

SWADESH .. A movie that I liked!

Srilakshmi Garikapati, Age: 8 years

One Friday night, I wanted to watch a movie while I was eating. I asked my mom "Can we watch a movie while eating?" and she said "OK!". So I looked at all the movies we had and we watched most of them already. I was still looking...! Then I found a Hindi movie called "Swades". "What does Swades" mean? "I asked my mom. She said, "It means motherland!". The title looked interesting plus we didn't watch that movie.

So I put the cassette in the VCR. I waited for my mom to come with my food. When she came I played the movie. The names were coming and I heard the actors in the movie were good actors. I read almost every name. After the names the movie started. The first place I saw the hero was in Washington D.C. I don't understand Hindi

but there were sub-titles so I could read.

Everyone was talking in English then. I didn't need to read the sub-titles at that time. In most of the movies I wanted to fast forward the songs but in this movie when I heard the first song I didn't want to fast forward! After this song was over, I was eager to hear the following song. I was so excited because the music was coming to start another song! While the movie was going on I heard a lot of good songs. I will not tell anything about the story because I don't want to spoil your fun that you will enjoy while watching! By the time the movie was over, we had a little more left to finish our food. After we ate we talked a little about the movie. I think everyone should watch this cool movie !

"Love is one, Love is all"

Sriram Garikapati, Age:13 years

Every Sunday, my dad, sister, and I, along with my other Balvikas peers go to our neighboring state, New Jersey. Why? It is a play practice of "Love is one, Love is all" that all Balvikas students from many centers are participating in. It is a big and sluggish journey. At the school (where the play practice is held), we all get ready to start the practice by gathering together, chanting three Om's, reciting other prayers, and then splitting into our groups. What is the play about? It is about six religious leaders having a meeting and a discussion on the current way of life on earth. These six leaders are Zoaraster, Jesus, Abraham, Vyasa, Buddha, and Mohammad. The leaders are worried because they think the people on earth are no longer following the very lessons they have once taught on earth. Then two representatives from earth come and tell these leaders that they are still practicing the lessons that have been taught to them by them, but slowly. Then the earth

representatives show the leaders the olden version (the days when these holy ones were on earth), and they also present the modern version of the peoples lives. After watching this, all the leaders are happy of what they have seen. As each religion was being acted, there were many themes that were passing by such as: always say the Lord's name, be sweet and living, forgive and forgive, fight anger with love, love thy neighbor, and submit to His will. Among all of those is one big theme, Love is one Love is all, or, there is one religion, the religion of love. My role in this play is the role of Abraham, the religious leader of Judaism. Also, if our play is accepted by Swami (Sri Sathya Sai Baba), it will be performed live in front of Him. In order for this to happen there are practices set for almost every weekend. This is not a play that is directed by one person, but any parents or volunteers who would like to do so. It is all done with a group effort, not a single effort

