THE LOST WORLD
When was the last time, you picked up a comic from a stall and read it in your free time? Think over.

Tin Tin, Jughead, Archie and Betty are characters lesser known to children today. Gone are the days, when every kid was an ardent comic reader. Comics have always remained an integral part of the children’s world in India. Tales of the Brave Shikari Shambhu, a little confused Supandi, and witty Chacha Chowdhary were popular among children of all ages. However today the readership of comic magazines seems to have gone down. These little stories are eventually loosing their grip over children.

“Like drawing, painting, but after I complete my homework I play Barbie make up on my computer,” says 6 year old Shreya. The popularity of computer games among children is one of the several reasons for the decline in the popularity of comics. Games like Need for Speed, Road Rash, Alladin, Street Fighter and many other similar have become extremely popular with little boys. “I read comics sometimes but I like to play whenever I have time,” says Shreya. With the advent of cartoons on television, comics in print have been facing a tough time. Almost every channel has dedicated time slots for cartoons and 24 hour cartoon channels have become extremely popular among children.

Though such magazines majorly target children as readers, comics like Archie, seek teenage readers. Just like every teenager, Archie has his own set of problems, right from passing his exams to enjoying attention. “I have read a few comic adventures when I was in nursery, but today who has the time?” says 15 year old Naveen. Time plays an important factor that causes decline in readership. School, homework, tuitions and extra curricular activities leave children with hardly anytime for leisure. “It is not just the matter of comics, but the habit of reading is itself declining among children. Earlier ‘Amar Chitra Katha’ was a very important part of every child’s growing up,” believes Shashi Verma, a mother of two. Amar Chitra Katha series reflected the Indian culture and its objective was to narrate religious stories and morals. “The little stories from Ramayana and Mahabharata were really interesting. Today children hardly know mythological stories,” adds Shashi.

Besides educating on mythology, these comics have always been a great medium of entertainment and light reading. “In this world of tough competition, there is extreme pressure on every time to perform and excel. Pressure from parents and school; leave them with no time where they can indulge in reading comics,” believes Malini Shashtri, school teacher.

There may be several reasons that are causing the decline in the readership of comics, but children are definitely missing a great reading experience. From Tin Tin adventures to the exciting Panchatantra stories, comics have the power to grab everyone’s attention. So the next time you visit a book stall, just pick up a comic magazine and enter the world of fantasy and imagination.

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Raining fun!!...
Thinking of where to head this weekend? Well then read ahead to decide on your weekend plan.

Thinking of going somewhere during the rains? Then you don’t have to give much of a thought. Just 100 kms from Mumbai is Durshet, which offers you a perfect get-away especially in the monsoon.

Why monsoon? Because this place gets enthralled during this season. Durshet is situated on a small hill top surrounded by trees and has river Amba flowing through. You can catch the site of this river while you are travelling through the road.

One advantage of this resort is its location, near Khopol which is just 100 kms from Mumbai. Also it’s just 2 hours away from Pune. “This place is really amazing and great to visit during rains. If you are excited about trekking then this season is the best time visit,” says Nimish Advani, who visited this place through his college trip.

The place is very adventurous and you start enjoying once you move towards the mountain area. Durshet Lodge provides you with an easy access to the mountain area. Situated in the midst of the forest land, the overnight stay here is more than an adventure. When it comes to games, treasure hunt would be the one you will enjoy the most. You will not find any lights in this forest area. But you won’t get scared as help will be provided as you start moving walking towards the forest.

“You can’t believe that you have such a place and that also in Maharashtra,” says Savio Zackanta, who visited it only on his friend’s suggestion. Travelling in rains is exciting because as when you start mountain climbing the force of the water increases and makes it more difficult to climb. But it’s fun as friends hold each other’s hands and try moving ahead breaking the force of water.

Your umbrella won’t work as the rains will blow it off with them. But you will enjoy each and every moment of your time at this place. And if you want to enjoy your weekend then Durshet is the best place to travel to. Easily accessible, less expensive, you will find all out there.

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DURSHET FOREST LODGE - ACCOMMODATION (per night basis and includes food charges)
Rs. 1000/- – Rs. 1200/-

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