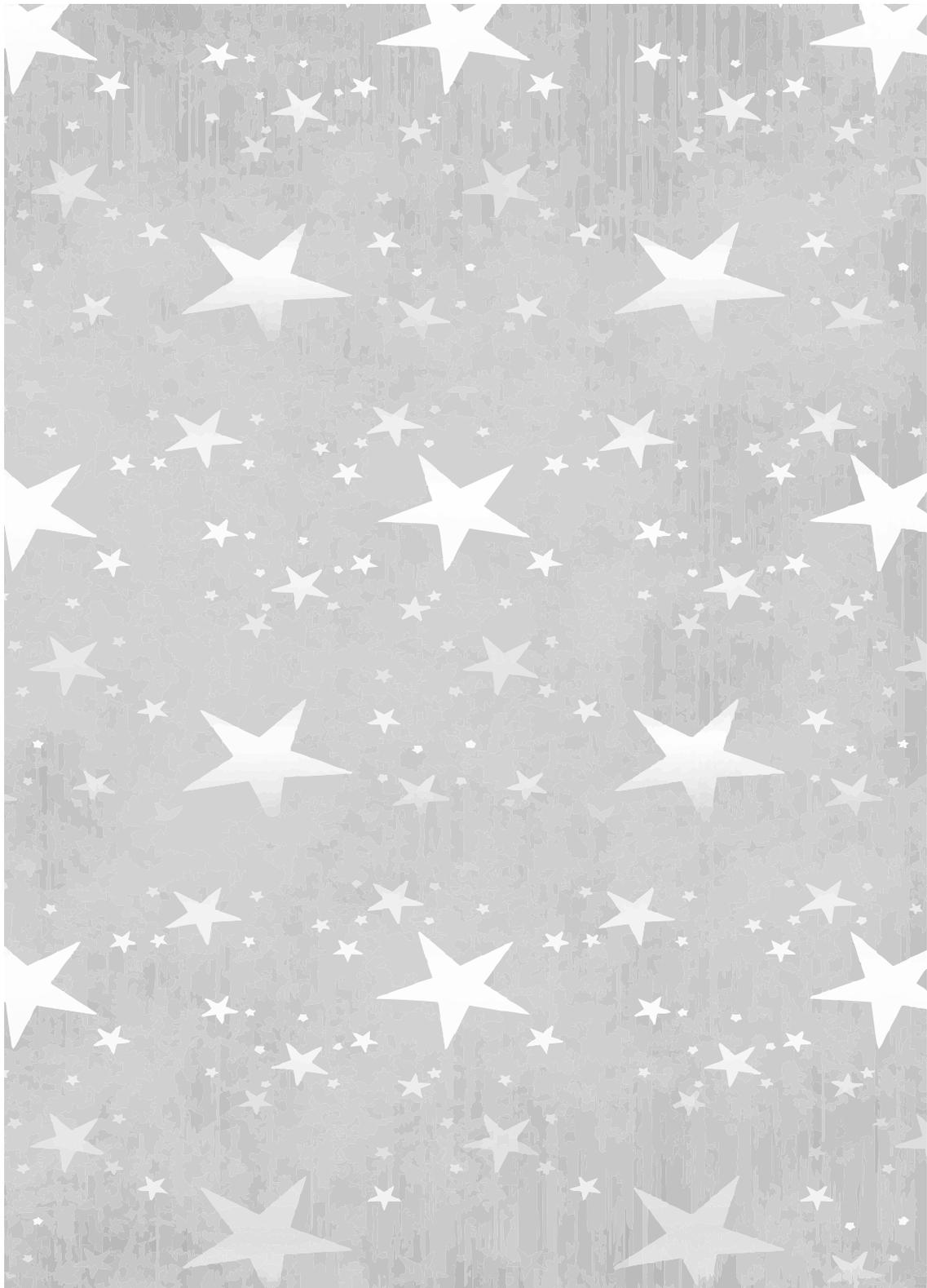




Ally's Star Favourites

Written & illustrated by
Aliya Shetty Oza



The author

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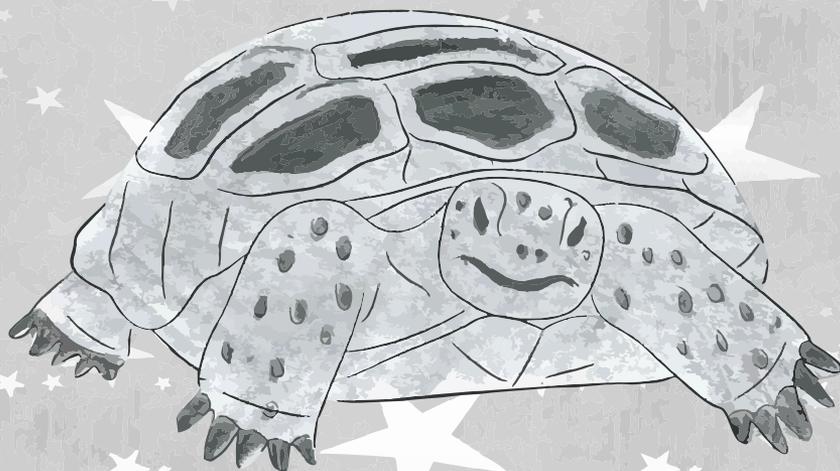
*Her fourth installment is a collection of her five current favourites called *Ally's Star Favourites*. It's a mixed bag of writings and styles.*

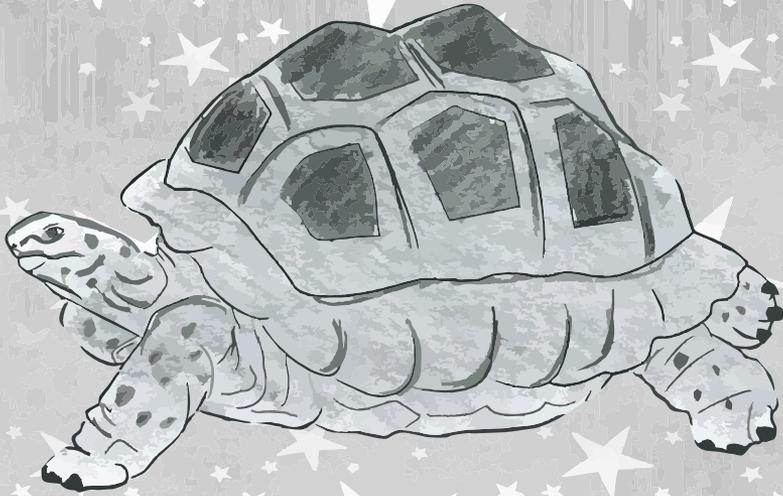
She hopes her writing is enjoyed by one and all.

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Tortoise Dairies





The newspaper headline read- 'A giant female tortoise has escaped the Paris Zoo. She is approximately 35 years old and weighs 55 kilograms. She has a history of running away, as this is her second attempt in a fortnight. The escapee is known to be gentle-natured but only bites when one tries to feed her. The zoo is offering a reward of 500 euros for information about her whereabouts.'

Dear Diary,

It's me the Escapee, AKA (also known as) Thea the Tortoise. It is true I have absconded again. Did you see today's headlines? Can you imagine how those maniacs have hurt my feelings? They priced information for me at just 500 Euros. Just 500, absolutely ludicrous! Those bozos should know that I am worth much more than that.



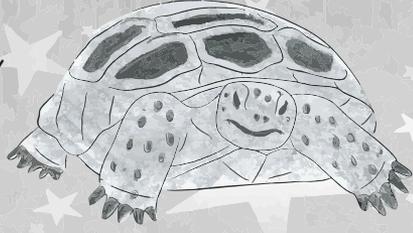
I'm going to articulate my entire experience of fleeing. It was a brilliant morning, and I was ready to do a little mischief. Now listen up, this is not my fault. I was enjoying some me time in my shallow pond, when this oddball man came to feed me but couldn't locate me. I was right under his nose, but he couldn't uncover me, and he tripped over my shell and fell flat on his face into the water. It was so comical! Lucky for me, he helped himself up and darted to the exit. He deserved it for being such a petrified person. In his hurry, he left my exit door open, which gave me time to escape before the officers came and closed it.

I wandered along the gardens. I was apprehensive that someone would find me, but fortunately no one did. Being a fleet footed animal, I slowed down and took a break. I noticed a few people enter. I saw someone coming towards me so I hid inside my shell. The next thing I know, there was something heavy on top of my shell. It was so heavy. Not knowing what it was, I tried walking, at the pace of a snail. As I walked faster, the load started shaking, until.. THUD! When I looked back



I saw a fat man lying flat on his back on the grass with his food spilt all over him. He must have thought I was a boulder to take pictures on, as he was clutching a new looking camera in his hand.

Just before I reached the exit of the zoo, I smiled broadly for that screen above me. Suddenly I realized it was a security camera. I hope they got a good picture of me. Now begins my epic adventure...



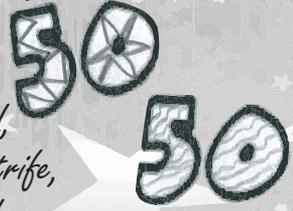
Love,

Thea The Tortoise

*The
Wonders of*

FIFTY

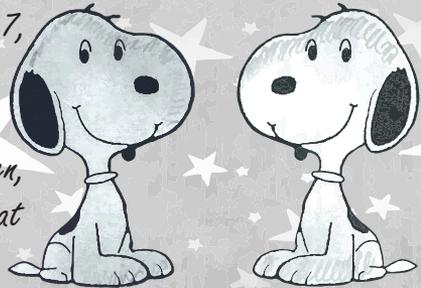
Fifty is known as a half century in cricket and life,
 And in anniversaries the 50th one is gold,
 It is like cutting 100 into 2 with a knife,
 Fifty is the best number ever that one has told,
 With fifty you never ever have a conflict or strife,
 This number in human history can never get old.



I have fifty favourite books,
 Each one equally read,
 I even have fifty different looks,
 Each one with a different hat on my head,
 So many items get lost in crannies and nooks,
 By the time you find them,
 you will mostly knock out on your bed.



50 in dog years is a little more than 7,
 I even have two dogs namely
 Pepper and Droopy,
 But the number of cats I own is eleven,
 My favourite cartoon character is that
 dog Snoopy,



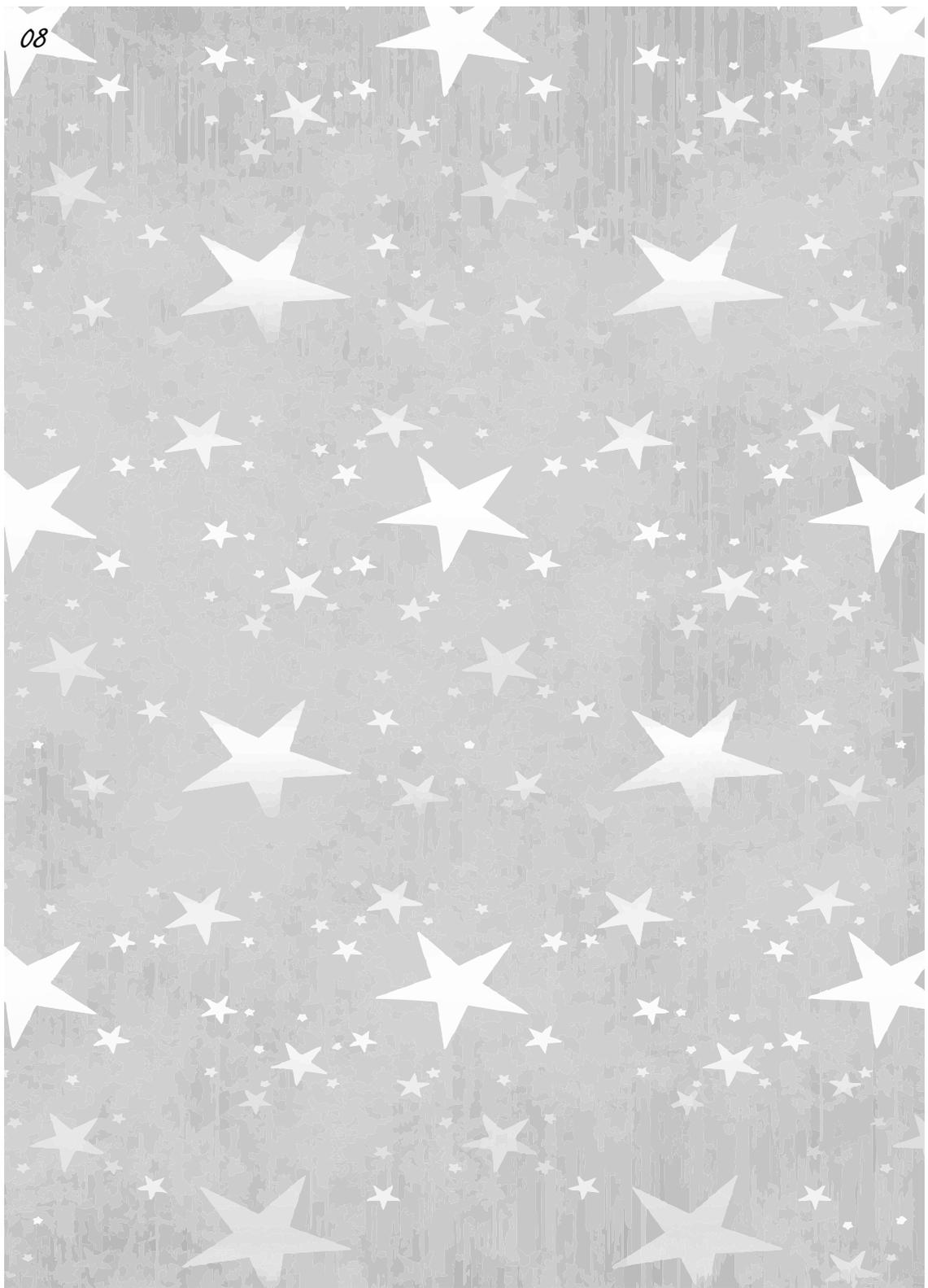
Put me with fifty dogs and I will be in a state of zen,
 When I come home to my pets I say, "Whoopie!"

*Fifty has so many combinations to get to it,
 25+25 is one followed by 40 plus ten,
 Math is so exciting that one can't even sit, **I love maths**
 I love solving math problems with my pen,
 Always keeping numbers specially 50 in my liking kit,
 As numbers are my friends when I am alone in a dark den.*

*Giving in 50-50 % is the way to solve a fight,
 When it comes to your loved ones,
 always share and care,
 Being kind is more important than
 showing your might,
 Seeing others unhappy is something I can't bear,
 Everyone should be happy and spread
 some light,
 Always going the 50-50 way is some-
 thing I swear!*

FIFTY
FIFTY

- Aliya Shetty Oza



The Life
and Work
of
Whiskey
the Cat



It was a little after the stroke of midnight when I finally entered this world and became a part of it. I was the eldest of a litter of three kittens born to my mom, Lisa. My other two siblings who were both girls, were smaller and younger, hence, weaker. We three kittens were born on the 26th of March one after the other. I was born in a storeroom surrounded by boxes and some paper. At first, I was so scared I just stuck



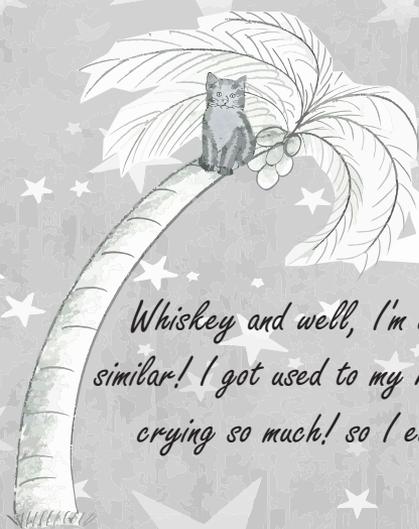
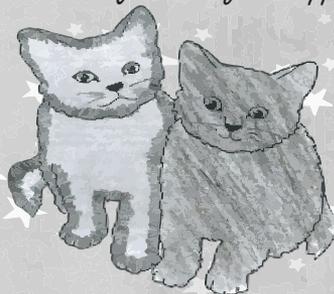
with my mother and my two sisters. Once I opened my eyes a few days later my mom still stuck around me but at least she let me explore that room for a bit. We were no bigger than an egg when we were born. Mom kept moving into different rooms until finally she brought all three of us into a bigger room. It was the boss's room! As we got used to the room we encountered many people who loved and took care of us except for one man who hated us cats.

The people working in the office took revenge on the cat hater by making Mom sit on his seat and started taking pictures of us on his phone when he was not around. One day while he was talking to the boss in her cabin, I climbed up his leg! When the Boss told him to look down, he was horrified and shrieked when he saw me on his leg. He was dying to throw me down but he knew that the Boss would fire him and the entire office would go against him so he just picked me up and kept me on the floor. It was so funny! Unfortunately, my youngest sister died as she was the weakest and mom rejected taking care of her. Everyone was sad. Despite of everyone feeding her food and milk with a bottle she just couldn't handle

it. Hope she is happy and is resting in peace.

As I grew up it got even more fun as I had more stamina and strength. I even wrestled with my other sister and played with her too! Life was fun!

A few months later my Sister and I had to shift into new houses leaving our Mom behind. We were so scared and nervous. To calm my Sister down, I even licked her in the car, just how Mom would do. After she got dropped to her new house, I was at the Boss's house sleeping. After a while, even I had to go to another house. I was so nervous. Luckily, everyone was there to help and support like a real family. The Lady of the new house wasn't even sure if she wanted me. One of the people who was apparently named Josh, had called me an Indie Cat. The kids in the new house immediately started playing with me. I was getting used to all of it!



Everyone in the house was calling the Head of the house and I similar because we both took naps, we both loved attention and people, we both were boys and he liked to drink Whiskey and well, I'm called Whiskey! We were actually so similar! I got used to my new life. Once after a month or I was crying so much! so I even climbed their coconut tree and the teenager had to pull me down!

After about 3-4 months, my new family was going out of town for four days. I had to stay in the Office Boss' house. It was so epic! All the children were playing with me and I got so much time to sleep too! I loved those four days! Although the first day was a bit tough, the rest of the days were amusing! One day in the Boss's house, the kid and her friend had a dance class. At the end of the class, the kid's friend locked herself in a room because she was scared of me. Seriously! She was thrice my size! She came out the minute I left that room. Another day, the kid's grandparents had come to visit. Her Grandmother called me a monkey instead of a kitten! She was so shocked! The best part was sleeping with the kid on her comfy bed while she read! That even rhymes! That was so relaxing! I really missed that family once I went back home.



Currently, life is the same, sleep, eat, play, eat, play, sleep, eat, play and further on. I couldn't blame others for calling me lazy. Many a times a lot of people come by to see me and play with me! I'm always booked, especially in the evenings!

Monkey Mission



It all started on a bright and sunny morning, when people were watching the news and there was a sudden interruption. 'We break today's news with an important report and finding. There have been multiple mysterious disappearances. As per the official count, 6 people have disappeared in the last 48 hours. Families are worried and keep calling the police. Luckily, today we have our number one detective, Agent B T.' 'Let's hope he is successful in solving the mystery' interrupted another news reporter. People got really worried, and started telling their families to not go to or even near the woods. Meanwhile, Agent B T got ready with all his equipments. Lastly, he kept a bottle of magic potion for an emergency. He was set to go. 'I must not fail the mission, the police, my family and all those people out there who look up to me' He said softly.



He drove towards the woods. As he went deeper into the woods, he was more cautious about stepping onto something or even touching something. After walking for quite sometime, he saw a familiar face connecting it to a photo he'd seen of a missing person shown by the police. He thought he was hallucinating. As he continued his search, he saw another person who looked like a person in another picture shown by the police but this man was acting weird. He had the characteristics of a



complete monkey! He was swinging from tree to tree, eating bananas and then throwing the peels on the ground and he was even scratching his armpits! 'What a disgrace' Thought the detective

Agent B T got a little curious and started to follow him. He lost track of the monkey man and couldn't find him. A strong aroma started floating in the air. Agent B T was attracted to



the smell and started going towards it like a robot. He was about to shake the feeling off when he was surrounded by the scent and then all of a sudden he started feeling unusual and dizzy. After a few seconds something very strange happened. "I don't

know where I am.. What am I doing here? Who am I?," said the detective very confused. Slowly Agent B T too started behaving like a monkey. As he was about to go for the trees, he noticed something heavy in his coat pocket. It was the bottle of potion. The bottle said- DRINK ME.

Without thinking, he instantly drank the potion. He started feeling giddy. Finally, he was back to his original self. He wanted to know where the aroma came from, so he followed it but made sure to hold his nose tight so he wouldn't smell it. He found out that the smell was from the Lynesia flower bushes. He figured out that because of the effects of Lynesia the other people got affected and turned into monkey people. He went out of



the forest to get some help so that victims could be captured and treated for their illness. Agent BT solved another case successfully and the headline in the newspapers next morning was- "Agent BT saves the day, yet again!"

If I Were A Superhero...



Superheroes have enchanted us throughout the ages and will always be the talk of the time amongst youth. They encourage our imagination and build it up. We have always wanted to be like them. They're always saving the day and thinking positively too. They set a very good example for us kids. To name a few who have charmed us are Batman, Superman, Spiderman and many more. They help reinforce the belief that good wins over evil, no matter what. The main goal is to never give up. Even if we're not good enough on the outside, each of us are special and unique on the inside.



There are various types of superheroes from mythical Gods for example, Lord Krishna, Lord Ram and Jesus Christ, to real life heroes like Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King Junior and Gandhi.

I have chosen Wonder Woman to be my superhero role model as she is beautiful from the inside and the outside, wise and honest, and knows what to do. She's a good idol because she is bold, has good manners and never gives up.



I would want to have all of Wonder Woman's powers adding one exceptional one, which is the power to heal to help people who were suffering. All super heroes have physical and mental valor to combat the malicious. With



my healing powers, I could end all human suffering and diseases like cancer, flu, cold, cough and malaria etc. That way the world wouldn't have to worry about getting sick ever again. Earth would be a better place for all living things.

By : Aliya

