My little box of blues

I was five years old when I found an abandoned shoebox about to be thrown away. I immediately went to my room, got some glitter and tape, and ran to the rescue. In an hour, the once-ordinary shoebox transformed into a colourful home for my invaluable possessions!

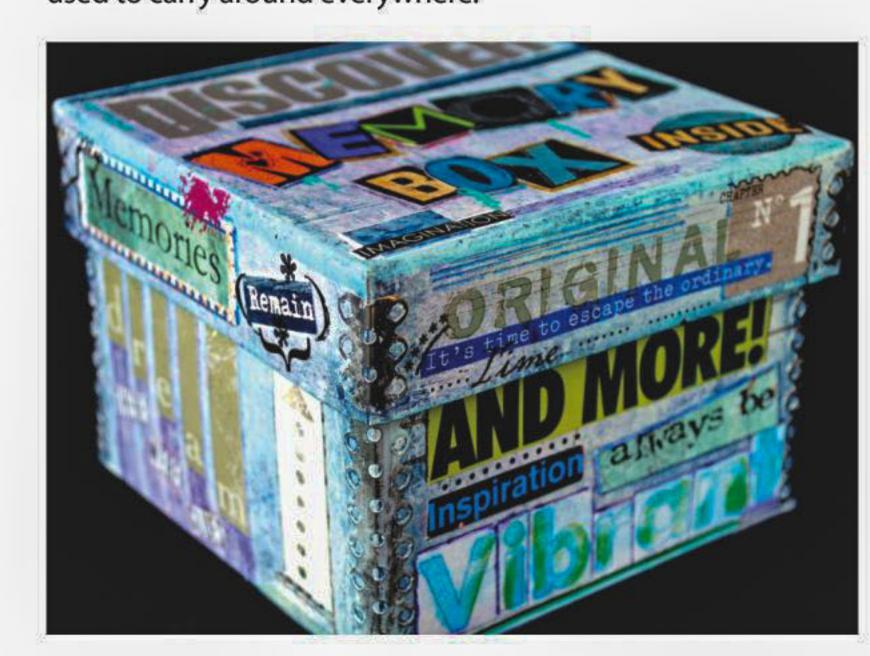
Over the years, whatever I found beautiful and valuable went straight into the box. It was a little box of my treasures, which no one knew of. The box was filled with trinkets of the good times and the bad times that I have never quite wanted to let go of – each a memento of my childhood.

Even if it is not worth a million dollars, the story behind each possession makes the box priceless, providing a tangible link to my past.

Everyone has a box like this. Some people still use the shoebox that they have been using since childhood and others switch to something a bit more permanent. It could be a wooden treasure box, a special drawer in a table or something even more ornate. No matter what it is made of, it is what is inside that make it important.

Almost all of the things in it have a story behind it. There are some things that remind of other things – like the collection of

rocks you got from the family trip to Cox's Bazaar so many years ago, the souvenirs of the awesome school trip you had with your friends, the old photographs of when you and your brother did the craziest things, or the stuffed animal that you used to carry around everywhere.



Some things in the box will always remind you of a loved one. Like your grandmother's pancake recipe, your mother's old necklace or the funny little bracelet your brother made for you with mismatched beads. And there are things that make you reminisce about the very firsts.

The first rose that your boyfriend ever gave to you, the dinner bill of the very first date or the cheesy letters that you exchanged with him. The handmade cards and the poem that your best friend composed for you, all show how loved you were and how wonderful your memories are. And your collections of stamps, coins and Pokémon cards fondly bring back how fun your childhood has been.

The little things in the box remind us of the things that moulded us into the people we are today. How each of these things have helped us grow through heartbreaks and sadness and made us see things in a new light. How they have made us laugh and given us hope. It shows us how long we have come and how much farther we have to go.

By Mormee Mahtab Photo: Collected

TECH

VR - the new frontier

Are you someone who has grown tired of the flat panel display and wish to watch everything in a theater screen? Do you sometimes wish you were part of the game you were playing?

Well good news, because that wish is no longer farfetched fantasy or science fiction-say hello to VR or Virtual Reality!

The term is pretty self-explanatory, as it means once the user puts the headset on, they are transported to an artificial reality, which the user can interact with, just like in real life.

By no means is VR new, because the term and some rudimentary versions of it had been kicking around since the '80s through various attempts at both the professional

and the entertainment arenas. However, it never took off as it is doing now, due to previous limitations in technology and lack of computing power as well as innovation.

VR came back into the public spotlight when Oculus spearheaded their ambitious Rift project in Kickstarter, along with the not-so-VR Google Glass experiment. With currently available technology, it is now possible to truly delve in VR without faltering.

Many people are under the assumption that VR is only for gaming and has no other function. Yes, the benefits that VR brings to gaming are astonishing and this is a sector that VR can truly shine in. However, VR has lots of potential outside the gaming market. If 360degree cameras are used for the shoot

of a particular event or film, then users of VR will not be simply watching a video but rather, experience it as they would if there were there.

It would also allow users to watch normal movies with a theater-like experience. With the recent announcement of a 3D brush, designers and artists will now be able to make 3D drawings which will benefit their fields immensely.

Unlike many of the other tech fads that have come and gone in the recent years, VR has the most potential and has the highest possibility of being carried over into the future. The development that some companies, for example Facebook, are going forwards with shows that many of the future's

media contents will be targeted towards VR.

VR may sound like an expensive piece of equipment but it really is not. Sure the Oculus Rift and HTC Vive are expensive, but there are many other cheaper alternatives out there that do not cost an arm and a leg, and yet, offer at least 80 percent of the experience.

Google Cardboard is a great entry level product for people who are curious. Many of these headsets are available here as well and at quite reasonable prices too. Tech stores like Gadget Gang 7 and 3D Solutions have many such VR headsets available, so check those out for things you might like.

By Intisab Shahriyar

