

# iWRITER

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By Kids, For Kids Magazine

## Adventure Awaits!



# Letter from the Editor

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Sanvi Pandit

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Helen Zhang

## DESIGN EDITORS

Cami Culbertson

Sanvi Pandit

Riana Pliskin

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Tanvi Padala

Sanvi Pandit

Shaivi Moparhi

Cami Culbertson

Sophie Yu

Misha Patel

## COVER ART

Cami Culbertson

## STUDENT ART

Shaivi Moparhi

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the January 2025 edition of the iWRITER! As we enter a brand-new year, the air is filled with excitement, resolutions, and possibilities. A new year is like an untouched map, waiting for us to chart our new adventures, whether big or small. And what better way to kick off 2025 than by diving into our theme for this issue: Adventure!

Adventure comes in many different forms. For some, it's a challenging hike or traveling to a different country for new experiences. For others, it's participating in a school play, starting a project, or simply trying something new. Each piece in this issue celebrates and recognizes the different ways teens embrace adventure.

This edition includes compelling book reviews, exciting activity recommendations, insightful poetry, and more. As you read, I hope you feel inspired to make this year your most adventurous yet—one full of possibilities, courage, and growth.

Happy reading!

*Shaivi Moparhi*

Editorial Director

*I WRITE because writing is a way for me to express myself, and it helps me connect to my artistic side. I enjoy writing because it allows me to reflect on experiences that I have encountered. Writing is something that I truly enjoy, and it has always been one of my greatest passions.*



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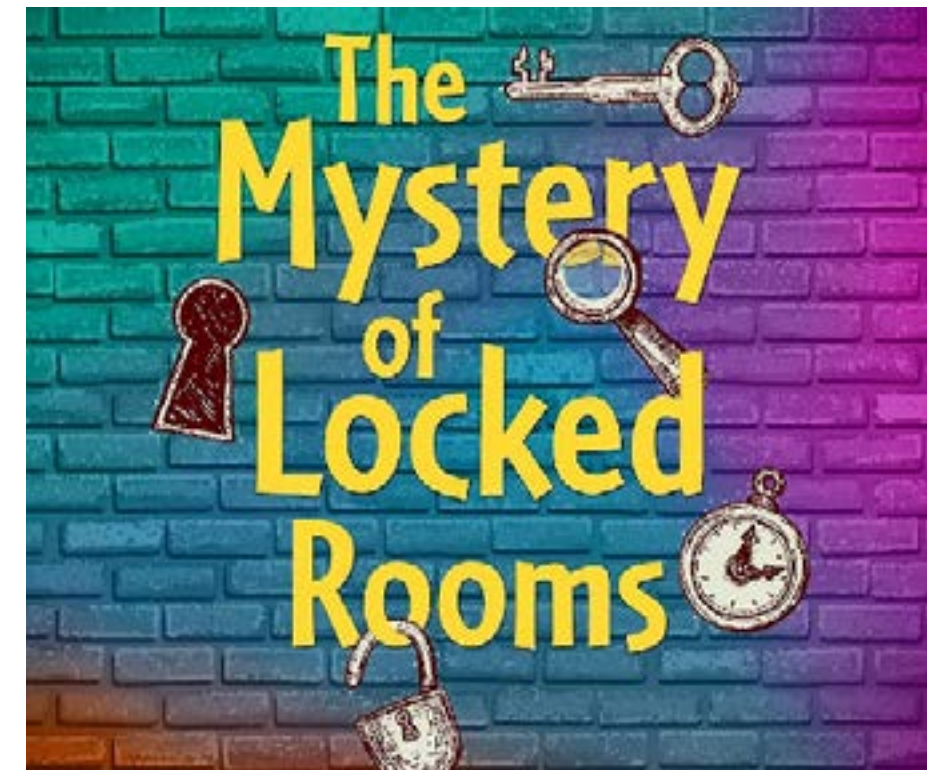
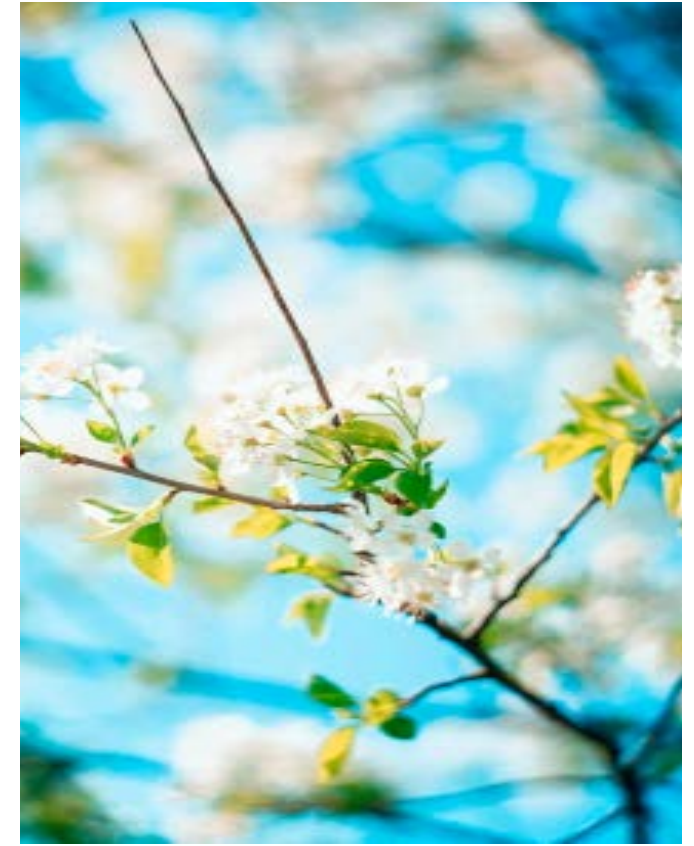
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# Revolutionizing Care: Innovation for a Better Future

Ever since I was a little girl, I've always believed in the transformative power of the mind -- that seeing is believing and believing is seeing.

Our imagination fuels determination and creativity, sparking innovation in so many ways. I've always been curious about the human mind and how it makes each of us unique. But more than anything, I've always held a deep passion for helping others and improving the world around me.

My experiences playing violin at a senior care home opened my eyes to the realities of the daily challenges faced by those of the older adult population. Around 65 million people in the United States, consisting of older adults (ages 65 and above) and individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities, experience difficulties in motor skills, cognitive function, and the execution of daily living activities. A prevalent challenge encountered by these individuals is pouring liquids from containers. To address challenges like pouring liquids, I designed an affordable, switch-adapted pourer using Arduino and CAD for a leak-proof, adaptable dispenser. After multiple iterations and testing with various liquids, it achieved a 98% accuracy, surpassing conventional dispensers in ease of use, adaptability, and portability. My research invention aims to empower individuals with greater independence while advancing assistive care technologies.

On September 4th, 2024, in Washington, D.C., Society for Science and Thermo Fisher Scientific announced the Top 300 Junior Innovators in the 2024 [Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge \(JIC\)](#) — the nation's premier STEM competition for middle school students. I was delighted to learn that my science research project, *Enhancing Independence: A Next-Gen Switch-Adapted Pourer for Older Adults and Individuals with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities*, earned me the recognition of Thermo Fisher Top 300 Junior Innovator. At my regional science fair, I was honored to be awarded first place in my category, Computer Science, and received the Lemelson Early Inventor Award. I was especially thrilled when I received second place for

the 'Best of Fair' award and advanced to the state fair, as these accomplishments reinforced my confidence in showcasing the impact of my project to inspire meaningful changes in society.

Participating in various science fairs at regional, state, and national levels provided me with wonderful opportunities to showcase my work. The experiences I gained were truly inspiring and transformative, allowing me to connect with like-minded peers and grow as a public speaker. Each step has ignited my passion for learning and innovation, laying the groundwork not only in the growth of my project but also in the development of my future projects.

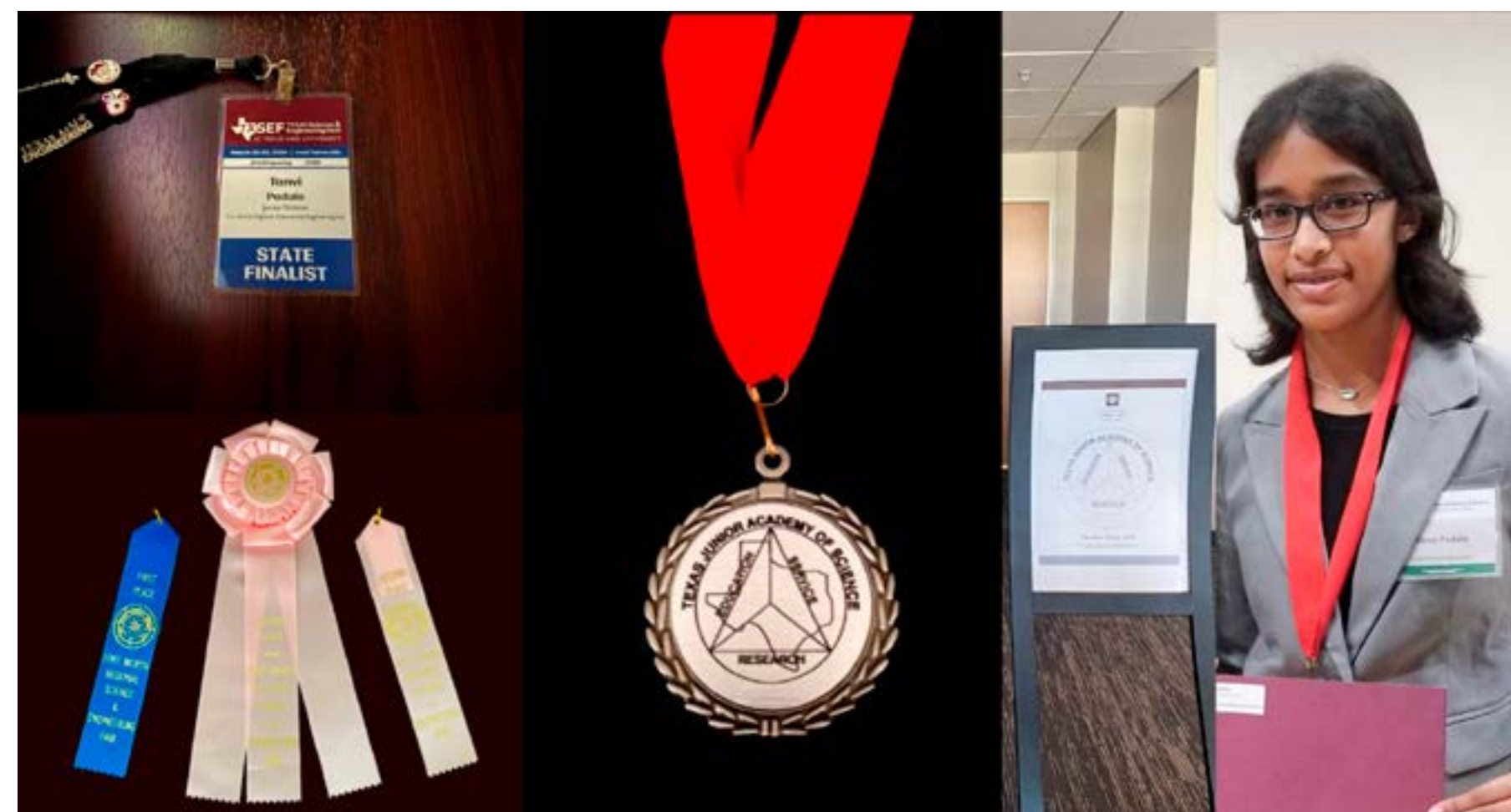
**Continuing with my passion to help my community, I've always felt the desire to assist those with mental health challenges** and recently developed an assistive technology to help veterans suffering from PTSD. I got an opportunity to present my research findings at the Texas Junior Academy of the Sciences (TJAS), a high school science research competition, in October 2024 and placed second in the Behavioral & Social Sciences category.

Through my work, I have addressed challenges faced by vulnerable communities. Each step has deepened my passion for learning and innovation, helping me build on my research and future projects with the hope of making a positive contribution to my community.



**BY Tanvi Padala**

*I WRITE because words are the sound of my thoughts and let me be creative. Through writing, I can escape to impossible worlds, experience magic, and create imaginative characters. Writing brings a tremendous amount of joy and relaxes me.*



# Take the Leap and Unleash Your Adventurous Spirit

Adventure is about stepping out of your comfort zone to experience something thrilling, unpredictable, and transformative. There's an activity for everyone, so I encourage you to be daring and be open to the unexpected. Here are some exciting activities to inspire your next adventure, because you never know where it might take you.

1. Skydiving - This is a popular activity that never gets old! Skydiving is one of the most exhilarating experiences you can have. It's a great challenge for anyone looking to conquer their fears and feel ultimate freedom in the air, whether you are skydiving in the sky or indoors.

2. White Water Rafting - If you're interested in water-themed activities, white-water rafting is a must. It's the perfect mix of teamwork, adrenaline, and scenic exploration as you navigate through wild river rapids. Be prepared for a little splash!

3. Parasailing - Parasailing offers a unique opportunity to soar above the water and enjoy the beautiful view below. It's a peaceful yet exhilarating adventure that combines the excitement of being suspended in the air with the tranquility of the water.

4. Hiking - Hiking is a way to explore the beauty of nature, whether you're trekking through forests, climbing mountains, or walking along peaceful lakesides. You can also sign up for a guided tour, where you can learn about the local wildlife, plants, and ecosystems as you journey through nature's wonders.

5. Zip Lining - For a quick, adrenaline-packed adventure, zip lining is the perfect choice. Seeing all the stunning views as you fly through the air makes zip lining an unforgettable experience.



6. Hot Air Ballooning - If you're looking for a more peaceful adventure, hot air ballooning offers a serene yet awe-inspiring experience. The head-on view provides a unique perspective of the world, making this activity perfect for those who want to view the world from a different angle.

7. Rock Climbing - Rock climbing is the perfect way to test your strength and endurance. Whether you're climbing outdoor rock formations or tackling an indoor climbing wall, this activity is an excellent workout, as well as a great way to connect with nature.

8. Jet Skiing - With jet skiing, you can experience freedom on the water and the thrill of speeding across the ocean with the wind in your face and the waves beneath you. This is a great activity for building your confidence and speed while still having fun.

9. Horseback Riding - Horseback riding helps connect people with nature and animals. While exploring new landscapes that are both relaxing and thrilling, this activity provides a sense of freedom and allows you to experience nature in a different way.

10. Go-kart Racing - Go-kart racing is a great option for a lighthearted and fast-paced activity. Go-karting is all about having fun, making it a great way to spend time with friends and family while enjoying the thrill of competition.

11. Snorkeling - Explore the vibrant life beneath the surface of the water. It's a relaxing yet fascinating adventure that provides a way to connect with the ocean's animal and plant life.

As we enter 2025 and begin our journey in the new year, opportunities for adventure will be everywhere. Whichever adventure is calling to you, these activities offer ways to challenge yourself, explore new horizons, and create unforgettable memories.

Don't be afraid to try something new, even if it feels daunting at first — embracing the unknown is what makes adventure truly exciting. So push your boundaries and let 2025 be a new year of new experiences!

**BY Sanvi Pandit**

*I WRITE because writing is my way to share what I think and feel. Composing stories and poems helps me tell the world about myself without feeling scared.*

# Book Review: The Mystery of Locked Rooms

What truly defines an adventure? Is it the thrill of solving puzzles, the courage to step into the unknown, or the strengthening of bonds along the way? In Lindsay Curie's *The Mystery of Locked Rooms*, adventure is all of these things and so much more. The novel has a captivating blend of adventure, suspense, and heart, with a plot that keeps readers on the edge of their seats. With lovable characters, a heartfelt storyline, and a thrilling mystery, Curie delves into the essence of adventure in a truly unique way.

The story is told from the perspective of 12-year-old Sarah Greene, who, alongside her best friends Hannah and West — collectively known as the Deltas — embarks on an adventure to find treasure in a funhouse built by odd triplets in the 1950s. Sarah's treasure hunt is motivated by her family's money struggles, her dad's illness, and the looming threat of her house's foreclosure. As the Deltas move through each room in the funhouse, insecurities, and truths are revealed about each other, bringing them closer. The vivid descriptions of each room enhance the experience of each reader. Curie does a splendid job of helping the reader truly envision the unique details and intricacies of each room. For example, her portrayal of the library room, with its towering shelves and endless rows of books, evokes a sense of awe and overwhelm. These descriptions immerse the reader in the world of the funhouse, making each room feel alive. Whether it's the circus room, the mirror maze, or the colorful space, Curie's ability to paint a detailed picture of each room, heightens the sense of adventure throughout the book.

Curie's ability to maintain a steady, engaging pace throughout the book is another reason it stands out. The alternating moments of high-energy action and quieter scenes create a rhythm throughout the story that keeps the reader hooked. For example, as soon as the Deltas finish one puzzle, they are thrust into another challenge that keeps the plot moving forward, while also including heartfelt interactions between each character.

Beyond its pacing and visuals, what truly makes this book shine are the relationships and emotional depth it explores. The friendships and themes explored through each of the Deltas are truly impactful. This book masterfully explores the theme of friendship and its deep connection to adventure. As Sarah, West, and Hannah navigate the trials of the funhouse, their bond strengthens as they learn more about each other. The trio learns to rely on each other's strengths, support one another, and overcome obstacles together.

What I particularly appreciated was the realistic portrayal of their friendship. The conflicts they experience are relatable and well-crafted. They overcome their issues through perseverance and genuine care for one another, ultimately demonstrating that the foundation of any great adventure lies in the friendships that evolve along the way. Curie dives into Sarah, Hannah, and West's emotional and personal conflicts through the funhouse rooms. The different rooms don't just consist of physical obstacles, but emotional ones as well.

As the Deltas progress through the house, they face challenges that help each of them confront their fears and insecurities. Along the course of the novel, Curie cleverly blends adventure with the personal growth of each character. For example, in one challenge Sarah must solve a puzzle that forces her to trust her intuition instead of relying on probability, symbolizing her journey. Similarly, West releases his embarrassment for his special talent and Hannah learns not to doubt her self-worth. Each character faces hidden emotional conflicts that surface as the Deltas' trust for each other grows throughout the book. In my opinion, what separates this book from different adventures and mysteries is the blend of suspense, emotional depth, and action. Each character has an opportunity to face their insecurities through the uniquely crafted challenges in each part of the funhouse, unlike other books that may focus on the physical obstacles of an adventure. Lindsay Curie's ability to intertwine these emotional journeys with a thrilling mystery elevates the book, making it a true standout story.

At the center of it all, *The Mystery of Locked Rooms* reminds readers that adventure isn't just about finding treasure or solving puzzles — it's about the relationships we can build and the courage we find within ourselves along the way. Curie's heartfelt storytelling encourages us to appreciate the friends who walk through life's adventures with us, proving the greatest treasure in the end can lie in our relationships. For readers who seek a story filled with action, excitement, mystery, and emotion, *The Mystery of Locked Rooms* offers an exciting journey through the funhouse and the heart.

**BY Misha Patel**

*I WRITE because it allows me to dive into my imagination and bring my ideas to life. Through words, I can express myself and discover new aspects of myself, creating a sense of fulfillment and joy. Writing gives me the freedom to explore endless worlds and possibilities, while also helping me connect with my inner thoughts.*

# A Place for Poetry

## Featured Poems From the iWRITER Staff

### LITTLE CITIES

In one world, we lather moonlight plucking myth after myth from our throats ourselves full of tears heads down	between our joints lick our spines up, to carve into negative-space.	like bee balm and soil, until they are clean. We laugh sucked up, tucked up, dip our
In another, I am rubbing soybean splatter rooting into thick forests of our throats.	these greasy hands on flesh. Body evergreen,	on the denim, hot Fish bones by the potfuls overgrown.
My body streaming through my body,	dripping gold a weird little city	from all that moonlight
/ pretty / smart / skinny I am shattered ginger shots	into discarded memory, and nucleotides, codenames	to a friend rusted yen, auntie's waist size sporks,
for my chemistry teacher, I want to fall out fly today, cry today, try	a heterogenous mixture (matter), of my body today—	matter suspended in song.
to milk every last whisper gardeners, ripping weeds walls & hollowed cities, pages	from this world today. by dirty handfuls of salt, bangsnaps, and pages	We are jeans, mother's dreams reels & poems, untouched.

**BY** *Sophie Yu*

*I WRITE to let my thoughts, feelings, and ideas spread across the paper. To form and create a story that can be told in any perspective, described with any words. Writing can create a whole new world.*

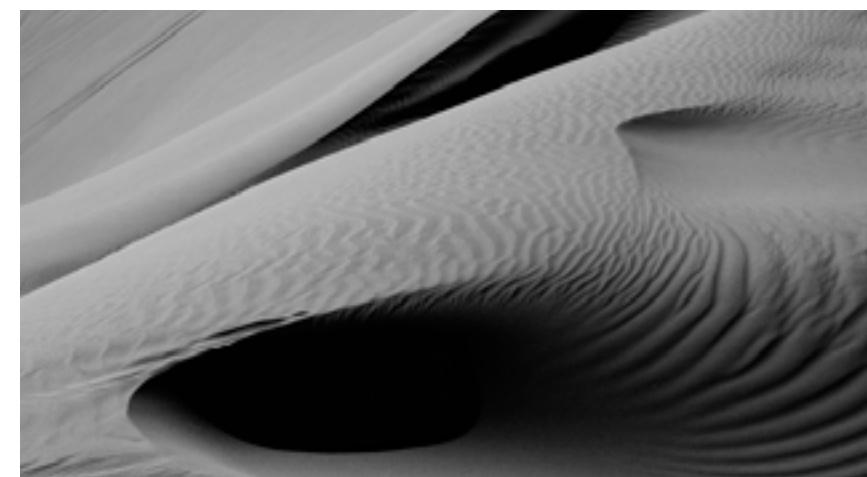


### GROUND BENEATH

Billowing winds blow over my shoulder,  
wrapping around the peaks and valleys of my skin.  
It's like a cool breath of prophecy,  
enticing me to guide my foot forward,  
Forward and downward,  
Into the crusted earth beneath me,  
designed by the arches of travelers before me,  
the travelers who paved my coordinates  
into the sand, into the ocean, into the sky.  
Rolling clouds weave into constellation compasses,  
a north star circling around my head  
like a luminescent crown on a queen  
guide me, wind, guide me, feet,  
guide me, sky, guide me, sea

**BY** *Cami Culbertson*

*I WRITE because it makes me feel powerful. When I write and have the ability to publish, I feel like I am making my mark. Writing is the articulation of everything I cannot express otherwise.*



# iWRITER Issue 19 Team



**Shaivi Moparthi**



**Tanvi Padala**



**Cami Culbertson**



**Sanvi Pandit**



**Helen Zhang**



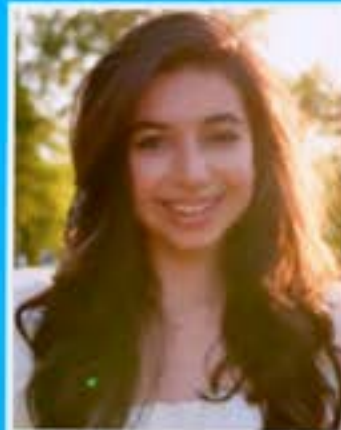
**Nia Shetty**



**Sophie Yu**



**Misha Patel**



**Riana Pilskin**