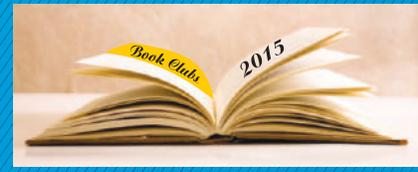




MYSURU LITERARY FORUM CHARITABLE TRUST (RT)

# THE BOOK LEAF



ISSUE - 3

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2018



## Founders Note...

**Shubha Sanjay Urs**

*Chairperson, Mysuru Book Club 2015  
Mysuru Literary Forum & Charitable Trust*

My personal and professional life intertwined together and the passion is like fuel that drives me forward... and for me these are the three most important things in life. One day, my son who was a toddler started crawling towards a book that was lying on the ground. He may have been attracted to the colours in it. And that was when my childhood memories floated in front of me. Then I sat back and started to ask myself what do I love doing the most? The immediate thought was books, so an idea started to germinate in my mind of starting a book club. It was also the time when we relocated to our home town, Mysuru.

Mysuru has been a home to many great writers like K V Puttappa, A K Ramanujan, T P Kailasam, Chaduranga, U R Ananthmurthy, S L Bhyrappa, Kamala Markandaya, Anusuya Shankar AKA Triveni, Aryambha Pattabhi, R K Narayan, M N Srinivas, Devnoor Mahadeva and list goes on including contemporary writers. Their writings have reached wide and diverse audience locally and internationally. Hence, I thought this a ripe moment to start the book club and I launched it in 2015.

Initially the membership to the Club was only by invitation and we were a handful. And it just took a few months for me to move from "I" to "We."

Today, as we launch Karan Thapar's book Devil's Advocate -The Untold Story, we have created a niche in our city.

Book Clubs is all about book reading, author meets and book launches and some are privy to our members and a few whom we invite. We hosted the first-ever "Mysuru Literature Festival" in June 2017. Mysuru witnessed authors galore both in Kannada and English.

We have been able to pursue our passion of reading and trying to bring in the change. It is all because of our perseverance and the team effort of our members.

The members of the book clubs are the source of my inspiration. Every book suggested is read with so much interest and discussed passionately that the discussions sometimes go on for hours.

Our reading clubs for "Differently-abled Children" and "Orphanages" also bring in that same sense of satisfaction.

We are able to it run only because of the support I receive from my members and all are doing well. Deepika Rao, Jayashree Jagannath, Meenu Brouwer, Shubhamani, Vijaya Rao, Usha, Shalini Nagaraj, Vidya Shankar volunteer in running the different clubs.

Vijaya Rao and Dr. Pamela Sanath who have been the pillars of strength from day one of our newsletter "Book Leaf" and our other members Prithvi, Asha Rao, Yamuna Achaiah, Saras Subbaraman, Miriam Cherian, Sasikala Ramanathan, Uma, Nagarathna and our little stars contribute to this news letter.

Behind the scene contributions by Prabha Subramanya, Parvathi Narendran, Sharmeelee, Asha Goil, Nancy Fernandes, Deepa Venkatesh, Lakshmi Manjesh, Prema D'Silva, Indira, Vasantha, Rani, Yogini, Latha, Jyothi, Manjula, are always a boon.

As we bring out this edition one person whom we all miss the most is D Lalitha Rao, who was our Editor. She left us all suddenly creating a huge void in our minds.

We dedicate this issue of our newsletter to Lalitha Rao.

I also thank the Trustees of "Mysuru Literary Forum Charitable Trust" who are our constant source of support to us.

Happy reading....



**Mysuru Literature Festival  
17th & 18th Nov. 2018**

**We have Author Talks,  
Panel Discussions and Children's event**

# There is a Storyteller here

By *Deepika Rao*



Hush....The storyteller is here.....with a tale from ages past, of a time when India was Hindustan, an era of might and splendor and there was passion, intrigue, lust and thirst for power to attain the title of Jahan Panah of the Mughul Sultanate in 17th century India.

'Crime and Punishment: A tale from Mughul India' narrated by Aroon Raman had the audience enthralled and spellbound, seated as they were in a plush hall, their imagination and spirits transported back to the bedside of Emperor Akbar who handed over the regalia of his title to his eldest son Prince Salim aka Jahangir. History text books speak of this significant event as a natural progression. However, according to Aroon, it was anything but that!

Meticulous and deep in his research, he delved into retelling the story of a forgotten Mughul prince whose life was overshadowed by political aspirations that proved to be his undoing. Khusrau was the son of a Mughul Emperor and that was his misfortune.

The tale goes like this :

Jahangir Padshah Ghazi's seat was not free of thorns; the prickliest one being his own eldest son Prince Khusrau Mirza. Born to the heir of the Mughul throne and a Hindu princess, Khusrau revealed his Rajput lineage through sheer force of his personality. He was much loved and commanded deep loyalty from powerful nobles of the court who backed him over his father even as Akbar was contemplating a change in the hierarchy to succeed him.

However, destiny's caprices had a different fate for Khusrau. Power turned the hedonistic Jahangir into a Padshah who brooked no challenge to the throne. Swift retribution followed Khusrau's rebellion and he was rendered a captive in the dungeons bereft of his companions, save his deeply devoted wife.

Crime and Punishment in Mughul India was severe. Khusrau having undergone severe trials was cruelly blinded as punishment for treason. He refused the lifeline thrown at him at a time when he desperately needed it.

And it was all for love...

The star crossed prince lived and died in tragedy, choosing his one true love over his own life.

Aroon Raman, a master storyteller wove a veil of trial and vicissitude interspersed with gossamer threads of romance, creating an aura of suspended time for the rapt listeners. If only history teachers come in the mould of Aroon was the unanimous refrain at the end of the programme!

## Song of the Earth

There's a feast on Earth,  
A party in the heavens,  
And lava flowing underground  
The rivers are flowing,  
The bubbles are blowing  
And the waterfalls are gushing down  
The frogs are croaking  
The snakes are hissing  
And the elephants are stomping around!  
So get movin'  
Join the band  
And start groovin'!  
There's a feast on Earth,  
A party in the heavens,  
And lava flowing underground  
And lava flowing underground  
And lava flowing underground.....

By- **Samyukta Vivek Class 2**

## Space o space!!

You are such a big maze  
You make us float in air  
Hey! That's no fair  
You are black with tiny white spots  
And your babies are grouped in huge pots  
And you have a huge and hot friend called the sun  
Who sometimes spoils all our fun.  
I'd rather like your moon  
Though he doesn't come soon.  
And at morning he's not very bright  
But at night, he's your spotlight  
There are many facts about you  
And I'm sure that there will be many to come new  
But what can I say, you're the best your way!!

By - **C B Swarna Class: 5D**



## A Tribute

to

**D Lalitha Rao**

Editor, *The Book Leaf*

By

**Dr. Pamela Sanath**

*My Brilliant Friend* was a blend of honour and dignity with the passion of a book lover. She grew up like *The Girl Who Ate Books* for each square meal. An *Ex Libris*, if she ever spotted a book lover, she would play *The Pied Piper* with a melodious tune and would seamlessly lure them to her treasure of a collection. She made no qualms about letting them browse through her eclectic collections.

Lalitha Rao, was not only a dear friend, but also a guide and a fellow lover of books. Losing her was like losing a library, a knowledge source we so much took for granted, *My God Is A Woman*. Many a times, I sat back and observed her dispassionately, not even as a friend, but as an admirer of her knowledge and taste. Lalitha, came across as an erudite person, whose love for books was not academic, but a refined taste for anything elegant and artistic. At the same time there was some childlike qualities in her, when she set a sail the paper boat while *Chasing The Monsoon*. Being with her was a lesson in how one could appreciate wide variety of books. She didn't teach, but watching her we learnt.

She was *Unstoppable*. When we discussed the month's read with additional information, we always felt like reading more, spurred by her interest in books. When she discussed her views on books it was more like *Days of Gold and Sepia*. She loved murder mysteries and then she stepped out of Sankalp Central Park with her *Bougainvillea Magic tucked inside the Diplomatic Baggage* wanting to find out who was behind *The Murder in Malabar Hill*.

Sitting by my small collection at home, with *Lights out*, I touch each book and think of the aspect of life it had revealed to me about Lalitha's part in all these. A person, whom I could admire and love so much. She went out into *In The Jungles of the Night*, now reported as *The Missing Queen* from our midst.

Lalitha was *A Long Way Home*, When I called out *Don't Run, My Love*. I wonder if she heard it across the seas or was she *In Patagonia*. I waited patiently for her return to take *Notes From A Big Country*, with the pen and writing pad she gifted me. And then, now, I am *The Woman at the Window*, looking out at the vast emptiness of the landscape in her beloved city Mysuru, which looks barren without *The General's Daughter*.

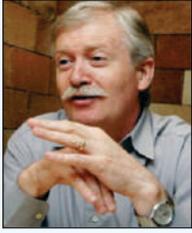


## Visit to Malgudi House

On 8.11.2017, eight members of the book club decided to visit, R.K. Narayan's house in Yadavagiri, converted into a memoir for the doyen. It is a clean, tranquil, two storey building, holding things dear to RKN. The walls carry his views on life, in attractive display. Citations and honours awarded to him within and outside the country are also on show. His own collection of books, his clothes, watch and old

family photos catch the visitors interest.

Museum did have some lacunae. chronological display has been given the go by! All his writings could have been showcased at a prominent shelf with scope for purchase. sound and light show or recorded message, high lighting RKN's like [for a fee] would have been interesting. His admirers could be allowed to meet in the huge garden or indoors to celebrate him and his writings.



## “As an atheist, I've always been interested in doubt as a motivating impulse”

*Stephen Alter*

By  
*D. Lalitha Rao*  
and  
*Dr. Pamela Sanath*

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.”

- *Robert Frost*

Stephen Alter took the one less traveled and started writing. He wrote a short story 'Fascination' which acclaimed editor Kushwant Singh published in the Illustrated Weekly in 1976 with illustrations by Mario Miranda. And since the last 42 years he has authored 18 fiction and non-fiction books. His book *In the Night of Jungle* was short-listed in the Dhaka Lit Fest -2018 for the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature and we did a reading of this book. He has taught writing at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He has spent his childhood in Landour a hill station in the Lower Western Himalaya. His father Bob Alter was an American Missionary in India.

We got to know Stephen Alter through his mother-in-law the late Urmila Law, who had made her home in Mysuru. When we contacted him from The Book Leaf, he readily agreed to do an e-interview with us.

### **What did you learn as a boy from your forefathers and mother?**

**SA:** Family has always been very important to me and my parents passed on a number of values, concepts and perspectives that I hope I have respected over the years. Perhaps the most important idea that came from my parents is the need for tolerance and an acceptance of other people's differences, whether it be their religion, ethnicity or cultural heritage.

### **Which was the first writing of yours in print? What was the piece of advice you got from Khushwant Singh?**

**SA:** My first short story, which ended up being the opening chapter of my first novel, *Neglected Lives*, was published in the *Illustrated Weekly of India*. Khushwant Singh never really gave me any specific advice but I always admired him as an editor and as a writer.

### **Your first novel was 'Neglected Lives' for which you received 500 pounds advance. You went on a road trip immediately. Can you share your experience?**

**SA:** The first advance I received was enough to buy a motorcycle. The advance for my second book was enough for me to think I could get married. Soon afterwards, Ameeta and I got on

our motorcycle and went to Ladakh. I often wish I still had that reckless sense of adventure.

### **You have memorabilia on your desk in MIT-a chain link of your BSA. Could you tell us more about it?**

**SA:** I've always kept small fetish objects that remind me of places and journeys. The BSA was a motorcycle I owned in Cairo and the link from the chain went to Boston with me after we left Egypt and it now sits in a pigeonhole in my desk in Mussoorie, along with other mementoes like pebbles from Mt. Kailash, that I've carried around with me over the years.

### **Your fellow writer Ramchandra Guha, asked you not to go on the top when you mentioned to him about your book on mountains, why did he say so?**

**SA:** I suspect he was joking but I think the point he made was that books in which people succeed aren't as interesting as books about failure.

### **'Faith is human, doubt is divine' can you tell us how you healed yourself with this premise.**

**SA:** As an atheist, I've always been interested in doubt as a motivating impulse and that means I'm driven by questions rather than answers. Whether this helped me heal after our home was

attacked in Mussoorie, I can't really say for sure, but at least it meant that I didn't need faith to reach closure.

**What do Bandarpunch, Nandadevi & Kailash mean to you?**

**SA:** Each of them is a magnificent mountain surrounded by mythology, lore and natural history. Exploring those narratives helps bring the mountains to life.

**How did you decide on the plot of the *Rataban Betrayal* as your publishers were not too happy with it. And how did you convince them?**

**SA :** I'm not sure what you mean when you say my publishers weren't happy. Editors often want you to change or add things in a book and sometimes they're right, but often they're wrong.

**All your novels have a common thread that connects 'Mussoorie', why is it?**

**SA :** Mussoorie is my home and I suppose I use it as a starting point for many of my stories because that's where I feel I belong, and it's a natural point of departure. Nevertheless, I've moved away from Mussoorie in many of my books.

**Your novels start in North to mountains and move South to the plains have you considered changing directions in the future ?**

**SA :** If you're suggesting that I might write about Mysore rather than Mussoorie, that's always a possibility. I don't know the south of India as well as I know the north, but I've always enjoyed visiting Mysuru and maybe, one day, it will appear in one of my novels.

## You Cannot Miss This Flight

By *Dr. Padmini Ravi*

On a cool September evening, members, invitees and interested public gathered at " Wind Chimes " a beautiful heritage building, to interact with a man of humble origins, with mega dreams for himself and his country.

A soldier, an agriculturist, an hotelier, founder of Air Deccan and with several ups and downs in his life, a very ordinary looking man in a bush shirt, a pair of glasses on his nose and a gentle smile on his cherubic face walked on to the dais.

The audience could empathize with this "common man," who seemed all set to take up newer challenges in life. Three other stalwarts joined Captain G.R. Gopinath, on the stage- Star of Mysore Editor-in-chief K.B. Ganapathy, Litterateur Dr. S.L. Bhyrappa and journalist Krishna Prasad.

They were requested to green the environment with a potted plant, presented to each. Many among us purchased the book, to be autographed by a celebrity, as well as to be photographed with him!

"You cannot miss this flight" is a collection of articles, penned by the author, for various publications, from 2011 to 2017. These writings have been grouped into five categories for easy reading. The dream of low cost aviation, stressed in the first part, led one to imagine an overcrowded Airbus with people standing, holding on to straps! Musings, the last part had - nostalgia, meeting with R.K. Laxman, farmer suicides, hype about Yoga, black money and many other interesting situations, well described.

Enterprise, spoke about Indian Railways as a wasteful white elephant, it touched on Magi Noodles fiasco, and other such "hasty wasty" decisions. Politics and society and governance covered areas mostly in public domain.

The author has given solutions to several problems. India's [over] population, cultural complexities, entrenched corruption, make these solutions a distant dream. When will we have "Rama Rajya" remains a ?????, in spite of insights gleaned from the book.

Ganapathy who had read the book wanted it to be prescribed as a textbook for business management colleges, Dr. Bhyrappa talked about the air connectivity between small towns of Karnataka and Krishna Prasad who moderated the talk kept peppering Capt. Gopinath with questions in his proper English diction which was music to the ears.



Releasing of the Newsletter by Capt. Gopinath seen with Krishna Prasad, Dr. S L Bhyrappa, and K B Ganapathy

## 62ನೇ ಕನ್ನಡ ರಾಜ್ಯೋತ್ಸವ

ದಿನಾಂಕ 5-11-2017ರಂದು ನಮ್ಮ 'ಕನ್ನಡ ಓದುಗರ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ'ವು 62ನೇ ಕನ್ನಡ ರಾಜ್ಯೋತ್ಸವವನ್ನು ಆದರಿಸಿತು. ಈ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಖ್ಯಾತ ಸಮಾಜ ಸೇವಕಿ "ರಾಜ್ಯೋತ್ಸವ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ" ವಿಜೇತೆ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಮೀರಾ ನಾಯಕ್ ಅವರನ್ನು ಸನ್ಮಾನಿಸುವ ಸಂಭ್ರಮ ನಮ್ಮದಾಯಿತು. ಅವರ ಧೀಮಂತ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿತ್ವ ಅವರ ಮಾತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಕ್ತವಾಯಿತು.

"ಸಮಾಜಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ದುಡಿದವರನ್ನು ವೈಭವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬನೂ ತಮ್ಮ ಸಾಧನೆಯ ಹಾದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಾಜದಿಂದ ಏನನ್ನಾದರೂ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡೇ ಇರುತ್ತಾನೆ. ಜ್ಞಾನಾರ್ಜನೆಗಾಗಲೀ, ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಾಗಲಿ, ಸಮಾಜದ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾನೆ. ಅದನ್ನು ಅವಕಾಶವಾದಾಗ ಮತ್ತೆ ಸಮಾಜಕ್ಕೆ ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸುವುದು ಅವನ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ. ಅದನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿದಾಗ ಮಾತ್ರ ಅವನು ಉತ್ತಮ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯಾಗಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯ" ಎಂದರು. "ನಮ್ಮಿಂದ ಸಮಾಜಕ್ಕೆ ಏನಾದರೂ ಕೆಲಸವಾಗಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಬಯಸುವುದು ಒಂದು ಸುಕೃತ" ಎಂದು ತಮ್ಮ ವಿನಯವನ್ನು ಮೆರೆದರು.

ಇನ್ನು ಅಂದಿನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅತಿಥಿ ಬಿ ಜಯಶ್ರೀಯವರೊಡನೆ ಕಳೆದ ಸಮಯವಂತೂ ಅತ್ಯದ್ಭುತ. ತಮ್ಮ ಎಂದಿನ ಮಿಂಚಿನ ಕಣ್ಣಿನಿಂದ, ಕಂಚಿನಕಂಠದಿಂದ, ಮುದವೀವ ವಿಶೇಷ ತೊಡುಗೆಯಿಂದ ಮನಸೆಳೆವ, ರಂಗಭೂಮಿಯ ವಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇರು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿತ್ವದೊಡನೆ ಸಂವಾದ ನಡೆಸುವುದೇ ಒಂದು ಹಬ್ಬವೆನಿಸಿತು.

ಅಪೂರ್ವ ರಂಗಭೂಮಿಯ "ಮೇರು ಪರ್ವತ" ಎಂದೇ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವ "ಗುಬ್ಬಿ ವೀರಣ್ಣ"ನವರ ಮೊಮ್ಮಗಳಾದ ಜಯಶ್ರೀಯವರು ನಿಜವಾಗಿಯೂ ಅಪೂರ್ವ ಕ್ಷಣಗಳನ್ನೇ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿದರು. ತಮ್ಮ ತಾತನಂತೆಯೇ ಬಹುಮುಖ ಪ್ರತಿಭೆಯ ಜಯಶ್ರೀಯವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಅನುಭವಗಳನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸುತ್ತಾ, ರಂಗಭೂಮಿಯ ನಟನಟಿಯರನ್ನು ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಕೀಳು ಮನೋಭಾವದಿಂದ ನೋಡುವ ಕಾಲವೊಂದಿತ್ತು. ಅಂತಹ ಸಂದಿಗ್ಧ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸಿ ನಾವು ಈ ಮಟ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದೇವೆ" ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾ ತಮ್ಮ ತಾತನವರಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನವನ್ನು ಬಳಸದೇ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಶ್ರಮವಹಿಸಿ, ಅದ್ಭುತ ದೃಶ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಸಿ, ಪ್ರೇಕ್ಷಕರಿಗೆ ರಸದೌತಣ ಉಣಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು ಎಂದು ತಮ್ಮ ಹಿರಿಯರನ್ನು ನೆನೆದರು. ಲವ-ಕುಶ ನಾಟಕ, ನಾಗಮಂಡಲ, ಕರಿಮಾಯಿ ಸಿನಿಮಾಗಳಿಂದ ಮತ್ತು ಕೆಲವು ರಂಗಗೀತೆಗಳನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮಸುಂದರ ಕಂಠದಿಂದ ಹಾಡಿ ಪ್ರೇಕ್ಷಕರನ್ನು ರಂಜಿಸಿದರು.

ಜಯಶ್ರೀಯವರ ಆತ್ಮಕಥೆ "ಕಣ್ಣಾಮುಚ್ಚೆ ಕಾಡೆಗೂಡೆ" ಬರೆದಿರುವ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಪ್ರೀತಿ ನಾಗರಾಜ್ ಅವರು ಕೃತಿಯ ಕೆಲವು ಮುಖ್ಯ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾ "ಜಯಶ್ರೀಯವರು ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯ ಶಿಶುವಾಗಿ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಓದಿನಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯದ ವಿಧ್ಯೆಯ ನೂರರಷ್ಟು ಜ್ಞಾನಾರ್ಜನೆಯನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ರಂಗಭೂಮಿಯಿಂದ ತುಂಬಿಕೊಂಡರು" ಎಂದು ಸವಿವರವಾಗಿ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾ ಅವರೊಡನೆ ಸಂವಾದ ನಡೆಸಿದರು.



ಕನ್ನಡ ರಾಜ್ಯೋತ್ಸವ 2017  
ಬಿ. ಜಯಶ್ರೀ, ಮೀರಾ ನಾಯಕ್  
ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರೀತಿ ನಾಗರಾಜ್ ರೊಂದಿಗೆ  
ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದ ಸದಸ್ಯರು

ಕನ್ನಡ ಕಸ್ತೂರಿ  
ಓದುಗರ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ  
ಆರಾಂಬ ಪಟ್ಟಾಭಿ ಮತ್ತು  
ಎಸ್.ಎಂ. ಮಂಗಳ ಅವರೊಂದಿಗೆ  
ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದ ಸದಸ್ಯರು



## Some Sweet Memories



*Reading Habit amidst nature*



*World Environment Day with Poet Devaki Panini and Kitty Mandana*



*Quiz for Women at Vani Vilasa Ladies Club*



*Differently Abled Children Book Club Inauguration*



*Quiz at Orphanage Dayashankara Gurukula*



*Candid moment B Jayashree and Meera Nayak*

## *Parent's feedback*

What is it to be a mom of boys who are reluctant readers? A voracious reader herself, she was keen to get her children into the magical space of books and reading. "Oh mama! But I'd prefer the encyclopedias and Atlases to your Wizard of Ozes and Alices in wonderland," sulked her elder kid. "Why, I'm happy watching them on TV and listening to bedtime stories..." declared the younger fellow. And so it was... until by chance, Reading Habit happened last year.

After the initial coaxing and herding into Reading Habit, the children are now enthusiastic participants, with pleasure! A book in hand to read, discuss, imagine and learn, amidst proficient story tellers and mentors in interesting venues, the experience has become very interesting, month after month. "For, books and reading is like pickle... the more you taste, the more you want," explains their favorite mentor Deepika Aunty in one of the sessions. Sure it is – from looking at books like a pain some months ago to picking new ones, one after another, the pickle effect is showing! And the mom of the once-reluctant readers, yours truly, is now optimistic. Like a line from my recent read, The fault in our stars, goes "My best friends are those authors who didn't know I existed." I know my boys have taken their baby steps in meeting their best friends in books.

Last Sunday was Reading Habit's 10th session milestone and what an incredible journey it has been so far! It's not just a "come, sit and read" thing, but much more! Kids are making a marked progress with their reading habits. Some are even penning down wonderful, promising stories and poems and read them passionately at these sessions. And what a joy it is to watch them all! On Mentors Vijaya and Deepika's agenda, there is something for every child, junior and senior. Shubha, we learn, introduced Reading Habit, as part Book Clubs 2015. Towards your silent and selfless endeavors "Thanks" would be a small word.

**- Paawana Poonacha**

## *We run Book Clubs and encourage Reading*

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Children – The Reading Habit

Differently abled – Maathru Mythri

Orphanage - Kalpavruksha

Senior Citizens – Salt and Pepper

Mixed Group – Page Turners

Ladies - Reading Queens

Working Professionals – Random Pages

## **Want to be a part of our journey?**

If you would like to be a part of this club **Call Ph: +7899757259**

**For more information subscribe to the quarterly E-newsletter 'The Book Leaf'**

Email: [mysurulitfest@gmail.com](mailto:mysurulitfest@gmail.com)

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