

Expectation vs Reality: After Exam Plans

SAMIN SABAH ISLAM

Aww, look at you scribbling down names of exotic places to visit and listing down movies you're going to watch when vacation starts, beside your inaccurate math calculations. That's real cute.

Here's how it's really going to go down.

Expectation: Bye bye O Level books, all-nighter biology preps and all sort of studies, till school commences again.
Reality: Hello AS books, new coaching centres my mother fooled me into enrolling, three more home tutors and zero hours of slumber.

Expectation: "Now that you're done with your O Levels, we can go tour Singapore or Malaysia and have a proper vacation as a reward for all your hard work," said Ammu.

Reality: "Thik moto porashona koro, bhalo chakri pao, tarpor nijer takay desh-bidesh ghuro. Ekhon jao notun math book ta khule dekho," said Ammu.

Expectation: Gather all friends and do

something epic. Like a road trip or a huge party. Or both.

Reality: Sarah has chikungunya, Tanya has to go visit her sick grandmother, Raju is grounded for failing Chemistry, Abrar seen-zones all your messages, Maisha is busy preparing for SAT and Naila's mother doesn't trust your friend circle. At the end of the day only you and your ex-boyfriend show up for said gathering.

Expectation: Wake up at 2. Video games at 4. Meet up with friends at 6. Movie night out with cousins at 8. Dinner date at 10. Start watching Game of Thrones at midnight. Still watching Game of Thrones at 3 in the morning. Good night the next morning.

Reality: "WAKE UP YOU BUFFOON" at 8. Bangla tutor (too bad, you missed

breakfast), also at 8. Economics coaching for next year at 11. Chemistry coaching for next year at 3. Better catch up on some university level mathematics at 6. Parents casually ask you about future plans at 8. Casual inquiry turned into lecture about your ignorance towards education, irresponsibility and how rap music is the root of all your problems at 10. Good night at midnight *WiFi turned off*.

Expectation: Stay home all day under the warmth of your comforter hugging your kolbalish. Not socialise with anybody.

Reality: Since you can't hide your "un-sociality" under the excuse of "exam shamne" anymore, you must attend every random family dawaat. That means at

least 15 in two months' time.

Expectation: [first day of vacation] "Oh yes, two and a half months of sheer freedom. Enough time for me to party, catch up on some sophisticated, insightful movies and compensate for the last 365 days of sleep I've missed."
Reality: [night before school reopens, while watching the 45th consecutive episode of Keeping Up with The Kardashians] "Wait, what?"

Happy vacation peeps.

Samin Sabah Islam believes there are very few problems in life, if any, that a good nap can't fix. If she isn't asleep, your queries may be answered at sabahsamin11@gmail.com

READER SUBMISSION

Making time for reading books

JUSTITA MUSRAT

When I try to retrace my steps to when it all began, I wander off to the days when I had just started out as an aspiring writer. Because I had just lost my esteem to my parents who probably think I am worth nothing (unlike their dear son), I had the strongest urge to show my talent and be able to not rely on other people's talents anymore. In short, I was determined to buy myself some praises.

But ever since I began my journey in the world of earning my own story, everything went upturn. I have come to realise that to have the world read your story you must have to read theirs' first. But having every night spent in page-turning and sneaking in books under the cover are just not feasible for almost anyone after a hectic day at work, university or school for that matter. But truth is that even the busiest of us can and do manipulate time in order to touch the gorgeous spines of hardcover, and flip through the magic of written words and the irresistible smell of ink on paper. Here goes what you should be doing to get you wheels ahead.

THE MORE THE BETTER

Stock your shelves with as many books as you can or try browsing through multiple shelves in your nearest library every time you get a chance. All books are unlikely to be appealing to you but you sure have a



choice to grab something lighter or heavier according to what tea suits your cup. Having lots of books around might also serve as a visual cue prompting the sloth in you to read.

SET TARGETS AND MONITOR YOUR ADVANCES ON THE WAY

Try making a goal of how much you will

get through each day at your pastime. Start small: 5 pages or a single chapter. Eventually increase this every day as you progress through the book. Websites like Goodreads may enable you to set which books you are reading, track progress and end you up with an entire detailed list of your reading habit.

GO THE DIGITAL WAY

Just download an electronic book reading software on your smartphone and/or tab and carry your beloved with you around the clock. In this way even while commuting and during breaks you can easily get some reading done.

WHAT TO READ AND WHAT NOT TO READ

Have a friend with good taste in books recommend you or even lists such as "10 novels you must read before-" might also prove to be good enough. But remember that everything else on the cards is expendable. Once you are up for, try new genres of your taste and immerse deeper into to this delightful venture. Sometimes the best for you lies outside what sells best.

NEVER MAKE IT A CHORE

Reading in time or between work is more likely to make it seem like something shoved on you and you are unlikely to get to anywhere. What you can be doing is have a regular time every day for truly enjoying a book and do nothing in that time.

Lastly, everything comes down to what you will. Chances are the busy lazy in you might just muster the strength needed to follow the steps of the successful busier-than-you-ever-were folks while enjoying this whole new world of words and ideas.