



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Reflections

SPRING EDITION - 2021



PRAYER OF GRATITUDE



*Thank You Lord
For abundance that is making my life richer.
For blessing my life now.
Thank You for loving me and being with me right
where I am,
And for divine ideas that are helping me
prosper in a continuous way in every
area of my life, and in the future.*



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



MR. DEEPAK GUPTA

It is indeed a matter of great pleasure that the Department of English, JCC is publishing its first magazine. This is one of our newest departments, in our quest to provide the finest higher education to our future generations. Creative efforts like this magazine, REFLECTIONS, play an important role in developing and showcasing the talent of young minds. I am sure that this magazine, along with other creative pursuits organised by the Department, will contribute immensely towards holistic development of the students, into creative and thinking individuals, capable of paving a way out through the toughest of challenges that life may present to them. I compliment the HOD English and her entire editorial team for conceptualising and publishing this magazine. I also take this opportunity to wish the faculty and students of the Department a great success and all the best in the coming years. God bless you all!

-Mr. Deepak Gupta



FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



“ If we did the things we are capable of, we would astound ourselves.”

-Thomas Edison

Dear Readers,

Greetings to you all from the Department of English!

As the Head of the Department of the newly raised Department of English, at JCC, it is my singular pleasure and privilege, to present this inaugural Spring edition of the Department magazine –REFLECTIONS. Our institute holds the multitudinous distinction of being one of the best colleges imparting quality education, for more than last twenty five years. The aim of our Institute is to nurture our students and facilitate their growth as responsible and constructive members of the society, enabled to face the challenges of the competitive world. Education, above all, is primarily about harnessing the quiescent and inherent potential existing deep within each student and unleashing it towards the appropriate direction.

We, in REFLECTIONS, put forth our belief that sky is not the limit for us, it is just the beginning. The members of my Department have had an immensely enriching and enjoyable experience during the entire process of bringing out this magazine. As you turn the pages, you will not only have a glimpse of what the Department has to offer, but also the finest ensemble of writing, activities conducted, as also the moments of joy lived as a student of the English Department, while showcasing their zeal for drama, poetry, academic excursion, reading clubs and numerous other creative endeavours.

We owe this beginning to the vision, valuable support and guidance of our esteemed Chairman, Mr. Deepak Gupta, who made it possible to release this magazine. We assure him and the Institution that the Department of English will continue to live up to the finest ethos and culture of JCC. It is a matter of great pride for the Department of English to launch the first edition of the REFLECTIONS. The trying times that COVID-19 has tested us through, in the past one year, have not been able to daunt the Team from putting this magazine together.

I wish to place on record my whole-hearted appreciation for the efforts put in by the faculty and the brilliant students of the Department, in bringing out the magazine successfully.

May truth, justice, humility, compassion and gratitude guide us in this journey that we have undertaken! I seek your good wishes for the continued growth of the Department of English and this magazine in the times to come.

Happy reading!

Anuja Thakar

-Ms. Anuja Thakar

Editor-in-chief

Head of the Department

A SPECIAL THANKS TO :



Respected Chairman: MR. DEEPAK GUPTA



Preeti

Ms. Preeti Bhardwaj, Marketing and Admission Head, with an experience of over 18 years, has been an integral part of JCC since the beginning. She has played a pivotal role in executing all the major events at JCC. The Management Department has evolved under her invaluable guidance. She has also been actively leading the admission and counselling department at JCC and under whose wings the Department of English was initially raised.

Ms. Timsy Sardana: Faculty Editor
Ms. Shivani Duggal: Faculty Editor
Ms. Shefali Chauhan: Faculty Editor
Ms. Shweta Dutta: Student Coordinator

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MEMBERS OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



MS. ANUJA THAKAR

MBA (HRM), M.A. (English), B.Ed, BA (English Hons.), Diploma in Journalism and Mass Communication. Currently pursuing PhD with 20 years of work experience including corporate sector with Citibank and leading print and electronic media networks (Hindustan Times and Zee Media House). Acclaimed soft skills trainer and conducted several MDPs, also been on editors panel with prestigious private organisations and government institutions including CAPS and IDSA. Actively involved at JCC for last six years in shaping the personalities of students across departments, involved in Management Department as faculty, preparing curriculums, students placement and counseling drives, anchoring events and now nurturing the Department of English as the HOD. Endorsed brand BEATO, active involvement in cancer awareness programs, an avid reader, with several research publications and also a travelling enthusiast. Also been involved as judge and jury member for several school / college events and pageants, including Mrs Himachal Pradesh 2018. Firmly believes that teaching is not a profession, but a life long commitment to the future of mankind!



MS. TIMSY SARDANA

MBA (HR), M.A. (English), B.Ed, B.A. (English Hons.), Diploma holder in advertising and P.R., currently pursuing PhD with an experience of more than a decade in teaching career and soft skills training. Actively involved in corporate grooming and pre-placement enrichment campaign. Have also been engaged in student career counselling process.



MS. SHIVANI DUGGAL

M.Phil (English), M.A. (English), B.A. (English Hons.), Advance Diploma (German Language). Currently pursuing PhD (English). A scholarship holder for securing second position in Masters. With one year experience in teaching Literature, she has presented scholarly papers in National and International Conferences and has published under International publications.



MS. SHEFALI CHAUHAN

MBA (HR and Marketing), M.A. (English), B.A. (English), Certified in the study of sustainable economics by NUS, Singapore, Certified in the study of sustainable development by AIT, Thailand, a recognised poet by Delhi poetry Slam. Worked for a year in corporate and a freelance writer.

Written over 500 poems and soon will become a published poetess!



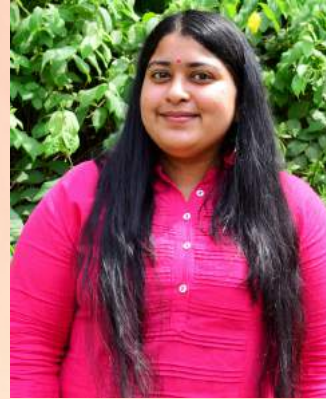
MS. SHWETA DUTTA

M.A. (Hindi), B.A., Computer Diploma.
With an experience of 20 years as an Academic Assistant.

STUDENT EDITORS AND
DESIGNING TEAM
B.A. HONS. (ENGLISH)
SECOND YEAR



Anjali Jaiswal



Deepika Malhotra



Vasu Dhir

LITERATURE AS A GATEWAY TO LIFE

"What is wonderful about great literature is that it transforms the man who reads it towards the condition of the man who wrote."- E.M. Forster

The feeling of traveling all across the globe while sitting at home on your cozy couch can only be felt, when you immerse yourself completely in literature. Any work of art created by amalgamating reality and fiction; like poem, novel, drama, film, etc. contributes to the repertoire of literature. While reading a literary work, the readers try to connect empathetically to the characters. This helps in transcending the literal boundaries that demarcate society and help in universalizing the human experience.

Literature emphasizes on psychological understanding of human emotions and feelings. The representation of different cultures, traditions, races, religions, etc. in a literary work helps in bringing together diversified community. The unification of experiences felt by human beings connects humanity at a larger level. Literature helps in analyzing social, economic, political and cultural existence of society and encourages readers to question every aspect of life. Readers, while being engrossed in the fictional narrative, do think about their surroundings which eventually help in bringing development in the society by enhancing the ways of living.

Literature helps the readers to connect to their long-lost past by providing them a narratorial account of the events in the history. Readers understand the significance of their history, cultural past and diversified identities; and learn the art of acceptance and inclusiveness. Different writers express their sentiments in different ways in their literary works and thus literature foster coexistence.

Ms. Shivani Duggal

THE JOY OF JOURNALING

“All you have to do is write one true sentence. Write the truest sentence that you know.” — Ernest Hemingway

Journaling is a way of expressing your thoughts on a piece of paper. It helps you to put ideas into perspective. By writing down what you are pondering about and your feelings, you get a glimpse of who you really are, how you turned out to be like this and why you act in certain ways or believe the way you do. Journaling is a beautiful way of unburdening yourself of all of the thoughts, feelings and emotions that have been corked up inside you. It is like a venting out session on a piece of paper and can also bring about healing. You can release your suppressed emotions and can feel free. We all have that one person in our lives with whom we feel connected and at ease sharing our thoughts and feelings regarding just about anything. But sometimes we feel scared of being judged, criticized or misunderstood if we end up sharing our thoughts and feelings with the wrong person.

So, a journal provides you a safe haven to release all your pent-up emotions without being judged for it. You should try to make it a daily habit rather than journaling only when you need to vent out. A blank page might seem intimidating to some, but once you get into the flow of it, there is no stopping you. There isn't a designated way of journaling. You can write, draw, paint, doodle or sketch or use any other creative outlet to express yourself. There is no right or wrong way of doing it. You can journal about anything- what you are feeling, things/people that you are grateful for, personal goals, small/big achievements and the list goes on... it's like having a conversation with a page.

You can journal anytime, anywhere, but to start with, try creating a habit to write in the morning when you wake up and at night, when you are ready to hit the bed. Your mind is a lot clearer during these times of the day with least number of distractions. You can opt for a journal which is simple and easy to use and carry around. While journaling, forget about any grammatical rules to be followed, just let your thoughts and feelings flow free and unobstructed as you write. But don't forget to date everything or mention any special details like time and place if they are worth-mentioning.

Ms. Timsy Sardana

LOVER'S EMBRACE OR ACID ATTACK

She was looking in her lover's eyes,
They were embracing each other,
He was kissing her glowing cheeks, flaming eyes and hot lips,
They were intricately close,
He wrapped her tightly like a bird wraps her baby.
Suddenly, she saw people voyeuristically eyeing her,
She realized, she was in middle of the road,
Surrounded by the intruding crowd,
Feeling excruciating and inexplicable pain.
She felt her skin melting and body burning,
She was unable to see, walk or say something,
She realized that her lover is nowhere
Rather, she was dreaming.
She mistook the Acid's attack for her Lover's embrace!
In reality,
Acid kissed her,
Burning her eyes and hot lips and glowing cheeks.

Ms. Shivani Duggal

UTOPIA

In my dream, I see that place,
What they call a paradise, it's a world so bright that I see the lights in the night.
Ah, the colours; all too many,
A sky painted in all the mellow hues,
A vision so skeptical and mesmerising all at once
All I see are happy faces,
No fanatic parade,
My people with an enormous smile,
And I in the warmth of their arms,
Basking in the glory of love and prosperity.
Where the gory details of the world shalt not signify, no unjust can crucify my mien.
A dream so beautiful,
I wish it were true, it will happen just not yet,
The trail to happiness is through thorny peculiar blues.

Ms. Shefali Chauhan

VERACITY OF LIFE

Nowadays, we witness in our society how the young generation is callous and does not care about their elderly parents. They are engrossed with their work and life that they have no time for their parents, who desire to spend some quality time with their children. Our parents had a time in their lives when they could have abandoned us in our childhood, but they decided to help us out in making our future bright. Now, it is their turn to take care of us then why aren't the youngsters doing their bit? That's only because we don't care about them as we are so worked up in making our future that we just forget that our parents are ageing too .

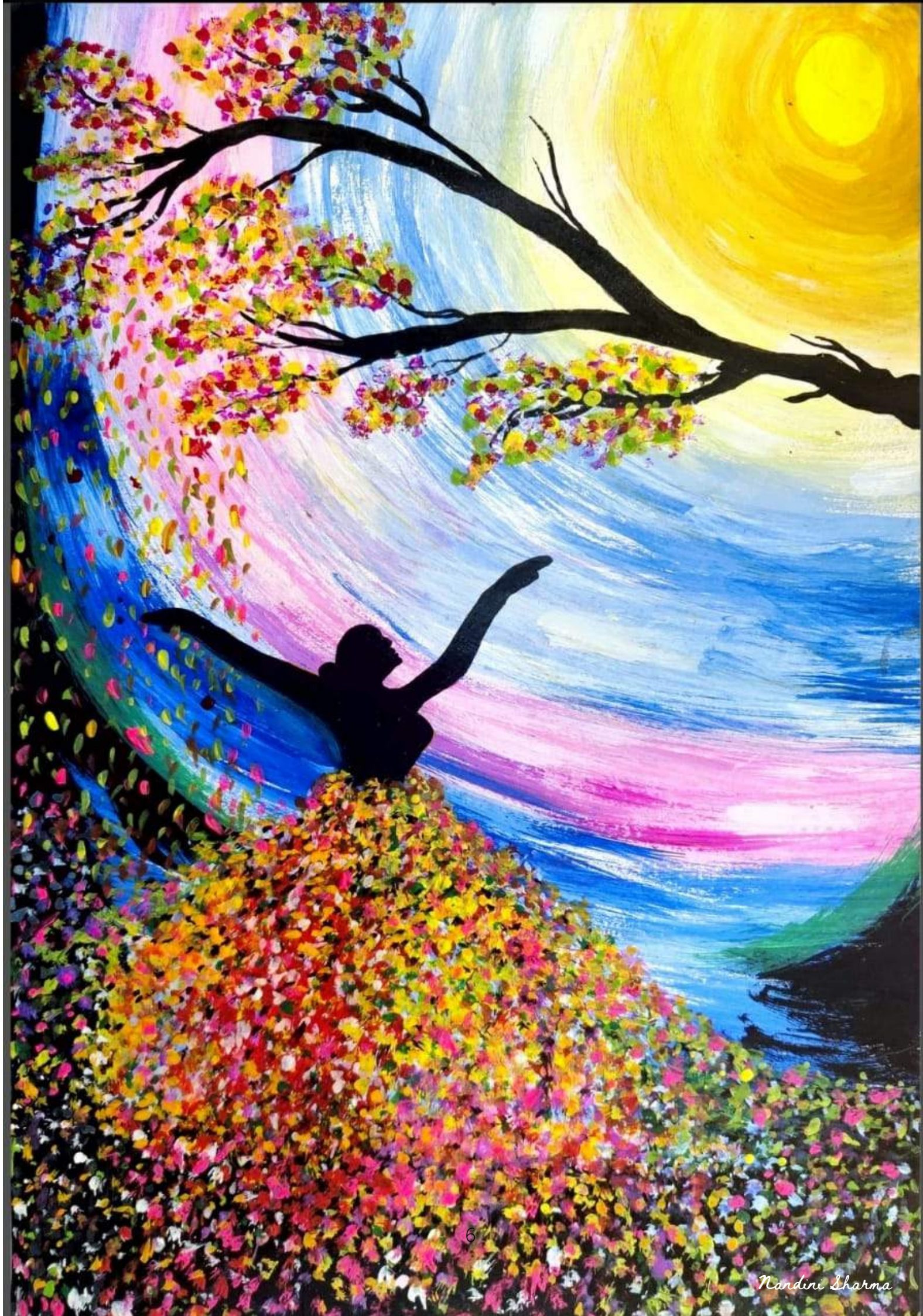
As quoted by the renowned author William Shakespeare, "*All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players*"

Our present generation does not know about our cultures and norms or how to behave in front of someone, as they don't sit with their parents to discuss or understand about our culture. During COVID-19, many lost their lives. We had precious moments to spend with our loved ones. We should talk to them about their different life experiences, as it would give us an idea to explore ahead in our lives.

Our parents are the best advice-givers, but we don't choose to take advice from them, as the children think that they are more superior to their parents and continue to believe that their elderly parents could not understand anything because of the generation gap between them. Our older generations discussed various things with each other. Some children are really ashamed to take their parents out for something as they feel embarrassed because they are not technologically advanced.

Time is precious; once it's gone, it won't come back.

Ms. Shweta Dutta



METANOIA

A woman has a right to live with dignity and freedom. Women have suffered and are suffering a lot since time immemorial and in today's time as well because of the gender discrimination. Their presence is questioned every time by this patriarchal society. They have been treated as invisible beings in the society. Women were not allowed to express their thoughts. In this day and age, women empowerment comes in like a gust of fresh breeze aiming at making every woman in the society powerful and capable of standing for themselves, to speak for themselves, to fight for themselves, to express themselves and to claim their existence to this blind society. It made them aware of their rights and taught them how they have the potential of making their independent identity in the community rather than depending on anyone. However, we still have a long journey to reach the goal.

-Nandini Sharma

CARICATURE OF HUMAN INFECTION

We should feel blessed that there is
Such a thing as nature,
How funny it seems when we have
Actually turned it into a caricature.
Most intelligent race,
And we are uprooting nature off of
Earth's face.

The Amazon forest ablaze,
Yet, everyone tends to run after money as if it is a race.
The Earth's lungs are on fire
If not realized soon, you'll just be a man on a wire,
One wrong step and you will fall on floor,
And find yourself knocking at hell's door.

Nature has triumphed with fear,
Asking terrified, is someone you should hold dear?
Or am I just another flower,
That you'll stomp on with your car?

And if that's the case,
You'll see the extinction of the human race.
Cut down the trees and don't let the flowers bloom,
I see. You are making way to your own inevitable doom.

Nature is really just a thing of beauty,
It's such a pity,
Admiring it isn't what we do,
Just visiting forests for the trees, why do you?

If you still need oxygen to breathe,
And can no longer live in this treacherous heat,
Pay attention to nature's affection,
And don't let it turn into a caricature of human infection.

-Vasu Dhir



Pic Courtesy: Vasu Dhir

LABYRINTH



Pic Courtesy: Roshni Rathour

Keep on using euphemism to save the world,
your blackened heart won't be seen,
but your burnt tongue would be remembered for every time it kept shut.
From skipping a heartbeat and blushing upon eye contacts,
to wishing for them to look at you once, just once.
Your wandering eyes would meet theirs, and you will find no love.

You would look away,
look away till the dusk in their eyes are gone
because if you still look into their eyes,
your blackened heart would want its revenge.

It would ask back for what it invested
and you will have nothing to offer except for ignorance,
because your pain did not learn to harmonize,
it still hurts.

Scream into the pillow and cry till the sleep comes,
Do not wake up the next morning,
Do not take a bath,
Do not look into the mirror,
And do not miss them.

Do not embrace every wound as a gift by lover,
As a long-awaited letter.

Trembling hands and frustrated eyes
would wonder about the right time for their arrival.

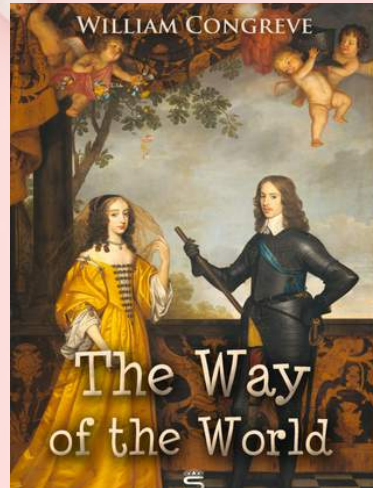
But what if they make you impatient
And never really arrive?
Scream into the pillow and cry till the sleep comes.

- Anjali Jaiswal

BOOK REVIEW : THE WAY OF THE WORLD BY WILLIAM CONGREVE



Pic Courtesy: Godfrey Kneller



Pic Courtesy: Kobo

It's a novel written by William Congreve wherein Congreve satirizes the society's mannerisms. How the aristocratic society functioned in the 18th century. The writer used the characters to portray the hypocrisy, licentiousness, cuckoldry, deceit, and malice prevalent in the society. All this was an integral part of the play. After the death of Oliver Cromwell, Charles II was restored to the monarchy. The whole idea was to ridicule the ideology of Puritans.

The plot revolves around the marriage, which is more of a business deal between the protagonists Mirabell and Millamant. The intriguing part of the book is the proviso scene that highlights the battles between the two sexes and the idea of compromise in marriage. Millamant is the unconventional, liberated woman who had the audacity to put her demand in front of her future husband. She was a straightforward woman who didn't accept what society throws at her. She had a voice of her own. She becomes a symbol for so many other women, who are not aware of their fundamental rights.

Imitating the fashionable society was the trend of the town. Characters like Petulant and Witwoud would go to any extent to fit in the misfit society. There was no pure relationship of love between the entangled family. All were plotting against each other to fulfill their selfish motives. This book is the best replica of the society of the 18th century, and one can know the fanciful and lustful desires of these aristocratic societies.

-Deepika Malhotra

LET HER SOAR HIGH

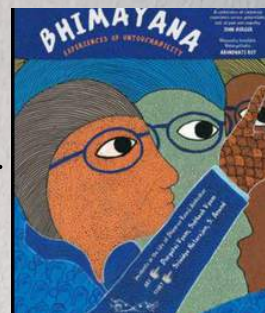


Pic Courtesy: IAS Planner

The sign of love is in the womb.
The most splendid and dearest is about to bloom.
But encountering the greed of the son makes the mother gloom,
Her eloquent loops engendered bristly moves.
Feeling the foetus, relieving herself, she fought for justice against the dry populace.
Traditions and rituals are why always caught on women's side.
Just because daddy thought expenditures incurred on women are too high,
Every scrap of pain is concealed because brother is superior in all his deeds.
In-laws wanted grandson to continue their generation but never thought of daughter-in-law as their family's regenerator.
A fallacy of stating a baby girl as despise is ultimately her rise.
Apathy, fatality, animosity are at the peak, but her resistance is others' defeat.
To erode her dignity and pride was once their right, but when she hooked herself with determinant eyes, their thoughts were buried with sorrowful minds.
Combat with Kali is never forgotten, the power of Durga is foregone, and knowledge from Saraswati is asked for long.
Roars of women are tried to be swathed, but her proficiency can never be wrapped.
All attempts can creak, but her resilience can never be weak.

-Aishwarya Bhardwaj

BOOK REVIEW: BHIMAYANA: EXPERIENCES OF UNTOUCHABILITY



Pic Courtesy: Indie Inspirations

Bhimayana: Experiences of Untouchability is a graphic novel inspired by the incidents in Bhimrao Ramaji Ambedkar's life. The novel was written by Srividya Natarajan, Durgabai Vyam and Subhash Vyam. The graphic biography focuses on the struggles faced by Dalit community. The story is a combination of both visuals as well as literary devices. The novel discovers the harsh reality of Ambedkar in his childhood and the struggles he faced while working for the cause of Dalits Rights.

This book is an autobiographical version of Dr. B R. Ambedkar's life, which provides the insight into his distressful life. The use of graphics in the novel depicts the brutal oppression and subjugation of untouchables. The story is divided into three books. Each book represents different stages of Dr. Ambedkar's life as a child, as a young adult, and as the leader of the Dalit movement later on. Pradhan Gond art is used in the novel.

The use of these art forms glorified the sentiments that have been expressed by the writer. The graphics used are visual metaphors and symbols referring to different situations and people. The representation flowed freely on the pages having no frames, which showcased a more expressive approach to the novel.

In this novel, there are 90 pages and a total of 171 graphics are used.

The Novel was published in 2011 by Navayana. The book, through the life of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar provides zeal among the young generation to stand for their rights and fight against wrong. *Bhimayana: The Experiences of Untouchability* also includes the conflicts between the respective ideologies of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi. The use of colors in the novel indicates the idea of convergence and unification. *Bhimayana: The Experience of Untouchability* was hailed by CNN as among the top five political comics. The lines and language used by the writer give the account of struggles in the life of Dalits. It describes how caste difference in our society prevents some people from attaining basic amenities required for their living. Bhimrao Ramaji Ambedkar was awarded Bharat Ratna for his contribution towards the betterment of untouchables.

The book is best suited for all generations, as it provides them with the value to respect every human regardless of their religion, caste or class. This book is an inspirational work that offers the value of human life. It makes us realise the power of unification. The book gives us the message of celebrating the diversity of caste present in our society.

-Ameesha Dutt

PEACE OF MIND



Peace of mind is essential for healthy lifestyle. It helps a person to become more calm and relaxed. It is attained when anxiety, stress, worries, and fear disappear. Peace of mind is paramount in today's time. We do not focus on our mental health as we tend to focus on the physical well-being for staying fit and healthy. Finding peace is essential because it enhances our creativity and ability to remain focused and excel in life.

-Jasleen Sikka

UTOPIA



Pic Courtesy: about my brain

I look up at the sky,
I paint a happy picture
My imagination dancing around not just in the corners but through every center,
I think about the innumerable possibilities.
About how it would be beyond the sky. Around the galaxy, I dive.
I see myriad people's dreams swimming in the incessant pool of prayers.
Beyond the sky,
I am not just a twenty-year-old girl living in a country named India.
I am not just a girl who is afraid of walking on the roads during darkest nights.
I am not just a girl who is made to think about the burden of responsibilities.
I am not just a girl who is stereotyped to have 'no opinions',
Who is asked to wear clothes as the society wants
There! I am free; I am limitless; I am omnipresent.
Because unlike here, there I can afford to be
There! where beggars, helplessness, rape, and corruption,
Just those words in the dictionary you never come around.
There! Where kindness and motivation are the things you collect, unlike here
There! Where I get the love of my Life, affectionately holding my hands for light years and
eons to come
There! Where forever is no myth.
It's the only truth.
Beyond the sky,
I covet for things I don't have here.
I imagine being a bird trusting the clouds to be my companion
Beyond the sky, I want to write for myself and spare the stars the work. Beyond the sky, it's
all about being beyond dreams, aspirations, life, future, and death
Beyond the sky
Oh! I was just dreaming.

-Tamsil Fatma

CAREFREE SOUL



Never let yourself down; whether someone likes it or not, always do what you really want to do. Whether they don't believe in what you possess and even if the whole world is against you and you constantly feel that you should change yourself into something new. Just live your life the way you like it and believe in your wings and in yourself. When the whole world accuses you and you are unsure, whether the accusations are factual or fictitious; then remind yourself about the acquittal of your soul's court, shut the world and escape the morose fort. Just have faith in your stars, believe in your wings, acknowledge what you are, and define yourself. Therefore, flow freely with the wind and be carefree!

-Vanshika Aggarwal

IF EMOTIONS WERE NOT SO DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND

If emotions were not so difficult to understand!

I wish if emotions were not so complicated,
And human's mind had not been intoxicated,
By all the negative thoughts
Which they have nurtured so deep inside them that,
All their positivity has been lost
Among the shadows of dark thoughts that have already been enormously replicated.

I wish if emotions were not so complicated,
And human's mind had not been intoxicated.

By hatred, betrayal, stereotypes
Discrimination, prejudices
and what not...

Then maybe love would never suffer,
May be life had not been so complicated,
Maybe poor need not suffer,
Maybe people could understand each other
Better than ever,
Without much suffering,
Without much pain,
Without any fear
Of being judged by others
Without any pressure
Of competing with each other.

To prove themselves better
Maybe then
Life would have been easy
And much simplified,
And maybe then
The world would have been
A better place to live in,
Maybe then,
Everyone had been
Much more educated
And understanding
Maybe then,
Equality would get
Always the chance better
Than those discriminative
Ideas and thoughts.
Maybe no emotions
Would ever need to suffer,
May be then no people
Had to suffer
Or to surrender
This beautiful life
For being depressed or
Lonely ever
Maybe such a
Pathetic and
disastrous condition
Of the humankind
Had never occurred.
If human's thought
Had not been intoxicated
By negative thoughts.

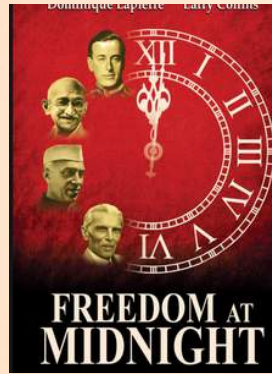
-Loveleen Tiwari

LITTLE DID SHE KNOW

Little did she know that she was so happy.
Little did she know that she loves too much.
Little did she know that she will never hurt him.
Little did she know that they were perfect together.
But what she didn't know that he never was happy.
But what she didn't know that she was never enough for him.
But what she didn't know that he was making new connections.
But what she didn't know that he was losing all his feelings.
But what she didn't know that he never loved.
But what she didn't know that he wasn't the one.
All now she knows is that she was the one in love.
All now she knows is that she gave too much to that person who never even deserved
it.
All now she knows is that he was only fooling her.
All now she knows is that it was all a trap.
All now she knows is that he won the game of harnessing her with his soothing
words.
All now she knows is that the person she called her lover has ever since been the
enemy.

-Himanshi Vij

BOOK REVIEW: FREEDOM AT MIDNIGHT



Pic Courtesy : Amazon

"India has not been a real nation. It solely appears that way on the map. The cows I need to eat, the Hindus stop me from killing it." This quote is taken from a compelling book *Freedom at Midnight*, by Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre. The book is one of the popular accounts of Partition, Mahatma Gandhi's life and the dark side of humanity. The book talks about the riots in pre-partition time and post-partition time.

Jinnah's devilish nature is revealed because of whom Partition of Indian and Pakistan took place. He emphasized the two-nation theory, which focused on forming a separate state with different cultures and heritage for the Muslim community. The book opens with Mountbatten as Viceroy of India and his little contribution towards Partition. The book reveals the situation of women who were raped by Muslims, Hindus, and Sikh men before and after Partition. Gandhi says that if women are being raped, they should not refuse the rapists and cooperate with them, as they will be satisfied soon and will leave. Mahatma Gandhi, who is considered as a symbol of a unified nation and non-violence, couldn't justify his created persona. The book depicts such instances with facts and the writer left it upon the readers if we still wish to call him Mahatma.

Simply magnificent! The book is an excellent narrative of events that describe the political and dark side of the human soul. The writers have done deep research on the topic of freedom from the British at midnight. One must give it a read to understand historical events, tragedies and Gandhi's life. People who love reading history must read this book. It is interesting as it deals with pre-independence, Mountbatten, Mohammad Ali Jinnah and other historical events.

This book is very well-written. It has black and white photos along with descriptions of the events. These photos gave us a better understanding of what people's lives were like. One of the things that were especially interesting was that the Indian freedom movement was led by a non-violence campaign, which created confusion for the readers to judge Mahatma Gandhi on the basis of facts about his personality being a symbol of non-violence or sexism. Some people may not like this book because it is very depressing, but it is an essential event in history to remember.

-Anshika Garg

EVERYTHING IS BLUE



Pic Courtesy: Harward Business Review

So, you say,
What I breathe in is oxygen,
And not the broken chunks of my euphoria?
And the words, you say, mean something?
You mean that my legs shake because of anxiety,
And not because my brain instructs them to dance?
Dance, on the music of my own sorrow.
The music, filled with memories and wisdom.
My brain,
It can only acknowledge the color blue,
Everything is blue.
You say it's June, but I feel cold,
I feel cold, and I do not get out of my bed.
Me, in bed, looks a lot like the color blue,
It is the only color that my brain recognizes,
And my brain denies that the words you say, mean something.

-Anjali Jaiswal

EMPOWERING WOMEN

How can you do this?
In this world,
Where everyone is selfish,
How can you be so selfless?
How can you sacrifice for others?
Those others,
Who don't care for you,
Who don't even value your sacrifices
Why do you have to agree with them?
When you believe otherwise.
What are you made up of?
Don't you have a heart?
Because they think so,
They take your love for granted,
And believe you don't have feelings,
Because you don't say!
Why don't you?
They call you with names,
impure, unchaste and what not,
When they themselves are no less!
They abuse you, beat you,
And you still worship them like God,
You still pay them respect,
When they are not even worthy of it!
They don't even respect you,
And want you to do everything for them.
But you should not!

Because they don't value it
They believe it as your duty,
They say this, who don't know theirs,
And you still care for them!
How can you do this?
But I believe only you,
WOMEN can do this.
Because you are not like them,
Those men and other people in the
world,
They don't know anything about you.
They just use you for their needs.
Make you a person they can't be, Ever!
You don't deserve this,
And they don't deserve you.
Don't let them do this to you,
Treat them like they treat you,
Show them your worth,
Show them that you are better,
And let men and society know,
That you can do what they can,
And even more than that.

-Diksha Narang



Pic Courtesy: Adobe Stock

DEAR FUTURE INDIA

From the past, we have been through
To the present situation, the time has flown,
We made mistakes, and things worsened.
Dear Future India, do you know my India has its own story.

At the time of our birth, we hadn't ever thought
That we would be limited to a place we got,
Dear Future India, do you know my India has its own spot.

This place is so hot that it burns till our soul
hamper our dash apropos of growth,
No discrimination, no enmity, no hate
Dear Future India, do you know my India has its own trait.

A country where the respect for the guest is never aborted,
Every citizen has the pride
As its beauty is like a decorated bride
Dear Future India, do you know my India has its own side.

Women here are always revered.
But they are always put into the dark shade
Because of them, we were made
We also can't forget about the woman who had been raped,
They were unable to escape
This is the hard reality we faced
It can't be erased
Dear Future India, do you know my India has its own spade.

Our act of overpopulation, pollution, and deforestation have their own calculation,
We had many complications.
Let's not be more mistaken and balance the equations
Dear Future India, do you know my India has its own relations.

We have a lot to debate.
But first, Let's educate
Its yet not too late
Dear Future India, do you know my India is great.

-Aanchal Sharma

ANALOGICAL EXISTENCE

BUCKET AND SELF-RESPECT

If you fill a bucket of water more than it's required and pick it with any of your hands, it always makes you bend towards the opposite side. That's exactly how self-respect works. If you let people enter your bucket of water more than it's required, you'll always bend. So, let your bucket be filled with the right amount of water so that instead of bending, you carry it with all the courage and confidence because there's always a thin line between being selfish and keeping your self-respect intact.

KALEIDOSCOPE AND STRENGTH

Have you ever seen inside a kaleidoscope and wondered how can the broken mirrors look so winsome. That's how strength works! It just depends on the way you look at things.

Indeed, broken things can be beautiful too !

BAG AND PEACE

A magnificent one or an elegant one or a graceful bag, no matter how a bag looks. There's one thing very clear about it the more you stuff it, the more chances of the bag getting ripped increases. And the same goes with your heart, your inner peace. The more you let things get on to you, the more your inner peace vanishes. The more you don't let yourself open in front of anybody, the heavier your heart becomes. And in the end, it's ripped and broken. Let things in your inner bag be light, give them some space, and let them breathe.

-Archisha Batra



Pic Courtesy : Scientific American

JOURNEY OF LIFE



Pic Courtesy: Just Meddling Through Life

Life is but a stopping place,
A pause in what's to be,
A resting place along the road,
To sweet eternity.

We all have a different journey,
A different path along the way,
We were meant to learn some things,
But never meant to stay.

Our destination is a place,
Far greater than we know,
For some, the journey is quicker,
For some, the journey is slow.

And when the journey finally ends,
We will claim a great reward,
And find an everlasting peace,
Together with the lord.

So close your eyes to the future,
Or days preceding now,
And focus on the present,
For today will show you how.

-Shweta Malhotra

SAUDADE



Do you ever wanna get lost and wish to be found by the one you love the most?
Everybody is responsible for the things happening in their lives and I was for mine.
You don't die the day when you stop breathing, but you die the day you stop living, and I
stopped living. I realized that day when my expectations killed me.

Back then, the summer day of April 2018, high school was a difficult task. It felt like going on a war daily and fighting with my troop, my bag was the sword case, and my books were the swords. It started to feel like my troop wants to kill me and win the battle. This battle was named "Competition". And one day, I was fighting, and I saw him, the new warrior in the troop, but I didn't want to kill him, and I didn't want any battle anymore. I wanted to be his friend or maybe even more? He was charming and attractive, and once in a day, a moment came when we used to have an eye contact.

It felt like he wants to say something that I felt in his eyes but some external force was stopping him, making him stay away from me. "Was that love at first sight?" I used to ask myself after school, on my way back home but I was not sure. And it was easy for me to go to school. I had a reason to go now, him. I wanted to talk to him, know him, and understand the kind of person he actually was, but I had no courage to start the conversation. I was unenlightened to the fact that love is not pure now. People don't love based on the kind of person one is. Love was actually based on the way a person looks. Why do we perceive people on the basis of their looks but heart?

Why do we judge? I guess I know the answer. We judge others to hide our own flaws. We judge because we are afraid of getting insulted in front of a bunch of people, so it is easy to hurt than getting hurt. We prefer to die but getting insulted is a huge deal. I guess I was doing the same, hiding my flaws, and that's the most murderous mistake I have ever committed. I judged him by his appearance, but I should have seen his heart. I should have known him first.

-Roshni Rathour

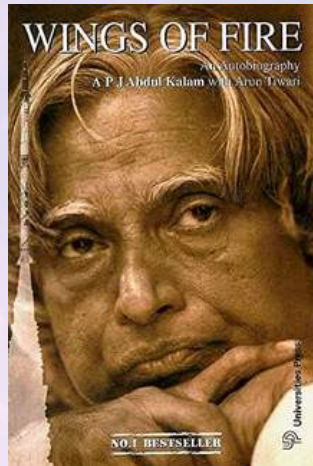
FEMALE EMANCIPATION



Women empowerment can be defined as women's power to lead a happy and respectable life in society. Women should be empowered by giving them opportunities in the profession, politics, education, etc. It's necessary to provide them with authority to make decisions. Patriarchal society tries to put down women's freedom across the world. Earlier, women did not have voting rights, neither were they allowed to decide and were asked to stay inside the house and do household chores, give birth to babies, and take care of them. Gradually, women realized their worth and started working upon making men recognize that they are not only meant for household chores but can do anything that a man can do. Eventually, women got their power and respect. Today women are enjoying their freedom, many job opportunities are opening for them.

-Grasha Mittal

BOOK REVIEW : WINGS OF FIRE



Pic Courtesy : goodreads

'*Wings of Fire*' is an autobiographical book primarily based on Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam written with Arun Tiwari's aid. The *Wings of Fire* traces the upward thrust and marks Dr.

Kalam made in his existence and career. Dr. Kalam, from 2002-07, served as the 11th President of India. Immensely respected all over India, he was a scientist who performed with exuberance in creating the country's missile program. This book is one such autobiography by Dr. Kalam, who hailed from a humble background and rose to become the President of India. The book is insightful as it talks about non-public moments and lifestyle experiences of Dr. Kalam. It gives us a grasp on his journey of success. He narrated his existence, inspired the readers to pick out one's internal furnace and potential. How he stimulated himself to obtain goals and went on engaging, so a good deal is what the book captures nicely.

The book recalls many anecdotes and stories from childhood, his time as faculty at college.

He additionally mentioned the time spent at the Langley Research Center (LaRC), NASA, and Wallops Flight Facility. The second half of the book offers his tremendous contribution in creating the nation's guided missile program, a pioneering effort for the nation's security. The book also incorporates twenty four photographs ranging from various degrees of his life.

Authored by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Mr. Arun Tiwari, the one hundred eighty pages book, *The Wings of Fire* was first published in December 2000. It became a bestseller and has been translated into thirteen languages, which include Chinese and French.

The book has many enduring lines that will be intact with us for a long time. It is suitable for analysis as it shows us how to dream and dare to achieve it. This book makes the reader understand Dr. Kalam's dedication. What stands out is the questioning of Kalam. It is a simple, secular, and inspiring humanitarian book that offers us hope. We got to know Kalam as an environment-friendly person. The book is tremendously insightful, which others fail to deliver. My favorite quote from the book is, "*We are all born with a divine hearth in us. Our efforts ought to be to give wings to this furnace and fill the world with the glow of its goodness.*"

-Ridhi Gupta

WELCOME TO MY GENERATION



Pic Courtesy: Canada Institutes of Health Research

In my generation,
where everyone pretends to be happy on social media.
In reality, are lost, broken and hurt.
Snapchat and Instagram stories are more important,
to support people digitally,
and not in real life.
In my generation, many teenagers don't know
how to face their problems,
All they do is lose hope or try to escape it.
This generation wants to take it all
and never give anything back.
Where people like to connect on social media,
But are disconnected from their souls.
In my generation, everyone is living for money and fame.
They forget to be loving and kind.
My generation appreciate's fakeness,
Being authentic is thing of the past now!

-Manshi Khanijo

IDEAL OUTFIT

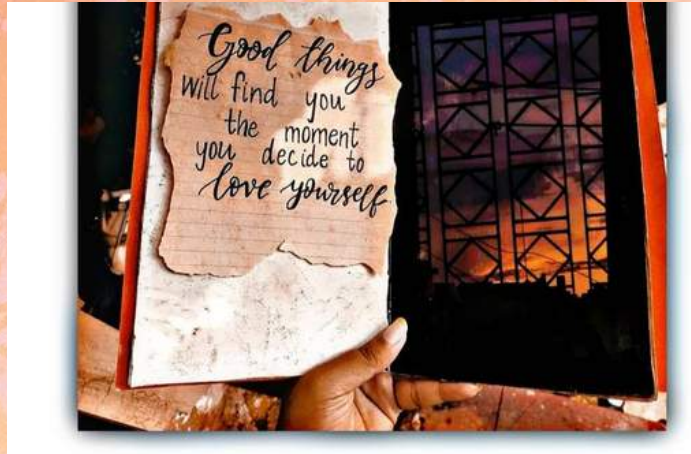


While making this mandala, I always thought of the different opinions that people very easily and quickly make from just looking at a woman's attire. People are so judgemental in these times, and in people, I count myself too, as I have noticed that I also have a tendency to see girls of my age wearing skirts and dresses in college. Then like others, I start commenting and also wondering about several difficulties that they must be facing. Those set of prying eyes looking at them shamelessly, not only boys, even girls staring and giggling. But now, when I think of it, I feel ashamed.

I know it's very easy to comment and stare because if someone is wearing something different, it takes some guts, and we generally tend to criticize than to praise. Even if a woman or a girl is looking nice, we often look for that one single thing that is missing or is in its place because women are always expected to be perfect and look perfect. Well, I am trying to change myself and my acquaintances, who tend to do so, hoping that after reading this, the common perception of people will be questioned and will eventually lead to the betterment of society.

- Mehak Jain

MY POSSESSIONS



Pic Courtesy : Samraddhi Singh

I have
An engorged passion
The encrypt desire
The fount of it.

I have
The encumbered dream
To achieve it
I am foreworn
In this messy challenge.

I have
A parable past
A halcyon today
A hale mind
A martinet one
To induce in me
The passion to win.

I have
A fearless mind
A penchant for challenges
To ponder over
The thought
The quest is set on.

-Samraddhi Singh

EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT

MOVIE SCREENING OF FRANKENSTEIN



Pic Courtesy : Fandom



Pic Courtesy: Blendspace

Cinema and protagonists have always been a fascinating part in understanding the views of a writer especially when it comes to watching a movie of a novel that is already a part of the syllabus.

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* a fictional novel based on Gothic literature written on terror and crazy heights of intelligence by the protagonist Victor an intelligent physics student who is drawn towards the art of re-creating life and believes in the notion of "no pain to heart" if the dead is back. His creation, *Frankenstein* who appears like a monster and is completely innocent and unaware to the new world gets abandoned and swears to revenge for his miseries bringing in death and trauma in many lives.

The entire English department was shown this movie *Frankenstein* directed by Marcus Nispel which was released in 2004. This movie was so fantastically made that it was absolutely apt to the novel and all the students were able to grasp the novel in a much better way and found reading it as more interesting after watching the movie.

-Aishwarya Bhardwaj

SHELF INDULGENCE

Reading is going toward something that is about to be, and no one yet knows what it will be.” – Italo Calvino

Sitting in the class one day, our lecturer thought of doing something creative to make the class more interactive and interesting. She asked us to make a club, and we called it "Shelf Indulgence." We were excited about it as we were trying our hands at it, but our teacher had other creative strategies to make our college experience even better. We started with a Book Review session to inculcate reading habits. Few students shared their reviews of the books they have read and gave their suggestions as one must consider reading them once. They talked about stress-free life and how to be at peace. The first book was *The Palace Of Illusions*, a novel by an award-winning novelist and poet Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. It is a rendition of the Hindu epic *Mahabharata* as told from Draupadi's viewpoint, a woman living in a patriarchal world. The second book was *The Subtle Art Of Not Giving A F*ck* which is an approach to living a good life; it is the book by a blogger and author Mark Manson. In this book, he argues that life's struggles give it meaning, and the mindless positivity of typical self-help books is neither practical nor helpful. Also, the book was a New York Times and Globe and Mail bestseller .



We learned that reading is essential as it helps us to explore our perspectives. Reading gives endless information and knowledge. It is a form of personal entertainment as it introduces us to different stories and feelings embedded with all kinds of information. Reading helps in improving mental health and keeping our minds active. It has other benefits for all aspects of our lives. People who write already know the importance of reading. Whether we write something just for fun, reading can always improve your writing skills and help you do it in a much better way. Reading can make one's writing skills more robust, and enhanced.

-Shweta Singh

A VISIT TO HUMAYUN'S TOMB



History teaches us about the events that happened in the past. Our department went for an excursion to Humayun's tomb. Humayun, son of Babar, was the second Mughal emperor. He ruled over territories that are currently in Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan. Visiting this tomb taught us about the prevalent architecture at that time; they used to write things on the marble in Urdu. It is believed that Urdu writings on the marbles were the prayers that people wrote for the peace of the dead. On every tomb, the word "Allah" is written twice. It is said that the tomb of Humayun is actually underground, and the upper tomb that we actually visit is the replica of the tomb underneath.

It is observed that even on the replica, people are only allowed to go barefoot because the tomb is considered to be holy. Along with Humayun's grave, there were almost one fifty more graves present underneath. These tombs enhance the rich Indian culture. Architectural work in Humayun's tomb is similar to Taj Mahal's architecture. It is said that "Humayun's tomb is the red colored Taj Mahal of Delhi." Altogether, the visit was highly knowledgeable. We are thankful that our teachers gave us this enormous opportunity to a beautiful historical site.

-Roshni Rathour

MOVIE SCREENING: PRIDE AND PREJUDICE



Pic Courtesy : Wikipedia

Pride and Prejudice is a delightful and moving novel that helps people understand women's status, class, sense of integrity, and gender roles. While reading the book, the characters were not as straightforward compared to when we watched the movie. Evidently, the motion description of a novel is more understandable than reading. We had a movie screening in the college auditorium. While watching the movie, we observed certain differences in the portrayal of Mr. Collins's and Mr. Bingley's character.

Mr. Collins added his comic taste to the movie, as I reminisce from the ballroom scene, he walks towards Mr. Darcy to talk. He amusingly proposed Elizabeth as he was not letting her complete her sentence. We observed Mr. Bingley being a little dumb. Whereas, some characters were strikingly similar like Elizabeth and Mrs. Bennet. Elizabeth, the protagonist in the novel, showed her sense of integrity. We also understood that Jane Austen tried to portray how marriage is considered as an important event for the people in the 19th century. The novel starts with the quote on marriage's role. Similarly, the movie also started with Mrs. Bennet's concern for her daughter's wedding.

It was altogether a very happening and remarkable experience that made it easy for us to understand *Pride and Prejudice*; However, the traits of some characters were a bit different. The movie made the concept of marriage, integrity, gender, and women's status easy to understand.

- Roshni Rathour

STREET PLAY



Everything comes to an interesting note when it comes to a dramatic direction. A street play was organized by the English department club, "Shelf Indulgence" on social issues. All the students were given a tremendous opportunity to showcase their talents and portray themselves as a skilful figure in terms of being creative and confident.

The first play was based on 'Child Marriage' wherein the participants were highly enthusiastic in bringing out the awareness and law-oriented facts about the fundamentals that should be followed by the society in order to promote literacy and empowerment in the context of young girls. The second act was based on the conditions of LGBT in the society and it was beautifully named 'Pehchaan'. The main theme of the play was to make people recognise the importance of humanity and support people regardless of their gender or biological factors. The third play was based on the idea of child welfare in the context of educational pressure. The main motive of the drama was to make the concept of life and peace of a child to be more important than his/her marks in academics because marks are not a sign of intelligence or maturity rather parents should accept and love their children the way they are and should believe in improving them with the same love and cooperation.

Diligence and dignity are important factors of collaboration and perception is the main outcome of the hard work put altogether and Moreover, when team work and versatile ideas come together escalate results are feasible.

-Aishwarya Bhardwaj

SHORT STORY COMPETITION



"If there's a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it." — Toni Morrison.

We all know that writing is therapeutic in nature. Whatever we imagine and deal with in our lives, be it an experience, an incident, a phase of life, penning it down releases some sort of emotions. For some, writing is the activity that lets their feelings flow. For some, writing can be the art that gives the platform to express their creative mindset.

The Department of English gave a platform to the students and conducted a short story writing competition. The competition was conducted via online mode due to the pandemic situation. We have known that pandemic taught us to cope with the times, and with that note, our Department tried to encourage and boost the students to actively participate and express themselves through writing. The aim was to develop writing skills and engage the students in a fun and collaborative experience.

The competition was conducted to give students a stage wherein they can pen down their emotions. It was a creative competition through which they could use their thoughts to pen down the world of their imagination.

-Deepika Malhotra

SLAM POETRY DAY



Our book club "Shelf Indulgence" organized a slam poetry session. This book club was established to encourage students to inculcate the love for reading and explore the works of writers apart from our course and dwell into the world of literature through different genres.

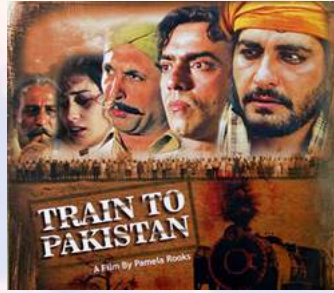
In the slam poetry session, students recited poetry, some self-composed and some published. It was an interesting session. The self-composed poetry was on the topics like Love, Parents, Friendship, Problems of our Generation, Heartbreak, Depression, and many more. All of us experienced various emotions listening the poetries. We could relate to them on a more personal level. They were opening a side of them through poetry, which we all had never seen. The way they were reciting their poetries, it was clearly visible that these poetries were highly personal to them and it was inspired by their lives experiences, which they had penned down.

We were also given a motivational speech by our fellow batch-mate. It talked about how coming first in life is not the most important thing. We human beings want to come first in every race of our life and we set our standards high that if sometimes we cannot achieve it, we experience failure and get depressed. The most important thing to grasp from all your failures is experience and how you should learn from every mistake in your life and use that in a positive way for your future.

We learned the importance of reading and writing poetry. Poetry allows us to dig deeper in our hearts and write things that mean a lot to us or just things that can't be expressed openly to someone. Poetry is something that allows us to pen down our imaginations in a beautiful way. It is something that connects us to other people on a more vulnerable level and allows us to know how they think and how they view life.

-Sakshi Dogra

MOVIE SCREENING OF TRAIN TO PAKISTAN



Pic Courtesy: Youtube

The Partition of the sub-continent into two independent nations, India and Pakistan, shook the lives of people of that time. It was one of the scariest times in the history of our nation.

This event tells about the ghastly stories of immense sufferings of men, women and children; who were present there during that time. One of the stories is portrayed in the film named *Train to Pakistan*. We saw this film as a part of our curriculum. This film screening made us aware of the conditions faced by people at the time of Partition. It had horrifying scenes depicting the sorrowful experience of the people of both religions, Hindus and Muslims. Hindu majority had to come to India, while the Muslim majority had to shift to Pakistan. During Partition, the trains coming from India to Pakistan and from Pakistan to India were just full of dead bodies and nothing else. Rioters from both sides were not letting people shift peacefully and were creating such a terrifying environment around, killing people brutally.

Our course on "Contemporary India: Women and Empowerment" teaches us to not only see things from the side of men but from the side of women as well. In the film, it is clearly portrayed that Partition affected women differently than it affected men. Women were killed by their own families, just to protect the family's honor and reputation because if they get raped, which was common at the time of partition, it will bring disgrace to the family. It was already fitted in the minds of every woman of that time that the reputation of the family is more important than themselves, that is why many women were even committing suicide by jumping into the well, so that their families' reputation will not get destroyed. They were not even given the status of a human being in the society. People were treating women like animals. They were kidnapped and raped not only by the people of opposite religion, but also by the same religion.

By this film we not only get to know about the struggle of men but also about the pain and suffering of women, from which they went through. The film *Train to Pakistan* is the actual representation of the society and the violence against the people of both the religion at the time of Partition. Although, it was altogether a good experience. We gained knowledge about the past of our country and after watching this film, it generates a kind of great respect for the people who faced such harsh situations and fought back bravely.

-Nandini Sharma

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

"Those Are The College Days"

Those are the college days.
Full of joy, full of entertainment,
Full of fights,
Provides one with happiness and
Struggle to do something in Life.

Those are the college days.
Some see college as fun,
Some see it as an opportunity for freedom.
Some are filled with thousands of dreams,
Some are filled with just enthusiasm to explore their inner being.

Those are the college days.
We get angry in a moment,
We get happy in the moment
Those expressions are real
That expresses the one in a moment.

Those are the college days.
Children come here and leave as adults,
Dependents turn into independents.
Innocence turns into confidence.
Friendships turn into relationships.

Those are the college days.
That teaches us life lessons
Teaches us to get up after falling,
Teaches us to be okay.
Teaches us to face the world,
Teaches us to fly like a bird.

College is your own little universe within this big one. So, live it with your whole heart.

-Nandini Sharma

Through Thick and Thin of Reflections...!

Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

Malcolm X

Since I was a child, I have always been keen to learn from any opportunity I get. I had my interests in designing but I never knew this was the opportunity I waited for. Trying my hand in creative arenas doing aesthetic art work always pleases me. Being one of the designers of "Reflections" opened many avenues for me and made me realize that no matter how hard you work, the end results will always call for a party. I was pleased to see how far I have come, from knowing the basics to literally every minute detail about designing a magazine. At the end of the day, when I take a look at my first magazine it gives me a sense of accomplishment. It was a long learning process that taught me teamwork, coordination and hard work always pays off.

Deepika Malhotra

-Deepika Malhotra

In life, there are always two outcomes of a grind, either you win it or you learn from it. The beginning of the work is more important than blathering about it. Being one of the designers of "Reflections" dilated my horizon of experience and knowledge in designing. Bringing it out was only possible because of teamwork and dedication. As they say, the size of your audience doesn't matter, keep up the good work. Trying something new and carrying it out is a sense of achievement for the whole designing team, and it was a journey of perseverance.

Vasu

-Vasu Ahluwalia

Being a part of "Reflections" has been a great opportunity in the process of recognizing my abilities. When I was handed over the responsibility of being a student editor for the first edition of the English Department's magazine, I felt obligated to give my hundred percent to it. And it only became possible with the constant guidance of our teachers.

I have learnt that the first draft of any writing piece is either plain or black and white; but with genuinely thorough editing it can be made colorful. Considering it as a learning opportunity, it also brought about fun and gratification.

Anjali Jaiswal

-Anjali Jaiswal




INKLINGS

Our culture and values are an embodiment of the scriptures and manuscripts we pursue. Literature is an amalgamation of all these fine ingredients we serve as a delicacy. It's cherished throughout the world for its exotic, vibrant flavors and textures. It's aura is ambiguous and serendipitous. You can explore infinite avenues as a writer and a reader. One life can have many ecstasies. Similarly, an individual with a curious mind can pose as varied gratified versions.

Unquenchable thirst to acquire this elixir of proportionate world is divine, a source so enigmatic that it's charisma might give you the contentment you haven't had in a while.

As the pen moves and leaves its imprints on the paper, it's alive and immortal till the end of time. Our legacies have been laid down in these fine inklings. Words express our emotions and serene thoughts; the idea is to reflect the importance of each individuals approach to life in order to genuflect the credence of thyself. It's an infinite loop which binds us to the beginning and the end!

-Shefali Chauhan

A photograph of a two-lane asphalt road winding through a desert landscape at sunset. The road has a double yellow line in the center and white lines on the sides. The sky is filled with soft, orange and pink clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. In the distance, there are low mountains and some desert vegetation on the sides of the road.

*...And miles to go before I sleep
and miles to go before I sleep.*

- Robert Frost



Department of English

JCC

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