



MATRILINY IN TRANSITION

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CD 15-17
Project 2
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MATRILINY?
MATRILINEAL?

MATRILINEAL

- kinship through a female line
- succession and inheritance is through the female line
- matrilineal most of the time
- importance of the uncle



IN INDIA - Nairs and Ezhavas of Kerala
Khasi-Jaintia and Garos of Meghalaya (over 80%).
Muslim Islanders, Moso, Danyi Minzu



Matriliny, which gives Khasi women the rights of inheritance and succession, has been in practice here for 2,000 years.

Women have a dominant role in the matrilineal society of Meghalaya.

The youngest daughter of the family, the Khatduh, inherits all ancestral property.

After marriage, husbands live in the mother-in-law's home.

The mother's surname is taken by children.

ORIGINALLY

- kinship through a female line
- daughter is the sole guardian of the ancestral property
- importance of the uncle
- father is just for reproductive needs
- both males and females have equally important roles in their homes
- homes were seldom broken, no indigent persons

The British annexed Khasi Hills in 1833.
The Christian missionaries arrived in 1841.
These events opened up the region to the outside world. The modern system of administration along with its legal framework came into the midst of the tribals. It also led to the misinterpretation of the system, to what it is today.

GRIEVANCES

- The change of roles affected shared importance in the household
- The father, though he provides, feels insignificant
- The custodian rights have hindered economic growth
- female preference in family planning

ACTIONS INITIATED

- Ka Seng Iktiar Longbriew Manbriew (1961)
- Syngkhong Rympei Thymmai (A New Hearth) (1990)
- Aimed/aims to overthrow the system altogether and bring about change.

BUT, what happens when women
are given important roles in the society?

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

- female preference
- low crimes against women
- no dowry
- free movement
- moral policing is not frequent
- equal education
- no arranged marriages

WE ARE STUCK!

NOBODY TALKS ABOUT IT

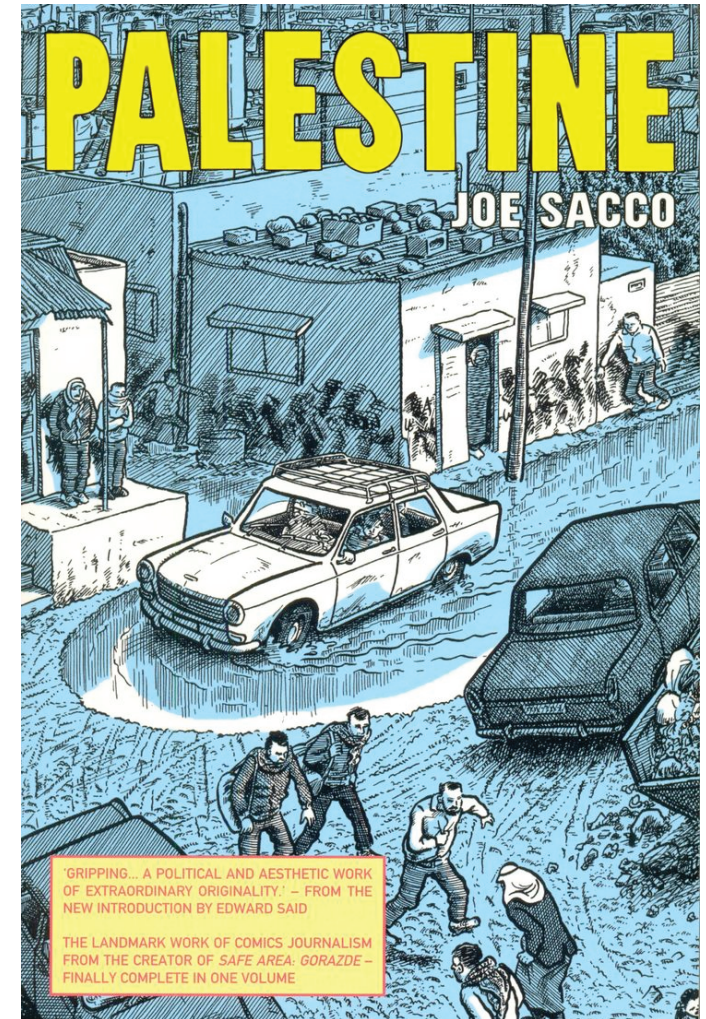
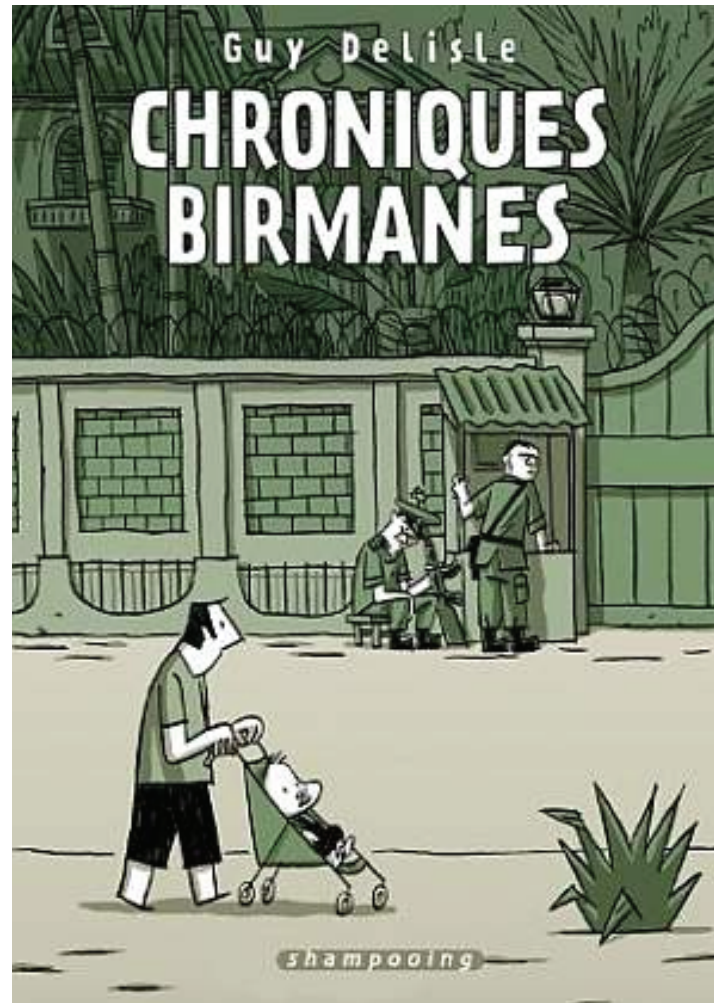
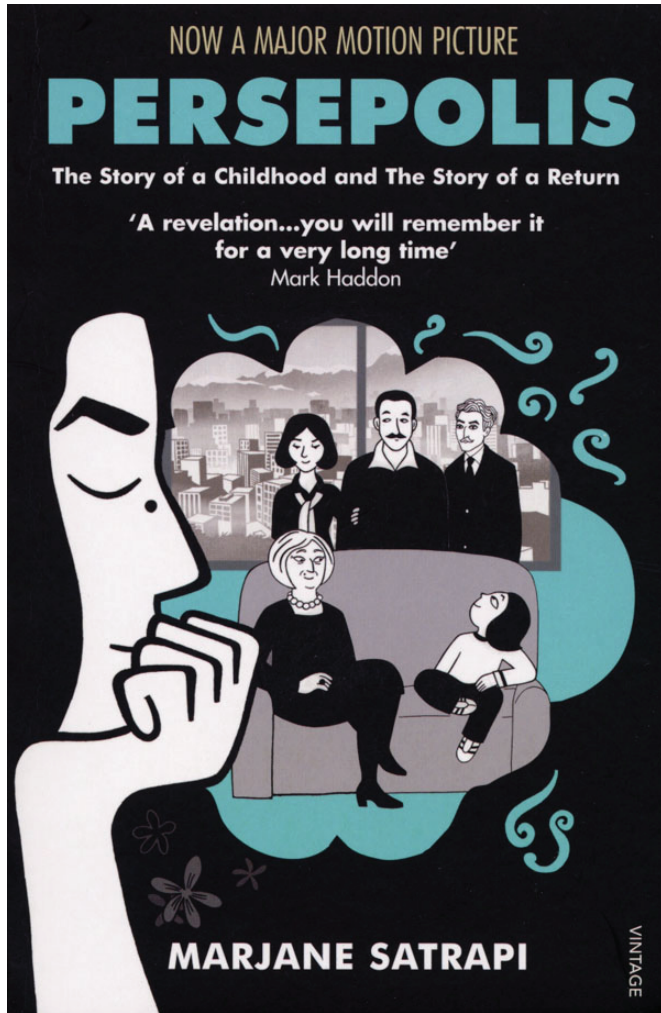
- till the 80's there was a huge number of articles and debates
- post 1990, there is almost an absolute silence about it
- classrooms don't teach it
- so far, no questions has been asked about it in various public examinations
- as far as Education is concerned, it is an 'unknown subject'

WHAT NEEDS
TO BE
ADDRESSED?

- men's grievances
- women empowerment
- the future of the Khasi tribe
- silence is harmful

GRAPHIC NOVEL

- story-telling format
- perzines, manga and superhero-story



OVER-VIEW

The Book will have short chapters that show snippets into the life of Mem mem a young girl growing up in a Matrilineal culture. Discovering what it means and it's effects, it will be based on personal experiences in understanding the system and what it shows at every age.

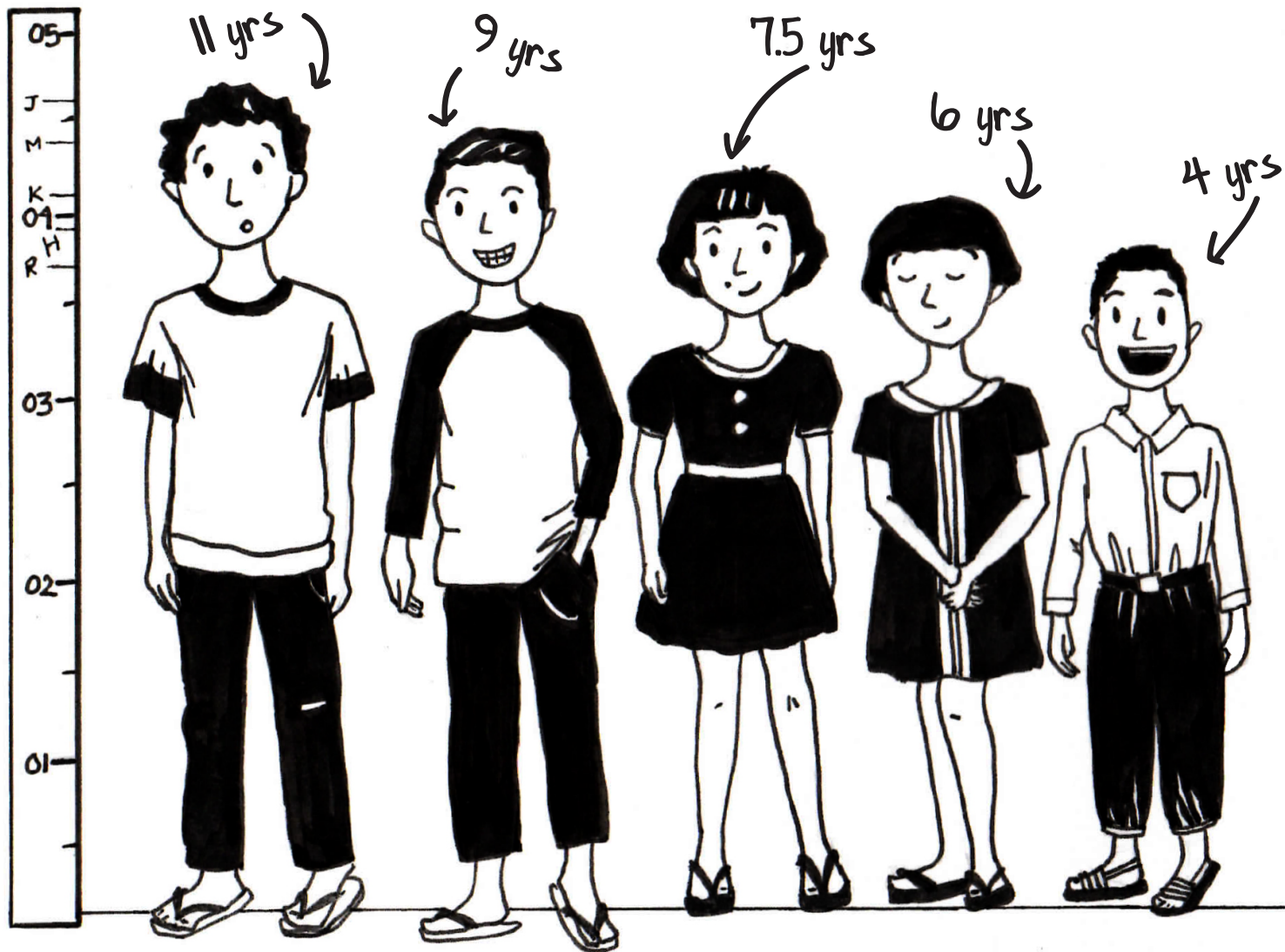
WHAT WILL PROJECT-2 COVER?

- Existence of the current system
- Still strongly patriarchal (gender roles are the same as in any other)
- Female preference and education

- Book title: MEM MEM
- Mem is a common nickname among Khasi girls.

CHARACTER STYLE & DESIGN

- duochrome: Black and white
- Hand Illustrations
- Brush pen and ink



Jason

Melvin

Me

Hazel

Rafael

CHARACTER

Mem mem

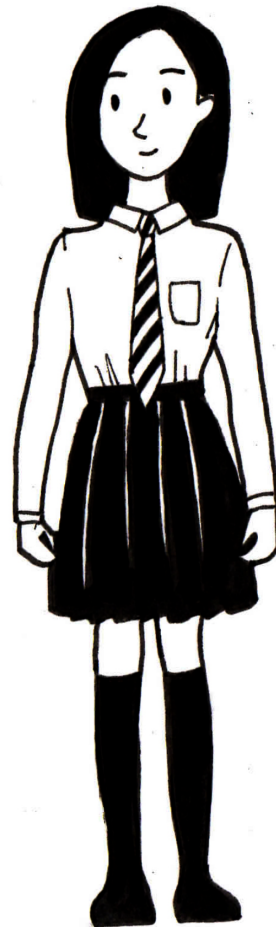
Age: 11yrs



CHARACTERS (l to r)

Mallika, Abha, Mom

Age: 12yrs, 11yrs, 38 yrs



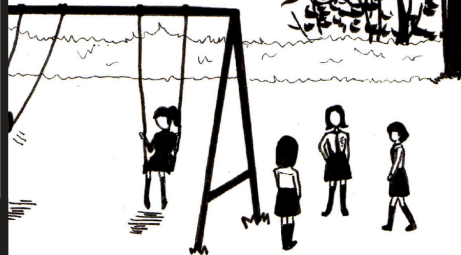
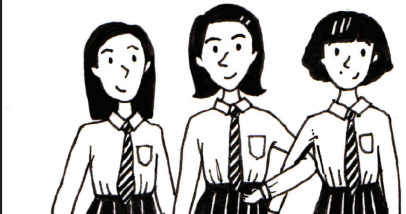
FONT & LAYOUT

- Size A5
- Left to right
- Body text: Neucha (Regular) 10pt-13pt

THE SURNAME

SHILLONG, MARCH '01

WE WERE WAITING FOR OUR TURN AT THE SWING DURING RECESS

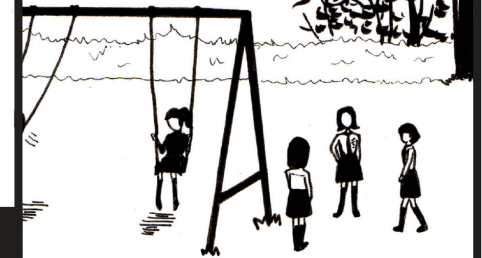
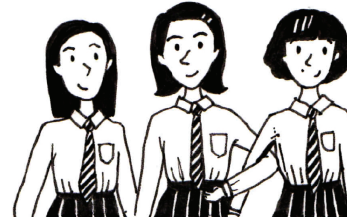


That's me on the right, I was in the 6th standard. That's Mallika, my best friend and the new girl on the left, Abha.

THE SURNAME

SHILLONG, MARCH '01

we were waiting for our turn at the swing during recess



That's me on the right, I was in the 6th standard. That's Mallika, my best friend and the new girl on the left, Abha.

giggle giggle

chuckles

WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT?

ABHA AND I MET AT THE MOVIES YESTERDAY. I ATE ALL THE POPCORN! SHE WENT WITH HER FAMILY AND I WENT WITH MINE

giggle giggle

chuckles

what are you laughing about?

Abha and I met at the movies yesterday. I ate all the popcorn! She went with her family and I went with mine

WHICH MOVIE WAS IT?

IT'S A BOLLYWOOD MOVIE, I'M SURE YOU DONT KNOW IT.

THAT'S OKAY, I DON'T RELATE TO BOLLYWOOD MOVIES ANYWAY!

GO WATCH KHASI* MOVIES THEN IF THEY ARE SO GREAT!

which movie was it?

It's a bollywood movie, I'm sure you dont know it.

That's okay, I don't relate to bollywood movies anyway!

Go watch Khasi* movies then if they are so great!

*THE KHASI PEOPLE ARE AN INDIGENOUS TRIBE, THE MAJORITY OF WHOM LIVE IN THE STATE OF MEGHALAYA WHICH IS IN THE NORTH EASTERN PART OF INDIA

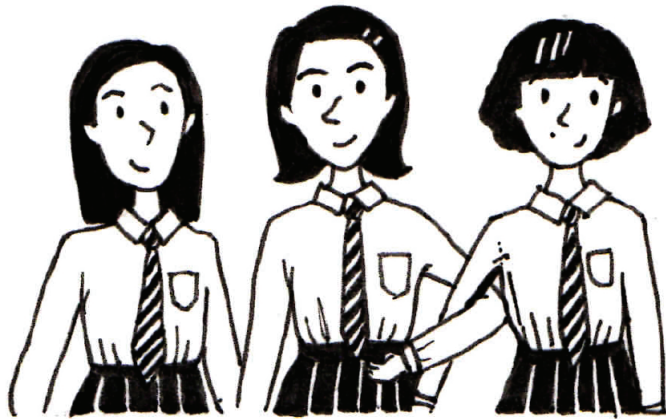
*The Khasi people are an indigenous tribe, the majority of whom live in the State of Meghalaya which is in the north eastern part of India

CHAPTER 1

THE SURNAME

- She begins to see a cultural difference when she spends time with her non-khasi friends.
- Mem mem gets curious about surnames

SHILLONG, MARCH '01



That's me on the right. I was in the 6th standard. That's Mallika, my best friend and the new girl on the left, Abha.

in the classroom..



It's the beginning of the school-year freshly wrapped books on the table. New grade, new books, they get heavier every year!

Mom got me labels with flowers from Iewduh* for my books. Mallika's had animated characters on them.



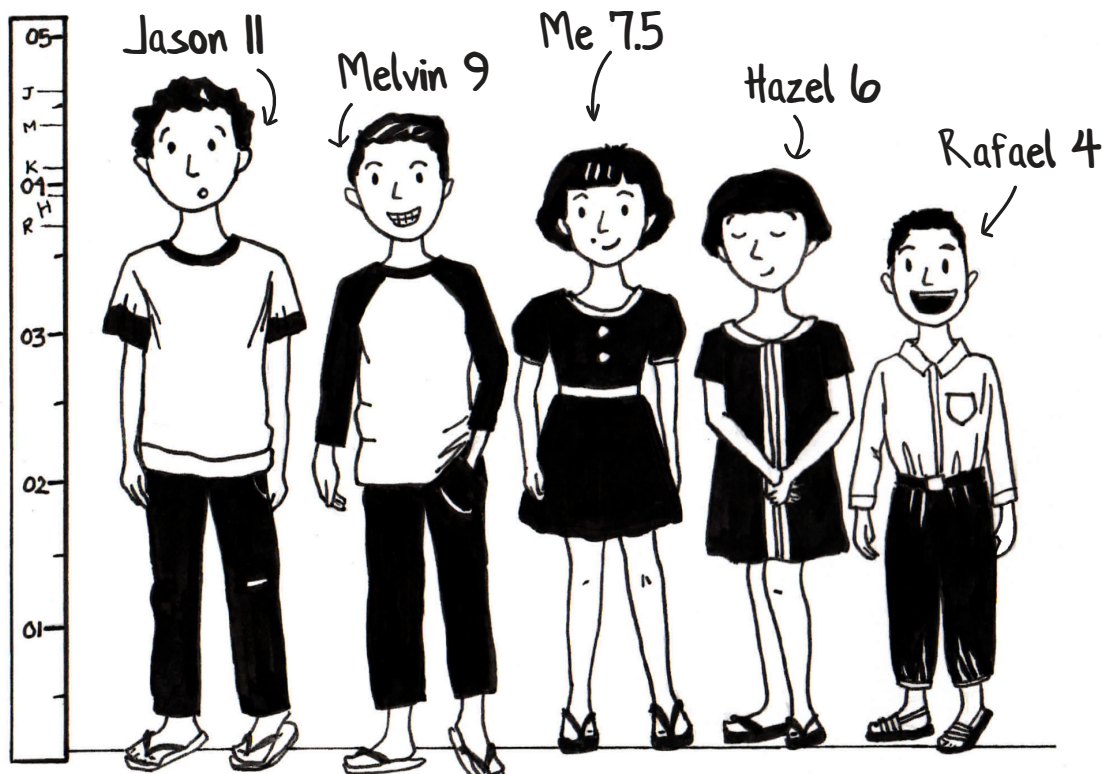
Looks like Abha is her new best friend now...



CHAPTER 2

THE DISHES

- As young as the age of 7, she was made to help around the house while her brothers didn't have to and she dislikes that fact.
- Having daughters which is characteristic of the 'daughter preference' of the society was mis-understood.





OLD
ENOUGH??!
MELVIN
AND
JASON ARE
OLDER!

RESTAS

CHAPTER 3

CHICKEN-POX

- Education and doing well in school was a priority taught very young.
- This notion reflects highly in the literacy rate of the state which is at par for both genders
- This chapter covers how much mem mem values doing well.

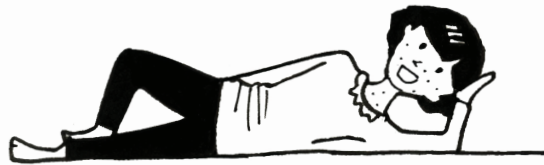
Dad drops us to school. We go very early everyday, he says we should learn punctuality but I know he just wants to avoid school traffic

I wanna stay home too!

Get in the car fast! or there will be a jam!



One week of no exams, no school. We played 'kotdur-wrestling'* and I reached the highest level in Mario** than my siblings. Mom took a few days off from work.

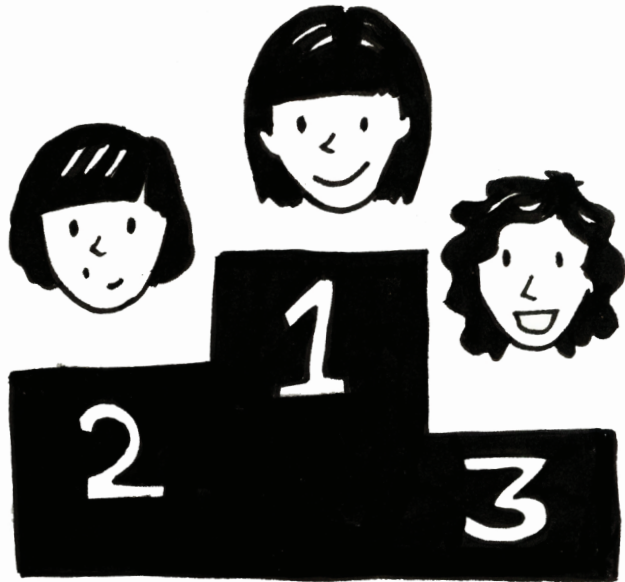


yuck

bleck

How do you expect to get better if you won't take it. Say "ahh" and swallow really quick. I know it's bitter so i brought sugar you can change the taste in your mouth immediately.

The 1st term I was ranked 2nd in class, and I was expecting to be in the top three this time too.



My brothers always gave me a hard time



WHAT WILL FOLLOW?

- Completion of the book post 'Project-2' will contain 15 chapters that will take the reader through a brief and simple understanding of the system and it's transition.

REFERENCES

- Matriliny in Meghalaya
Pariyaram M Chacko
- Matriliny in Transition: A Comparative Analysis. *Dr Celine Augustine*
- Matriliny on the March
Roland Kharkrang

THANKYOU

WHAT I LEARNED?

- Skill-improvement
- Time management
- Uneasy efforts in story-telling
- How in the world did my mom do everything, know everything and be there for everything?