the standing crops in the fields abutting the reserve forests. “I couldn’t figure out why the counts of oinkers drastically increased recently though it was less in number initially,” I could hear the murmurs behind me. Our foolishness makes us repay our wrong doings; I silently thought. After that over 3 months we are blessed with the heavy downpour continuously. That’s probably due to loss of preserved vegetation I murmured.

Rinchen Yangzom

XII Sci

Sonamthang Central School
Nado the great Hunter

He stood, shot an arrow and again ducked behind his savior, a huge boulder that struck between the two very large trees that almost seem to dominate the sky by its very sheer sight. Nado had set so many traps for the tigers that he almost couldn’t remember where he had set one. That very morning, he had decided that day would be a great one to go looking for his traps. “May be they have something good in stove for me” he had said to himself with a grin.

With an empty stomach, he had started towards the Himalayas, trekking along the rough land on foot, gibbering incoherently as the thrones pricked him. For hours, he had wandered from one trap to another that bore no reward, just a few small deer and boars that had already started to produce some awful smells. He had felt disgusted. He had almost given up when he suddenly remembered the hole- trap he had set in the middle of a clearing. He had dug that hole for at least two weeks, sweats pouring from his hand and labored body with the sun high up in the sky shining down mercilessly, appraising his work. The hole was at least the size of the mouth of a cave and twelve feet deep. He had trot towards the hole whistling a tune, his hands folded behind his back.

As he neared the clearing he had seen the unmistakable big paws of the big cat on the ground. He had walked slowly along with the cat’s paw on the muddy ground studying carefully. They were of not more than two or three days, he had guessed. He kept on walking, each step making him more excited and anxious. And his happiness had known no bound when he discovered the paws disappearing into the hole, the leaves and twigs he had used to cover the hole was blown inside by something heavy while falling down into the hole, no doubt it was a tiger. He had rubbed his hand with glee, had put down his belongings on the ground including his bow and a volley of arrows.

He had edged towards the hole and peered in and what he saw next gave shiver of fear running down his spine. The tiger inside was not only alive but waiting with a blank, hateful look. Then something unimaginable had happened. The beast inside had roared so loudly and with all its might, leap up from the hole. God alone knows how but the tiger succeeded to jump twelve feet high like no crazy things. Nado taken aback stood with his mouth open but regaining his composure, had rushed towards his belongings, picked up his bow and arrow and braced himself for the coming duel.

But the tiger disappointed him. It didn’t attack him immediately as he had expected. The tiger remained in a crouch position, ready to jump and pounce, its tail swishing back and forth, its teeth ready to suck out the fresh blood and spill it on the green ground as an offering to the gods and goddesses. Nado had slowly retreated farther out from the clearing while also keeping his eyes glued to the beast. When he thought he was safe and distanced himself from the clearing, he had taken shelter behind the huge boulder between the two trees and ever since he had been shooting his arrow for almost an hour.

Nado stood up, took aim and let the arrow fly through the air. The arrow twirled through the air searching for its target. The arrow pierced the lower part of the abdomen of the beast splattering bold on the ground. The ground shook as the beast roar in fury, the little birds took flight and small animals took of in all four. He peered from behind the boulder just in time to see the big cat running towards him. He let his arrow fly swiftly one after another but failed to make an impact. The beast was gaining speed. Then the beast was over him. He ducked down as the tiger flew over his head landing over half a yard away. The tiger turned and attacked him viciously from all side. Nado tried to defend himself but this time was a second too late.
The full impact of the beast body against him threw him in the air, sucking out the breath from his lungs and sent him sprawling on the ground. He rolled over until a sharp rock hit at the side of the head and he heard his head crack. Blood began oozing from the wound. The pain was so intense that he nearly lost his conscious. He tried to scream but no sound came out. He tried to stand but his legs gave away. He heard the footstep of the tiger approaching him and as he looked up the tiger raised his paw and swung it at his face. But he had already lost consciousness. The world of Mr. Nado was black out.

Nado jerked up from his wooden bed to the sound of ringing bell from the old lhakhang located above the village. Usually he used to wake up before dawn and do necessary chores but that day the nightmare were imprinted in his head so he quit doing his chores. Instead he went outside and gush of wind greeted him, ruffling his hair. He walked straight towards his farm located about half a mile away from where he lived. Finally he reached at the edge of the plain, overlooking the farms of all the farmers that stretched as far as an eye could see.

Nado grumpily noticed to his dismay that all the crops lay destroyed and tore apart by the wild beasts. Ever since the extinct of the tigers, the deer, wild bears and other herbivores population has been growing ever since. The villagers have conducted several meetings but failed to have proper decision. Once, during a meeting, fight have broken out between two groups resulting in delivering of black eye, visiting of hospital and bleeding. Nado had not participated in the fight have come home and had slept a long day.

Nado had always blamed the government for the problem they are facing. The government was too weak and the tiger across the Himalayas has been hunted down by the foreigners for the illegal trading. Once Nado had even heard from his friends that the Indians goondas had broken into Manas National Park and the armies there did nothing as goondas hunted down every tigers and elephants. Now as he look across the vast plain of crops that were nearly destroyed, his hope of overcoming this problem was a bleak, just a dream that you would never achieved. The men from the villages have build hundred of traps to no avail, the wild animals never seem to run out of the numbers. Few have died fighting with bear. Others knowing that their end is near and want to live their life happily with love ones.

Nado knew that the country would be thrown into depression without the food, the government would not be able to control the starvation. The country itself itself would be wounded and someday all the occupants would leave out of hunger and new occupants would reoccupy it with different set of laws and cultures. However or whatever, it didn’t matter to Nado. He had nothing to gain or lose, he was an orphan boy. He would die happily.

The next day, Nado wake up to see a long line of soldiers, their rifles slung across their back and walking along the farm. Nado remember the men talking about the government planning to wipe out most of the wild animals. The rumors are true. The soldiers now would kill every animal mercilessly for no fault. The soldiers began to line up in a long row and began the march towards the forest. A big crowed of villages have gathered to view the scene. As the soldiers began to enter the forest, the slow thud of the automatic rifle sounded followed by more and more. The soldiers were beginning their rituals of killing. The once peaceful GNH country changing.

Sangay Wangchuk
X A
Sonamthang Central School
POSTER

JUNIOR CATEGORY
"Save the Tigers before they are silenced forever."

Jangchub Yeshi Dema, VII, Samtse Lower Secondary School
R. Sayali, X, Montfort matric higher secondary school
Phuntsho Choden, VIII, Sonamthang Central School
Name: Pema Tenzin
School: Sonamthang Central School
Class: VII
Age: 15
POSTER

SENIOR

CATEGORY

PRESERVE THE PRECIOUS

PROTECT TIGERS
Tigers are on the brink of extinction (WWF). Only few of them are left. Let's save them!

#RoarforTigers
I want to live

Tigers need to be saved. They help in maintaining the balance of the planet's eco system. These eco systems supply to both human nature and human security. Tigers and their kills are still being eaten as a luxurious meat. The skin of tigers is used as a decorative piece at home. Poachers and hunters are still killing tigers. Killing is illegal. Tigers are disappearing. For all fresh water, which promised for the future, fresh water.
roar for tigers

Yeshi Lhamo, Recent class XII graduate