

KINDLING

FOUND FAMILIES AS THE NEW NORM

KINSHIPS



The Mira Press

Ohana for
the young,
wild & free
spirited.

Join us on our
Odyssey to
discover
found families
on campus!

Exclusive Feature

An interview with Aishwarya
Hariharan on Pg 14

Illustrated by Keara Fernandez; TYBA (Psy)

Recognizing the growing number of found families, The Mira Press is kickstarting the year with chronicling them. This issue will illumine the nature and significance of such kinships.

The Editors' Note

If the COVID-19 Pandemic has taught us anything, it is how to **kindle kinships**. We remained close at heart though far apart with our friends and far-flung families. With way too much time on our hands, we found a way to reconnect, and cultivate joy and intimacy by spending more time together, slowing down, and appreciating each other.

During the most harrowing of times, when hurled in the same boat, we inevitably became each other's life savers. Although some relationships were sledgehammered, a good chunk of them wasn't affected by *doorriyan*.

It may not seem like much, but time and again, love has conquered all and believe it or not, it is what got us through the pandemic, unscathed, self-aware and more mindful than ever before. We pruned the meaningless, Marie Kondoning our lives to make space for only our core bonds. We made deliberate, conscious efforts to spill the tea with long-distance friends, connect with our pets and treasure our solitude.

This issue builds on the premise of found families- a cherished circle that is receptive to our needs, provides unconditional support and creates a safe space to express ourselves sans the biological confines of our kith and kin.



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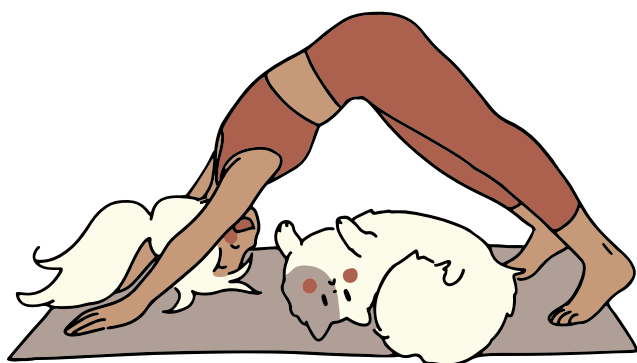
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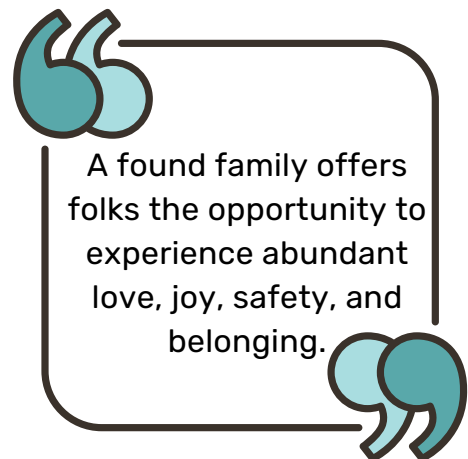
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Chronicling Chosen Families:

A Modern-Day Concept

Written by Diya D Dhanani;
SYBBA



A found family is made up of people who have intentionally chosen to embrace, nurture, love, and support each other regardless of blood or marriage," says Bahiyyah Maroon, PhD. It's a device in literature and media where a group of characters find themselves united in a family bond based on shared experiences, mutual understanding and interpersonal connection. Whereas the father and mother whose DNA a child carries are usually called the child's biological parents.

In found families, a non-biological father or mother is a parent who is not related to the child by blood. Despite not being biologically related to the child, a non-biological parent can still obtain legal parental status by formally adopting the child.

A found family offers folks the opportunity to experience abundant love, joy, safety, and belonging. For those who have been rejected by their biological families, these chosen families may be the only opportunity they have to experience these things.

All of these functions offer major mental health benefits as feeling wanted and cared for can be incredibly healing for people dealing with mental health concerns. However biological families also have their own pros such as one's family history, knowledge of a person's biological family makes one more aware of those genetic predispositions and disorders which may be inherited from them.

Across Space & Time

Written by Diya D Dhanani;
SYBBA

Nobody seems to know who coined the phrase “found family”. But Bahiyyah Maroon says the concept has existed for a long, long time. For People of Color, she says, there’s a long history of children finding new “parents” when their biological parents were enslaved or killed.

One origin of found family can be traced across space and time through Saroo Brierley, an Indian who was born in Madhya Pradesh. His mother was a Hindu of the Rajput caste and his father was a Muslim. His father worked as a building contractor. When Saroo was around three years old, his father abandoned the family after taking a second wife, throwing the family into poverty. He has a mother and an elder brother named Guddu. Guddu used to sell toothbrushes at the railway station along with his brother. Guddu told Saroo to wait there for some time but after 2-3 hours of waiting, Saroo got scared he noticed a train parked in the station and, thinking his brother was on it, boarded an empty carriage.

Her mother complained about the loss of both his kids. After a few days, she came to know about the death of Guddu having been killed by an oncoming train from Burhanpur station.



She then channelled her energy in looking for Saroo, travelling to different places on trains. Saroo who was unfamiliar with the new area was taken to an orphanage home by a man who found him crying in the railway station. That man also filed a police complaint to find his parents. Later he was adopted by an Australian couple but was reunited with his biological mother 25 years later after finding his hometown. His story generated significant international media attention, especially in Australia and India.

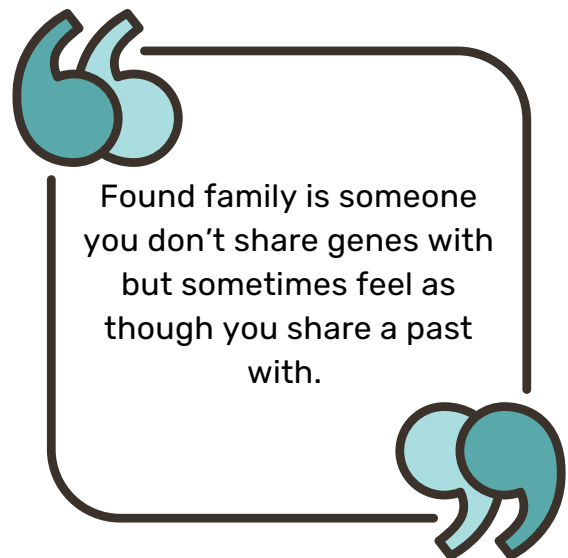
Kindred Spirits

Written by Sharayu Thete;
SYBA (A)

One special thing about found family is that there is no single definition to it, it can't be categorized or limited to anything. Found family is where you feel safe and accepted and loved, found families come together because of many reasons and the members in a found family are bonded by many reasons some by shared experience some by a common interest and some just cross paths for no reason but end up finding family in each other.

Your found family doesn't have to be just someone whom you meet daily, with the world becoming globalized and with the advent of technology people from different corners of the world join together in one big family one of the examples of this is fandom, a group of people collectively being a fan of something, may you be Potterhead or an old soul Beatles fan, finding a person in a new environment who loves the same things as you is like finding your favourite cousin in a family function.

Fandoms have crossed boundaries, there are fandoms of TV shows, movies, books, or musicians, so if you love something there is bound to be someone out there who loves the same thing as you and you both can be practically soul mates.



A found family extends shared love, your pets are your found family, and some pets are so connected with their owners that they have bested their biological memory power to remember them. Many pets and their owners have been buried together.

Families are also made on shared identities, seeking out people who 'get it', people with the same painful experience find it easier to grieve and heal together. Sometimes we are closer to our neighbours than our biological relatives, they are the ones first to reach you in a crisis or dance with you in happiness.

So, found family is someone you don't share genes with but sometimes feel as if you shared a whole past life with or maybe it can also simply be the neighbour aunty who lets you borrow her favourite earrings, found families aren't small or big or right or wrong, it's just group of people who love and accept each other.

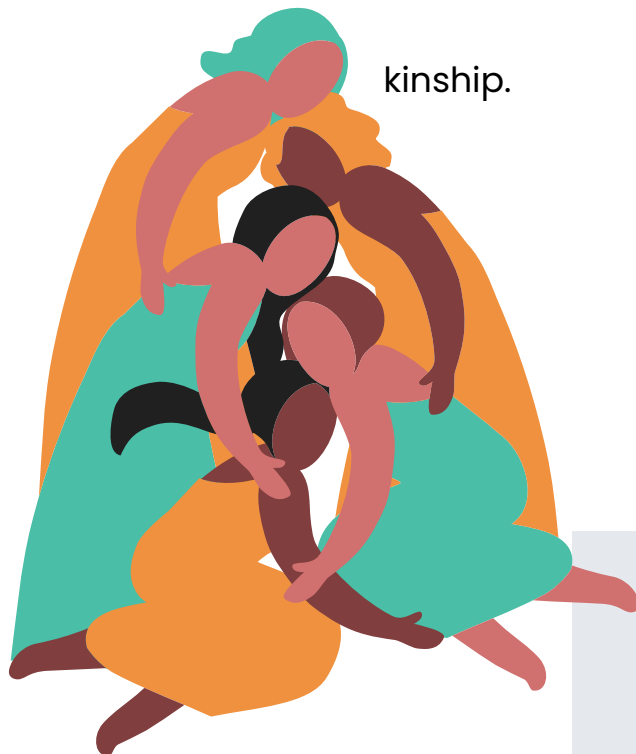


Something Known as Kinship

Written by Anushka Khemnari;
FYBA (A)



Do you wonder about
the meaning of life
sometimes,
what answers do you
find?
Are the smiling faces
With genuine heed,
Of those, you call
beloved.
I see some,
The ones I know as
kind
With warmth and
understanding to spare
With such deep care
And fondness it drips,
Something known as
kinship.



Finding Refuge:

Adding the "Choice" in Chosen Families

Written by *Laksaya G;*
TYBA (Eng)

From being a girl who was pampered by my family to a girl who wanted to do everything on her own for her survival- the transformation of me as a person has been astronomical. All this is because of staying away from my family! There are pros and cons to everything. Similarly, staying away from my family was a great experience for me in both ways. There are always mixed feelings and emotions that bubble up when I speak about living away from home. It's a horrible ordeal that one must go through to acquire brilliant exposure in return.

On the very first day, I had my friends who were there for me and made me feel the new place was my home. The next evening, I started to feel a heaviness in my heart. I realized that I am missing home. When I say home, I did not mean my bean bag or my bed. Of course, I miss them but more than that, I missed my family. According to me, HOME is a perfect and peaceful space. When you suddenly stop seeing someone you know and someone you lived with is very hard.

That said, even though I lived with my friends who soon became no less than family for a short duration, we had the best time together.



“HOME is a perfect and peaceful space. When you suddenly stop seeing someone you know and someone you lived with is very hard.”

The worst thing about living alone/away from family is having meals by yourself with Netflix playing in the background. For the first two episodes, I don't feel hollow at all. But when I switch off the tab, the black screen with my reflection stares back at me reminding me just how lonely I truly am. This is exactly how I saw myself in the future.

When there is a problem, family feels so far away. The voice on the end of the phone seems distant and strange. You say goodbye and the line goes silent – you are no longer connected and you are on your own again. You long for company– but they're too far away to have any kind of bearing. And there is no one to talk it all through with– they carry their burden there and you carry yours here, alone.

Luckily, my friends and I started being expressive about what we felt at the moment. We stopped using mobile phones while eating and had our meals together. We'd talk and share our experiences about various situations and incidents, which make us feel better. We had *kindled* a sisterly bond and so we spent a lot of time together.

I would have taken a bullet for them.

I would also have landed in **huge** trouble if they weren't with me. We understood each other and shared unconditional love, mutual care and support. And I feel that is important. I think there is no greater sickness in the world today than the lack of love. A Found Family doesn't have to replace your family of origin. But in its absence, it can take on a similar or more important role.



A New Social Super-power

Written by
Suubhasmita
Sahu;
FYBA-A

*It's the people
who make us
feel
comfortable,
who don't
judge us, with
whom we can
just be
ourselves.*

"Life is all about making choices."

A phrase that we are all familiar with and growing up we did have to make lots of choices. Choices are important to a child on what chocolate to eat, choices important to a teen on what career to choose, and different phases in our life demanded different choices. But there is also one choice that we have all made throughout our life. The choice of a second family - our "Family of Choice".

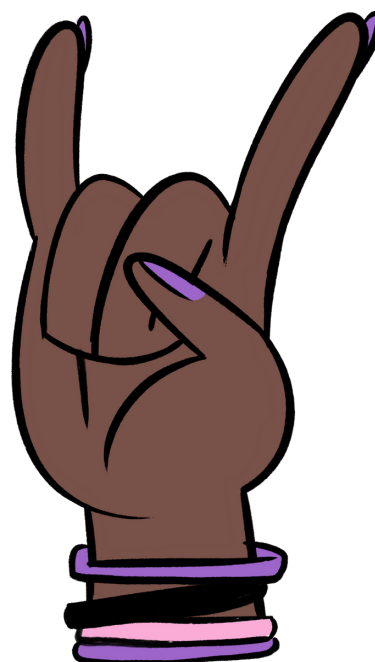
Our family of choice can include friends, colleagues, classmates, teachers, mentors or even just us. It's the people who make us feel comfortable, who don't judge us, with whom we can just be ourselves. We can have conflicting opinions with our biological family, they might not be acceptable of a change in us or we might just be too afraid to open up to them.

In such situations, we need someone who will understand us, resolve our inner conflict, and talk with us about things we are afraid of. In a world where we are constantly exposed to the outside world, it is very important to find mental peace, to have a safe place. Our found family provides that place for us.

Our found family provides that place for us.

There are also certain things that we just cannot discuss with our biological family. We need a friend to share about our heartbreaks, to laugh at embarrassing moments, to gossip, to talk about fantasies and dreams, to do every silly little thing imaginable, to do things that make us happy, things that make us forget about tomorrow and let us live in the present.

We can also be a safe place for ourselves. Finding someone else to share ideas is not very easy but to make it easy we can start by ourselves. Accepting ourselves for who we are is the first step in finding our family of choice. Because sometimes all we need is a cup of our favourite drink and a book or Netflix.



A PURR...FECTION FAMILY

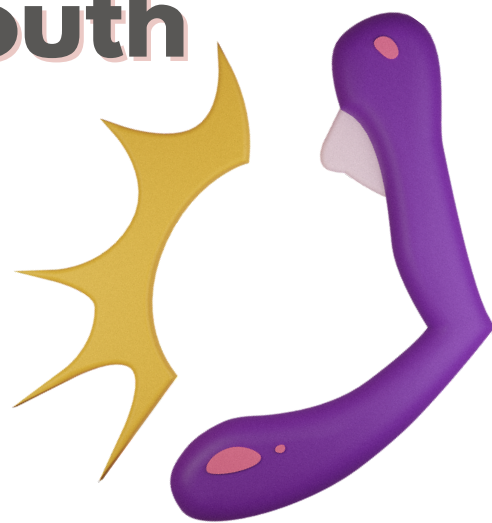
*Illustrated by Sarayu Khandekar;
TYBA (A)*

She's Nora, I'm
Nyx. We're
Sarayu's Purr...fect
family!





From the Psychologist's Mouth



FEATTURING.....

AISHWARYA HARIHARAN

In this issue, we'd like to interview Aishwarya Hariharan, a Social Psychologist and Human Resources Specialist at ZS, Pune, regarding the import of found families in the modern age and how they morph into a strong social support system for members of the LGBTQ+ community and those living away from home or with poor familial ties. Ms Hariharan specializes in Professional Development & Coaching and launches diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I) initiatives at the workplace. She uses behavioural science knowledge, appreciative inquiry, and psychological modalities to promote employee wellness, conduct appraisals, and boost employee productivity.

01 **What according to you are found families. What people can constitute one? Is it more than just your inner friend circle?**

Found families are simply a group of people who come together to love each other like a family even though they may not be biologically connected. The LGBTQIA+ community usually tends to favour this as it helps them move away from harm caused by their biological families.

I don't think this is or must be restricted to only a few communities, as humans we are social beings and family plays a very important role in our development, it does not

matter if it's a biological one, foster, adopted, or found, the fact that the environment of support and companionship, and kinship created by the families is what brings about change and development. They are more than your inner friend circle, as they signify a special bond that is natural and very similar to one's biological bond.

As nomads, evolutionarily, groups of people or clans got together to form kinship to help each other survive in the jungle and safeguard the children and lives of the family members.

02 **What is the importance of having a social support network in today's world?**

It is as important as having WiFi at your home. There is a lovely story narrated by most of the Appreciative Inquires (a branch of positive psychology that thrives on strength-based inquiry).

The story goes like this:

There were a bunch of AI practitioners who were once busy executing a project of social welfare on the African continent. So, they helped street children by taking them to shelter homes for rehabilitation. They had a tough time executing this project as every time they would bring the children into the shelter homes, they ran away and would be found on the same streets they took them away from. All of them wondered why.

In their heads, they were doing a great deal by providing shelter to homeless street dwellers. So, once they decided to have all the children sit in a group and asked them, "What makes you all go back to the streets?" The children told them, the safety and familiarity of the environment, the companionship, and the kinship they formed with the other street dwellers, supporting, and looking out for each other cannot be compensated by a well-furnished shelter home.

Everyone needs one is all I can say!

“They are more than your inner friend circle, as they signify a special bond that is natural and very similar to one's biological bond.”

03 **What is your take on found families as fostering well-being especially in those cases when a person's connections with their biological family are stretched thin?**

I think it's a great idea if the found families share great chemistry among themselves and are willing to build a committed network of love, acceptance and support, it can prove just the right thing to do.

04 **What meaning do they take for people belonging to the LGBTQ+ community?**

Imagine going through a life of rejection, exclusion and pain both emotional and physical. Found families can come to mean everything to an LGBTQ+ individual who is living in a hostile environment created by their biological family.

Yet in modern times I have seen biological families accepting and slowly learning to accept their own as they are not what their fantasies permit.

In a radio chat interview, I heard an LGBTQ+ individual say "when I opened up to my parents, I was worried, scared and prepared for rejection, however, my parents surprised me by asking "So what ? to which I replied aren't you ashamed of me? they said "Ashamed!! Why?? No!! you are not our gay child or lesbian child, you are our child and that is all that matters."

We need to hear from and about more such families who are able to come together and foster true family values.

05 **How can your found family act as a place to be free and open about your identity?**

It is like marriage, where you enter with some underlying contract of loyalty, companionship, kinship. Freedom and intimacy can prove to be great pillars of the relationships one holds in a found family.

Freedom to be oneself and intimacy to bond despite who you are.

Yet it is a double-ended sword like marriage, it may work at times and it may not.

06 **When can a found family be toxic? How can you be aware of this toxicity and make the right choice to leave if it is emotionally, physically and mentally draining for you?**

Surely if your chosen family is making you miserable emotionally, physically and otherwise, you know it's time to let go. The vulnerable individual must also distinguish between a toxic cult following and a family. We have enough and more stories around the world of how cults are formed, under the pretext of building a self-sustaining community of love and how they prove to be dangerous.

Any relationship, choice or decision that is causing more misery and a deep sense of dissatisfaction, or stuck-ness must be re-evaluated.

07 **What different forms can a found family take for people who aren't as outgoing and in need of external companionship?**

Found families can act as a social support system one has during isolated times of grief. Outgoing or not everyone needs a family, support group to go back to, or a feeling of "Home".

It basically functions as a home one builds for oneself with collaborative values.

08 You're welcome to say anything else on the subject.

Found families, simply put, are families that are formed based on shared values of mutual trust, companionship, positive regard, acceptance and love. They are not very different from a functional biological family in terms of values. The only difference is that they are not bound by blood, heredity and biology.

Let's face it: it is scary to open up to strangers and build trust, vulnerability and intimacy of a family-like bond. These must not be forced; however, an attempt can be made.

Social and emotional isolation due to rejection or loss must not be managed alone or cannot be rather. Support groups, therapy groups and the like can come in handy in building that support one needs during tough times.

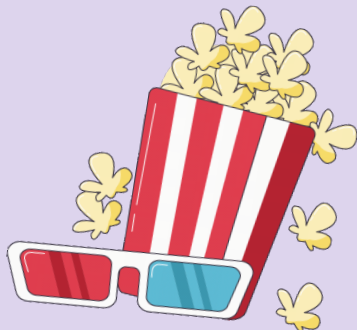


GUESS THE FOUND FAM

WHAT MOVIE DOES THIS
FOUND FAM BELONG TO?



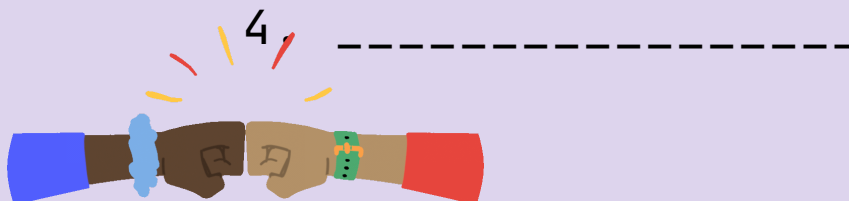
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2. _____



3. _____



5. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6. _____

WHAT TV SERIES DOES THIS
CHARACTER BELONG TO?



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



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Interior Monologue

Pandem-ic-onium

Written by Theresa Chatiyar;
FYBA (A)

Oh, Pandemic Generous! Where did you get the impulse to turn the walls of my house into iron bars? Wow, that was dramatic.

Like most of us, I had the time of my life for the first few months, until reality slammed into me like a tonne of legos under my feet. On a more serious note, it occurred to me that my life before was like sitting in a bullet train watching the scenery outside at twice the speed, and I'm sure most of us have had similar thoughts. The pandemic removed our distractions, leaving us with the silence that we didn't realize we needed until it was handed to us. Like a child who doesn't realize he's in pain until he sees his mother in grief for him. In this situation, the people who made me recognise my wounds before healing them were my found family. Meeting them was the result of a spur-of-the-moment decision that I felt was silly at the time, but after knowing them, I could write an appreciation novel for my Magic Booth, as I like to call them. I never imagined someone outside of fictional literature could express such thoughts to anyone. They were refreshing like drinking cold water after eating a whole pack of peppermint gum; comforting like the feeling when your fan is



Found families see the beauty in you and make of you a butterfly as you unconditionally fall in love with your imperfectly perfect self.

on full blast, you're wrapped in a fluffy blanket and both sides of your pillow are perfectly chilled; and warm like the spring sunshine you feel straight to your bones after months of freezing nights. We explored far and wide, touching on topics I never dreamed I'd feel comfortable talking about with anyone. It was as if they possessed the magical capacity to make topics hit your soul and generate genuine emotions from inside you. They taught me that life is not a dull survival world game, but rather an Open Canvas on which you may design your Oscar-worthy drama and make it a reality. So, LIVE in order to be the director of your own movie in which you are the main character, GO ALL OUT.

People are going to judge either way! Might as well give them something show-stopping to judge if that makes you happy! In conclusion, if I was asked to describe a found family I would like to alter a quote I had previously believed in:

"A butterfly never sees the beauty of its own wings, but we as humans can see how vibrantly lovely they are". Found families see the beauty in you and make of you a butterfly as you unconditionally fall in love with your imperfectly perfect self.



The Platonic Gauntlet

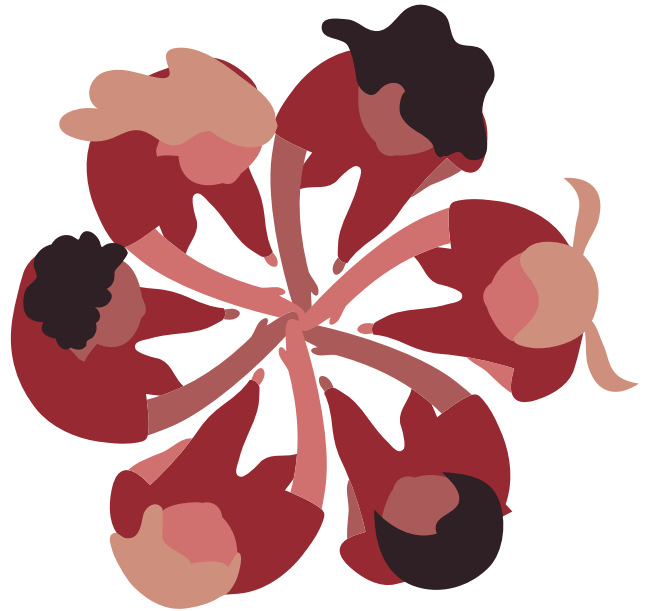
Written by *Anushka Khemnar*,
FYBA (A)

For the longest time, ever since I was little, I have seen and read stories where characters find ‘the feeling of family’. Sometimes not at their typical homes, but with people who they might not be blood-related to. It’s this inexplicable feeling of belonging.

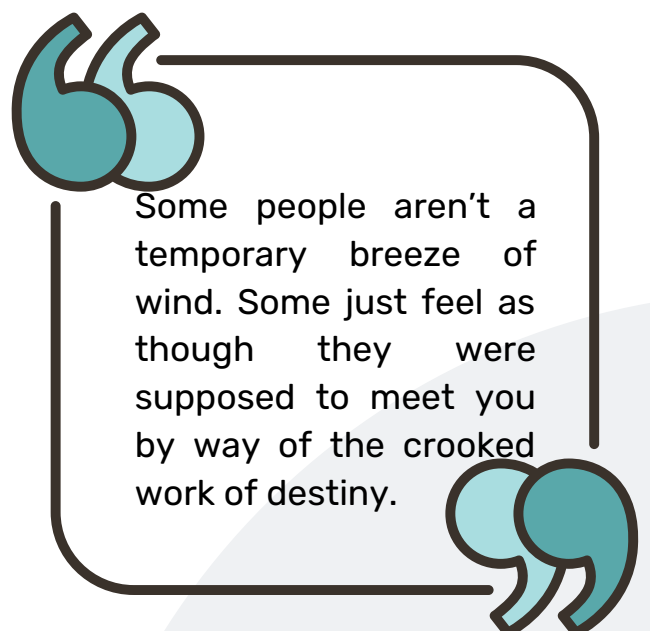
Harry (from Harry Potter), Sophie (from Howl’s Moving Castle), Stuart Little— all of these movies have taught me well about what real friends are and what true kinships look like. Before I even knew the word ‘kinship’ I’ve probably known what it means, so much so that I know what it feels to have such kin connections even before I experienced it first-hand.

I, for the most part, have a really good relationship with my parents. They are very important to me and their place in my life could never be substituted.

As we grow up, however, our roles in life begin to take shape. We better understand them and as the years pass the number of people we cross paths with happens to increase as we age. You are no longer just the child of your parent; you become someone’s student, someone’s friend, someone’s acquaintance.



Along the way of growing up, finding your way through life and discovering yourself, sometimes, as though by fate, you stumble upon people that you wish you could keep by your side for the rest of your life. Some people aren’t a temporary breeze of wind. Some just feel like they were supposed to meet you by way of the crooked work of destiny.



Some people aren’t a temporary breeze of wind. Some just feel as though they were supposed to meet you by way of the crooked work of destiny.

You meet these people and it's like something in the universe shifts and the trajectory of your life starts to feel more stable. It just happens to make more sense. Somehow, these people bring with them the purpose of life and as you join hands with them, there, under your feet, forms the most solid ground to stand on.

They turn out to be your greatest support system, the most reliable trust fall, someone you cry true sadness with, someone you have the happiest laughs with.

I found mine in a form of four, and including myself we morphed into a circle of five gemstones.

I say it's the work of destiny—one of them has known me since the day I was born and we've known each other for the better part of our whole life. Yet only as close associates, it does not become this special relationship until all five of us are warped in togetherness.

I met the other two separately after shifting to my new society and we became good friends. Another friend joined us two years later as she came to reside in the same society. Everything was nice and fair, a happy choir of sorts, and then, like the last puzzle piece of our jigsaw, my best friend joins the mix and we assemble and finally! finally the fireworks happen.

It is absolutely insane what the five of us create together. Our dynamic is so complete, so fulfilling, so well balanced, each of us complementing each other in perfect proportions. Not one, not two, not four of us can create the serene pentagon effect that the five of us together fabricate. It is all five or no magic at all. It is only complete like that. They are my found family. They make everything feel like it belongs, and I am a little starstruck by it.



In Waves

*Written by Laksaya G;
TYBA (A) Eng*

The COVID -19 pandemic has resulted in unprecedented shutdowns, shortages, and sources of stress for everyone across the world. It has reshaped our personal relationships in ways we never thought of before, forcing us to live closer together with some people and further apart from others. Life in lockdown has necessitated close, constant contact with our families and partners, but social distancing measures isolated us from our friends and wider communities. Pandemic disrupted our routine and forced us to take a break. We teens and adolescents did not spend much time with our family before the pandemic but during COVID I think most of us realized the importance of family, not only biological but also chosen.

I found my new family during the pandemic. I can divide my pandemic experience into two, the First Wave and the Second Wave. I was bewildered in the beginning. During the first wave, I was in a small city in my native state. All my neighbours became my extended family during the pandemic.



We started to create a bond because we were spending more time together. We became a close-knit huddle of sorts within a few days of the pandemic.

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We had cooking competitions where we cooked for everyone and our parents judged our dishes. We used to play for more than 6 hours a day from evening until

midnight, sometimes it went on until 2 in the morning. The entire street would venture into the great outdoors. Uncles would sit and discuss the rising covid cases and aunties would speak about how they are maintaining the house during the pandemic. Us kids, however, had it the best. We'd download and share old movies to get all the nostalgic feels and stay up until the sun shone. I was in the mental space to move to Pune for my higher studies after the first wave. My neighbours arranged a bon voyage party for me where we exchanged small gifts and spent a great time. It ended with mixed emotions.

During the second wave, I was in a new city. It was completely different for me. I was alone all day, sitting in my room despite living with my family. Things weren't the same and it started to bug me. I had no clue what I was doing. Suddenly one day, I saw my cousin's story on Instagram. She mentioned that she was having a great time on an app called "Clubhouse". For all those who do not know what the app is- it is an audio-based social app where you can interact with mutual friends and strangers people. Even though I wasn't a techie, I decided to give it a try. It was a very different world. I started to enter into random groups and listen to different people. After two days, I entered a group and this time I was ready to speak up there. This group was named "Soda Bottle". They were playing Truth or Dare when I entered. I joined them and within a few days, we became very close. It turned into a family. We even created a WhatsApp group. I started liking it! We used to spend hours and hours together through this app. We discussed various topics and it was a platform for us to showcase our talents



* Murali



* Rinolton



* Laksaya



Maya



Romeo



daffyyy



Venkatesh



Sakthi



Suba



and explore different things. It wasn't just a place to explore but also a place where you can play games and have fun together no matter what the distance is. Even though all of us are busy right now in our field, we are still in touch through our WhatsApp groups. More than anything, we created tons of memories and I long for those days again.

Most importantly, it did not end with just a friendship but as a family. I say this not out of hysterical sentiment, but based on evidence. I have seen them helping and motivating each other in more ways than one.

Few even helped each other in getting jobs. I feel it's wonderful to create a bond with someone random who I haven't even met in real life.

Poetry of the Month

I Cry.

Written by Anna Kannan;
Class Unknown

I cry.
But they force me to try.
They tell me to survive,
but the reasons don't suffice.
They judge me and compare,
then ask me the reason for my despair.
The expectations have me restless at
night,
and they want me to look alright.
Who are they you ask?
They are monsters behind a mask.
They control me, they manipulate me,
Like a Robot they treat me.
No emotions should be seen
still, they want me to be keen
about everything they deem.
Why don't I fight back you ask?
Because in their compliments, my
confidence, I bask.
It's all just a manipulative Play,
in which I am just a toy made of clay.



Mithil & Arshiya sitting in a tree, R-E-A-D-I-N-G!

Written by Sharvari Kurundwad;
TYBA (A)

For as long as he could remember, Mithil had always felt like the odd one out. In his family, he was the youngest child and the only boy among three siblings. His elder sisters were good at academics, sports, socialising - you name it and one of them was good at it. He, however, liked to sit in a silent corner of his college's library and read for hours. He had been ignored and, at times, even bullied because of his shyness and love for reading, but he hadn't cared one bit. Reading brought him peace and that's what mattered most to him. When Mithil read, he could escape from reality. He could enter any dimension of the universe through the books that he read. In one book, he could be a mysterious and smart detective, while in another book, he could be a beggar on the street struggling to feed himself. He loved the freedom that he felt when he read these wonderful pieces of art. To him, books were mini lives of fun characters and he got to live them as long as he read books.

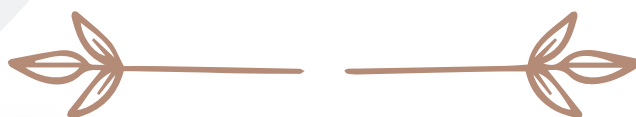
However, he wanted to meet someone who shared his passion for reading. So far, in his 18 years of existence, he hadn't found a single soul who loved to read for pleasure and not for the sake of marks.

He'd seen his classmates struggling while reading the chapters in the syllabus and had always wondered how only he seemed to like reading the coursework as well as reading his favourite books.

One day, he met a girl named Arshiya who liked reading as much as he did. They quickly bonded over their favourite murder mystery trilogy and a couple of authors both of them liked. Arshiya didn't judge him or ridicule him when he started talking about his favourite books passionately, instead, she would join him in the conversation if she had something to add to it. Both of them grew so close over time that they became the best of friends. They also found lots of book clubs both online and offline where they could discuss their favourite genres, books, authors and writing styles. Arshiya and Mithil weren't related by blood but he considered her his



family. She had shown him just how fun and exciting reading could be. She had introduced him to many great authors and he was forever grateful to her for that. She had brought him out of his comfort zone and now he was starting to socialise a bit more with other book club members. He didn't feel alone anymore and it was all thanks to his best friend.



Inside the bubble, chaos reigns.

Written by Purva Joshi;
SYBA (A)

sigh Sounds dreamy, doesn't it? Admit it or not, we all have that one fictional family planned in our heads when the assignments pile up and we daydream about our fictional sibling finishing that for us. Well, spoiler alert, no one is going to complete your assignment for you, so go ahead and finish it. Anyways, back to the topic. We all are familiar with the term 'Found Family' and have even begged God to give us a family like that one particular book or series or movie we've watched. (Please inform me if your wish is fulfilled, mine might have gotten lost somewhere). We all crave to fight battles with them, spend the entire summer with them and dance with them in a foreign country.

When I think about my fictional family, the only image that comes to mind is Ziona Chana's family, the world's largest family. But who would all be included in this family?

Well, the list is long, but here are some of them. First of all, let's have Susannah Fisher from *The Summer I Turned Pretty*, because who wouldn't want to spend the summer roaming around shopping? Next comes the Weasley siblings, each one of them. Well, except Percy Weasley maybe, we don't want anyone to ruin the fun, do we? The Weasley Twins deserve a special mention here because I will join them right away, tough to get in, but I hope I do. Another wizarding-found family I'd like to steal are the Marauders, except for Wormtail of course. Imagine having fun uncles who tell you about hidden ways and give you tricks to use on the Weasley twins – you'll always have an upper hand on them. Here's an honourable mention to the F.R.I.E.N.D.S. because who wouldn't want a whole package which includes a sarcastic friend, a fashion diva, mother hen, Ross the divorcee, Ken Adams and Regina Phalange? And let's not forget to add Phil Dunphy from *Modern Family* here. The family would be incomplete without him and his 'Philosophy'. Last but surely not least, the pets, Buckbeak and Hedwig from *Harry Potter*.

So, here's my fictional family. I can't even imagine how chaotic it would be if all of these were gathered together in one room, but I would love every single bit of it.

STAY PAW...SITIVE!

Illustrated by Jessica Mathias;
TYBA (A)



If you have a dog,
then anything is
paw...sible!

Book of the Month

STRANGE THE DREAMER: A TWISTED FAMILY

Laini Taylor's *Strange the Dreamer* features perhaps the strangest found families of all time. In the hulking citadel in the City of Weep, a city rattled by its grim past and unnerved by the ghost of its future, dwell five godspawn, Sarai, Feral, Ruby, Sparrow and Minya— the offsprings of a pantheon of gods no one wishes to remember. Not much goes on in the citadel to keep them entertained, so the godspawn have their rituals of getting by. Life can be tough, but they're tougher.

Feral, handsome and dark, appears extremely innocent and brotherly while Ruby is cocky and beguiling and Sparrow, young and naïve is articulate and whimsical. Minya on the other hand, wow. Manipulative and arrogant, she's a real threat to the safety of the people of Weep, and the protagonist, Lazlo Strange.

For these blue-tinted god spawn, it's a cursed existence. Beautifully sculpted, enigmatic and innocent- they are part of a dangerous world. One where on one hand there are victims of a brutal past, a reign of terror, and on the other—innocent children, who have had no hand in the shaping of this harsh world and yet bear the sole brunt of the situation.

Where you can't blame the townsfolk for feeling what they felt and doing what they



did, you also feel the desperation for the five in the citadel. All these years, locked away with nothing but kimril soup and mud cakes- it must have been treacherous. "A prison and a sanctuary." Torn between the longing to touch the grass beneath their feet and smell the bread baking from shop windows and keeping themselves hidden, unseen, one cannot even begin to imagine what they must have gone through.

ANIME-TING FOUND FAMILIES

SPYxFAMILY

Illustrated by Nijila Prem;
TYBA (A) Psy

The story follows a spy who has to "build a family" to execute a mission, not realizing that the girl (me) he adopts as his daughter is a telepath, and the woman he agrees to be in a marriage with is a skilled assassin.

source: [wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spy_Family)



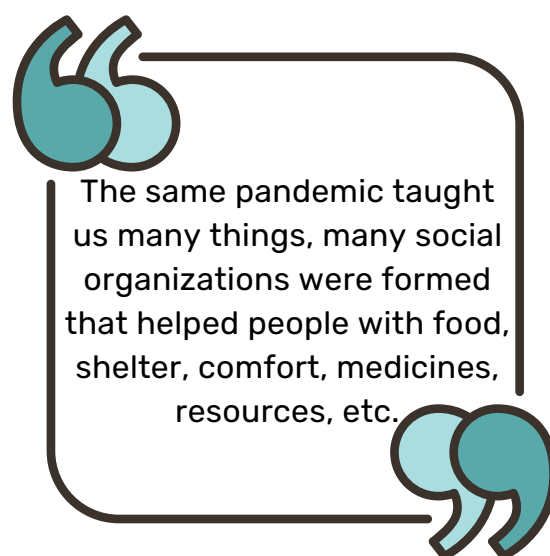
Globalising Kinships

Written by Rajnandini Dubhash;
F.Y.BSC (Comp Sci)

‘Familia’ what does this word mean? Umm, a blood bond above all, a relationship that will stay and last forever (uh ha not true!) or a true consolation given by a pal in the need of the hour, a pledge taken without any vows woven, just like seeing the dusky sky filled with colours of epiphany enlightening us about hope. Yes!!!! That’s what an actual family is.

Well, the virtual reality that took over this world during the pandemic kept the globe working at its pace but at the same time made people hollow, self-depraved about their weight gaining issues, staying alone and being homesick, depressed, and facing the loss of loved ones and property—all of it had a great impact on people’s personal lives. Not everyone was able to adapt to this lifestyle. It can be called collateral damage that perished in a wink, but all the more crucial and worth paying homage to.

Nevertheless, the same pandemic taught us many things, many social organisations were formed that helped people with food, shelter, comfort, medicines, resources, etc. Not only this but people actually started taking care of their mental health by coming together on online platforms and meditating or practising yoga.



The same pandemic taught us many things, many social organizations were formed that helped people with food, shelter, comfort, medicines, resources, etc.

Many of them took the initiative to come forward and offer their helping hands without even knowing the person, yet giving their fullest to the people as well as stray animals. Indirectly, pledging the vows that were never woven, giving the care and affection, which was very much needed, a true sense of humanity was seen in the entire world during the darkest of times. The Government, UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO, WFP, all these organizations working together, becoming a boon to save humankind and the citizens co-operating and finding a virtual and interactive family for all, globally. Here’s to all of us—being there for each other and making a difference worth enduring and nurturing.

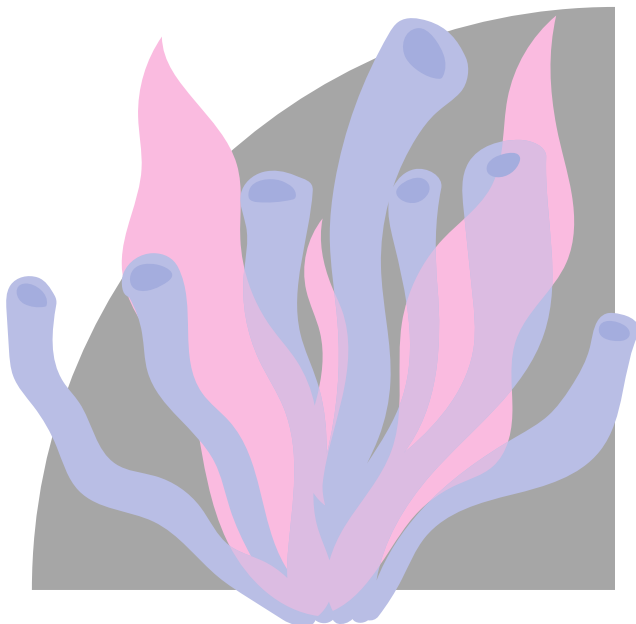
Poetry of the Month

An Ode to Mother Ocean

Written by Mahek Chavan;
SYBA (B)



Mother ocean,
take my hand, &, free me
from the worldly strings. Custom me
from
your thoughts, make me a wide wave
not
intending to land and push me
through and
through.
World desires more than little waves
settling to land and disappear.
Hold me like a string of your hair and
let
me grow into you, being a part of
something you own.
Hold me and show me your wonders.
Replace
me with the memories you cherish,
make me
your own.
Although water cannot be separated,
love
me enough to make me a wonderful
wave and
push me to the earthly means but
keep a
hint of you in me. Whatever the cause
I'll be back and then show me that
you're always there by putting a small
wave on my feet to clear the grains of
sand away.



FOUND

FAM

Bingo!

HOW MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES DO YOU INDULGE
IN WITH YOUR FOUND FAM?

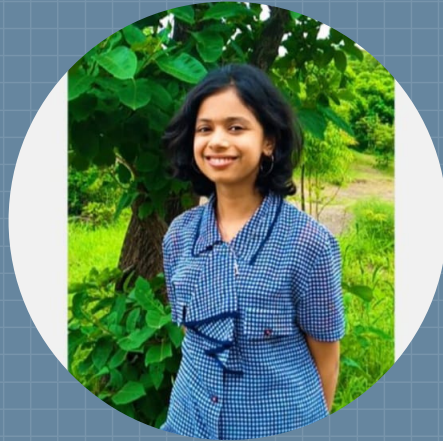
| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Trekking | Karoke Night | Cooking | Arts and Crafts |
| Picnic/ Trip | Yoga | Created Tik Tok videos | Playing Board Games |
| Sleepover | Bake-off | Movie Marathon | Going Shopping |
| Reading books | Playing video games | Writing | Photo-shoot |
| Knitting | Dress up & Makeover | Playing sports | Dancing |

CROSS THE THINGS YOU DO WITH YOUR FOUND FAM, TAKE A
SCREENSHOT OF THE SOLVED BINGO & PUT IT UP ON YOUR INSTA
STORY, TAG YOUR BFFS AND @THESKITTISHSCROLL!

WALL OF CONTRIBUTORS



DIYA DHANANI



SHARAYU THETE



SARAYU KHANDEKAR



KEARA FERNANDEZ



SUUBHASHMITA SAHU



RAJNANDINI DUBHASH



ANUSHKA
KHEMNAR



NIJILA PREM

WALL OF CONTRIBUTORS



JESSICA MATHIAS



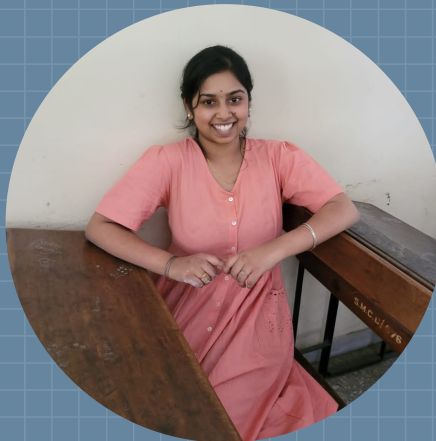
THERESA CHATYAR



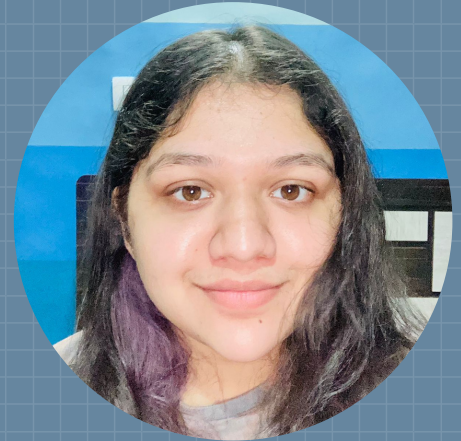
PURVA JOSHI



SHARVARI KURUNDWAD



LAKSAYA G



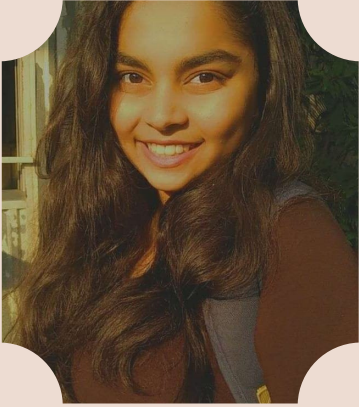
MAHEK CHAVAN



ANNA KANNAN

Curated By:

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Ananya Niphadkar



Dhwani Joshi



Jessica Mathias



Laksaya G



Zainab Kagalwala