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EnActe has nurtured her enthusiasm for storytelling, acting and directing since joining their theater arts programs at Khan Lab School in 2019.

She is also the editor, reporter, and cruciverbalist for KoronaTimes.com, her own newspaper. As an entrepreneur, she won a business plan award for Kids' Own Writing at Zoya.biz. Inspired by the Magic Treehouse time-travel series, she wrote Following in the Footsteps of Freedom, about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the March on Washington in 1963, at Zoya.biz/MLK.

[She's learning to play the recorder and experimenting with ukulele.]

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THE JUNGLE BOOK: RUDYARD REVISED

**Directed by: Vinita Sud Belani
Noah Lucé**

**Music Composition:
George Brooks**

**Choreography:
Aparna Sindhoor & Anil Natyaveda**

**Madhubani Artwork:
Leenika Beri Jacob & Avinash Karn**

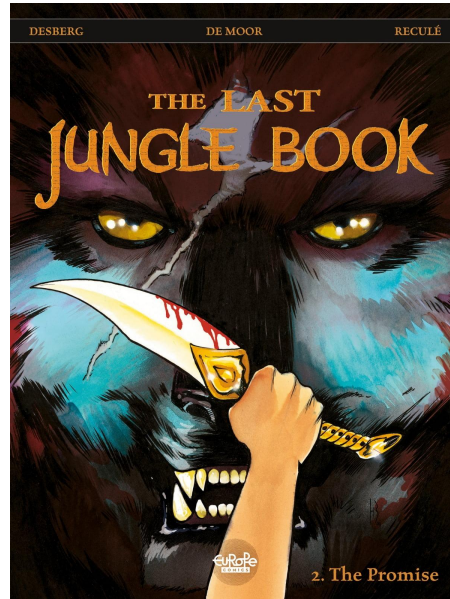
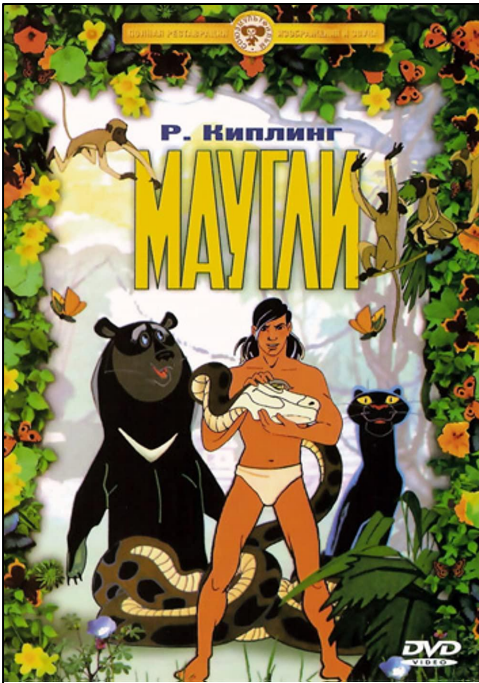
What am I? A child of the Jungle?! A child of the Village?! I don't belong anywhere! And you're right! I'm not a wolf! I'm not a man. I'm not one of you. Any of you. I am alone, and I know the pain that that causes me.



Loneliness and pain – those are two of the most penetrating human sentiments to remix on the palette of acting, whether by tears of grief, tears of relief, or tears of joy. Actors paint with those shades of feeling, whether portraying tragic tales with dire consequences; or transcendent tales that are loved for the ages.



Over 125 years, the Jungle Book has been retold by many cultures and in many types of media. A Japanese Manga dubbed in Hindi on Doordarshan defined the jungle books for our Indian uncles and aunties in the 80s. The same year Walt Disney's tale came out., in 1967, the Soviets launched their own collectivist take.



Later, a French graphic novel spun the horrors at the end of Mowgli's days in a dead jungle ravaged by colonial predation. Or whatever this is, from 2012, which at least imagines that Mowgli might finally tire after a century of stereotypically boisterous, mischievous boys and finally be portrayed by a boisterous, mischievous *girl*!?

THEATER

'Jungle Book' gets a 21st-century reboot in Palo Alto

EnActe Arts recasts outdated story from new point of view

By Andrew Gilbert
Correspondent

By just about any measure, Rudyard Kipling is way out of sync with contemporary culture.

Born in Bombay (now Mumbai) during the first decade of the British Raj, the English novelist and poet has come to embody the colonial enterprise, though his love of India wends through many of his best-known tales. Can his work still speak to a post-colonial world?

An ambitious new play by Sunnyvale-based EnActe Arts, "The Jungle Book: Rudyard Revised," gives Kipling the opportunity to reconsider the arc of his beloved 1894 novel, which spawned Disney's popular 1967 animated film. Created in collaboration with



Cast members from EnActe Arts rehearse the company's "Jungle Book: Rudyard Revised," playing today-Sunday.

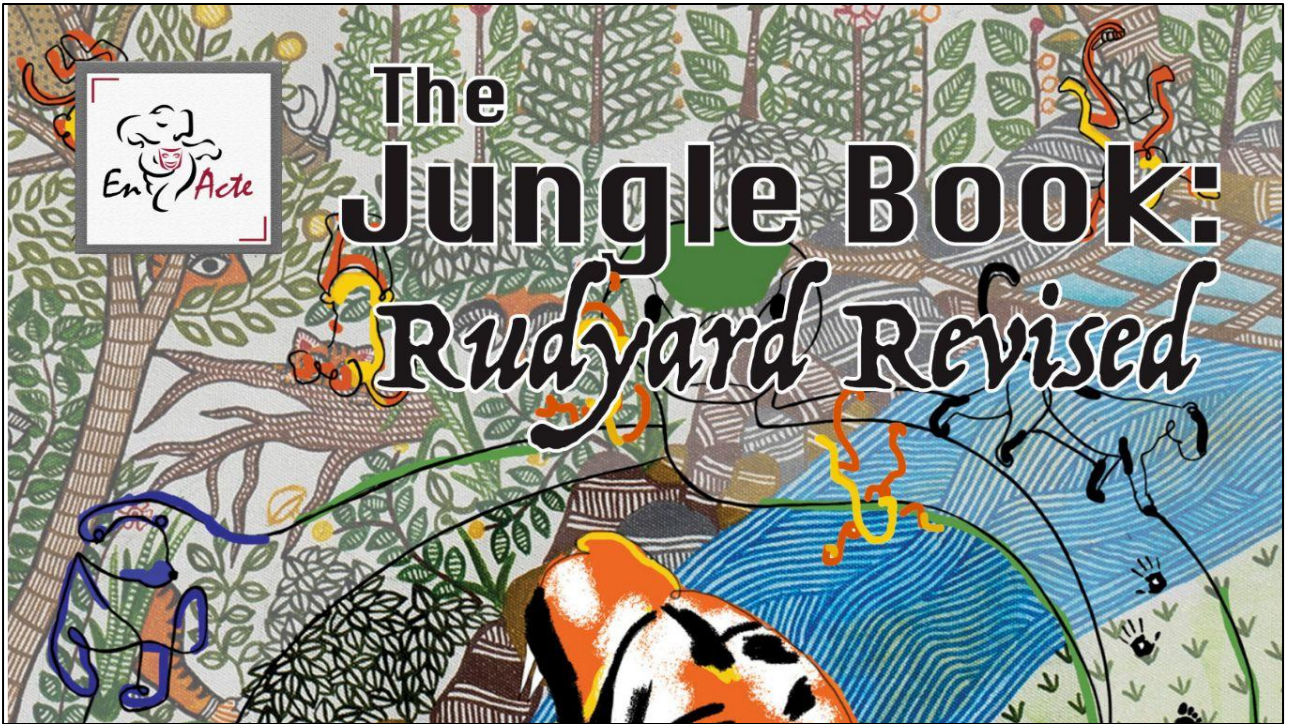
COURTESY PHOTO

Yet until EnActe arts convened a writer's workshop that reincarnated Rudyard Kipling to answer for his many... "problematic" choices...

Until EnActe's commitment to its mission of *"reimagining the canon of South Asian stories in a universal context,"*

Until EnActe revisited the Jungle Book at a time when America holds more tigers in captivity than India even has in the wild...

Well, then, only would Vinita's writer's room shatter stereotypes to tell the first-ever tale of a heroic Mowgli who helps forge a lasting peace between Men of the Village and the Animals of the Jungle, and understand the story of the pained, lonely tiger Sher Bagh



Sher Bagh's father *had* tried to negotiate a peace with the Village, and men walked all over him... literally, as a rug!

To create a better outcome for our Non-Human Indians, some Non-Resident Indians retold the tale of Non-Indian Englishman that's performed by Indians, Indian-Americans, and Non-Indian Americans

[Although, not everything changes. The main character is still called Mowgli, even after Rudyard finally admits on stage that it doesn't mean 'Frog' in *any* Indian language! And don't ask about the chittering you hear in the trees above – the Bandar-log remain an outcaste of naughty monkeys!]

I will be the bridge between Jungle and Village. I can speak to the village for the Jungle, and to the Jungle for the village. You see, I belong to two homes. I AM TWO MOWGLIS.

Mowgli is a character who gets his strength from defying stereotypes about *both* aspects of himself. He reconciles his dialectic, and the pain it has caused him, until “justice rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream.”



I also want to break stereotypes and learn what I can from the worlds I belong to, as an Indian-American, as an immigrant between generations, as a student and a teacher, as a reader and writer, as a star on a team of stars, or as an entrepreneur and an activist.

I'm sure that many of you in the audience have experienced some of the widespread Indian stereotypes. You might think I'm good at STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. And, well, I am. Can't apologize for being awesome! :)

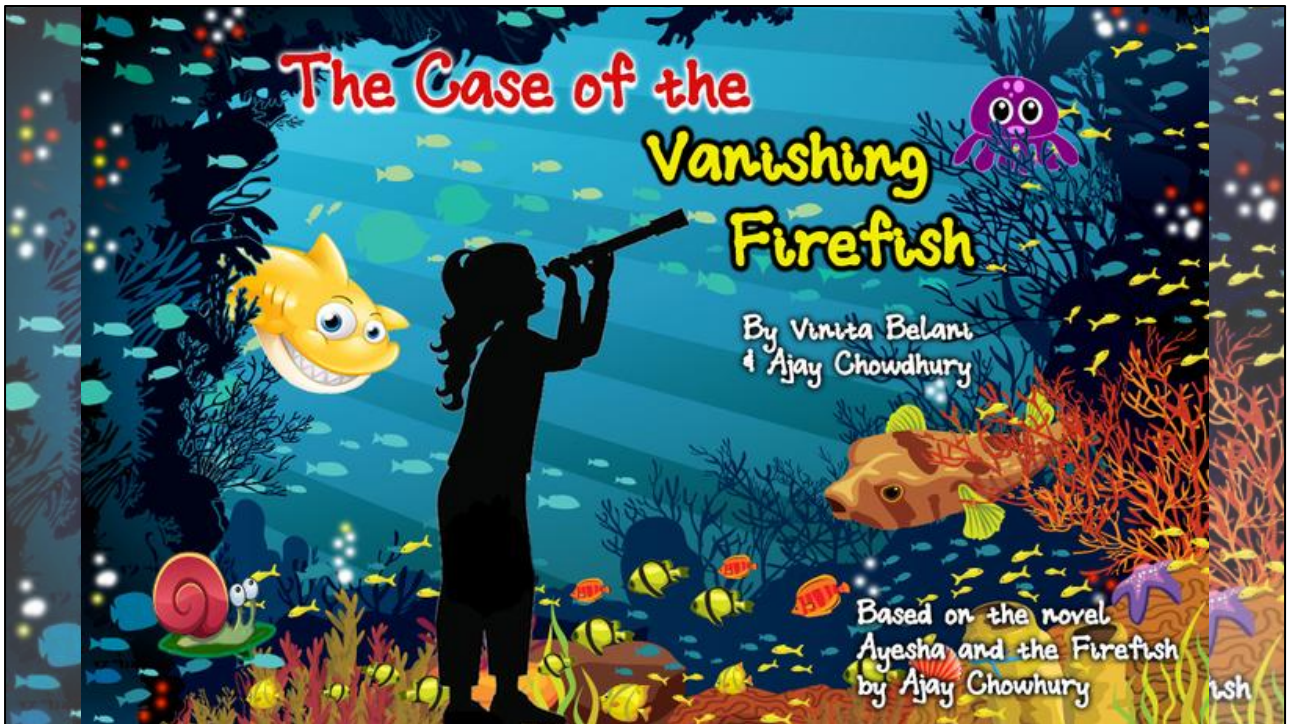
But beyond all those school subjects, I love art: drawing, painting, making new worlds, and writing stories that need to be told. I added Art to STEM at the nerdiest place I could imagine, KLS. That stands for

Khan Lab School, which you may not have heard of. But you've definitely heard of Salman Khan and his YouTube Khan Academy. That inspired him to found an experimental in person K-12 school a few years ago.

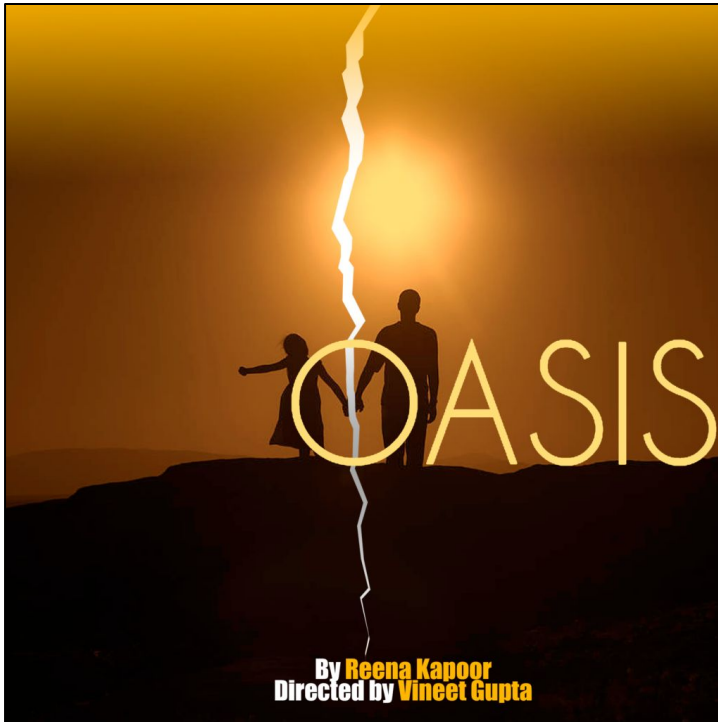
In theater, I've applied the same stereotype-breaking insights that power KLS: Every teacher is a student – and every student is a teacher. Though, unfortunately, none of the kids are staff, to access the staff lounge filled with cookies! Harumpf!

KLS itself breaks some stereotypes you'd expect from a school with spelling bee stars and champion robotics and Rubik's Cube solvers. There's no homework, clubs are led by students, and a lot of free time to grow at your own pace. Students even have to present their own portfolios at parent-teacher conferences!

Like test-centered schools in India (and California) KLS tests you, helps you learn what you didn't know, then tests again, but only to free students for self paced learning, whether that means racing ahead in some areas, or balancing enough subjects to skip a whole "grade," like I did (or getting double promoted as some of you might recognize).



That's where I first got involved with EnActe, as an after-school class that led the lead role of Ayesha in *The Case of the Vanishing Firefish*, an original adaptation of a new novel about the climate crisis, bioluminescence, and a little time-travel partying with Stephen Hawking and surfing with Albert Einstein!



As she grows up, a young girl examines her relationship with an abusive father who abandoned the family by writing him letters

Written by: **Reena Kapoor**

Directed by: **Vineet Gupta**

Starring: Zoya Khare, Inika Mukherjee, Emielyn Das, and Amytza Maskati

Later, I got a ~~small~~ part in *Oasis*, a short film about a very big topic, video blogging a child's perspective of domestic violence and abuse.

When The Invaders Came

In Which Futures Are Revealed And Choices Are Made

Bucks County Playhouse South Asian Playwrights Festival

Labels: [ethnicity-based](#), [full-length plays](#), [musicals](#)

[Website](#)

Deadline: March 31, 2022

[SUBMISSION FORM](#)

From now until March 31, 2022, the Playhouse is accepting play submissions by South Asian writers - open to writers worldwide.

- The plays must not have previously been produced in a major professional theater in the USA.
- The play must be in English.
- Seeking full-length plays and musicals.
- There is a limit of one play per playwright but if the playwright wants to submit a second play, they can first submit a detailed synopsis and 10 pages of the script. Producers may ask for the full script at that point.

A Play Written By:

Zoya Khare, Viyona Kotecha, and Seerat Dang

APADNAHC: A Play About Dogs Named After Hamilton Characters

People to audition:

1. Amogh - IL3.2
2. Kush - IL4.1



11. William - Dog - Mannat

Notes about the play

- Double roles include Space Station Person and Owner, plus the TV Reporter and William.

Working without grades and lock-step classrooms gave me space propose our own theater club – although the title is all I’m going to share, out of respect for the other students: *Dogs In Space, named after characters from Hamilton*. It’s a very good thing the Internet forgets stuff, right? Although I hope it has not eaten the email from the judges about our other project, *When the Invaders Came!* That’s a script the three of us wrote for a South Asian playwriting contest about that time Queen Victoria was defeated by throwing colors at Holi... bet you didn’t learn that in your stereotypical “textbooks”!

San Jose Mercury News

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THE **MLK Day:** Three decades of tributes on the nation's rails come to end in the Bay Area LAST TRAIN



KARL MUNDON/STAFF PHOTOS
Rohit Khare carries his 3-year-old daughter, Zoya, off the Freedom Train after its Monday morning arrival in San Francisco, marking the last of the nation's Martin Luther King Jr. Day rail tributes.

'STORM OF PENT-UP ISSUES'

2016's ballot gaining weight

Low voter turnout in 2014, new rules make it a lot easier for initiatives to make the cut

By Jessica Calefati and Josh Richman

Staff writers

SACRAMENTO — California voters in November 2016 may be forced to read a ballot pamphlet as long and dense as a political science textbook — and oddly enough, they'll have the millions who sat out last year's sleepy elections to thank for the extra work.

The number of signatures required to get a measure on

POSSIBLE 2016 PROPOSITIONS

Recreational pot:

The Drug Policy Alliance is hoping young voters who turn out for next year's presidential election will help lift their marijuana legalization measure to success.

I like to write, as long as it's fiction. When I was young – well, young-er, I got dragged on train rides by my old-fashioned father to San Francisco for the march for justice on Martin Luther King, Jr Day. He's proud of getting a photo with the train, but I'm prouder of the portrait of Dr. King [by Kadir Nelson] I'm holding!

Following in the Footsteps to Freedom



A Magic Tree House story about the Freedom March

by Zoya Susheela Khare

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Dedicated to:

Mom – for helping me along the journey of writing

Dad – for inspiring me to write this story

Justice – for All

© March 2018 - April 2019

That mini-march inspired me to ask why there wasn't an entry in the long-running Magic Tree House™ series on civil rights. So like stereotypical Desi parents, they said if I couldn't find a book to read, I ought to write it. So I did! That's where I learned so much about Gandhi's influence on King, and the behind-the-scenes heroes of the women who made the march safe and scale so large, and Bayard Rustin (whom I learned more about just yesterday at Indiaspora, from a producer of a documentary about his role in the 1963 March on Washington, *Brother Outside* – thanks Mirnal!) See, even history can become more fun as fiction!

THE KORONA TIMES

December 2020 — Christmas Issue (#6) — For Kids, by Kids! — Editor's Note: This issue is completely Christmas themed... Please don't be offended if you don't celebrate Christmas, or celebrate it differently
Editor: Zoysa Khare — Reporters: Seerat D., Charlie B.

Entertainment

Spoiler Alert

Written By Seerat D.

In *The Grinch*, Mr. Grinch wants to steal Christmas from Who-ville. He dresses up as Santa Claus and his dog, Max, is his reindeer. On the night of Christmas, they steal all the presents and decorations. In his last house, a girl named Cindy-Lou Who created a trap for Santa with her friends.

Once she trapped "Santa", she asked him to help make Cindy's mom happy. She wants her mom to be more happy because she works very hard, day and night. Cindy tells Mr. Grinch (disguised as Santa), to close his eyes, when people sing Christmas songs, and all sadness will go away.

When Mr. Grinch reaches his cave, he hears singing. He closes his eyes, and all his sadness goes away. Later that day, Cindy invites Mr. Grinch over for dinner at her house. Mr. Grinch apologizes twice for stealing presents and realizes that it wasn't Christmas that he hated, but being alone.



TV Time

Ready for fun, adventure, humor, and surprises? Well, you've come to the right place! In *DuckTales*, viewers follow Scrooge McDuck (named after Charles Dickens' Scrooge, and rightly so), Webby Vanderquack (the coolest duck, in my opinion), Louie (obsessed with money!), Dewey (the male equivalent of Webby), Huey (literally lives by the Junior Woodchucks Guidebook), and many other characters to discover.

Every episode is a fun window into a life of adventure.

I, personally, think it might be the best cartoon series ever made, but what do you think? Only watching will tell, so what are you doing standing around? Go out there and watch *DuckTales*!

Popcorn Pick

You know how I said *The Love Bug* got my *Funniest Movie of All Time* award? Well, I think I found another movie that's giving it a run for its laughs (get it?) *Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines* is about a race between



men who must use new-fangled flying machines to cross the English Channel a century ago.

Every country's pilots represented the hilarious habits of their homelands, like the *Planes* movie. Half the movie is just about the hilarious events building up to the race, but there is some pretty deep stuff in there too. I'm barely grazing the surface, so go watch the movie for yourself!

Sports Survey

Written By Charlie B.

If you read my last article, you might have noticed two things.

First, I said Joe Burrow was doing great. Sadly, he's injured and out for the season with a torn ACL.

Second, I said the Niners had a chance in the playoffs, but now they have lost so many games that they have almost no chance.

The Cowboys still have a slim chance to get in because their division keeps playing poorly. The Vikings lost to the Buccaneers when their kicker, Dan Bailey. He cost them ten points and will most likely be removed from the team. The Chiefs, the reigning champs, won again (no surprise there).

THE KORONA TIMES

Real News At Last!

An Exclusive Interview with the Coronavirus

I sat down with Coronavirus, and began bluntly. I asked, "Why do you hate soap so much?"

Coronavirus replied, "First, you can call me Corona. Also, soap is me and my clone's SWORN ENEMY! It always has explosives. It blows my children up! And they're extremely explodable!"

"Okay... But I still have more questions. First, how do you like jumping in human bodies like monkeys?"

Corona replied, "I'm not a monkey. I have an extremely complicated process. First, I shape myself into a key that fits all the locks on you."

"What do you mean, locks?" I asked.

"You all have little tiny locks all over your body that germs can't go to unless they have the key. Once I'm inside, I mass produce exact copies of myself. They unlock all of your locks inside and out. And find all your treasures."

"Okay..." I say. "One more question. What happened to Corona 1 to 18?"

Corona got up and mumbled a barely audible sentence. "Really, you know nothing about me."

Coronavirus Cases

Guess what, South Korea has no new cases! I guess their magicians are better than ours. Also, this came in: Tajikistan has zero confirmed cases and the British Virgin Islands has only one death! How do they do it?

But sadly, there must be a red zone leader on the coronavirus scoreboard. Which is the United States in the top in a sad way. So basically, in the bottom. Hey, guys over in Tajikistan! Can you lend us your super magicians?

What Can YOU Do?

It can be helpful to:

- Wash your hands often. Soap kills Corona!
- Bring sanitizer wherever you go. It also helps kill the Coronavirus.
- Try to minimize the amount of cloth and/or open skin touching other people and objects.
- Stay six feet away from others. If you bike, challenge yourself to race while staying six feet away from others!
- Wear masks whenever you are out of the house. If you're bored, decorate yours! Draw flowers of a monster mouth on your mask. Now you'll stand out from the crowd!
- Try not to cough or sneeze on objects that others might/will touch. This prevents the spreading of the coronavirus.

Imagine If...

Imagine if you could fill a spray gun with soap, make the hose turn on with a snap of your fingers, and control the wind! Now, imagine a person coming down the street. You grab your Anest Iwata Superno and spray them with soap. Then, you snap your fingers, grab the hose and wash them down. Call on the wind to dry them off! Then everybody would be safe from the Coronavirus... And, probably, still soaking wet!

May 12, 2020

The Korona Times — KoronaTimes.com/1

Page 3

In fact, I found writing so empowering, when COVID hit, I rallied my sisters and even some classmates to publish our own stuck-at-home newspaper, the KoronaTimes.com!



I want to help more kids enjoy writing, so a friend of mine and I invented a new book-making kit that guides kids with prompts to make their own stories or comics. The Mayor of Mountain View even awarded us the *Movers and Shakers* award. No, not for earthquake safety... for beating ten other kid-startups by creating, shipping, and selling our prototypes faster than the others. (OK, for those of you counting stereotypes, ours was a *little* easier to launch than the literal Moon launches the space-based power team pitched)



See- My childhood was spent in a house divided - Caltech or MIT?
Seriously. My family is extremely nerdy, and it was considered pretty much inevitable that I would follow them into tech. In fact, Khan Lab School was originally a tech school, so you can imagine my parent's surprise when I told them about EnActe. My family is into tech, I'm dabbling in the arts. *I am two Mowglis*, and now *I am two Zoyas!*

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reimagined, and rewritten for our times.*

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