

NO. 1

MARCH 2021

Zenith

A MAGAZINE FROM AMITY SCHOOL OF
LANGUAGES



INCLUDES A SPECIAL REPORT ON THE
MILLENNIUM FELLOWSHIP!

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A LETTER FROM THE HOI

DR. MANJIREE VAIDYA

It's my immense pleasure to present the first issue of our literary magazine 'Zenith'. I'm thankful for the management and the Vice-chancellor, Amity University Maharashtra.

Amity University Maharashtra is a leading university that persistently endeavors to hone the students' versatile talent to evolve according to constantly changing academic and professional scenarios and to lead internationally in the realm of higher education. As a part of this objective,

Amity School of Languages motivates students to learn, unlearn and relearn various aspects of language, literature, and culture.

The School encourages enhancing the humanitarian outlook through various co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

This magazine provides an opportunity to flourish language skills and creative writing skills. It also emphasizes studying various literary styles, authors and scripts, etc. for the purpose of inventions and innovations.

I'm sure that this magazine will expand students' repertoire with new experiences and improved skills.



- Dr. Manjiree Vaidya
Head of the Institution
Amity School of Languages
Amity University Maharashtra

A NOTE FROM THE FACULTY INCHARGE

MS. JYOTSNA BIDAWE



- Jyotsna Bidave
Assistant Professor
Amity School of Languages

Literature, a way of experiencing emotions, events, expressions, cultures, and above all life, has always been an inseparable part of human life across all the societies in one form or the other. In India, we have literature as our cultural heritage. Is it not our responsibility not only to preserve it but also to add more value to it?

The students at Amity School of Languages are also attempting to preserve this heritage and encourage the youth to cherish and contribute to it.

ZENITH is exploring the young creative writers, encouraging them to bring out their versatility in creative as well as critical writing. Let us wish this endeavor to reach a higher level every time!

EDITOR'S NOTE

UJJWALA NAGENDRA

The magazine, 'Zenith' was an initiative taken by the students of Amity School of Languages. We wanted to provide an arena where the students could artistically express themselves and publish their works. We've tried to include all forms of art, and we hope to be more inclusive with the upcoming editions. The piece on the Millennium Fellowship came along as we observed the increasing eagerness possessed by the students towards making a social impact, our aim with this piece is to educate people on the scope and benefits of the program. For those looking to broaden their horizons with respect to art, we've also included recommendations. I convey my sincerest gratitude to everyone involved in the magazine, from the faculty to the students who worked extremely hard to publish it. Any requests or remarks can be sent to ujjwala863@gmail.com.

C O D E S O F C O N D U C T



INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF THE MAGAZINE

Brought to you by Amity School of Languages, we are a student-led magazine and we aim to provide a voice to the diverse range of artists in Amity University, Mumbai. The magazine strives to be unbiased and balanced in its approach to the submitted content. Our hearts lie in the purpose of being just while ensuring that we give the readers nothing but the best experience. 'Zenith' is based on integrity and a strict ethical and respectful environment. These rules apply to all the staff and contributors of the magazine, and to be followed by all unless discussed otherwise. In addition to the code of conduct, the general law should be followed. The terms are subject to change. For further queries, kindly contact the editor-in-chief.

C O D E S O F C O N D U C T



The magazine has a designated team of hardworking staff, but the work is not limited to the technicalities of the magazine. We are all responsible for any grievances from any individual or group, be it from the staff or a reader. We also keep in mind to maintain professional decorum and an environment that respects ideas, opinions and beliefs and upholds the aim and interest of the magazine.

RESPONSIBILITY OF EDITORIAL STAFF AND CONTRIBUTORS

C O D E S O F C O N D U C T



CONFLICT OF INTEREST

As part of the magazine, the people working are to be fully aware of their biases and probable conflicts of interest. We emphasise the fact that the magazine does not tolerate any kind of discrimination based on the personal biases of any member of the team. There will not be any prejudice in receiving submissions. All submissions that adhere to the codes of conduct will receive equal treatment. A violation of this principle will lead to the termination of the person responsible, who will not be allowed to work with the magazine again. The conflicts should be raised through a proper channel.

C O D E S O F C O N D U C T



The magazine does not entertain any act of plagiarism. Plagiarism is unacceptable. Only original creations are encouraged and accepted by the magazine. The magazine is an entity of its own and is not a substitute for anything else. Plagiarised work is not entertained and the author of said work will be prohibited from submitting or contributing to the magazine in any of the future editions.

PLAGIARISM

C O D E S O F C O N D U C T



OFFENSIVENESS

This magazine is crafted with precision and therefore, so is the language. We have strived to steer clear of any form of offensiveness and we aim to uphold our principles. Our magazine does not support offensive language. It intends to respect the beliefs, values, and sentiments of everyone. We do not intend to offend anyone, irrespective of their caste, creed, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.

CODES OF CONDUCT



The magazine firmly believes in strictly crediting the hard work that the contributors put in. Whether it's the staff or the contributor of the content, everyone will be ascribed justly. Transparency is our utmost priority. Every piece will be accurately attributed. The process of crediting will be unbiased and relevant sources will be cited.

ATTRIBUTION

CREDITS

THOSE WHO MADE THE
MAGAZINE HAPPEN

UJJWALA NAGENDRA

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ART DIRECTOR

EDITED-

- The sections: Poetry, Short Stories, Flash fiction, Works of Criticism and Essays
- The Millennium Fellowship Article
- The Interview with Dr Rachana Sharma
- The Interview with the Millennium Fellows
- The SDG article
- The Publicity texts

DESIGNED-

- The Magazine
- The Crossword
- The Publicity posters

ADITI SAGAR

COPY EDITOR

EDITED-

- The sections: Poetry, Flash Fiction, Short Stories Works of Criticism and Essays.
- The SDG article.
- The Millennium Fellowship article.
- The Interview with Dr. Rachana Sharma.

ARSHI SOHAIL

MANAGING EDITOR

- Edited the sections: Poetry and Flash Fiction.
- Documented the Interview with Millennium Fellows.
- Documented and edited the SDG article.
- Edited the Millennium Fellowship article.
- Edited the publicity text.

ANUSHKA CHAUBE

MANAGING EDITOR

DESIGN EDITOR

- Edited the sections: Articles and Essays
- Assisted in the design process.
- Edited the Interview with Millennium Fellows.
- Documented and edited the SDG article.
- Edited the Millennium Fellowship article.
- Edited the publicity text.

SHIZA SHAIKH

MANAGING EDITOR

- Edited the sections: Short Stories and Works of Criticism.
- Designed the logo.
- Documented the Interview with Dr. Rachana Sharma.
- Designed publicity posters and edited text.

APURVA SAKPAL

SECTION EDITOR

- Conducted thorough plagiarism checks on Short Stories, Essays, Flash Fiction, and Work of Criticism.
- Documented the SDG article.
- Documented the Millennium Fellowship article.

ANUSHILA JANA

SECTION EDITOR

- Conducted thorough plagiarism checks on Short Stories, Essays, and Poetry.
- Documented the SDG article.
- Documented the Millennium Fellowship article.

ARCHITA BISWAS

PUBLICITY MANAGER

- Circulated posters and publicity text curated by the editors.
- Edited the language submissions.
- Organised interview with Dr. Rachana Sharma.
- Organised interview with the Millennium Fellows.

अखंड भारत



करु मैं पुजा, करु मैं ईबादत,
चाहु मै बस एक अखंड भारत।
ना हो कोई आंदोलन, ना हो कोई ताकत,
संस्कारो से नीव बने भारत की ईमारत।
देखकर इस को एक संपन्न रियासत,
नही होती हैं कभी हैरत।
क्योंकि उसमे छिपी है महात्माओं की शहादत,
देकर अपनी जाने की हैं देश पे इनायत।
करे हम आज उन महामानवो को नमन,
जिन्होंने बनाया इस बंजर को चमन।
जिन्होंने सिखाया पुरे दुनिया को शांति और अमन,
देखकर आज इस देश को है उनकी आंखें नम।
लपेटकर देश को रंगों में तीन,
जोड़ा देश को अखंडता मे जो था कभी किसीके अधीन।
हैं कश्मीर से कन्याकुमारी तक फैली जिसकी भूमि,
वहीं हैं यह देश जहाँ मीरा हरिनाम में झूमि।

- Pranav Kulkarni
ASET - Aerospace
Engineering
Semester 2



WOH LAMHE



Tumse nazar chura lenge hum
humse nazar churalo na tum,
tum saath the tab woh tha yakeen
tum saath the tab zindagi thi haseen.

Tum the bohot kuch humare liye
hum kuch nahi the tumhare liye,
agar tum hote hamare saath
zindagi ki kuch alag hoti baat.

Mujhe yaad hai woh lamhe,
mujhe yaad hai woh pal.

Duniya se ladkar the hum saath tere
duniya ki parwa ki na humne,
humse jo roothe tum zindagi hui dheemi si
humari rooh ho rahi hai sehmi si.
Tere saath hoke woh ehsaas hua
jo tere bina kabhi na hua,
tujhse jo juda tha is dil ka raabta
sanson ko mila tha dhadhkano ka karwaan.

Mujhe yaad hai woh lamhe,
mujhe yaad hai woh pal.

- Anirudh Lotlikar

BSC CP

Semester 2

EIN WEITERES GEHEIMNIS DES UNIVERSUMS



Manchmal kommt der klarste Sommer mit einem Regenschauer und mit Blitz und Donner zu Ende.

Der Staubteufel und Zephyr sind zwei Seiten derselben Medaille, und der Mensch ist für sie ein Koppler.

Obwohl du dich in diesen Sturm verliebt hast. Glaubst du wirklich, du würdest unverletzt und unbefleckt rauskommen?

Es war die unvorhersehbarste Stunde - kompliziert und undurchsichtig

Wie Neigung schlängelnder Wildblumen.

Es blieb aber fest und wahrhaft.

Nicht immer vom Sonnenschein und nicht immer vom Regen gesegnet.

Genau die richtige Menge von allem und rechthaberisch ist es.

Es braucht nur einige Zeit und es entsteht ein euphonisches Grollen.

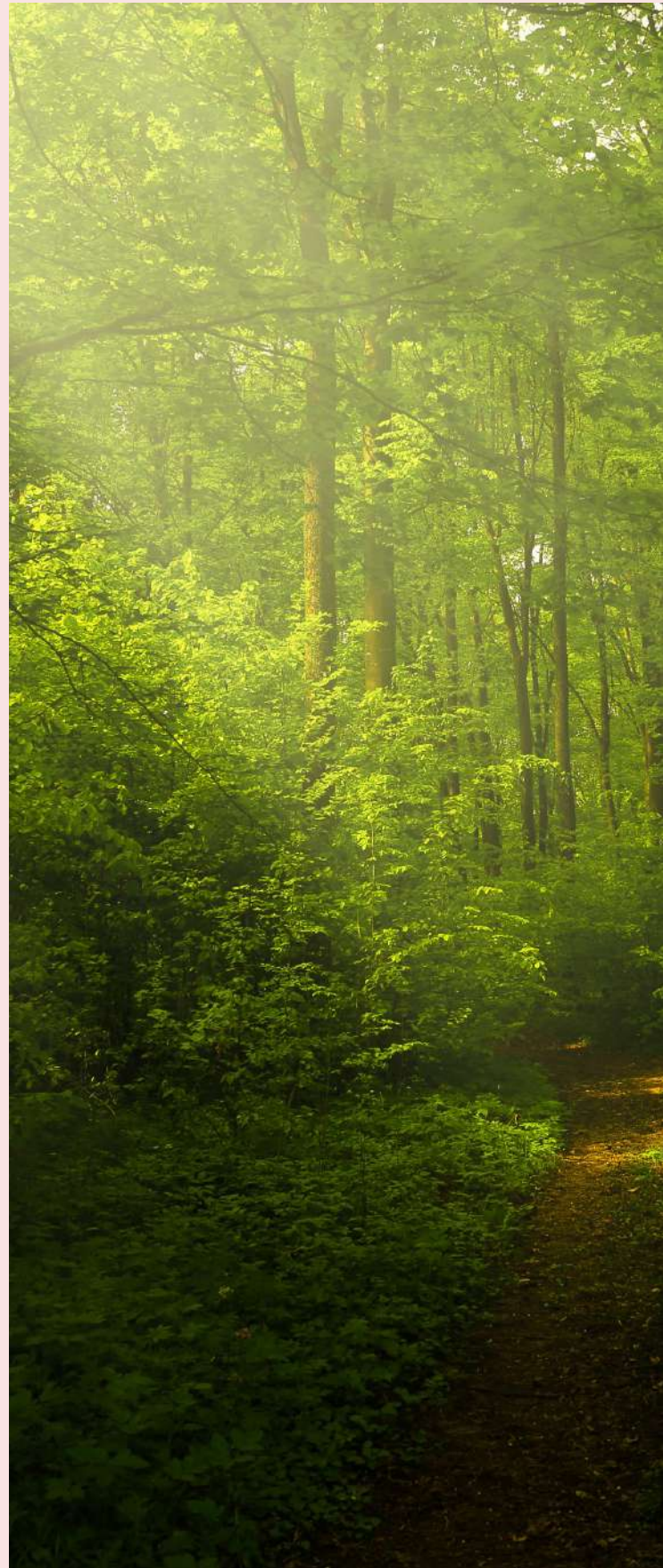
Nur ein paar Anstrengungen und alle Knoten werden rätselhaft verblassen.

Und wieder einmal wird der leuchtende Sommer mit euphorischer Hand winken, die uns immer wieder himmlisch lebt.

- Kanak Godbole

BA LLB

Semester 2





SÉOUL

La ville d' amusement
 La ville d' aliment
 La ville de rose et de jaune étranges

Un endroit si haut
 Au-delà du trémolo
 De mon rêve-
 La montagne se mélange.

Une ville géniale,
 Un voyage à travers l'espace et du temps
 surréal
 Mon Séoul au cœur de tous- au dessous
 des nuages.

- Rohini Illa

ASL - BA French (Hons)

Semester 2

LA FOLIE DES GUERRES



Partout on jette un coup d'œil, on trouve des milliers de gens souffrant de la peine de pauvreté, de jalousie, de guerre, de violence, de tourments ; millions des gens mourant, millions de gens morts... Il s'agit toujours d'une histoire ensanglantée lorsqu'on voyage vers le passé du monde. Il s'agit des menaces des personnes de pouvoir absolu, devant une foule de prolétaires sans pouvoir économique, sans pouvoir politique ou social. S'il y avait des psycho-autocratiques et des mégalomanes infligeant la tyrannie tout au long de l'histoire de civilisation humaine, il y avait aussi des psychoanaleptiques pour pacifier ou éradiquer leur violence—considérées de nos jours des héros de l'humanité.

Au cours de la pandémie, le taux de chômage est très élevé et les jeunes ayant une éducation bien chère (c'est un produit assez en vogue et assez cher de nos jours !) se trouvent incapables de trouver un travail pour diriger leur vie, et qui finissent par commettre le suicide. Millions de gens ont perdu leurs travaux, perdu leur proches et chers. Millions de gens ont perdu leur vie! L'éducation est endommagée. L'éducation en ligne, étant l'une des méthodes les plus scientifiques et les plus effectives, s'avère être chère et parfois un produit/service inabordable pour les parents.

Le but essentiel des gens au pouvoir est de dérober les prolétaires de leur éducation et leur fournir des produits politiques tels les fois des dogmes, la pauvreté (c'est un produit très populaire et le plus vendu en échange de liberté, solidarité, intelligence humaine et surtout la capacité de penser), ou bien des petits produits comme les maladies, les virus (un produit délicieux et assez bon marché).

Je tourne mes yeux vers l'Est, vers l'Ouest et je vois les gens faire des complots contre les gens, se préparer pour de grandes guerres, renforcer le propre pouvoir à travers des autres par les bandeaux des préjugés. Cela fait mes yeux trempés de larmes surtout quand j'écoute les petits enfants pleurer—les petits enfants dont parfois les mères, parfois les abris, parfois le pain ou bien tous en sont dérobés, tous en sont saccagés. Tous! Même la vie!

J'ai eu contact des yeux directement avec ces enfants. Il n'y a pas de rêve multicolore, il n'y a pas l'abondance des demandes ou des exigences extravagantes. Leur peau sent mal, pas de fragrance d'argent, pas la belle touche d'opulence! Une vie sans exigence, sans espoir, qui seulement a besoin naturel d'une poignée de nourriture — mais qui est illuminée de joie, abondante de sourire et de simplicité (les phénomènes rares que l'on est en train de perdre dans un monde de capitalisme et d'avidité)!

Les murs des préjugés, les murs étroits des systèmes différents, des fois orthodoxes (inaltérable)—les murs qui divisent un être humain de son frère, de sa sœur—les murs qui instruisent de tuer, les murs fabriqués par l’homme—sont sans fondement.

Enfin, je proposerais à tout le monde — si vous pensez vraiment que tous ces murs, ces guerres, ces violences ont aucune chose à faire pour le progrès de l’humanité—passez un peu de temps regarder le ciel de la nuit. Vous allez réaliser de nouveau la futilité ridicule de tout cela. Notre planète se situe comme un petit point bleu dans une banlieue du système solaire (le soleil, une des étoiles minuscules, presque sèches), au coin d’un univers gigantesque, contenant tels systèmes innumérables, infinis. La vie est un don éphémère. Vivons-la pleinement ou attendez la mort définitive—le choix est toujours le vôtre.



- Prajesh Kumar Basu
Asst. Professor (French)
ASL
Amity University Mumbai



L'ATTENTE



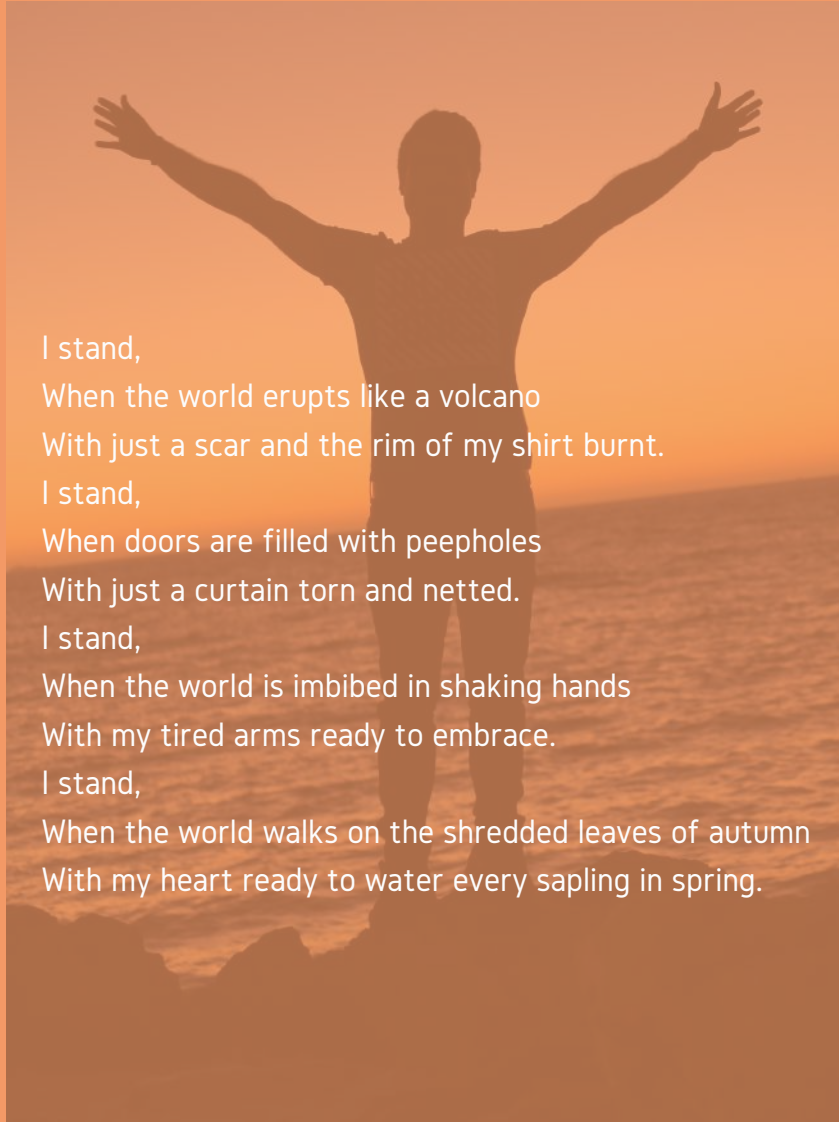
Il est minuit
Il n'y a aucun signe de lui
Le fils attend le père
Comme aujourd'hui c'est son
anniversaire

La mère essaie de le distraire
Devant lui, elle ouvre ses cadeaux divers
Mais dans sa tête elle sait très bien
Tous ces efforts ne servent à rien

Le téléphone sonne, elle répond tout de
suite
Une voix inconnue l'informe de l'attentat
terroriste ensuite
Les larmes coulent sur son visage qui
brillait toute la journée
Le fils voit la mère pleurante quand il a
tourné

Il est minuit
Il n'y aura aucun signe de lui
Mais le fils attendra le père
Pour tous ses anniversaires

- Ms. Sayali Kadam
Asst. Professor (French)
ASL
Amity University Mumbai



I stand,
When the world erupts like a volcano
With just a scar and the rim of my shirt burnt.
I stand,
When doors are filled with peepholes
With just a curtain torn and netted.
I stand,
When the world is imbibed in shaking hands
With my tired arms ready to embrace.
I stand,
When the world walks on the shredded leaves of autumn
With my heart ready to water every sapling in spring.

- Niva Tejwani
ASET
Aerospace Engineering
Semester 4

FURY

When I watched Tracee Ellis Ross,
in one of her speeches,
Describe the ever-present women's rage,
persistent since centuries of mistreatment,
As "not annoyance, not frustration, but pure fury",
I traced back my steps
to the day I first identified that burning rage
inside of me,
And suddenly I'm eleven, skipping down a street
And being touched inappropriately,
out of the blue,
by a stranger on a speeding motorcycle.
I understood the fury a little better
with each tale of rape
with each 'hashtag me too'
with each "ugh stop with the feminism lecture"
because women are supposed to shut up and
act pleasant and smile.
Forever.

But I've come a long way since I discarded
my primary education on the concept of love;
That emerged from the rosy pages of fairy tales
Because princesses were just mistreated
paupers
or oblivious runaways,
till their prince charming came along.
We've come a long way since we established
that opinionated women aren't
witches, sinners, unintelligent, ignorant, or
feminazis.

But we have a long way to go;
Till the marches and the signboards finally make
sense to them,
Till we don't have to spell out the words,
"consent" and "rights" to the men in our lives,
Till we forever remember that our screams are
not a fight against men
And neither is this poem.
It's about that fury bomb that went off when he
first touched you.
It's about that rage churning deep inside
as a result of decades of unacknowledged anger.
It's about that forest fire of the past,
that constructed our hearts
and that's why when we joined hands,
they couldn't handle the heat.

So, I pray,
when we finally taste freedom,
a merry 11-year-old skips down a street
and a stranger on a motorcycle
recognises OUR fury in her eyes
and rides away quietly.

- Arshi Sohail

ASL - BA English (Hons)

Semester 4

PAPA

Showers at 2 am don't wash away grief,
No matter how long you stand still, praying they
would;
I learned that the day I learned
I would never be able to hold white flowers;
Without them reminding me of loss and of the
day I saw strangers grieve,
and long forgotten silent screams.

It's been 2 months since we last saw you in this
house,
And it's strange because I used to think these
rooms couldn't possibly feel more empty
But they do. Each time we sip tea at 6:20 pm,
Each time mum decides to cook your favourite
dish,
Each time we clean out dusty bookshelves and
find pieces of your poetry,
Hidden deep inside neglected, worn out
notepads.

Now, the neighbours still play their music a little
too loud,
And the grieving strangers found a way to carry
on.
But yesterday I saw a little girl
hold on to her father's hand way too tight,
through a crowded street.
And I couldn't help but remember how
Everyone and no one knows how I've been. Not
even me.

How I got too tired of carrying a fabricated
answer to their frequent questions,
So I stopped carrying one at all.
But if you were here,
you wouldn't let me do that.
You always saw through my lies and twisted
your questions
To know why my poems sound too sad,
Or why I don't feel like eating lately,
Or why I stay distant and let my thoughts
explode inside and engulf me each time.
I'm still trying to find a way to live without your
strange manner of care and concern.
But maybe someday I'll see you again,
In a stranger, tightly holding on to his daughter
through a crowded street.
And I'll smile and finally find the courage,
to think of you without seeing the face of pain
and find a way, to be honest again.

- Arshi Sohail

ASL - BA English (Hons)

Semester 4

The sight that bends the lips of my heart,
to make it smile with all its might,
Not the stars, nor the sky, nor the oceans,
nor the mountains, but a light that dawns upon my face.
Like how the snow rains upon the earth, a beam of love
emanating from the depths of her soul.

- Rayyan Khaleel
BA LLB (Hons.)
Semester 4
Instagram: @rayyankhaleel

I want to climb high up above;
to see the world disappear below.

I want to see the water shine,
from the stars above, like those eyes that shone
before they drowned along the sea of life.

I want to watch the water dance,
to the beat of my heart,
restless and afraid.

I want to watch the pale clouds cry;
until they turn all white
to let my heart try, to heal one more time.

But I also want to stay.
In this cage that holds me, in this broken happiness,
in this gentle hopelessness.
a happy sorrow.

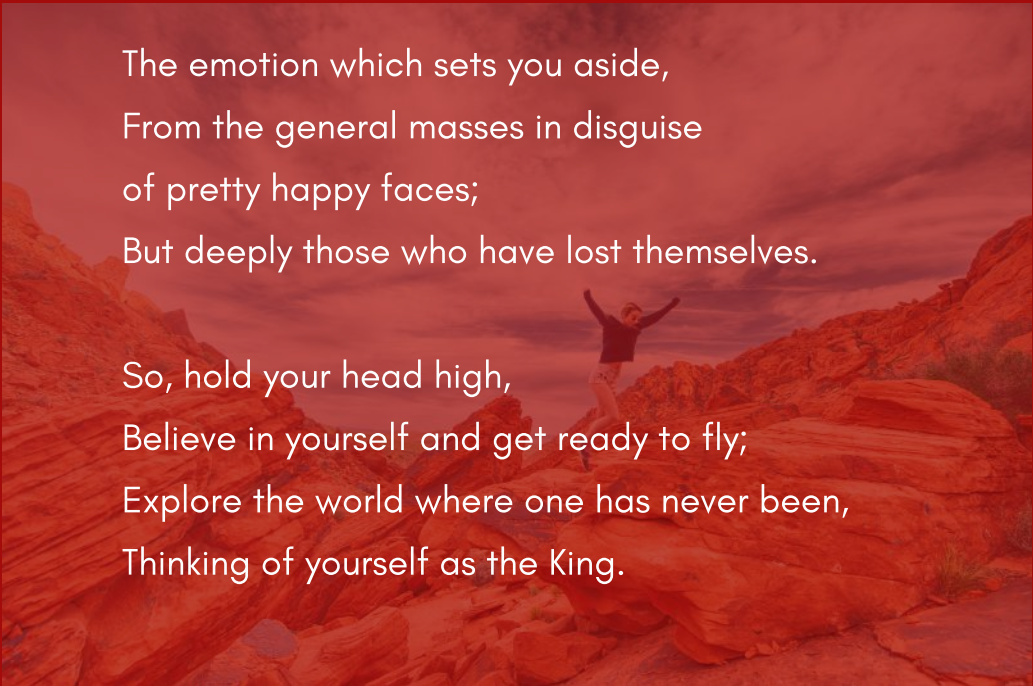
- Rayyan Khaleel
BA LLB (Hons.)
Semester 4
Instagram: @rayyankhaleel

The demise made the coffin mourn;
The tombstone held an inscribed memory
The deity was nothing but stone;
The mud stole away the light of life
The black failed to do justice to the darkness
hidden inside;
Flowers dampened with tears' salutation.
The graveyard smelled of living souls;
Trapped in dead bodies
Prayers blocked by clouds of fate
With no sign of silver lining;
The world attained peace and quiet
As the silent cries were cremated.



- Niva Tejjwani
ASET
Aerospace Engineering
Semester 4

Self Confidence

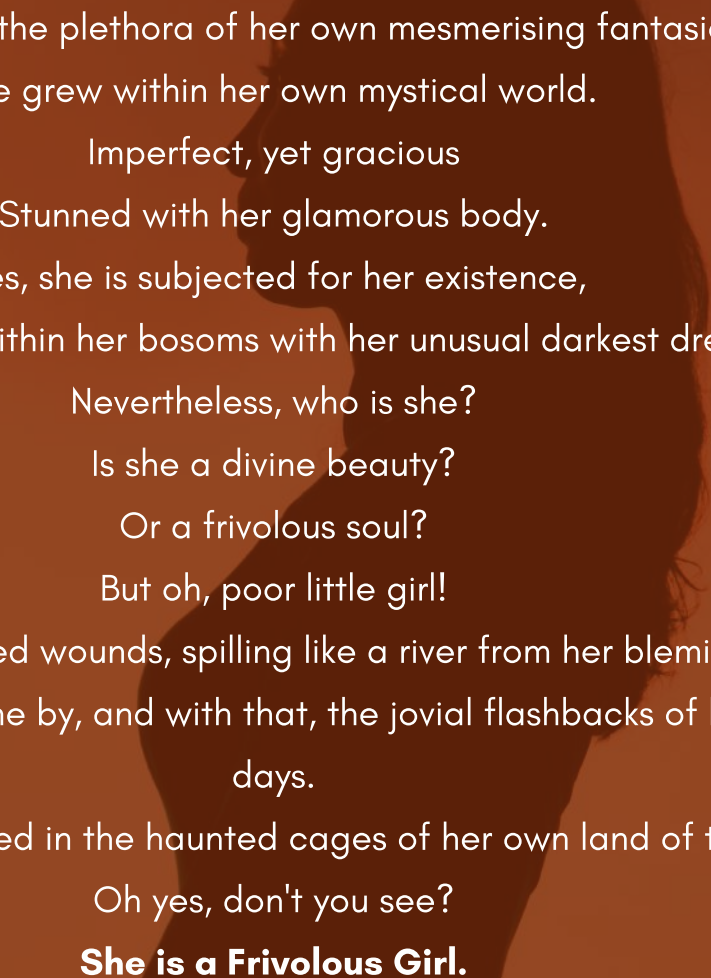


The emotion which sets you aside,
From the general masses in disguise
of pretty happy faces;
But deeply those who have lost themselves.

So, hold your head high,
Believe in yourself and get ready to fly;
Explore the world where one has never been,
Thinking of yourself as the King.

– Pranav Kulkarni
ASET – Aerospace Engineering
Semester 2
Instagram: @pranavk0808

She, the Frivolous Girl



Dawdling in the plethora of her own mesmerising fantasies,
She grew within her own mystical world.
Imperfect, yet gracious
Stunned with her glamorous body.
Yes, she is subjected for her existence,
Yes, she lives within her bosoms with her unusual darkest dreams.
Nevertheless, who is she?
Is she a divine beauty?
Or a frivolous soul?
But oh, poor little girl!
Abashed of those red wounds, spilling like a river from her blemished skin.
Her blissful days are gone by, and with that, the jovial flashbacks of her lovely girly
days.
Yes, she is entangled in the haunted cages of her own land of thoughts.
Oh yes, don't you see?
She is a Frivolous Girl.

- Sneha Chauhan
ASL - BA English (Hons)
Semester 6

Where are you from?

"Where are you from?", I was asked once. My breath trembled as I pondered upon the question that was asked, I fumbled upon numerous words in an attempt to find a suitable answer. But, how could I?

"I come from the mist, the brumes that soar in aurora,
Bearing a musical pitch that only trees could hear.
I come from the crisp sunshine that seeps onto the ocean shore,
Mingling with the small gravel stones;
From the opaline dew resting on the foliage.
I come from the wispy milk skin on the morning tea,
Brimmed in your favourite black mug."

I wanted to say;
"I come from the shady storms heretofore the distant colour spectrum.
And the clouds of gloom and murk attempting to envelope
The luminous moon, all to me.
I come from the old keys of the typewriter sitting on a desk,
In the farthest room, untouched and unused.

I come from the letters from your old lover,
Tucked away safely in the pages of the out-worn leather-bound journal;
Away from your reach.
I come from the fireflies, whom someone misconceived as the scintilla,
From the hearths."
I wanted to say more, so much more.
So, I said, "I come from everywhere. Everywhere."

- Aditi Sagar
ASL - BA English (Hons)
Semester 6

HOME

I counted the money in my hands. Ten of 500 notes and eight of hundred, 5800 in a total of my savings for twelve months. I slowly packed my rucksack. Two t-shirts, one set of pants, my lotions, and lingerie all stuffed in one chain. The front pocket confined my money, my charger, and that letter. That one letter that had kept me going through this marriage I was stuck in. That one letter I knew would keep me warm even on my darkest nights. That was the last spirit of my Pandora's Box; my ray of hope in all this despair.

I unfolded the letter for the millionth time and read the small paragraph again. The childish handwriting of a grown-up might seem funny to an outsider. But to me, they were my mother's last words. Alzheimer's had taken away my mom and wrapped her up in darkness but somehow, she had mustered up her memory and penned this down for me. "The one who commits the sin and the one who witnesses it, both are equally guilty. Stay well baccha, have courage, brave one. I am always with you."

My mother's words resonated inside me as I read the letter one more time. The edges frayed; the lines turned blurred. I was witnessing the crime for so long. And tonight, I was going to commit it too. One last act of violence before I begin my journey of peace. One last jolt to my loving husband before I could finally be free of the shackled bonds of my marriage.

I closed the door behind me and took a last glimpse of that dark house and the digital clock on the television set. 1:19 am, it read. I looked down at my blood-stained hands and my vision blurred. No, I am mamma's brave one, I won't cry. I wore my rucksack and cast a last glance towards my home. Freedom at last. Freedom at a cost, but finally freedom. As I turned the corner, the bloodied, disfigured face of my lovely abusive husband raced through my mind. My mom's smile flashed before my eyes and I finally felt a sense of peace. My home running, was my new homecoming.

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SMELLS LIKE PASSION FRUIT

“What is it?” asked Jerry as he sat at his desk, working on his codes. This was the same desk where he had been scratching the computer with codes ever since he became aware of the existence of the subject. His mother has been calling him to have dinner or for that matter to engage in anything productive that does not involve computers. A month back, Jerry had finally found a supplier who wanted him to work his magic for them in exchange for a high amount as remuneration.

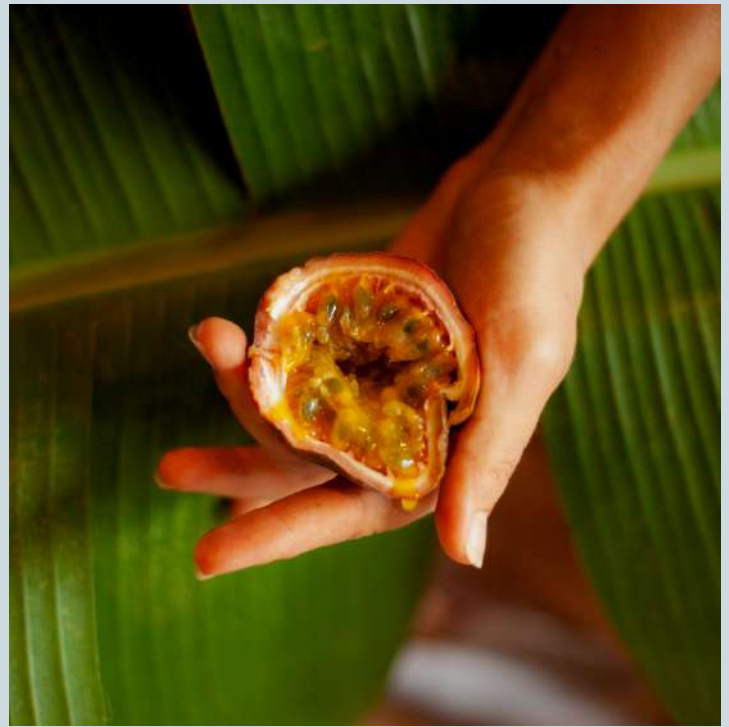
Yet, Jerry never spoke of it at home, having known that it is pretty much illegal to hack other people's data. It had always been his passion to do something in life by means of his love for computers. Sometimes, deceiving ourselves into believing what we are doing is the right path, however satiating it might feel, impacts our life later on.

Every day, he skimmed off the persuaders from the list of billions of people of the country to con them; carefully choosing his customer and using bait according to their psychological desires.

Some crunched away the bait by opening the 'FREE PRODUCT FROM YOUR TRUSTED BRAND, LIMITED TIME OFFER' fraudulent emails or text messages. He aimed at what people lacked and were insecure about, impatient to procure their desires with their current finances. You see, Jerry preyed on vulnerable customers who are unsuspecting upon why they get such messages/emails or consider it spam.

The most arduous trick for him was to get the customer to give away their credit card numbers for reasons like subscriptions, payment on a blocked account, etc. Moreover, all of this is not single-handedly controlled by him, he involved one of his shrewd friends to act upon voice phishing. The company that had approached them worked through several mutual fund scams and data mining with a large sector of workers involved.

Jerry had always been eccentric since he had fallen in his childhood hurting his head but none of it had ever hindered his passion. Working in the IT sector in the CICI bank had never been satisfying for him, his mother disapproved of his inclination towards hacking, coding, and electronics because she wanted him to do a valuable job related to engineering or medicine.



Being a single parent had taken a toll on her: she was a doctor and had to look after her two kids. Moreover, she missed her late husband.

Devoured by his own greed, Jerry rode to the company the next day and made a deal to get 100 customers per day in exchange for 100,000 rupees. Seemed overconfident even for him, though he planned to pull it off or else he'd have to pay them the amount.

This kind of adrenaline rush is what he'd been wanting for a long time. His urge was at its pinnacle, enough to hack at least ten people in four hours. It was a very close call when in the last hour he had to con four more customers. He was striking off the names on his paper when his 10-year-old sister came in and playfully grabbed the list and ran away. Jerry was furious and rushed to get it back when his mother came to his room and unplugged his computer.

"This is it", he thought, "My parents never liked me anyway, and this was all to at least earn enough to get validated. But now everything is over along with the debt I owe to the money laundering company-"

"Are you awake?" said the nurse sweetly, "I brought your medicines with me, open your mouth". Jerry hesitated for a while and took it while putting up tantrums. He found everything surreal and cried for candy and a laptop. The nurses outside his ward whispered to the new nurse, "He'd always thought he is some kind of a great hacker although he cannot even eat his own food. It is sad to see him in this asylum from the day he had tripped from a two-storied building; he even had a good job. I heard this from his mother who is one of the doctors here. She's the one who treats him."

But the new nurse knew about the real deal. She doubted if her brother would ever fall from a building when he always moved around in a wheelchair. That is unless, someone intended him to. She always thought it had something to do with the piece of paper she took from him.



-Ritika Pai
ASL - BA English (Hons)
Semester 4

THE REUNION

The clock ticked on; it was getting late. Chaaya sat on her desk, desperately trying to complete the last leg of the report. She really could not afford to keep it pending for the next day. "Who knew Fridays would be so stressful?" she wondered, and she kept typing. "Ping!" went her laptop, it was an email from her school.

"An invite for the batch of 2008-2009!" was its title at the very beginning. She quickly scrolled down; it was a reunion for her batch, where she had almost spent twelve whole years of her life. It was strange getting emails from that ID after such a long time. A quick memory of those old corridors flashed in her mind - the ground, she wondered where all her other batch mates were, the old playground, the uniform. It was the clock's aggressive ticking that brought her back to the present. Chaaya swiftly went through other details. At the very end, there was another attachment. Chaaya ignored it and closed the tab. She planned it all in her mind - she would extend her weekend to the much-needed break. But first, she had to deal with this report and she did.

Chaaya was excited to meet everyone again. After passing out, she was almost cut off from everyone, with her family shifting to another city. Social media did exist later, but with no one having the time, it could hardly keep people connected; and who could be blamed, when life was such.

She packed her bag, thinking about those little incidents which were slowly creeping out of the window of her memories. She knew she was going to feel the same way throughout the journey, but she was happy she was going.

After a journey of eight hours, Chaaya finally reached her destination. She checked into a hotel for the night. It felt strange to be back in the city, but not to be in her old room. She lay in her bed with these old thoughts; she slept, but it wasn't as fulfilling - she blamed the excitement for it.

The next day was filled with equal nervous energy for Chaaya. Twenty minutes late, but Chaaya managed to reach the old house of her memories- her school. The front gate was lit with fancy lights. Chaaya adjusted her coat; it was a bit chilly that night. The program was being held in the old auditorium; a lot had changed; the walls had been repainted. She could hear people in the room. She opened the door and went inside. She stood in the corner for a while; crowds always made her uneasy- her hands dug deeper in her coat pockets.

She was about to turn back when a familiar voice called her, "Chaaya is that you?" It was Ruby, her old friend. They used to have the music period together. "How are you? Oh god, I am so glad you came, do you even remember me?" Ruby said it all at once. "Of course, I do, how can I forget those music lessons we had together!" Chaaya replied.

Both of them walked to the rest of the group, Chaaya met everyone. All of them had changed so much yet so little, they laughed and shared their stories, some showed the pictures of their partners, took photos. While everyone was having a good time, Chaaya found herself standing alone in a corner. She wasn't surprised, it was how every party ended for her anyway. Suddenly the thought of the garden beside the school playground came to her mind. She remembered watering those plants from her blue water bottle every day while coming back from school. She loved to check up on the flowers when she was here. The same old urge took over her and she walked out of the auditorium to the ground. She could see the garden lights shining from afar. The flowers bloomed in the air; it felt like they had never withered since the past years. It was very quiet outside and felt even quieter after being in a noisy room.

Chaaya stood there for quite some time before she heard someone's footsteps- a dark silhouette approached from behind. Chaaya strained her eyes in the garden lights to look, "Arjun, is that you?"

"Wow, that was quick. Your memory is still sharp, huh?" chuckled Arjun. They had been in the same class for two years, "Oh please, you look exactly the same."

"Back in the same garden? We all knew you loved this place." Arjun asked, "Well I loved watching the flowers, and sometimes when no one was watching, I even took home a few for my mother..." They both laugh.

"I'm glad they kept this reunion. I got to meet everyone after such a long time." Arjun quietly said. Chaaya nodded in silence. "So, what are you up to these days?"

"Well, I'm just grinding my days off in the corporate... I do love my job, but to be honest, sometimes it gets too much, sometimes I forget the purpose of it all. Anyway, what about you Arjun? Back in the day, didn't you try modelling?" Chaaya teased. "Oh god, you still remember, what was I even thinking! Mothers, you know, they can make you do anything." laughed Arjun, "I helped out my dad with his business. It's recently that I had to leave." Before Chaaya could ask anything else, Arjun continued, "Anyway, do you have a special someone, or do you still believe all this is meaningless?" Arjun asked while bending down to look at a lily, "Umm, what?" Chaaya was caught off-guard. She remembered having this conversation with him once. It was strange how he still had that old silly conversation in his mind. "It's impressive how much your memory can hold. As for the answer to your question, I don't completely feel like I once used to, you know? Love for me isn't meaningless but the heartbreak and intentional pain which it inflicts- is." Chaaya whispered, looking away in the distance. "But what about you?" asked Chaaya, "Well it's tough. The girl I loved, loved someone else...." Before he could complete it, Chaaya felt bad for asking and said, "I am so sorry for asking, but see this is the point I was trying to convey, is the hurt, the pain even worth it?"

Both of them stood in momentary silence. The clouds had floated away, giving the moon full power to shine. Chaaya stood introspecting, she was scared she spoke too much. She was really surprised how the introvert in her could talk so much sometimes.

Arjun's deep voice broke the silence, "You see that flower? It's called a Night Gladiolus," Arjun said as he pointed at a closed white flower in the distance, "You know its specialty? It only blooms at night." Chaaya looked at the flower and stood confused. Arjun turned towards her and said, "What you don't see, is that it's a lot like love. That flower knows that it would either wither or dry up in the morning, but it still blooms no matter what. Blooms to feel the night, no matter how short." He stood in silence and then said, "Bloom when you still have time, Chaaya."

Chaaya stood looking at the closed flower, taking in what he had said. It amazed her how mature he had become. He was like a whole new individual she had never known. A strange uneasiness overcame her. "Hey it's getting cold, let's go inside, I forgot my purse there." She spoke. "Oh, you get in I'll be back in sometime." Chaaya turned to go inside.

"Where were you? We were searching for you inside, it's so cold, come in." It was Ruby. "Oh, I was out in the garden talking to Arjun. He has changed a lot since I last-

"What? That's a sick joke Chaaya, stop!"

"What do you mean?"

"Didn't you come in the morning? Or see the mail?" Ruby yelled, Chaaya stood still with a face of utter confusion. Ruby held her hand and took her up the stairs to a room beside the old staff room. Chaaya dropped the coat from her hand, almost losing balance as Ruby quickly held her. In front of them stood the picture of Arjun, with burnt-out candles flickering under it,

"Forever in our hearts and memory"

Chaaya's head reeled, she stumbled, "Wh... what happened?"

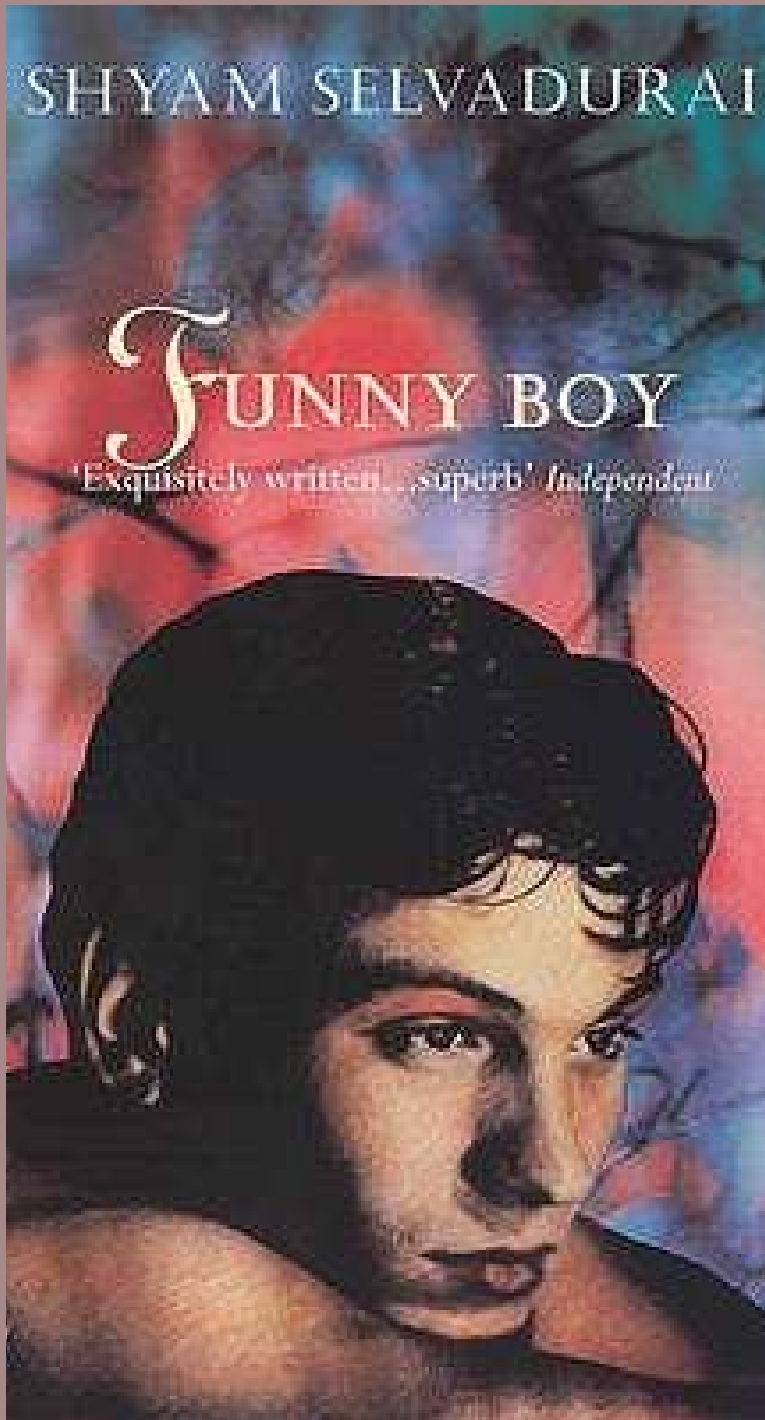
"We don't know much except that he was in a car accident a few weeks ago. The school arranged a memorial in his memory. We thought you wouldn't make it." That old unopened attachment file floated in front of her eyes, she choked up.

"I need to get going, Ruby...." Chaaya rushed out of the school, her legs still shaking- her eyes moved towards the corner of the garden. It was empty, except for the Night Gladiolus which had just bloomed.

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Funny Boy – A Homosexual Novel of Searching for Identity

“For me, growing up, I felt like there was something fatally and tragically flawed in my nature and that it was my duty to try to avoid falling for that vice”. – Shyam Selvadurai



Certainly, we all as humans face some sort of battles within ourselves. It might be towards our identity or our existence. The worst crisis any human can face is the crisis within themselves. It is one of the most dangerous crises any person goes through. And this is what the author Shyam Selvadurai had gone through in his own life, which he portrayed in the novel “Funny Boy”, through the protagonist “Arjun” AKA “Arjie”.

The novel is set in the early 1980s as a consequence of the Sri Lankan civil war, showcasing the disputes and riots of the Tamil-Sinhalese’s historical enmity towards each other. The novel is divided into six chapters, in which every chapter has its uniqueness, making the novel even more explicit.

The first chapter, “Pigs can’t fly”, begins with the naïve life of the main character Arjie and the reminiscence of his childhood days. Here, he presents his own baffled thoughts of his existence, of being “different” from other boys of his age. He was anxious and felt that his interest in playing with dolls and girls is taboo for society, whereas playing cricket will make him an ideal boy.

"Life is full of stupid things and sometimes we just have to do them."

Arjie's Amma says this to him when he refused to play with boys and instead wore sarees and played "bride" with his female cousins.

This chapter portrays the way our society is prejudiced towards the gender norms in which all of us are distributed. In one of the incidents, Arjie's relatives saw him wearing a saree. They made him the centre of the joke and mocked him by calling him "Funny". Through this, the author tried to showcase to us that the third gender in our society is considered unethical or as a clown who is irrelevant to society. The title of the chapter, "Pigs can't fly" illustrates how people in our society don't accept people who belong to a third gender. Here, the pigs are a representation of people queer people. People like Arjie, according to them, are breaking the norms of the culture.

"Any war, riots, or a sense of violence happens within the human minds, and politically, language and cultures drift us apart sometimes to establish a war." This quote is well-explained in the second chapter- "Radha Aunty". It explains how casteism becomes a hurdle when people fall in love.

They say that **"If two people love each other, the rest is unimportant."**

"No, it isn't. Ultimately, you must live in the real world.

And without your family you are nothing."

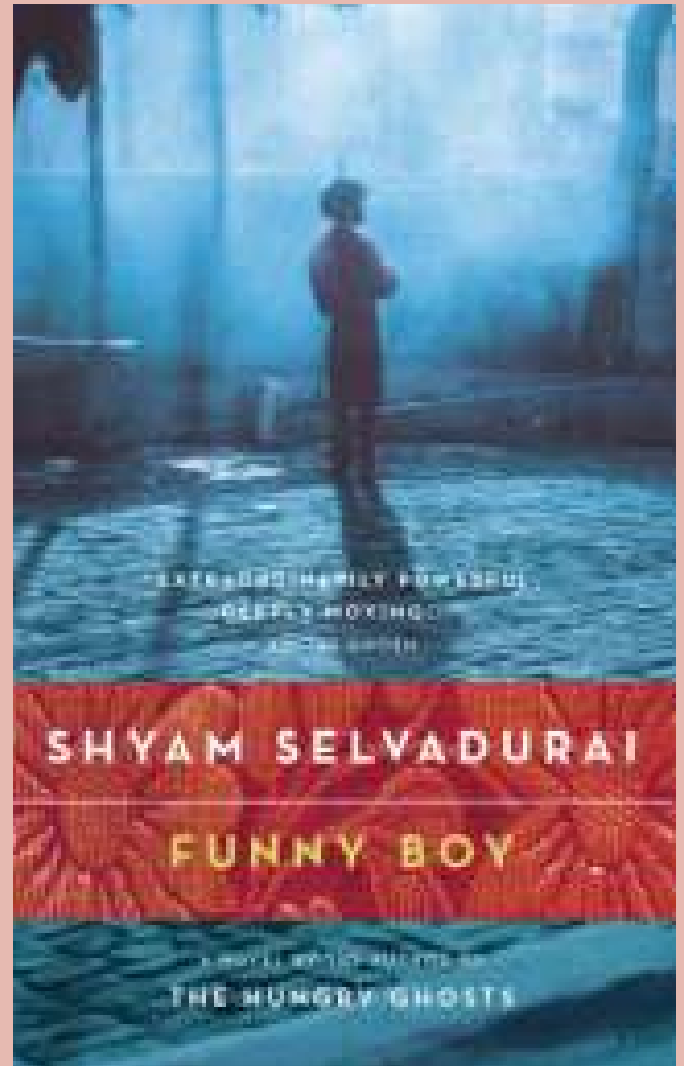
Through this quote, the author narrates the tragic love story of Radha Aunty and Anil Uncle who wanted to get married, but the enmity and disbelief in both the communities of Tamilians and Sinhalese tore them apart. Indeed, this tragedy is obviously to show us the situation of the Sri Lankan civil war and the rules by which people were abused and forced to be in. Incidents of Radha Aunty, where she was brutally attacked by two Sinhalese people, show us how threatening humans can be. **"See no evil, hear no evil"** is the third chapter, where it shows us another tragic incident that happened to 'Daryl Uncle'. We can say that the novel has themes of failed love relationships, casteism, hatred, war, and disputes, as this chapter encloses the incident of how Daryl Uncle died, or rather, how he was murdered. It portrays the violence in Colombo at the time was when journalists like Daryl Uncle were abused and murdered.

In chapter 4, "Small Choices", we get to know about Arjie's feelings for the male character Jegan, who came to work in Appa's hotel. This is the chapter where Arjie started to figure out his identity but hid it from the outer world as it was against the norms. Arjie felt that his feelings for men were immoral. This chapter also shows Anti-Tamilians and how this community was making life miserable for the innocent people of Colombo.

Often, we know who we are, what our identity is, but because of the taboo inflicted in society, we escape from our originality and behave in a way that society pictures us as. This is what Arjie was doing to be a normal ideal boy. But somewhere, he was an abnormal boy (according to him) because of his supposedly 'illegitimate' feelings for the character Shehan, as we see in chapter 5, "The Best School of All".

When Arjie fell in love with Shehan, his perception of life and his ideology of his identity changed. After meeting Shehan, all the perplexing thoughts floating in the minds of Arjie were removed. He made Arjie realise that "We should ultimately know who we are. We should not hide our true identity from ourselves". This is what made Arjie realise that he should respect himself and his identity. This was the chapter where he was not afraid of who he was and realized his sexual desires for Shehan were completely legitimate. In this chapter, Arjie was proud to be gay and his love for Shehan was compatible.

"Riot Journal: An Epilogue" is the last chapter, where Arjie writes a journal on the effects and incidents of riots and their impact, how it ruined his life, and the loss of his parents. The book ends on a dismal note, and with a sense of alienation of Arjie, and the tragic feelings inculcated in him that made him hollow.



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Semester - 6

REVIEW – OH! YOU ENGLISH

Content Warning: Suicide, Nazis, Mental illnesses

D. F. Karaka was born in Bombay in 1911. He is the grandson of Dosabhai Framji Karaka, who wrote '*History of the Parsis*.'

I will be summarizing and reviewing six of the nine essays from his book.

Essay 1. The Barbarian Is Born:

These essays are a sarcastic take on the colonizers. Karaka, here, likes to call himself the 'barbarian' who came from 'Barbaria'.

He comments on how the only legacy the English will leave is their extravagant clothes and follies, not truly doing anything worth mentioning proudly in the books of history. He's right when he says that the English have colonized not only our land but also our mind, and race, feeling no regret for the harm they've caused. He believes that after whatever he has seen of England and the life of the civilized, there is no reason or justification for some of these white people to trample on the lives and land of people from any part of the world that they do not consider 'civilized'. What he is trying to do with his set of essays is to shed light on what the civilized nation truly looks like, from a barbarian's point of view.

Essay 2. God's Chosen People:

D.F. Karaka has divided God's Chosen People into two categories- bourgeois mediocrity and Society with a capital S.

He explains that the working class is not included in the category of God's chosen people because they do not exist. This is because for there to be a working-class, there have to be jobs, and most of the people in dire need of work were unemployed.

Coming to bourgeois mediocrity, he goes on to criticize the capitalist middle-class population living in West London, saying, their houses are all plain and similar looking, devoid of individuality, the only distinguishing feature is that of their house numbers. He calls these people uninteresting who are keen on minding other people's business. Further, he says that they're insistent on getting their lives planned out, but are completely abhorrent about life changes. Karaka points out that their patriotism doesn't come from some deeply-felt emotion, but rather from respectability politics and basically, what you could call right-wing people. He calls them, as I translate in Hindi, '*chhote log chhoti soch*.'

Skipping a little, he narrates a story of him going to bed and breakfast or full board. He makes fun of British people's accents as he types 'modom', which I'm presuming is a madam, the way white people poke fun of our accents.

With this essay, he's calling out the fact that Indians, or people of colour in general, might think that Europe at the time was 'all that' and Europeans were progressive, but in actuality, they were not quite as 'Godly' as they made themselves appear to be.

Essay 4. Their Attitude Towards Sex:

Our fourth essay focuses on sex as both the body part and the act. Karaka seems like an advocate for gender-fluid people and supports the fact that gender is not confined to what is assigned to you at birth.

Then comes the act of sex. Through this essay, we find that Karaka is very sex-positive. He is open to orientations and discussions on it and has strong views on the independence of thoughts. He *implies* that if a person is sexually-repressed, something which is often the outcome of society's no-no attitude when it comes to sex, then the person will be repressed in many other faculties of his mind, as repression often underwhelms a person. This repressed man might go to prostitutes, also because he feels ashamed of his actions.

He uses the lens of looking at sex workers who have to do their job because of money issues to send across his message.

Essay 5. Their Thirst for Sensation:

This essay is quite something, as it starts with Karaka heavily implying that the English are straight-up 'pure filth'. He does go on to justify why he thinks so, which I think, is quite polite of him to do. His sense of wisdom when it comes to little things that are in actuality pretty gruesome can be seen here. He talks of how sensational news and events drive people, especially the English when the actual story behind them is nothing short of a nightmare. He gives the example of crime scenes where horrendous acts are carried out. The English make them visiting sites, creating a sensation through the use of mass media, profiting off someone else's misery.

Karaka quotes a news article where an old woman, who dreaded death by Nazis, took her life. As the article called her 'of unsound mind', Karaka is agitated and calls out society and the entirety of civilization that has made conscious political choices to create such a horrendous situation.

This essay focuses on the 'sensational' newspaper articles and how with each passing day, humanity is closer to losing the voice of what it truly means to be civilized.

Essay 6. Their Politicians and Prime Ministers:

The writer is about to get quite political in this essay. He calls out Winston Churchill and his atrocities here and says that what he believes about 'Churchillism' is justified, and he will stand by it. He acknowledges that Churchill was extremely talented and should be given credit for it, something he cannot ignore. But his hunger for power far overshadows his talents. There is a line he quotes about Churchill, and I quote, "he wishes that life should be one great tragedy and that he himself be in the centre of it." I think this speaks volumes for politicians of not only that time, but even today.

Karaka believes, and truly so, that if the colonizers are to make the rules, then these politicians and policymakers should know that they have no right to play with the lives of millions of people, including that of the future generations who will be equally affected by the laws they pass.

Essay 9. Should We Wreck it?

With this, we come to our last essay. As I hate to let Karaka go, since his sarcasm has had my attention since page one, what he will not let go of is his hatred for white people.

He narrates that one time, a child looked at him and said 'Black man.' He says it didn't offend him because he realized that "hey, that's just how the kids have been raised, with this prejudice, hatred and all the wrong information about any race that is not their own".

He not only speaks for Indian people but every person of color who was colonized by the British. A chilling line describing white supremacy mentality which I'd like to quote from the essay is, *"Success has stimulated a feeling of superiority, and they have acquired a self-assurance which borders on conceit, for they are far too conscious, not only of what they had done, but of what they can do."*

The essay has a very strong conclusion where he expresses how every great height has a deep pitfall and the civilized would face it too, for what they have done will come around. He emphasizes time and again that if the lives of the people who were bombed in the West matter, it does not mean the lives of the people of the East, or 'Barbaria' do not matter.

He says that India never claimed to be something it was not. We were always proud of our country until the British made us look like something to be ashamed of. He refers back to his second essay and states that we are not God's chosen people, the way the British think *they* are. But, we're true to ourselves and others, we're genuine.

IMPACT OF ANIMALS ON YOUR LIFE

Before talking about the impact of animals in our life. Let us first notice the current situation of animals. Due to this global pandemic, how miserable their life has become, and I am not only talking about stray animals but also every other wild animal in sanctuaries or zoo. They are not getting the right quality of food and the lifestyle they deserve.

Now let's talk about the impact of animals in our lives. Animals are of two types, the first ones are predators, and the others are prey. And together they all are part of our ecosystem. If we as humans, the most intelligent species on earth do not understand their value then who will? So, it solemnly becomes our prime responsibility that we should also take care of them.

However, it is nearly impossible for each human-being to take care of every other animal species, but one should at least try to take some part of their time and give it to the animals in their surroundings. These kinds of creatures do not just need food or water for living, they also require love and affection from us.

But the harsh truth is that some human beings do not understand this. They feel that they cannot talk so they have no feelings, but it is not true. The truth is that they also need attention. Just for a while think that you are a creature, and nobody cares about your existence. Now my question is "how will you feel?".

So, take some time out of your phone and out of your comfort zone and try to help these kind and innocent creatures.

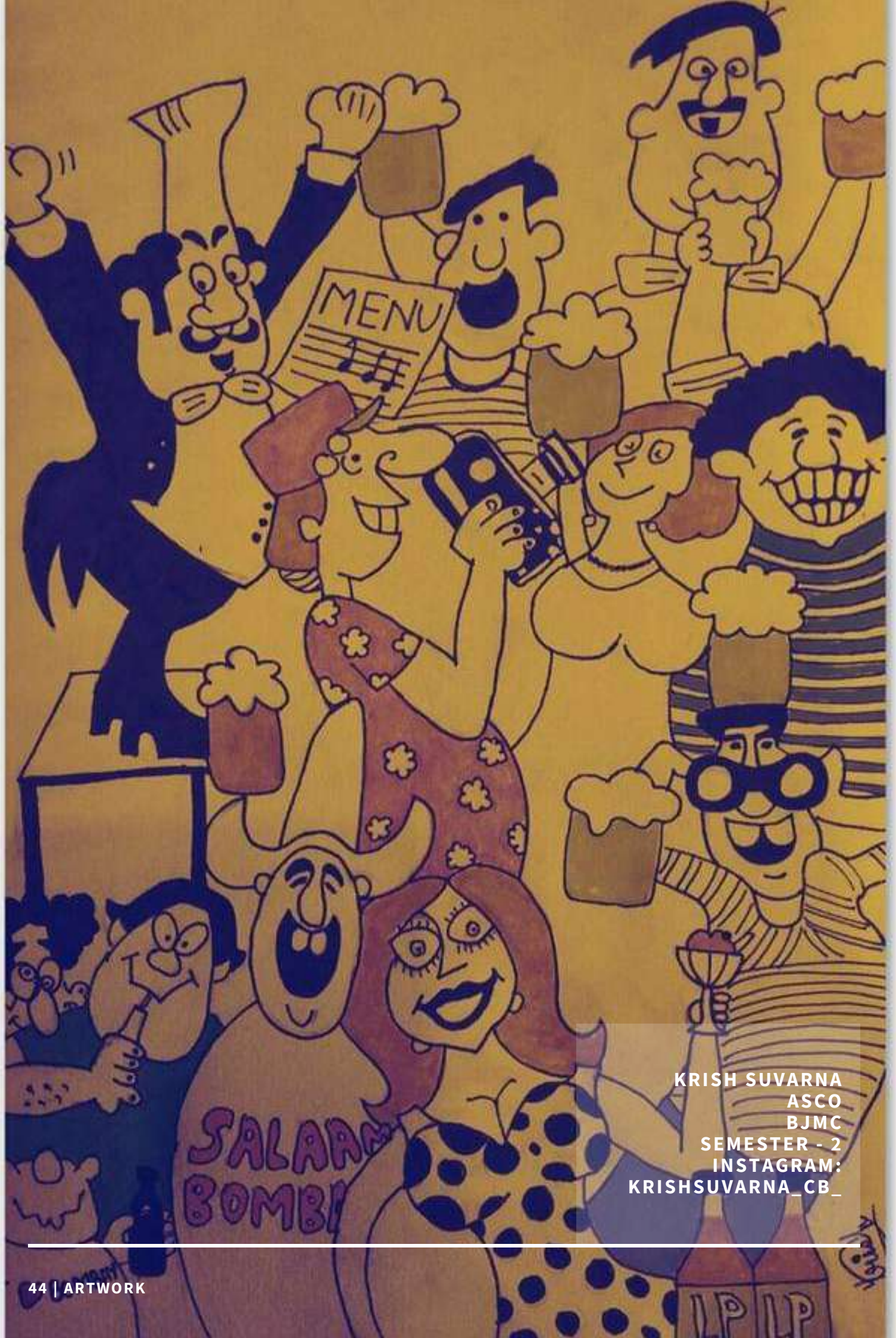
Because if you think that someone else will help them if you will not, then that someone will also think the same. Small changes can make a big difference. So, try to make that change because animals are the biggest part of our lives and you cannot ignore them.

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**LET YOUR
IMAGINATION
BE WILD!!!**

**KRISH SUVARNA
ASCO
BJMC
SEMESTER - 2
INSTAGRAM:
KRISHSUVARNA_CB_**



KRISH SUVARNA
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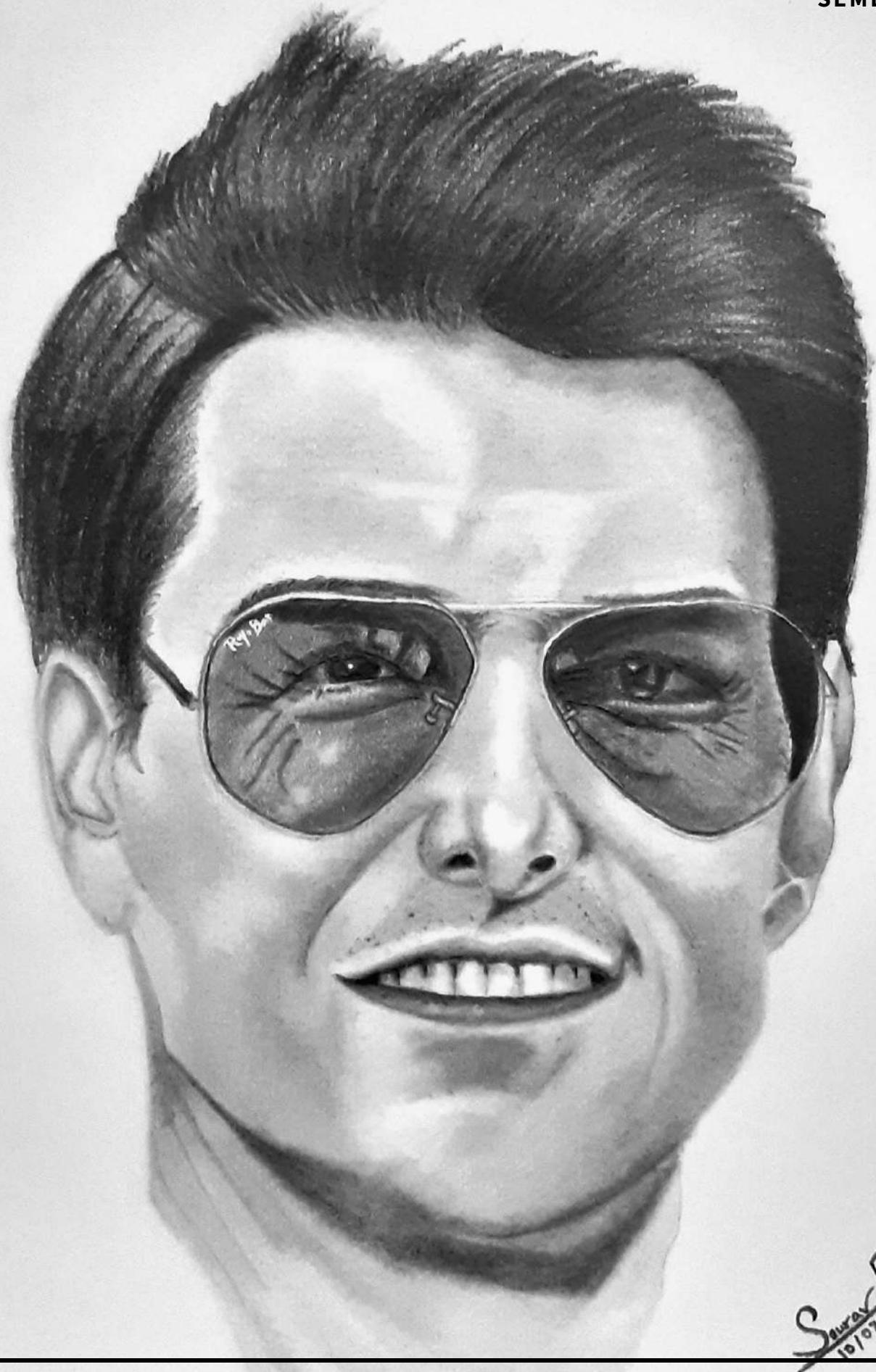




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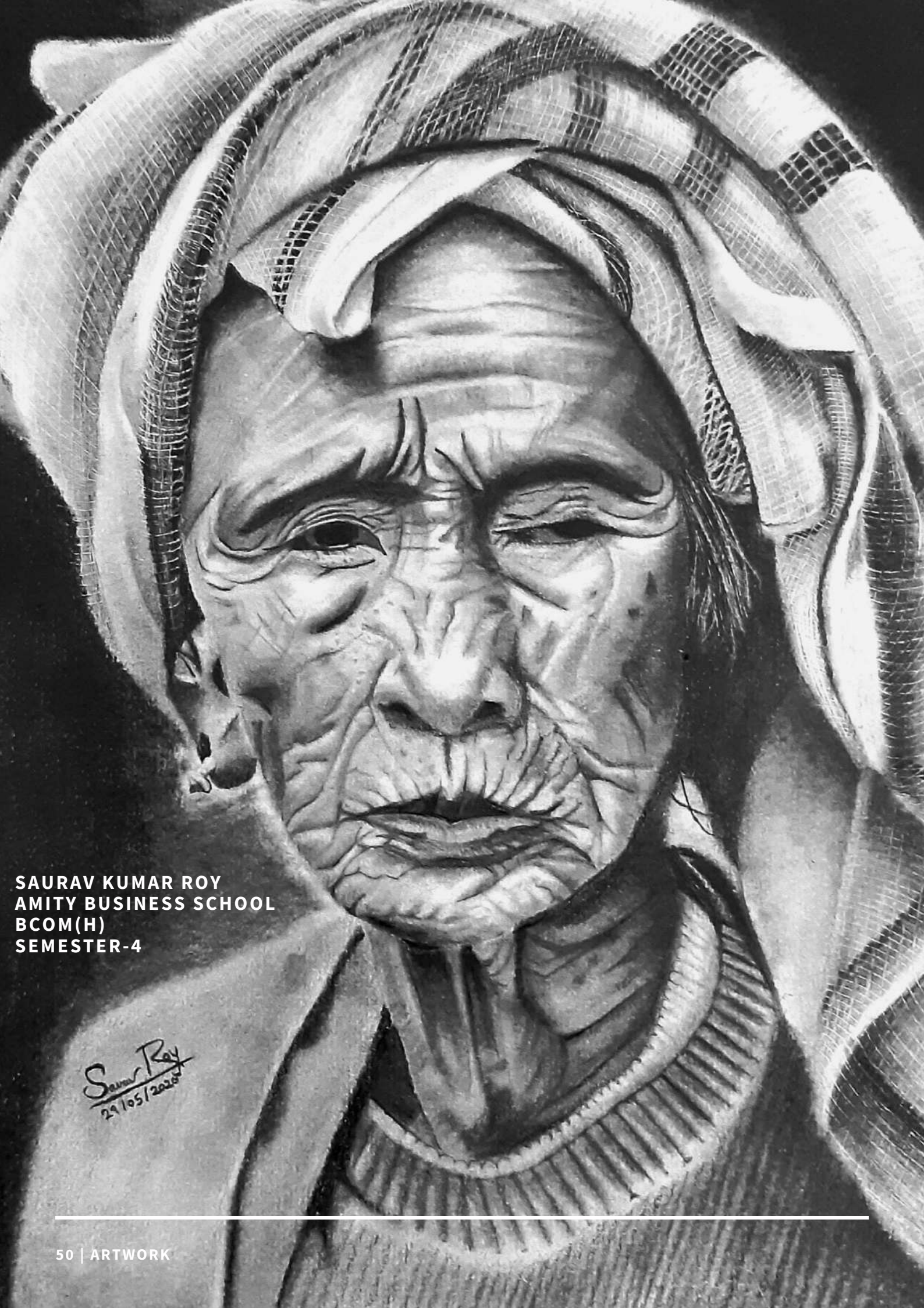




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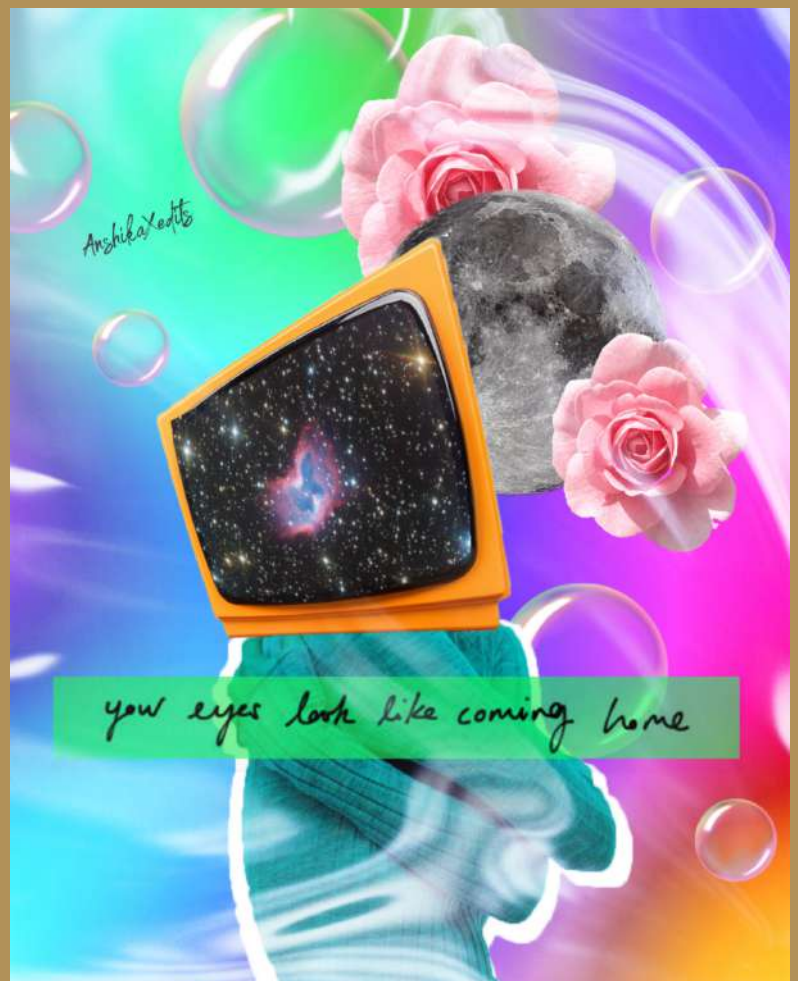
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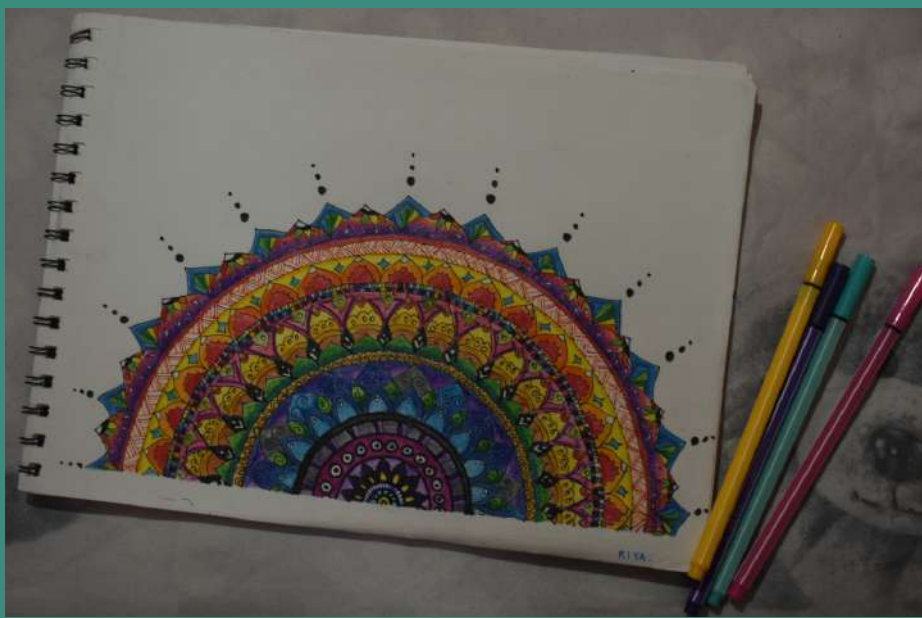


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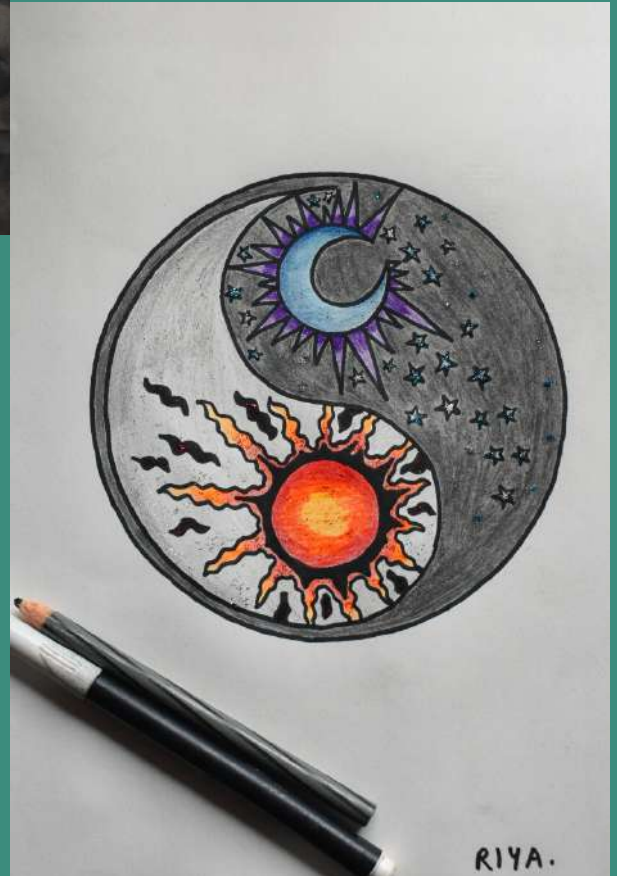
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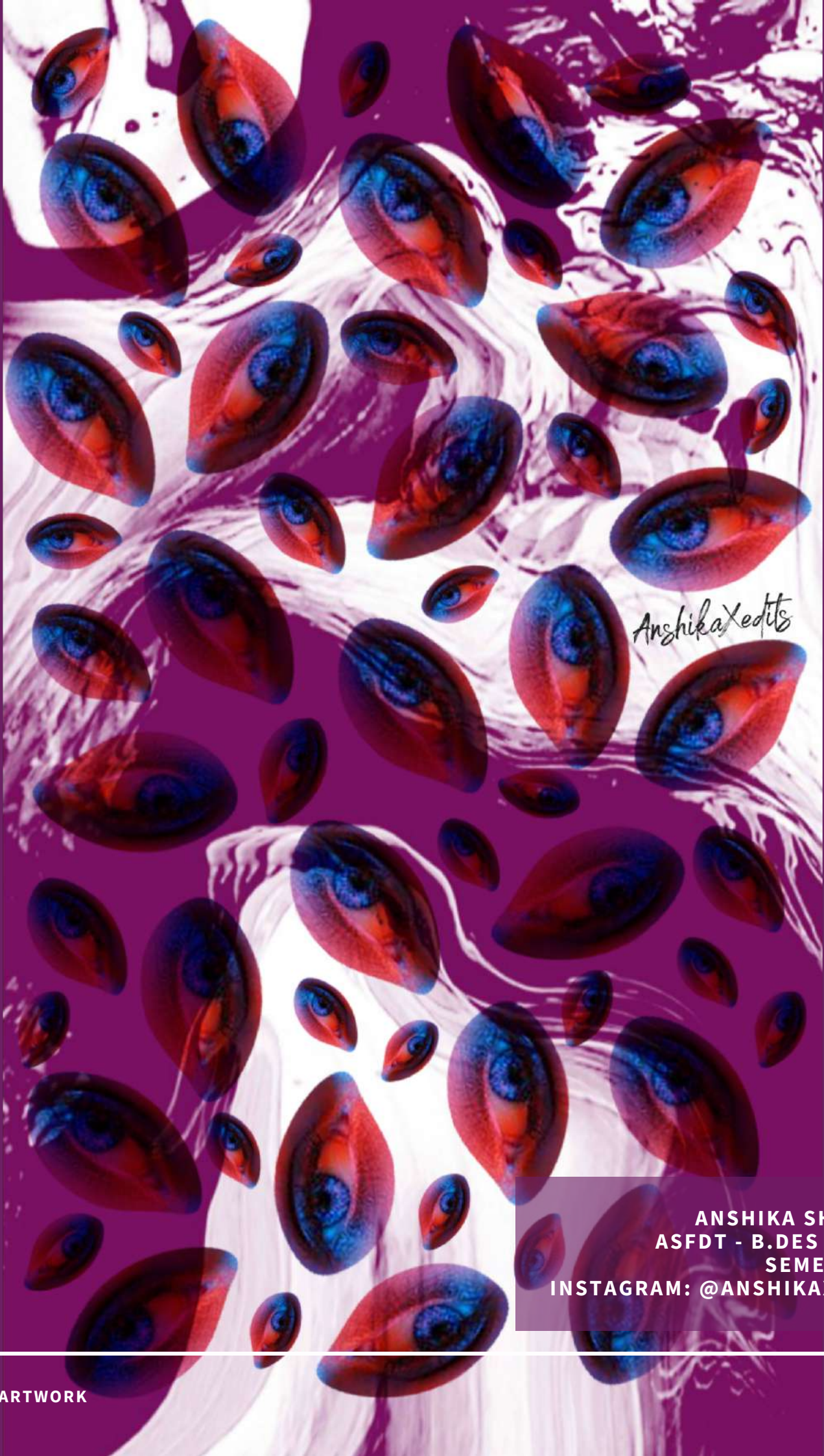
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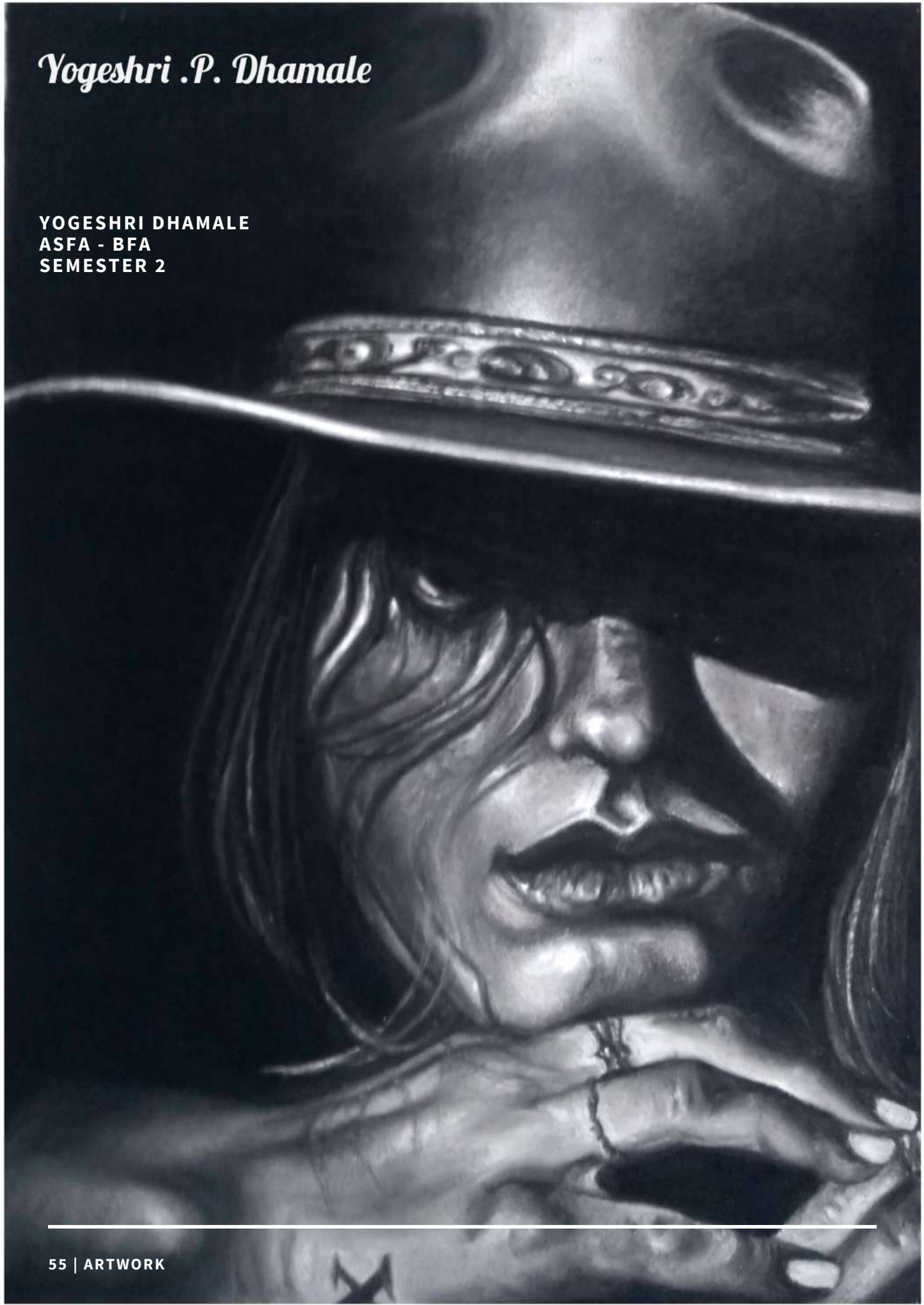
YOGESHRI DHAMALE
ASFA - BFA
SEMESTER 2

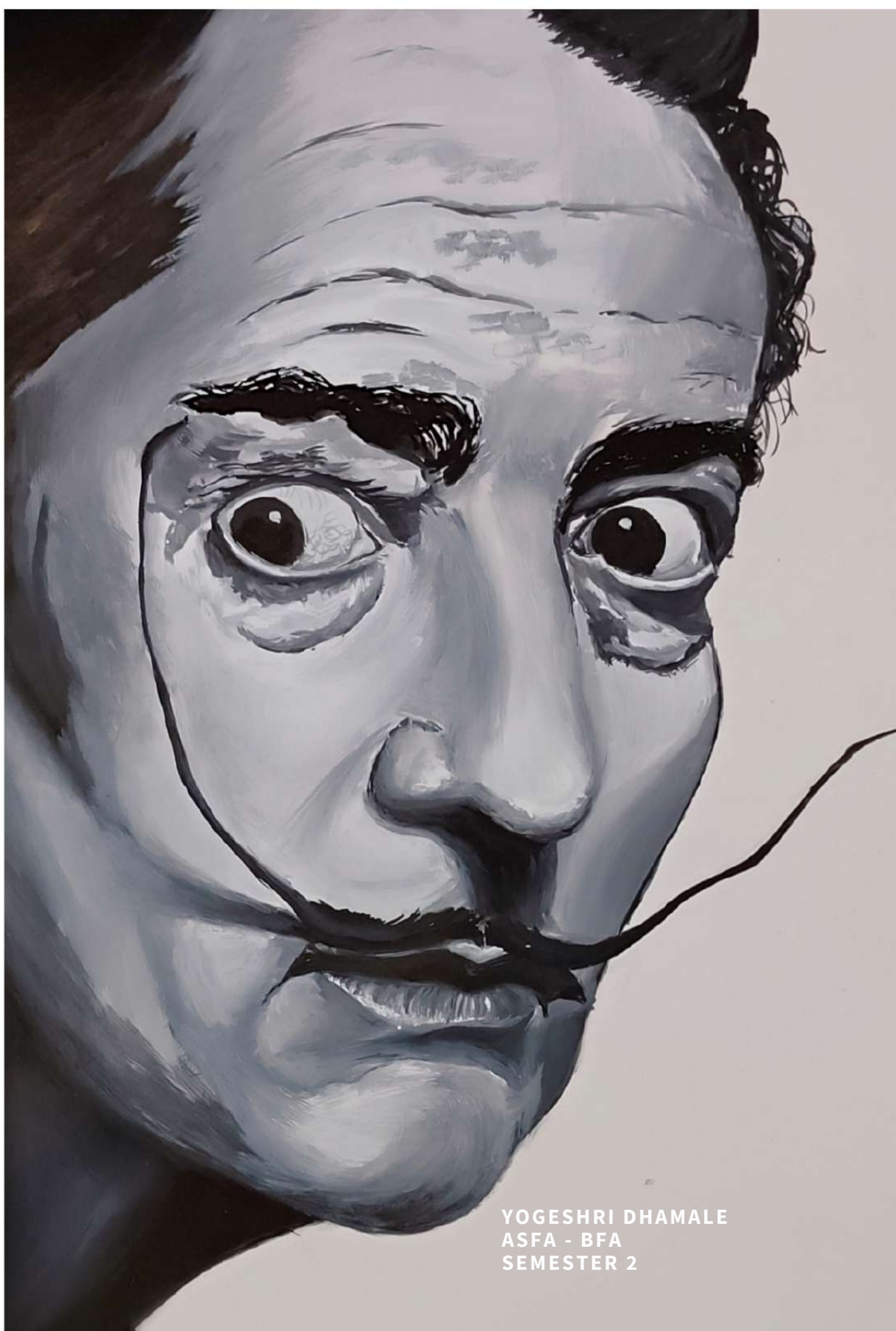


Dhamale

Yogeshri .P. Dhamale

YOGESHRI DHAMALE
ASFA - BFA
SEMESTER 2





YOGESHRI DHAMALE
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YOGESHRI DHAMALE
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Yogeshri P. Dhamale



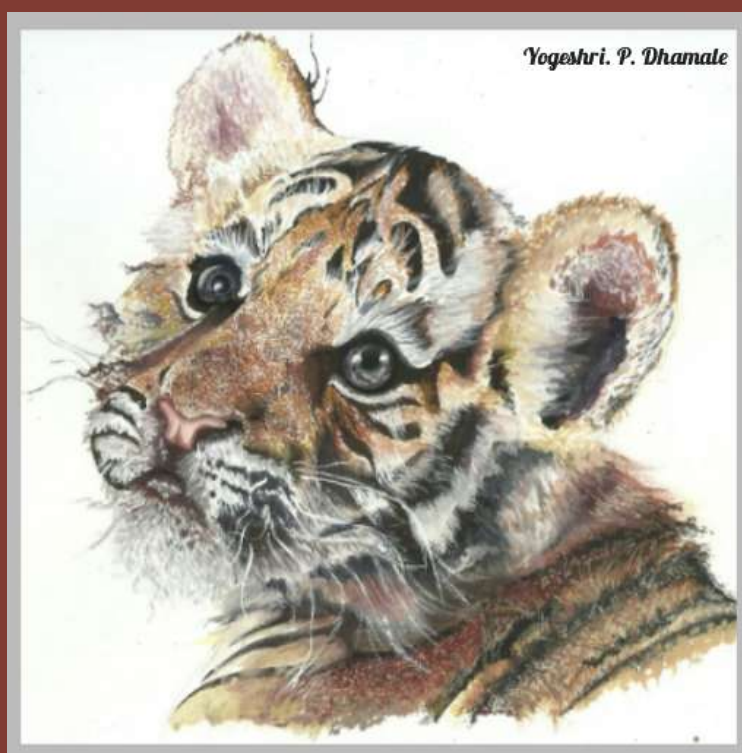
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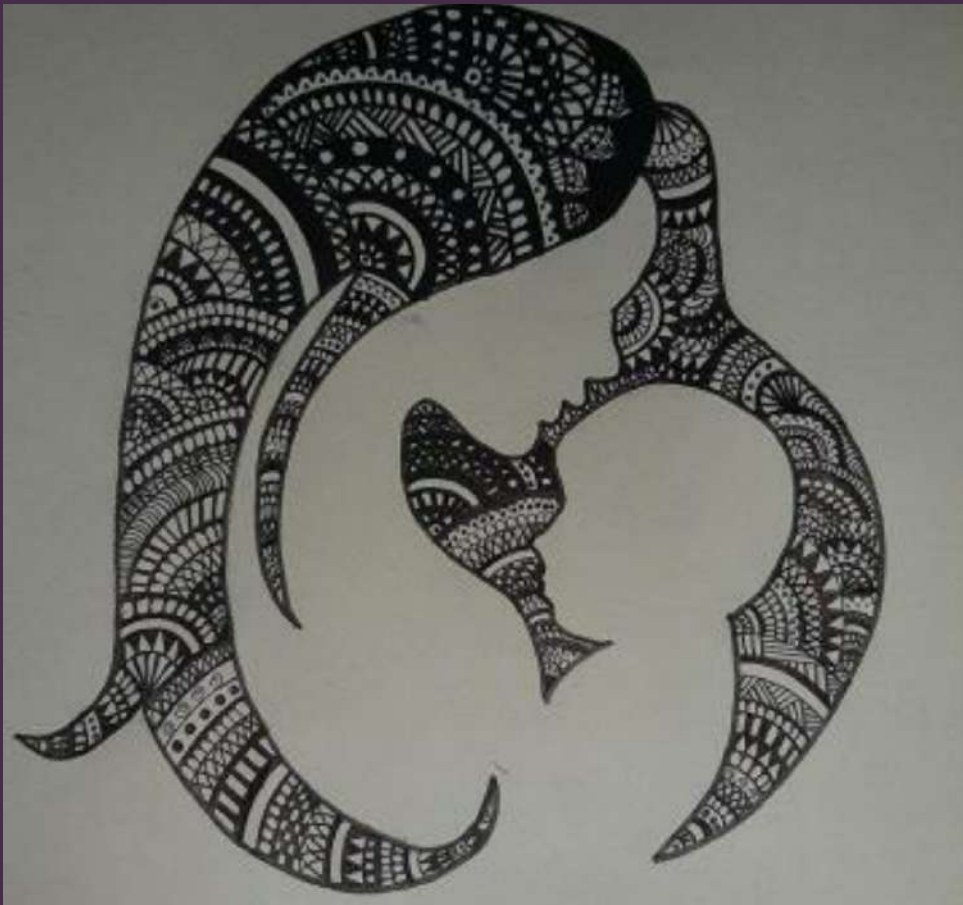


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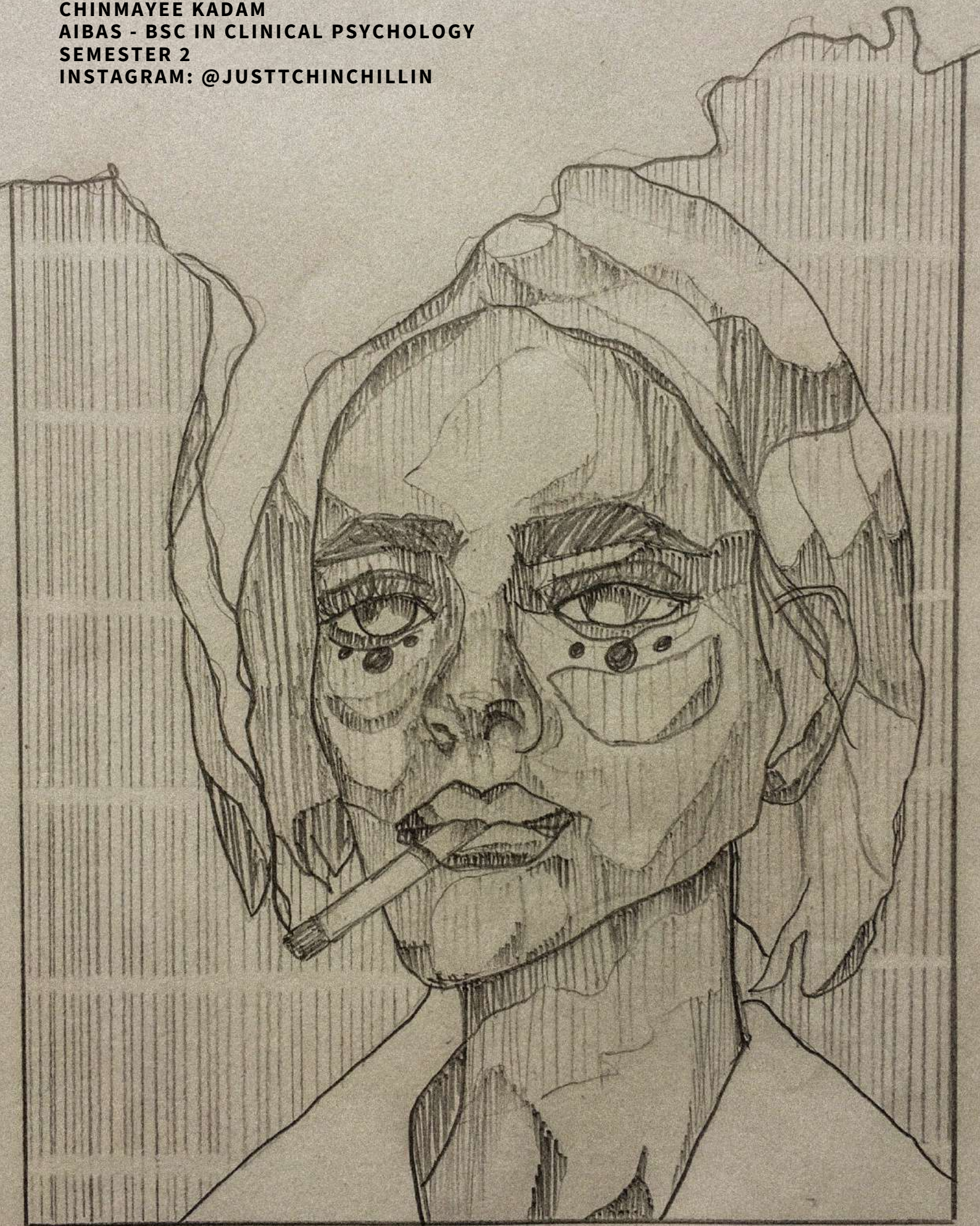
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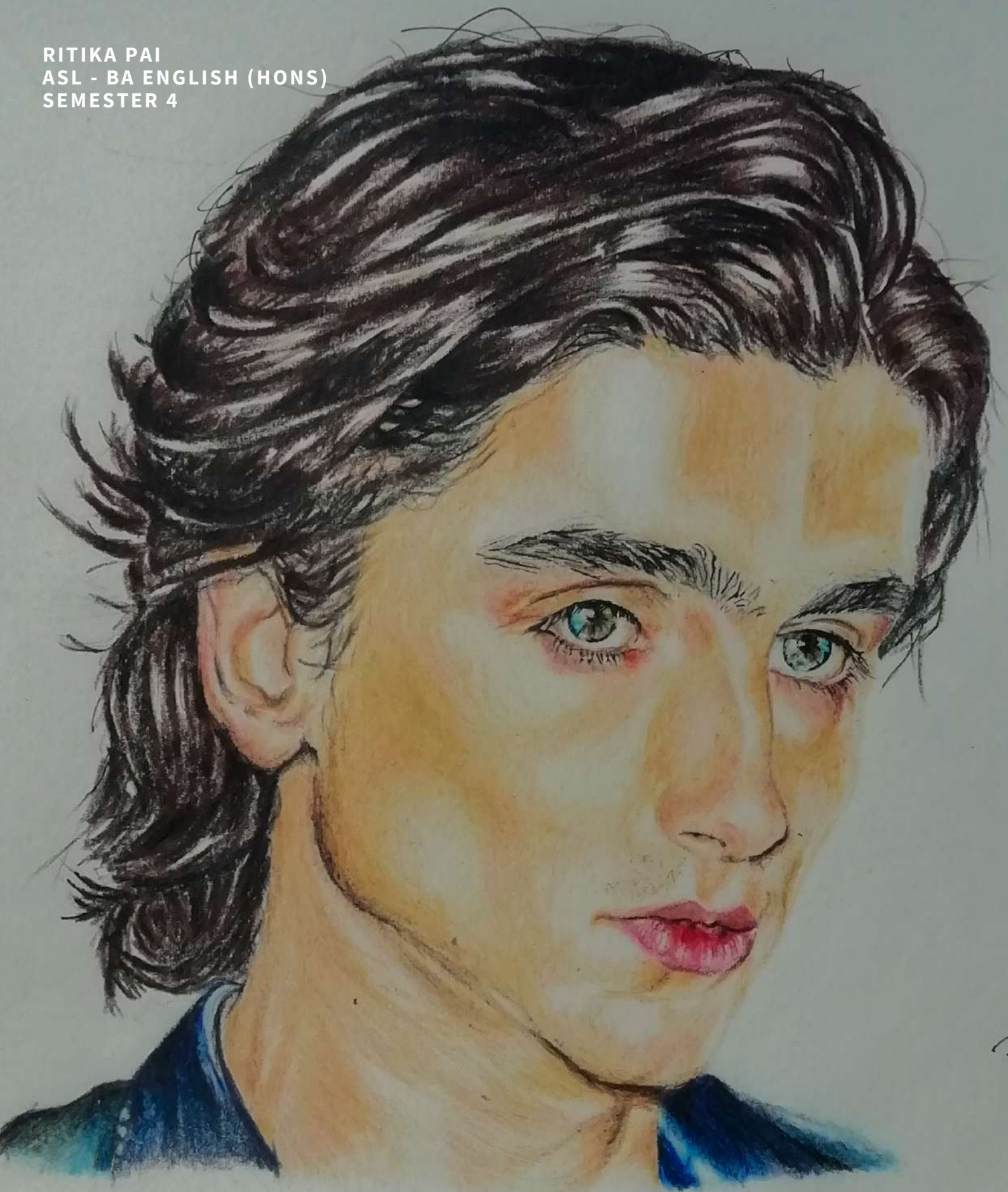






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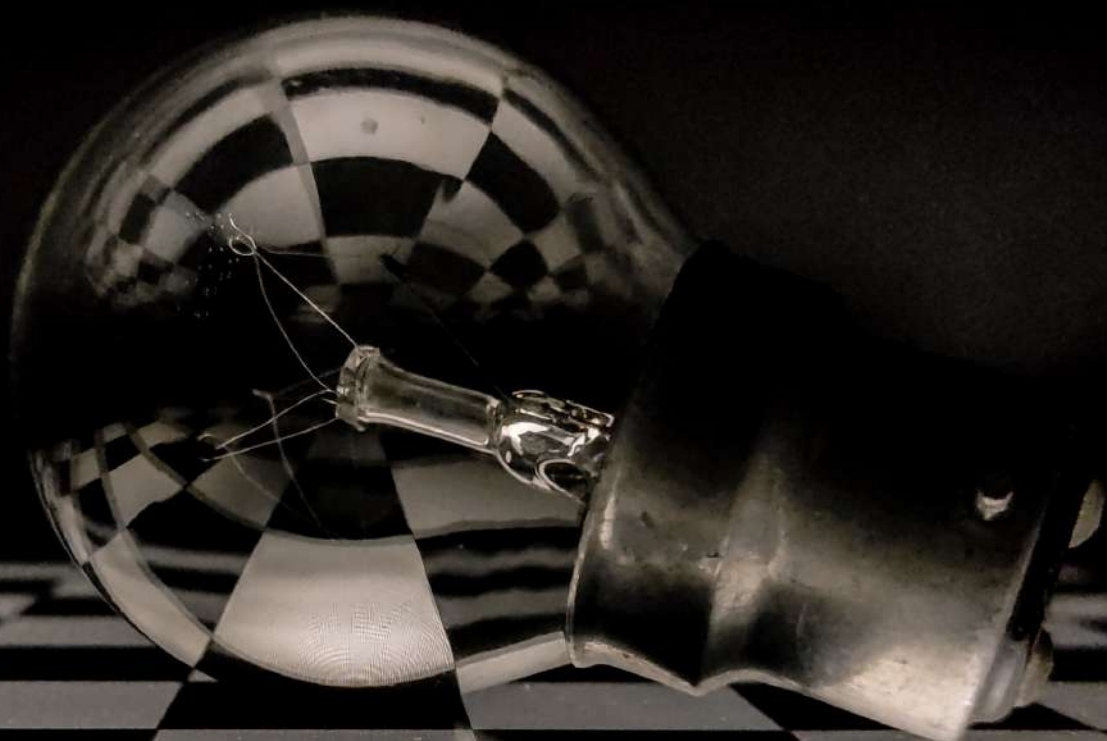
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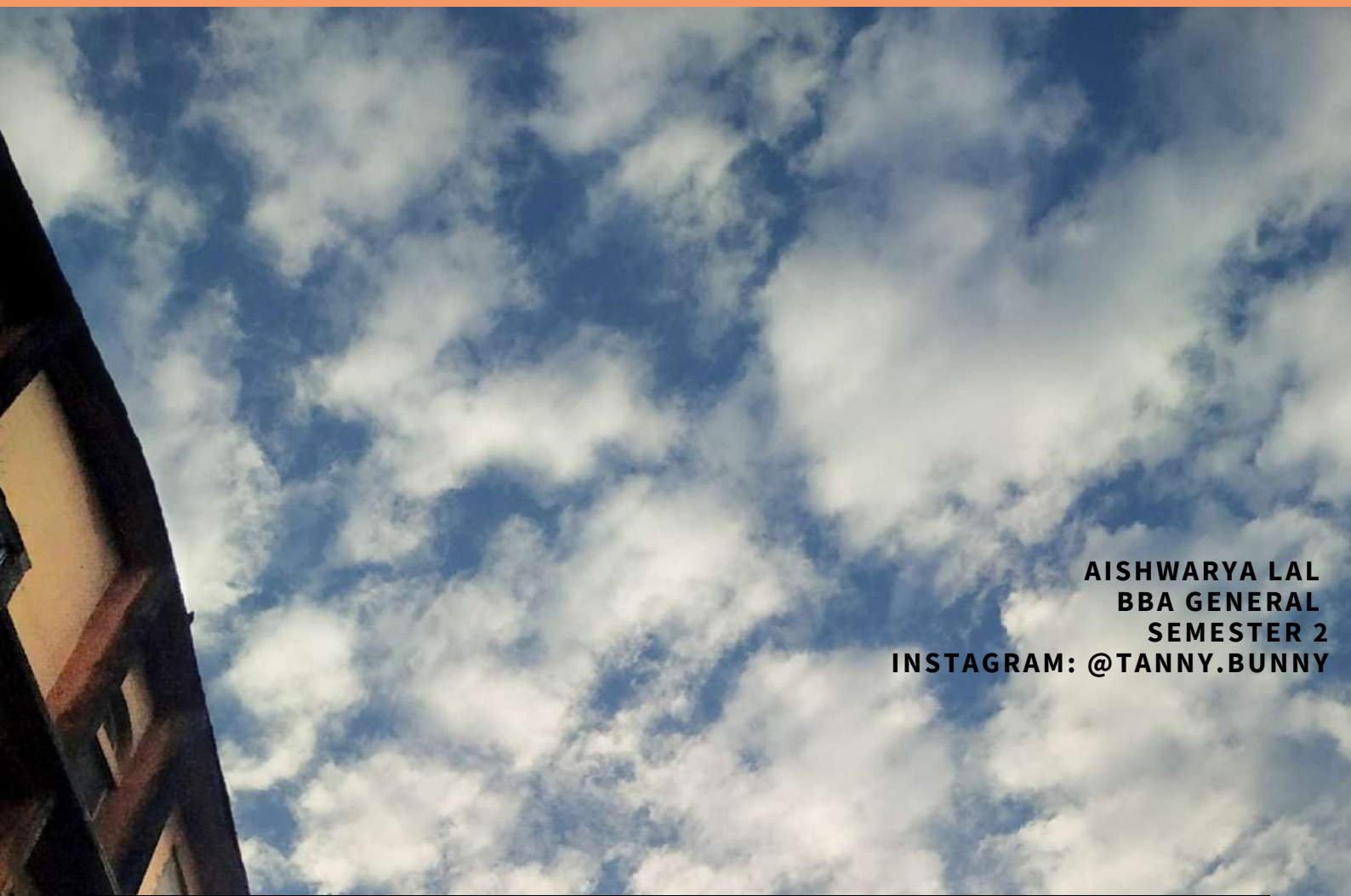


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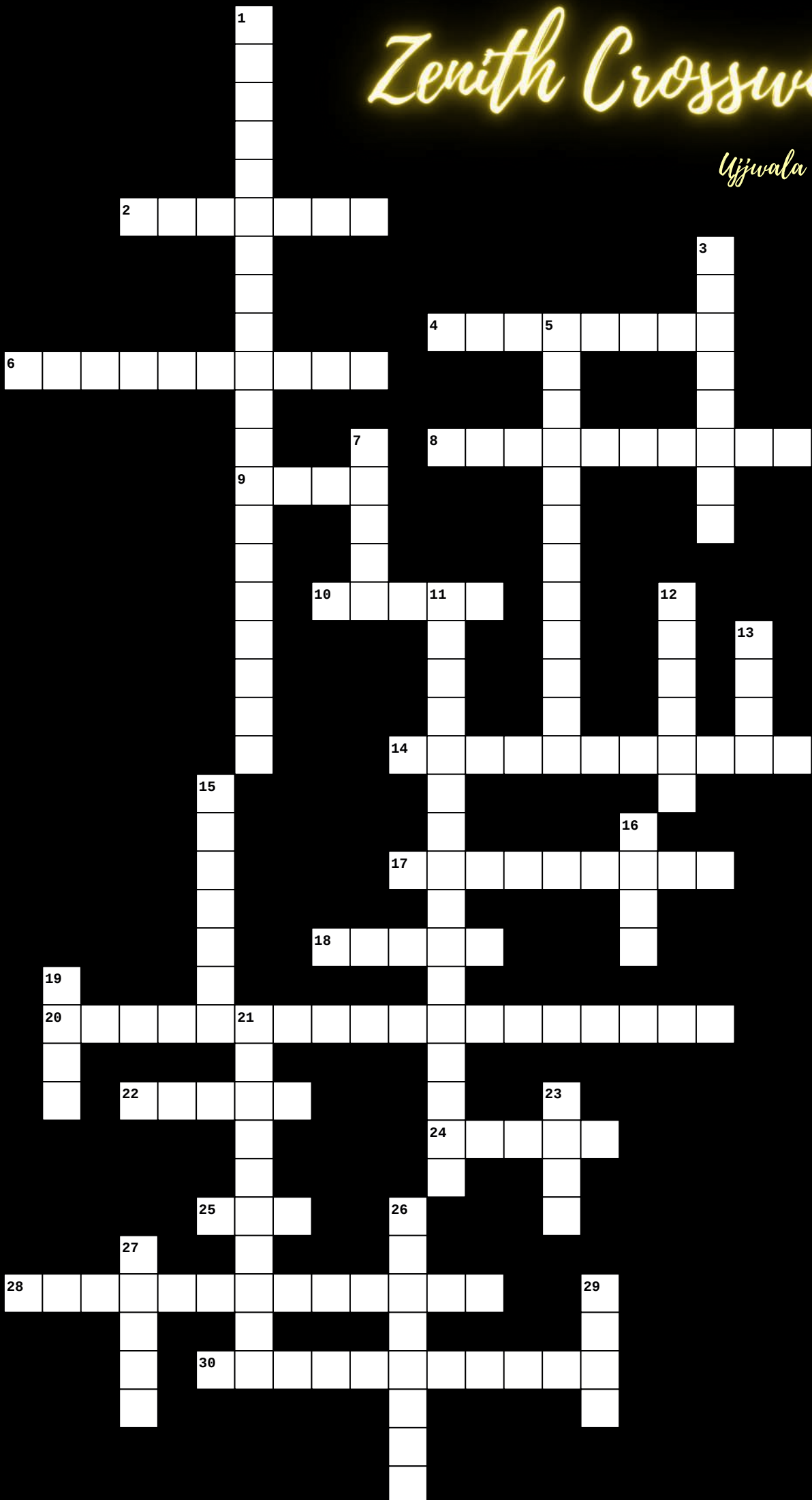
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Zenith Crossword

BY

Ujjwala Nagendra



Across

2. Composer of 'Four Seasons'
4. The 46th President of the United States
6. Author of the 'James Bond' novels
8. The New York Times' Puzzlemaster
9. To ready a musical instrument
10. Old books are generally Dog-_____
14. Protagonist of Stephen King's 'Misery'
17. Synonymous with dystopian
18. What does the "B" in KB, MB, GB, TB stand for?
20. First Non-European to win the Nobel Peace Prize in Literature
22. The Knight in Chess
24. First thing you hear in the morning
25. Holds the Guinness World Record for English word with most meanings
28. Former Duchess of Cornwall
30. Poet who advanced confessional poetry

Down

1. French novel written by Gaston Leroux
3. Large Marsupial
5. Mark Zuckereberg, Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos
7. African animal with stripes
11. Outside the Earth
12. The most visited website
13. Sandwich often given a twist
15. The titular "King" in JRR Tolkein's 'The Return of the King'
16. Actor Brad of '12 Years a Slave'
19. Solo in an opera
21. Fyodor _____
23. Town in Albert Camus' 'The Plague'
26. Game where you can't speak
27. Turns doors
29. Author Roald _____

A PIECE ON

MILLENNIUM FELLOWSHIP

A piece from 'Zenith'

A Magazine from
Amity School of
Languages

Issue 1
March 2021



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DR. RACHANA SHARMA

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1 NO POVERTY



"End poverty in all its forms everywhere"

Written by: Anushila Jana

More than 10% of the world's population still live in extreme poverty and face trouble even in fulfilling the most basic needs like health, education, clean affordable drinking water, and proper sanitation. Ensuring social protection for all children and other vulnerable groups is very important to reduce poverty; we together have to fight the previous challenge which has now been compounded by the Covid crisis.

2 ZERO HUNGER



"End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture"

Written by: Anushila Jana

It is estimated that the number of hungry people worldwide would drastically climb by 2050. Improving agriculture and food supplies can help reduce poverty, as it can help fight climate change, boost economic growth, and contribute to peace and stability in economies around the world. We need to effectively manage natural resources. Building resilience against natural disasters is also an important part of the global fight against hunger, as the problem of food insecurity increases.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



*"Ensure healthy lives
and promote well-
being for all at all
ages"*

Written by: Apurva Sakpal

Here, major development has additionally been made on access to clean water and sanitation, decreasing malaria, tuberculosis, polio and the unfold of HIV/AIDS. However, greater efforts are needed to control an extensive variety of illnesses and deal with continual and rising fitness and health issues.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



"Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all"

Written by: Apurva Sakpal

Quality education can be perceived as the foundation of sustainable development of a nation, and therefore, of the Sustainable Development Goals. Today, more than 262 million children and youngsters are out of school. Six out of ten don't obtain primary literacy which in turn becomes the gateway towards child labour. The target is to ensure the completion of primary and secondary education by all boys and girls and have equal access to studying opportunities and vocational education for everyone.

5

GENDER EQUALITY



*"Achieve gender
equality and
empower all women
and girls"*

Written by: Anushka Chaube

Women, despite being half of the world's population, are often subjected to prejudices and discrimination. This goal is specifically targeted to help women achieve equality in all possible terms, to create a world where women are free from violence and any sort of discrimination and their rights are safeguarded in all aspects, from social to political, and from personal to economic.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

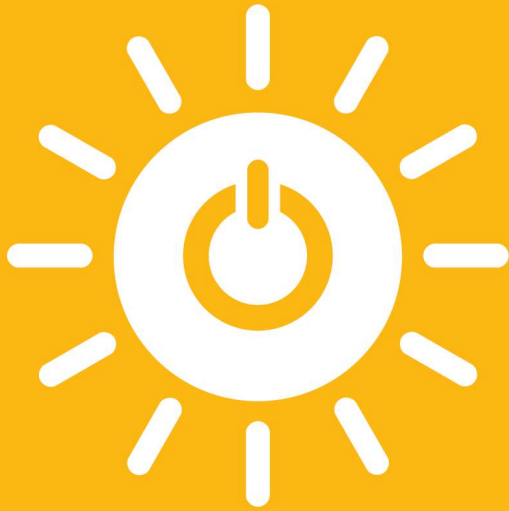


*"Ensure availability
and sustainable
management of
water and sanitation
for all"*

Written by: Anushka Chaube

Water is one of the necessities for humans but having access to clean water can be a luxury for many. Contaminated water and unhygienic living conditions are the root causes of several diseases. This goal is to ensure that clean water can be made available to every individual so that people can live in a sanitary environment and away from chronic diseases thereby improving their living conditions too.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

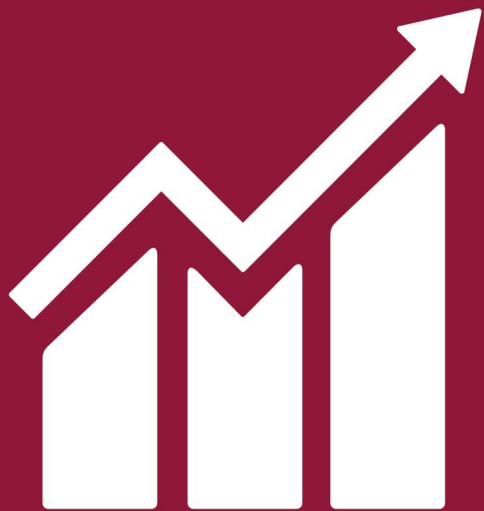


*"Ensure access to
affordable, reliable,
sustainable and
modern energy for
all"*

Written by: Anushila Jana

In this era of technology where energy connects the whole world, there are still 1 billion people who do not have access to affordable clean energy. Expanding the infrastructure and upgrading technology is necessary to provide clean energy sources to all the developing countries. The goal is significant because renewable energy helps in conserving the nation's natural resources which are crucial for future generations. Looking at the present trajectory, if we do not take quick steps to see to it that everyone has a source of clean and affordable resources then it will be highly problematic for future generations.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



"Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all"

Written by: Anushila Jana

Globally, annual GDP growth has declined from 4.4% in 2000 to 3.2% in the previous years. The constant lack of work opportunities, lack of investments, and under-consumption have led to the downfall of the basic social contract that every country must have an equal opportunity to grow economically. Sustainable economic growth improves the wellbeing of all sections of society, especially of the most vulnerable. Making all the countries economically stronger and more independent along with maintaining healthy codependency is crucial for our development. Stronger economies will make the world a stronger place.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

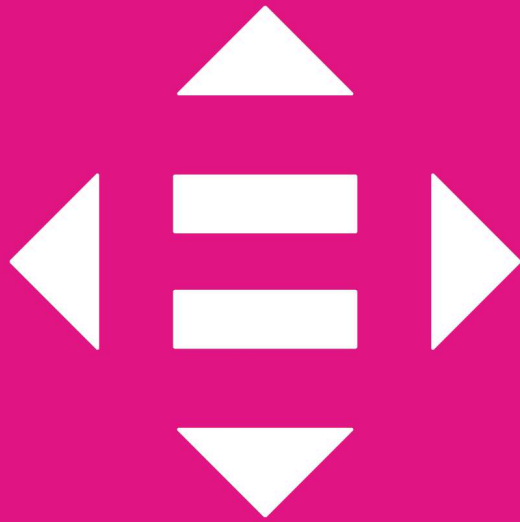


"Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation"

Written by: Arshi Sohail

As the title of the goal suggests, SDG 9 works towards the promotion of better infrastructure which in turn results in the development of industrialization. It is believed that with evolved industrialization, humankind will get to witness evolved technologies and inventions. And a strong industrial base will therein help promote better employment opportunities.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



"Reduce income inequality within and among countries"

Written by: Apurva Sakpal

Reducing inequalities and the security of all socioeconomic classes is indispensable for accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals. Inequality between countries is a major global concern. This goal is to reduce language barriers, poverty, health, and education between countries, as perpetual inequality blocks the progress of developing nations. Hence it is essential to achieve equal opportunities and reduce inequality in law, policies, and economic statuses.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



"Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable"

Written by: Apurva Sakpal

More people live in the cities but by 2050, 6.5 billion people will live in urban areas. Due to the rapid growth of cities, people migrate to urban areas in search of work which makes the rural regions poorer. By making cities sustainable means more developing careers and business opportunities, secure and affordable housing, thereby constructing societies and economies. It includes funding public transport, developing public spaces, and enhancing city-making plans and management in different ways. The target is to get access to all safe and affordable housing and upgrade slums.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



*"Ensure sustainable
consumption and
production patterns"*

Written by: Apurva Sakpal

We have been provided with an abundance of natural resources. The growing population increases the use of natural resources but we should learn to utilize them responsibly. But presently, we devour far beyond what our planet can provide. Usage and production in sustainable ways should be learned to reverse the damage that was inflicted on the planet. The target is to achieve efficient use of natural resources, reduce waste through recycling and reuse, and encourage large-scale companies to adopt sustainable practices.

13 CLIMATE ACTION

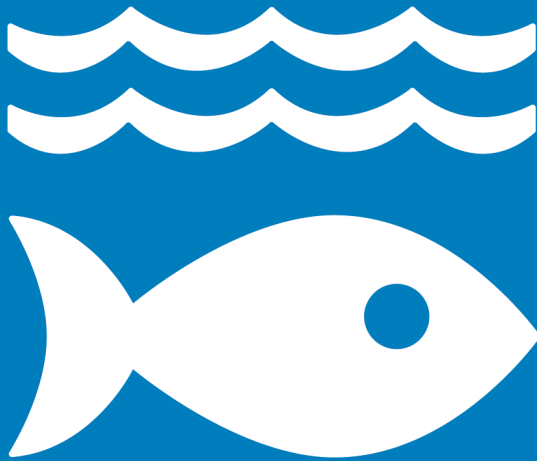


"Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy"

Written by: Apurva Sakpal

We're all aware of the dangers of global warming and how it has severely impacted the planet over the last decade. The aftermath of climate change influences the health of people, affecting everyone on a global scale. It is disrupting country-wide economies and affecting lives. The change in lifestyle of people globally has critically influenced the changing degrees in sea levels and increased pollution. All of this is evidential of the extremity of climate change. The target is to integrate and incorporate the matter of climate change into national policies, improvise education on climate change, operationalize the Green Climate Fund.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

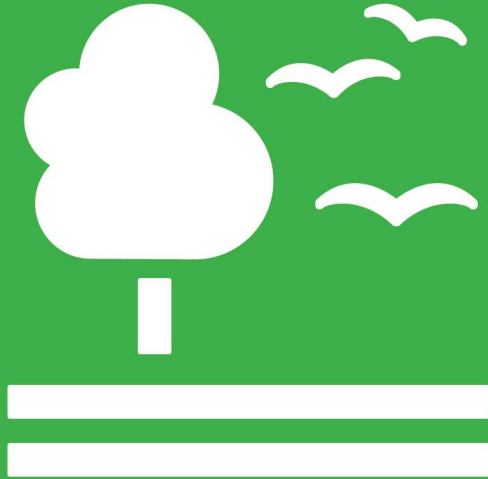


"Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development"

Written by: Anushila Jana

We, as humans, are a land-dwelling species, but we depend more on our oceans than we can imagine. Oceans cover almost 75% of the Earth's surface and hold about 97% of the Earth's water. their temperature, chemistry, currents and life, our rainwater, drinking water, weather, climate, coastlines, much of our food, and even the oxygen in the air we breathe, are all ultimately provided and regulated by the oceans. Throughout history, oceans and seas have been vital means for trade and transportation. Careful management of these essential global resources is necessary for sustainable development.

15 LIFE ON LAND

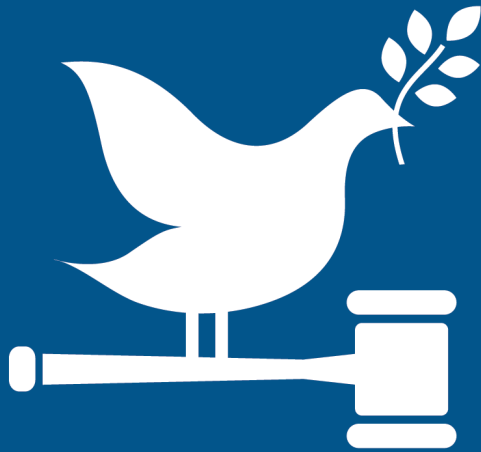


"Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss"

Written by: Anushka Chaube

There is more to terrestrial life than just us humans occupying the planet. The terrestrial ecosystem includes all of the flora and fauna and we humans hugely rely on them for our sustenance. Goal 15 is to ensure we don't lose our biodiversity and secure sustainable livelihoods so the future generations can bear the fruits of them too.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



"Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels"

Written by: Anushila Jana

Violence is one of the biggest destructive forces wrecking the world and breaking it into millions of pieces, every other day we have some sort of news hitting up our screens about violence being carried on with ulterior motives. The first step to fulfilling any aspect of the global sustainable development agenda should begin with restoring the security and human rights of the individuals whose lives and right to freedom are under threat either due to direct violence or through institutional justice system failure. They need to be provided with a much safer environment and the people who have been displaced by such violence have to be given proper restoration efforts to live a better life.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



"Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development"

Written by: Anushka Chaube

This goal is a call for countries across the world to align their policies to achieve the goals. It is a vision that encourages equitable trade and coordinated investment action plans so that sustainable development is promoted across the borders, thereby strengthening the cooperation between nation-states and developed-developing so that these collaborative efforts can help us reach the goals.

Millennium Fellowship

Written By:
Apurva Sakpal
Anushila Jana



WHAT IS THE MILLENNIUM FELLOWSHIP?

The Millennium Fellowship, which launched in 2013, is a semester-long leadership improvement program that takes place on your campus. The United Nations Academic Impact and MCN are right here to raise your leadership. This is an excellent movement of socially impacting leaders dedicated to making the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into reality by 2030. It helps you to develop values, professional skills, and a pathway to succeed in your SDG goals. The main objective of the Millennium Fellowship is to make a local impact by creating teams of students from respective colleges.

THE GLOBAL IMPACT OF MCN

The Millennium Fellowship challenges the students to delve deep into their determination for witnessing change through actions and this mindset and work ethic in turn results in the construction of passion projects that help society in one way or another.

There is a growing requirement of merit-based professional fellowship opportunities that cultivate the talents of emerging leaders, provide entry into a first job, help in career development, fund their international work experiences, and support self-designed projects for the welfare of the world. They are short-term, competitive, paid opportunities to do something exceptional and also for charity.

Millennium Fellows have been selected from various educational backgrounds and belong to different institutions be it public or private, this again highlights the fact that student leaders can emerge from any community or background committed to localizing and making people aware of the SDGs and strengthening communities all over the world.

As Millennium Fellows, they will participate in a semester-long leadership development program to improve their student organizing, partnership building, and community impact skills as well as working for these goals which deeply impact the overall well-being of the world as a community.

For example, At Duke University, United States, Fellows are crafting a website that connects people all around the world to climate change media. The people here include the ones who are willing to make a change in society. The website portrays ways in which we can live sustainably and methods that help reduce carbon footprints. Their target is to reach and influence around 80,000 individuals during their time in the fellowship.

In such a way some many other such colleges and universities are using this millennium fellowship to serve the purpose of the community and the world, by using the resources available and also making use of the student community at the same time making them responsible individuals working towards important goals for the betterment of the world.

HOW CAN YOU JOIN AND BE A PART OF THE MCN?

To be eligible for the Millennium Fellowship Program, you should be an undergraduate student and above the age of eighteen. There are no registration fees for the application process. The application process takes place at the Millennium Fellowship website.

The process consists of two rounds of selection:

Round 1: This round consists of simple essay-type questions. If your university qualifies a minimum of 8 students then you are eligible. You will then receive mail regarding your status.

Round 2: Round 2 is the final round of application that requires elaborate answers about your project ideas – you can mention your existing project or something new you intend to work on. You can plan and work with your college team on the same SDGs and projects.

However, individual applications are accepted. You will need an academic reference sent by faculty from your college.

If done, wait for the results.

INTERVIEW WITH DR. RACHANA SHARMA

INTERVIEWEE: DR. RACHANA SHARMA

INTERVIEWERS: ARCHITA BISWAS [FELLOW OF 2020 - B.A. FRENCH (HONS), SEMESTER 4], UJJWALA NAGENDRA [B.A. ENGLISH (HONS), SEMESTER 4]

DATE: SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 7, 2021

ATTENDEES: DR. RACHANA SHARMA, ARCHITA BISWAS, UJJWALA NAGENDRA, SHIZA SHAIKH [B.A. ENGLISH (HONS), SEMESTER 4]

DOCUMENTED BY: SHIZA SHAIKH [B.A. ENGLISH (HONS), SEMESTER 4]

Archita: First of all, thank you, Dr. Rachana ma'am, for agreeing to this interview. It means a lot. Without wasting too much time, since we have a lot of questions that we'd like to ask you, can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

Dr. Rachana: I'm Dr. Rachana Sharma, working with the Applied Sciences department at Amity University, Mumbai, as an assistant professor. Currently, I teach Environmental Science and Biochemistry to undergraduates and postgraduates.

Archita: Thank you, ma'am. So, if I'm not wrong, you've majored in biochemistry?

Dr. Rachana: Yes. So, I did my undergraduate schooling in Bangalore and I did my post-graduation and Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Mysore. My core research area during that time was Snake Venom pharmacology.

I was very fascinated with the snake world, and how they used the venom to defend themselves to hunt down the prey. That was very fascinating. I usually find nature very inspirational; you know? Each and everything around us is so beautiful, and the creatures are uniquely adapted. They have a lot of strategies to survive in this environment. And due to this, I was inclined to switch to environmental science.

Archita: So, what specifically inspired you to choose environmental science as your teaching subject as well as your research area?

Dr. Rachana: Okay. So firstly, as I told you, my fascination with nature and wildlife goes right back to my post-graduation level and Ph.D. I find that the environment itself is so beautiful, but the way we are handling it is saddening. We, humans, take everything for granted.

We are invested only in ourselves, in making money, and that we take everything else for granted. We don't realize our connection with mother earth.

So then I started realizing that see, as a person, for me, the environment is 'nature'. We have to understand that we are just a part of the environment.

So, as a biochemist, I can relate to the environment. The subject is a study to which everyone can relate to. An *artist* can get inspired! The artist can draw and make music. A scientist can be inspired and do some research on it. An economist can think about how to draw economic value from nature. So, environmental science is the one common subject that can inspire every one of us.

Ujjwala: Thank you, ma'am, and speaking of inspiration, was there anything particular that inspired you to *advocate* the sustainability of resources?

Dr. Rachana: See, only when each one of us understands that sustainability is the only way that we can live happily now, only when it goes into this human consciousness only then everyone will practice sustainability. No one has to advocate sustainability or not to harm nature. Everyone should realize that the way we are, depends on the way the environment is. If we want to live happily on this planet, have good health, then the environment should be taken care of first.

It is not something outside of you, it is a part of you.

Everything becomes a part of you once you start living consciously. *That advocacy comes from within.* Everyone needs to become aware that the environment is you, and you are the environment. When that oneness is established, you will automatically take care of it. As a teacher, I feel that my role is to make the students realize their connection with the environment.

Ujjwala: Yes, ma'am. I completely agree. But, by introducing the **Millennium Fellowship**, you have been a trailblazer for bringing a change to the campus. Can you tell us a little bit about what led you on this journey?

Dr. Rachana: Okay, so when I joined Amity two years back and when we started discussing environmental science and the problems that we see - climate change, the global crisis, poverty, hunger, and so on. I found out that the students were involved in the discussion. We used to pick up real-life examples and see how these problems are happening and how they will impact this generation and future generations.

So, during those discussions, people used to wonder and the students used to ask, "Ma'am, do you think one simple act of us is going to impact globally?"

Is it going to solve anything?" *It will.* The thing is, even a simple act of sustainability is going to bring a change. Whether it is big or small, we don't have to think about that. We just have to act on that.

One day while reading about all these platforms, I came across this international platform called **Millennium Fellowship**, specifically for undergraduate students to make a social impact possible. They talk about promoting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. They support the students to become global leaders and make connections, go through leadership training programs, conduct webinars, and so on.

The first time I spoke about Millennium Fellowship with students, there were a handful of them who came and they applied for it. So then, from a team of five, we became a team of fifty! The first batch then became the fellows and now they have inspired their juniors. Currently, we have **200+** students applying this year for the program. So, it all started with the students, I must say.

Archita: Yes, ma'am. Of course, any sort of journey for the greater good starts from something small. As you said, with the **Millennium Fellowship**, there were quite a few people and with that, it reached out. But at the same time, if I may ask you, what do you think is the biggest challenge a student faces while applying for the fellowship?

Dr. Rachana: Okay, I think it is the *fear*. So, the first time when I spoke about the millennium program to the students, most of them were like "Ma'am, do you think it will work? Can we reach an international platform? Will our projects be recognized?" That was that fear that they had first. So even before trying, the fear of failure was what I saw in them. But once we spoke about it, once we overcome that fear, no matter whether you can complete it or not, whether your form is rejected or not, just apply.

The first thing is applying, and believing in the project that you stand for. Sometimes the students might feel that 'I'm choosing only education and everyone chooses that. Is it worthwhile mentioning? Is it okay?' So, they really have that self-doubt with their project. Here, for Millennium Fellowship, people don't look at big changes and big ideas, it's about a student willing to make a social impact. They believe in something. When you believe in something, no matter what, you work for it. If you're able to bring a positive impact for even a handful of people, then I think that is a platform a person should apply for. So, self-doubt and fear were the first things that I saw in students. Once you overcome that, everything becomes a possibility.

Archita: Yes, of course, it is! I mean, you have been with the students since the genesis and you have watched them very closely and because you have seen them so closely, I think you have also known about the hardships that they have faced. So, once a fellow is selected for the fellowship, what is one of the most strenuous parts of their program, according to you?

Dr. Rachana: Okay, in the first week they'll be enthusiastic but somewhere down the line, they have to complete the objectives that they have given. And once they're in the middle of it, they'll be like 'Oh my god, we couldn't do so much of it.' This is because they have so many ideas, they want to do so many things within the time frame.

So, sticking to the time frame and having objectives, like "Once a week let us do activity 'x'. In a month, let us do activity 'y'." That will keep the students on track. But if they want to do everything by themselves, it'll be difficult and that's what I saw – a few students that tried to do it and they failed and they used to blame themselves. But no, you just do one or two activities per month, see to it that it is executed and that is a win-win situation. So, having clear objectives within the stipulated time frame of twelve to sixteen weeks helps you complete it. The project should be doable and you should be able to invest time in it. So, that's the strenuous part.

One more thing, most of the time, whatever the student thinks, 'Maybe I will do this', it might fail. So, you should always have a backup plan. This is one thing I learnt from the students. The person they are approaching and the person goes back, they are not funding you or willing to give a talk, so you should have some other plan. So, they have backup plans, they switch to the plans, and should be flexible. You know, practicality is different from what you execute. See, when you're writing on paper, it's different. But when you're out there and you have to practically do it, it's very challenging. 90% of the time, whatever you think will not happen, it will fire back at you. But with that 10% of what you have, you should be willing to be flexible. Even with the 10%, I have seen students do marvellously, they have done so much.

Ujjwala: Ma'am on that note, the first team from the campus had plans to work from the ground. But the pandemic forced them to change their methodology. So, do you think they worked just as well?

Dr. Rachana: They tried their best to execute their projects. But if it was not a pandemic, and they would have had the chance to do it in person, I think it should have been even better. Just to give you one example, the first-time students, irrespective of this fellowship, had done clean-up drives.

Our Amity students volunteered themselves and went to a clean-up drive at the Panvel station. And they started picking up the litter from the road. For the people standing near the station or people living near the footpath, for them, it was out of the norm. 'Why are students, so well-dressed and groomed, coming here picking up the waste from the road?' They were coming up to the students and asking why they were doing this. They said "We should keep our environment clean; we should be doing this. We shouldn't litter." Even the other common people started coming and joining, helped them pick up the waste, helped them clean up the road and there was a change. If you visited the same road after a couple of days, it was still clean.

During the pandemic, they were only able to reach the students who had access to the internet and had laptops or mobile phones. So, their audience was different compared to the initial target audience. But still whatever they did was also very different and inspiring. These students brought up speakers, arranged the webinars, and speakers who usually charged fees every year for talks, these students persuaded them to come up to the platform and address students about education, health, and nutrition, poverty, or menstrual hygiene. So, our students contacted several renowned speakers, they convinced them to do the sessions for us free of charge and to share ideas.

That, too, was very inspiring. I don't think that would've happened if we would have done it offline. So yes, there were pluses and minuses regarding both the things, but we learned so, so much.

Ujjwala: So, the pandemic was just one of the hurdles. But, how did you, as a mentor, guide your students to not lose hope despite the *several* hurdles that were there throughout their time as a fellow?

Dr. Rachana: I think the students and I were sometimes stressed that it may not work as well? (*laughs*) But at the same time, sometimes I inspired them, sometimes they inspired me. So, it was mutual I should say! Sometimes they didn't allow me to lose hope and sometimes I didn't allow them to lose hope.

Archita: Yes! A two-way street. There have been times when we came to you and there were times when you came to us. It was a very mutual thing. I think both sides have learnt so much from each other.

Dr. Rachana: Yes, what we learnt the most was, don't lose hope. Irrespective of what the situation is, we can make things happen.

Archita: Yes, ma'am. So, how would you describe your experience as a mentor? Would you say that it was a learning experience for you as well? Because you had such a close bond with the students and you also mentioned that you have learnt a lot from the students.

Dr. Rachana: Yes, I have learnt a lot, so much from the students (laughs). Right from the first stage, the self-doubt? Do not doubt yourself. That was the first thing I learnt. Irrespective of what it is, apply. Try. And once you're in, you have to be responsible, you have to look at the execution of the plan, work in a limited time frame, and don't give up hopes. I told you about the students with a backup plan. We used to discuss it, that 'Okay so what is the backup plan? What if the speaker cancelled? What if we do not get donations? Or if we don't have the money?'

So, we used to have several backup plans and backup plans for the backup plans (laughs). So as a mentor I learnt that there will be hurdles, yes, but we should not lose hope. Whatever it is. Life throws lemons at you, make lemonade, right? So, we made lemonades out of it.

Dr. Rachana: Yes, it was such an inspirational thing for me as well. I was so inspired by the students. They are much better leaders than me, that's what I saw in them and I am so inspired by them.

Archita: Yes, ma'am. It was an inspirational journey. And when you have that inspiration, you don't just gain more experience, you learn so much from it. But, keeping that in mind, if you were a fellow, which SDG would you have chosen?

Dr. Rachana: Although it is difficult to choose, if I had to choose, I'd say SDG 17; because *goal 17 talks about the partnership of all the goals*. It interconnects and brings all the goals together. So, only if we have cooperation and coming-together of communities, people, academicians, the corporate world and everyone come together to work in unity, then everything becomes miraculously well. Everything can be taken care of. Everyone's needs are met. So, I feel that SDG 17 is what I would've chosen as a student if this program existed at that time.

Ujjwala: Thank you, ma'am. But since this interview also aims to inspire other potential fellows to join and sign up. As a mentor, if you could sum up the fellowship in a few lines, how would you describe it?

Dr. Rachana: So, ***Millennium Fellowship*** is a platform for undergraduate students who want to make a social impact. And you might ask me 'Where will we get these students from? Who are they? What inspires them to become a Fellow?'

If you're a person who feels that, 'Someone has to do something', you have to understand that someone could be **you**, *you can be that somebody.*

Looking at your work, the people around you will be inspired. You will be changing them as well, slightly. When you make that change and people work towards that, it becomes a social norm. See, everyone may not change. But if 50% of the population changes, it becomes a lifestyle norm. So, this Fellowship is basically for the youth that believes in making a social impact. And if you are someone who believes that something is unfair and someone has to do something, then I think you can be that someone that leads the way.

Ujjwala: Yes, ma'am. And on that note, is there any message that you would like to convey to the upcoming fellows of 2021?

Dr. Rachana: Yes. So, the fellows of 2021, your seniors have already opened the gates for you. Now you know that becoming a *Millennium Fellow* is not that far-fetched an idea. They have made it a reality, so that's the good news for you. So be inspired by them and if you are a person who wants to make a social impact, do sign up for this. And you will do that once you believe in a cause, once you stand up for it, you will work for it. When you're filling the form, don't just think, 'Is my project good enough?'

Will it leave a big impact? Will it change thousands of lives?' No, don't think in that way. If you believe in something, fill-up the form. Make them realize that yes, you are someone that genuinely cares for something. You have to see that transparency. Once they see that, you will get picked, and yes! Work hard, devote your time, and even after the Fellowship program is over, continue to work towards your goals, stand up for what you care about, fulfill your dreams.

Archita: Thank you so much, ma'am! We appreciate you coming here and sharing your thoughts with us. Because as a fellow, I have seen that they have so many questions regarding the fellowship, and people are intimidated but I hope this helps clear their doubts.

Ujjwala: Thank you so much, ma'am!

Dr. Rachana: Thank you!

INTERVIEW WITH MILLENNIUM FELLOWS

INTERVIEWEE: MILLENNIUM FELLOWS OF THE BATCH 2019-2020

INTERVIEWERS: ARSHI SOHAIL [B.A. ENGLISH (HONS), SEMESTER 4]

ATTENDEES: **DEEP PRUSTY:** SDG 3, GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING (B.SC. CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY SEMESTER 6), **AMISHA DUSANE:** SDG 3, GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING (B.SC. CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY SEMESTER 6), **GAYATRI JOSHI:** SDG 4, QUALITY EDUCATION (B.A. APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY SEMESTER 6), **CHIRAG KAUSHIK:** SDG 2, ZERO HUNGER (B.TECH COMPUTER SCIENCE SEMESTER 4), **MRITTIKA SARKAR:** SDG 12, RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (B.TECH BIOTECHNOLOGY SEMESTER 4), **ARCHITA BISWAS:** SDG 4, QUALITY EDUCATION (B.A. FRENCH (HONS) SEMESTER 4), **ARSHI SOHAIL** (B.A. ENGLISH SEMESTER 4)

DOCUMENTED BY: ARSHI SOHAIL [B.A. ENGLISH (HONS), SEMESTER 4]

Arshi Sohail: Hello everyone! Thank you so much for agreeing to do this. First of all, I just want to say congratulations! It is inspiring to see students my age not only embrace opportunities like these but also excel at them. I was looking forward to talking to all of you about your passion projects so let's get straight into it.

I'll start with a few general questions about the fellowship. So, my first question is, what about the Millennium Fellowship program that was appealing to you?

Deep Prusty: Hi I'm Deep Prusty and I'm working on SDG 3, Good Health and Well Being. For me, the most appealing thing was how they designed the program according to each goal.

I was the campus director, and during my training, I got to see how they have formed a separate approach to every goal and created a separate platform where all the fellows and campus directors can interact with each other.

Chirag Kaushik: I'm Chirag Kaushik and I'm working on SDG 2, Zero Hunger. I like how the course is designed. I remember listening to Mr. Sam Vaghar (the co-founder) talk about how he came up with this course and ended up designing the project targeted towards the SDGs. The chance to collaborate with other fellows was also appealing to me. Making friends across the world and getting to know about their projects was exciting.

Mrittika Sarkar: Hi I'm Mrittika Sarkar and I was working on SDG 12. It's the same for me. The most appealing aspect was how it's an international platform. It's the best place to exchange your ideas with the world. Plus, you get to meet like-minded people and their ideas inspire you.

Arshi Sohail: Right. That was very interesting. So, moving on, can you walk us through your application process since a lot of students are overwhelmed by it, what was your experience like?

Deep Prusty: I remember I finished my second round of application forms just fifteen minutes before the deadline. It happened because I wasn't sure what kind of answers I should write until the last day.

Archita Biswas: (working on SDG 4) Same, I filled it at the last moment and I made the mistake of procrastinating while planning my answers for the second form. So it's always better to fill it on time since the second form is significant. They give you an ample amount of time to fill it up so it's better to utilise that time to come up with basic outlines for answers. The form asks for structured answers so it's good to think about it beforehand and then form them.

Mrittika Sarkar: I was scared when I saw the form. It looked as if I was writing an exam paper. It was quite difficult because most of the questions ask "why".

"Why are you working on this", "give us the reasons", "tell us about the impacts of your projects", etc. You should think about your answer thoroughly before writing because making up things don't work. And most importantly, don't copy anything from anywhere. You need to write your views.

Archita Biswas: Also, it is not just about copying from the internet. I remember when we were applying, some had finished early and were helping others out by sharing their forms which led to their disqualification. So, do not copy or plagiarize because your form might get cancelled.

Arshi Sohail: That is true. Thank you so much for all the responses. The next thing I want to know is why do you think you're passionate about the particular goal you're working on?

Gayatri Joshi: I was working on goal 4 (Quality Education) with NGOs even before I applied for the fellowship. So when I applied, I didn't expect to get into the fellowship since I was already working on my goal. With the fellowship, it just transformed into a project.

Chirag Kaushik: So I'm working on SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). What we (my teammates and I) think of it is that it's a basic yet complex issue because we have the resources to deal with hunger, yet we're struggling with it. Our group feels deeply about this issue. So, that's how we initiated the project, "Thought For Food".

Mritika Sarkar: My project is based on responsible consumption and reuse of water. My project idea is to utilize wastewater from RO water filters and washing machines rather than using fresh water from a tap. Every day we waste almost 30-40 litres of water when we empty our RO filters. The wastewater from RO filters and washing machines can be used for mopping floors or for flushing purposes, and other cleaning purposes instead of draining it out.

Arshi Sohail: Great. My next question is targeted towards SDG 4. What is your take on the current state of education in India?

Gayatri Joshi: So, I was working with 8-14 age children. When I took the workshops, I got to know so many activities and interactive, fun ways of teaching. So I think if we could implement these methods in education, it could prove to be helpful. It could be one option that we can implement in schools and colleges.

Arshi Sohail: That might be a good start. I would also like to know more about your projects on SDG 4.

Archita Biswas: I think the best part about this SDG is that you can merge it with other SDGs and work towards it. My project was "Initiate, Educate and Liberate". The aim is to advocate other important aspects like mental health, clean water, and good sanitization. Since I cannot do anything other than conducting things online, I'm conducting webinars and seminars, and talk shows for students. So in this way, I'm trying to cheer up the ones who are feeling low and giving them a platform to talk and express themselves. So currently I think this is the best course of action that can be taken to make the students feel less frustrated because of academics so that they can have something interactive from time to time.

Arshi Sohail: Because it has become all work and no play. My next question is directed towards SDG 2. I want to ask, has the pandemic severely affected food insecurity?

Chirag Kaushik: It has affected food insecurity. There are daily wage workers who work relentlessly. We interviewed some of them and got to know that they were in a tight situation. If they left their homes, the virus would kill them, if they didn't, they would starve to death. So they were working even during the lockdown.

Initially, our project targeted the Bhatan area (in Panvel). According to the statistics, almost 30% of the population faces chronic hunger and undernourishment. So we made a plan of action accordingly, for example, mid-day meals that'll motivate the children to go to school. We also planned to collaborate with our canteen and provide the surplus food to the nearby schools. Also, things like educating students and farmers about hygiene, nutrition, and donation events were planned. But due to COVID-19, everything changed. We had to do everything online. And the final answer to the question would be, yes, it has adversely affected a lot of people, especially the daily wage workers, and even the middle-class families.

Arshi Sohail: The pandemic did have a lot of adverse effects and you mentioned that it affected your project immensely. So what is the current course of your project?

Chirag Kaushik: Natasha (founder of the project) and I talked about it and collaborated with one of our local restaurants and that's how we started providing food to underprivileged people.

Arshi Sohail: That is informative. Thank you. The next SDG that I'm going to target is SDG 3. Can you discuss the status of the goal pre-pandemic and during the pandemic?

Amisha Dusane: The condition before the pandemic, when you talk about the basic needs, was bad. But after the pandemic, due to loss of jobs and many other things, it has worsened. My particular project was focused on one aspect of health, it focused on menstruation. What I feel is that without good health, one cannot progress. Another factor that I wanted to add to SDG 2. Some statistics say for every daily wage worker who loses his daily wage, 10 children remain malnourished. So the pandemic led to the loss of jobs, which led to our daily wage workers losing their wages, leading to malnutrition in children.

Arshi Sohail: Okay. So I just want to know what your current projects are and what problems do they aim to tackle?

Amisha Dusane: My project started by focusing on creating awareness around menstruation. I observed menstruating individuals not having accessibility to something as basic as period products. I have seen menstruating individuals use sand, sawdust instead of using a cloth. So, it all started from there, we started developing different workshops targeting different age groups. When you talk about menstrual health, you talk about physical health and issues like PCOD (Polycystic Ovarian Disease). We talked to several age groups and while talking to older women we told them about menopause because menopause also comes with a very important mental health condition called PMDD (Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder). So making them aware of that and at the same time advising them how to naturally talk to their children about menstruation without stigmatizing it. That is what we did throughout the entire project. But in January, we all decided to extend the project to mental health and reproductive health. It covers both feminine reproductive health and masculine reproductive health. So now, we are operating workshops on masculine reproductive health and also on emotional management and such.

Arshi Sohail: That's commendable. So moving on to SDG 12. I want to ask, how is your project working to tackle over-consumption and depletion of resources?

Mrittika Sarkar: As I already mentioned about that water usage project. So (in the project) instead of draining out the water that's wasted, we reuse them, we put them into daily use. Using it for mopping floors or for flushing. So in that way, we are using the water that's being drained out daily, preventing overconsumption of water and also conserving water, all at the same time.

Arshi Sohail: Thank you. So the next question is for the campus directors. Can you please elaborate on the roles and responsibilities and the advice you would like to extend to those who are aspiring to become one?

Deep Prusty: The roles and responsibilities of a campus director include being the communication bridge between the fellows and the millennium program directors since several program directors are working across the globe and to keep track of all the fellows and what they are doing with the projects, and assist them if needed. There were some training sessions provided by MCN. So throughout the fellowship, we learnt certain skills like how to take up a social change project, etc. It was also about supporting other fellows.

The advice I would offer to the future aspiring campus directors would be connecting with as many people as you can, especially the fellows, and staying up to date with whatever they are working on. The other advice would be collaborating with other fellows since these goals are interlinked, these united efforts often lead to good outcomes. So it's always good to work together as a team.

Arshi Sohail: Right, okay. So I have a couple of concluding questions. So, what was the most challenging part of the fellowship?

Amisha Dusane: Personally, taking part in the fellowship was a big challenge in itself since I am a socially anxious person, it was a challenge for me but I got through. The fellowship itself is holistic and supportive. You get a very beautiful team to work with, meet such amazing fellows who make you feel empowered.

Arshi Sohail: That is amazing! So my last question is, how will you continue working on the goals even after the program? What are your plans?

Amisha Dusane: So, as I mentioned, we extended our project to education about reproductive and mental health. Even though I represent the project, it has always been a team or the people behind the project who make the project work.

So, whatever we'll do ahead, is going to be what each team member wants to do. That's how we took up our current project. And we're planning a few workshops and we'll be targeting different schools and organisations.

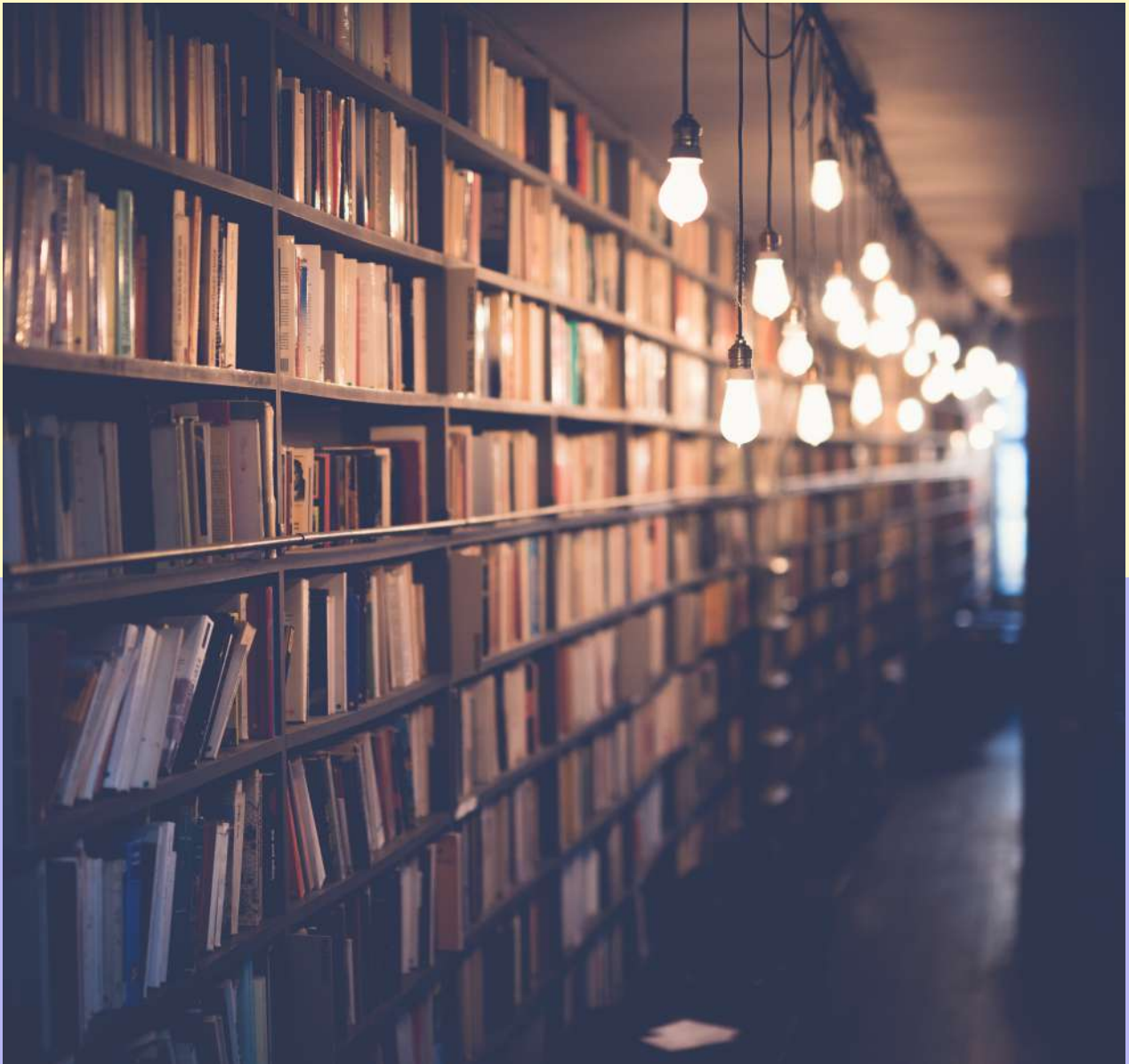
Chirag Kaushik: After my fourth year, we're planning to put in our NGO registration where we'll work on SDG 2, 3, and 12. So that's how we're planning to go ahead with our project.

Archita Biswas: I am planning to merge 2-3 other SDGs with my current one, SDG 4. Currently, my main focus is on helping the LGBTQIA+ get a platform where they can express themselves. I am also associated with a club that helps me organize open mic sessions and talk shows through which they can talk about important issues and reach a larger audience. I have seen them struggle and want to help them as much as possible as an ally.

Arshi Sohail: That is commendable, Archita. I just want to say that it was inspirational listening to all of your experiences and the things you are passionate about because what you guys are working on is admirable. So, thank you for deciding to talk to us, and good luck with your projects!

RECOMMENDATIONS

h e r e ' s s o m e a r t w e l o v e !



ISSUE 1

Released March 2021.

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anime and more!

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XXII

После је заспала.
Био сам у њој будан,

Poetry

ена кожа.

у мочвари.

И капилари грања.

Као ткиво алги и слузокожа океана.
Као утрнули умор трабакула у лукама.

И детињство је сасвим отишло
из њених ципела.

Без ње су склопиле очи
све лепе лутке на свету.

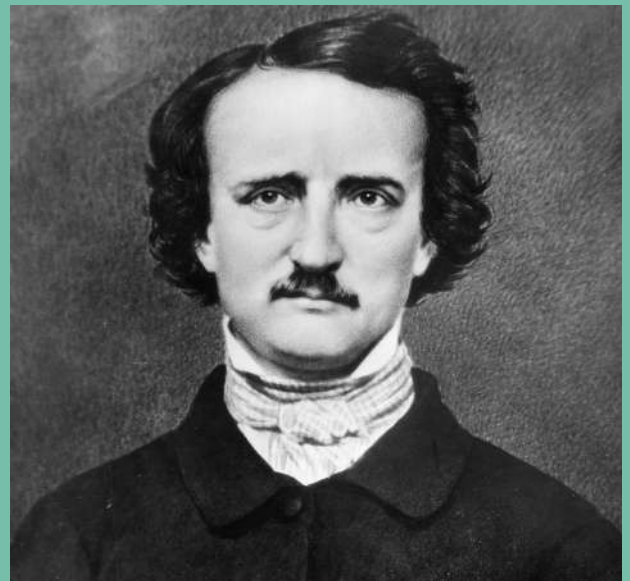


Sylvia Plath

- Daddy
- Tulips
- Mirror
- The Applicant
- The Munich Mannequins
- Ennui
- Lady Lazarus
- Mushrooms

Edgar Allan Poe

- The Raven
- A Dream Within a Dream
- Annabel Lee
- Alone
- The Bells



Andrew Marvel

- To His Coy Mistress
- The Garden
- The Mower's Song



Emily Dickinson

- Because I Could Not Stop
- Tell all the truth
- There is a pain — so utter —
- Wild Nights – Wild Nights!
- "Hope" is the thing with feathers



Robert Frost

- Birches
- Nothing Gold Can Stay
- Fire and Ice
- The Oven Bird
- Blueberries
- The Road Not Taken
- Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

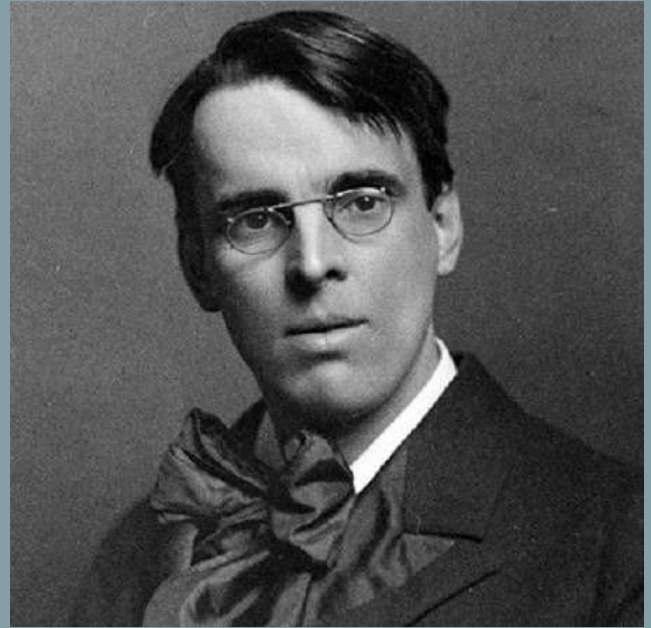
Maya Angelou

- On the Pulse of Morning
- Still I Rise
- Phenomenal Woman



W.B. Yeats

- When You are Old
- The Second Coming
- A Prayer For My Daughter
- Never Give All The Heart
- Sailing to Byzantium



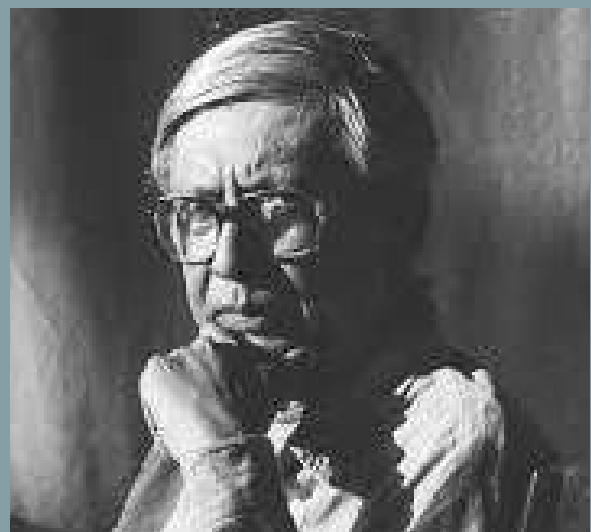
Elizabeth Bishop

- One Art
- Sestina
- Insomnia
- Visits to St. Elizabeths
- Arrival at Santos



Dom Moraes

- Angel
- Typed With One Finger
- Midsummer



Margaret Atwood

- A Sad Child
- The Moment
- More and More
- Variations On The Word Love
- This Is A Photograph Of Me



Jayanta Mahapatra

- Freedom
- Dawn At Puri
- Grandfather
- The Captive Air Of Chandipur-On-Sea



Dorothy Parker

- A Well-Worn Story
- A Portrait
- Ballade At Thirty-Five



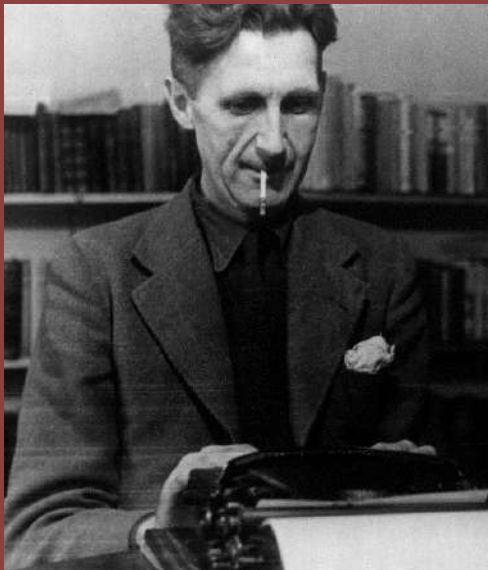


Essays

The Death of a Moth

Virginia Woolf

Virginia Woolf eloquently attempts to understand the meaning of life after witnessing the death of a moth.



Shooting an Elephant

George Orwell

A critique of colonialism, Orwell recounts his experiences in colonial Burma.

Reflections on Gandhi

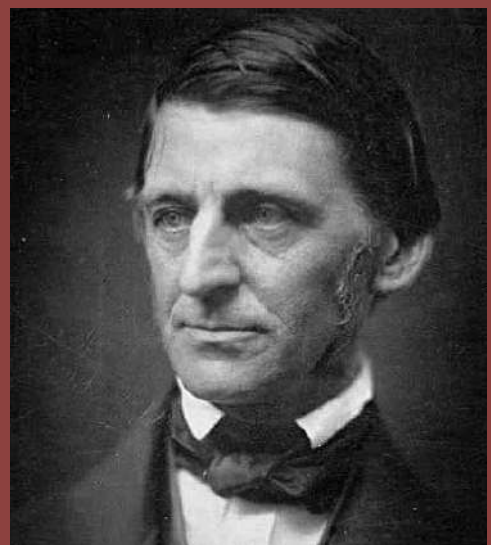
George Orwell

Orwell describes pacifism and talks about Gandhi's involvement during the Second World War.

Self-Reliance

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Emerson propagates the importance of individualistic thought.





Dispatch From A Man Without a Country

Kurt Vonnegut

A conversational and humorous essay,
Kurt Vonnegut imparts his literary
wisdom.

Nationalism in the West

Rabindranath Tagore

Tagore reflects on colonialism and
provides his insight on various subjects
relating to the English and the colonized.



Notes of a Native Son

James Baldwin

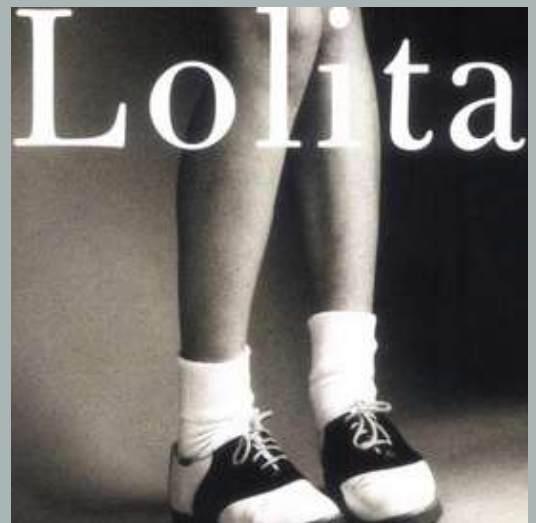
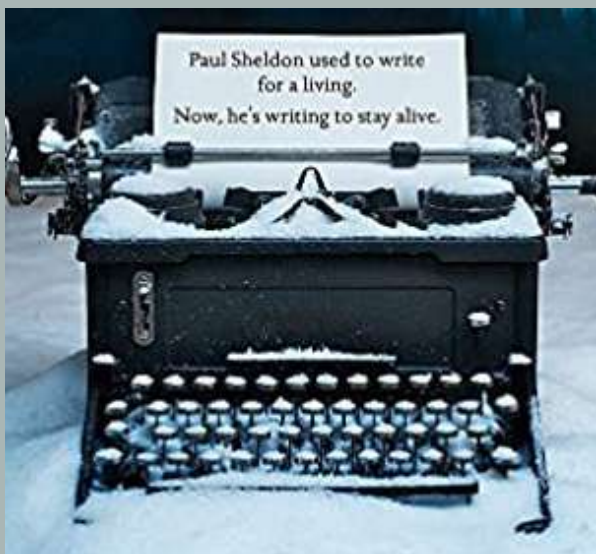
Baldwin discusses grief and loss
after the death of his father.

Novels

Lolita

Vladimir Nabokov

A controversial novel in which a middle aged man falls in love with a little girl. Crafted with impeccable prose.



Misery

Stephen King

An author is kidnapped by his number one fan, and she makes sure he pays after killing off her favourite character.

The Lord of the Rings Trilogy

J.R.R. Tolkien

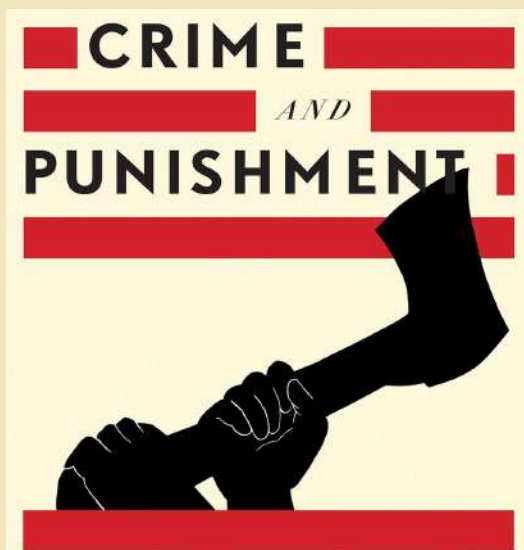
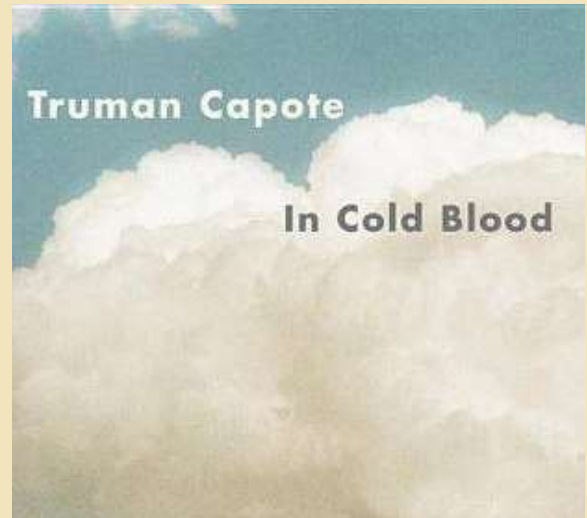
Trust us and just read these books if you haven't already.



In Cold Blood

Truman Capote

Based on a true story, tells the tale of the gruesome murders of the Herbert Clutter family.



Crime and Punishment

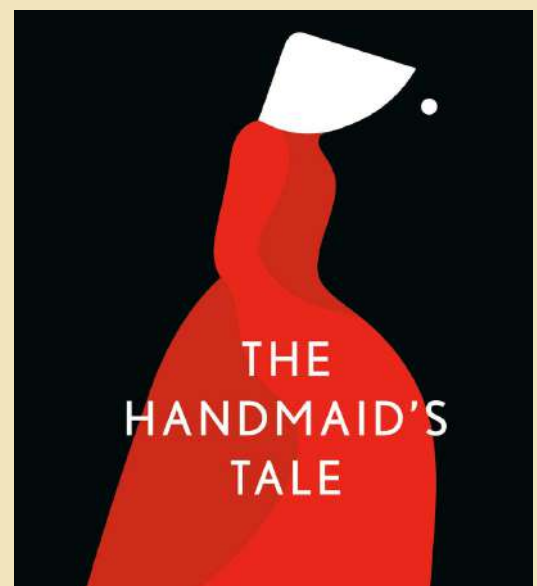
Fyodor Dostoevsky

A character study where the protagonist contemplates murder and suffers the consequences.

The Handmaid's Tale

Margaret Atwood

A dystopian novel set in a patriarchal and totalitarian state.



Dracula

Bram Stoker

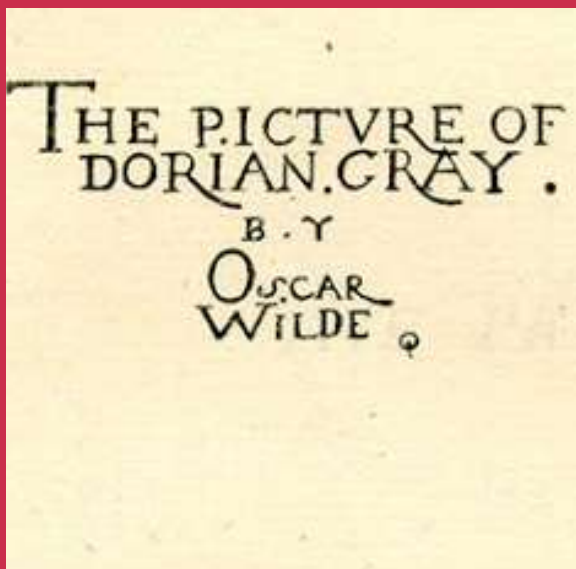
A traditional gothic epistolary novel that established Count Dracula as a legendary character.



The Picture of Dorian Gray

Oscar Wilde

The tale of a man so obsessed with his beauty that he sells his soul for eternal youth.

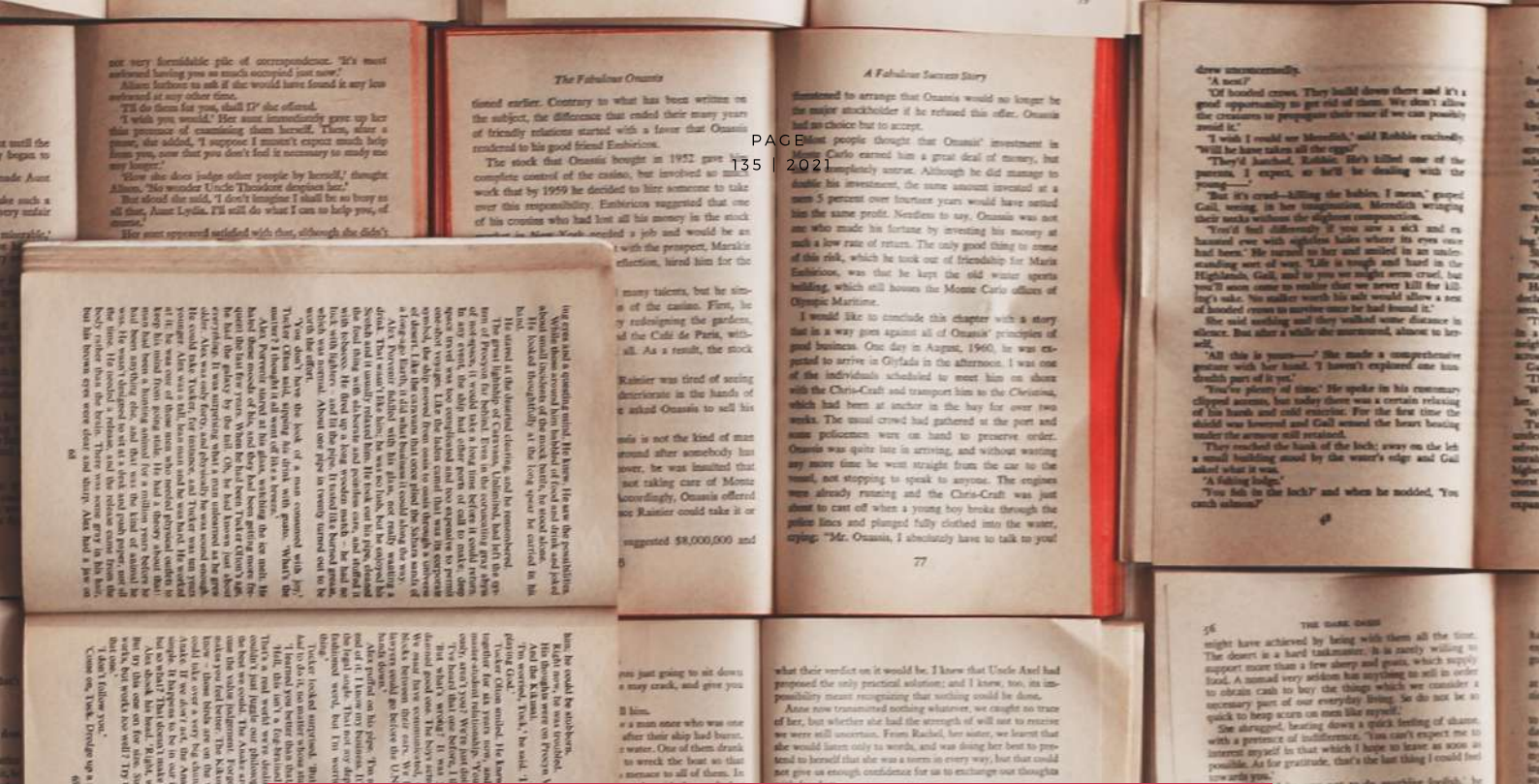


The Scarlet Letter

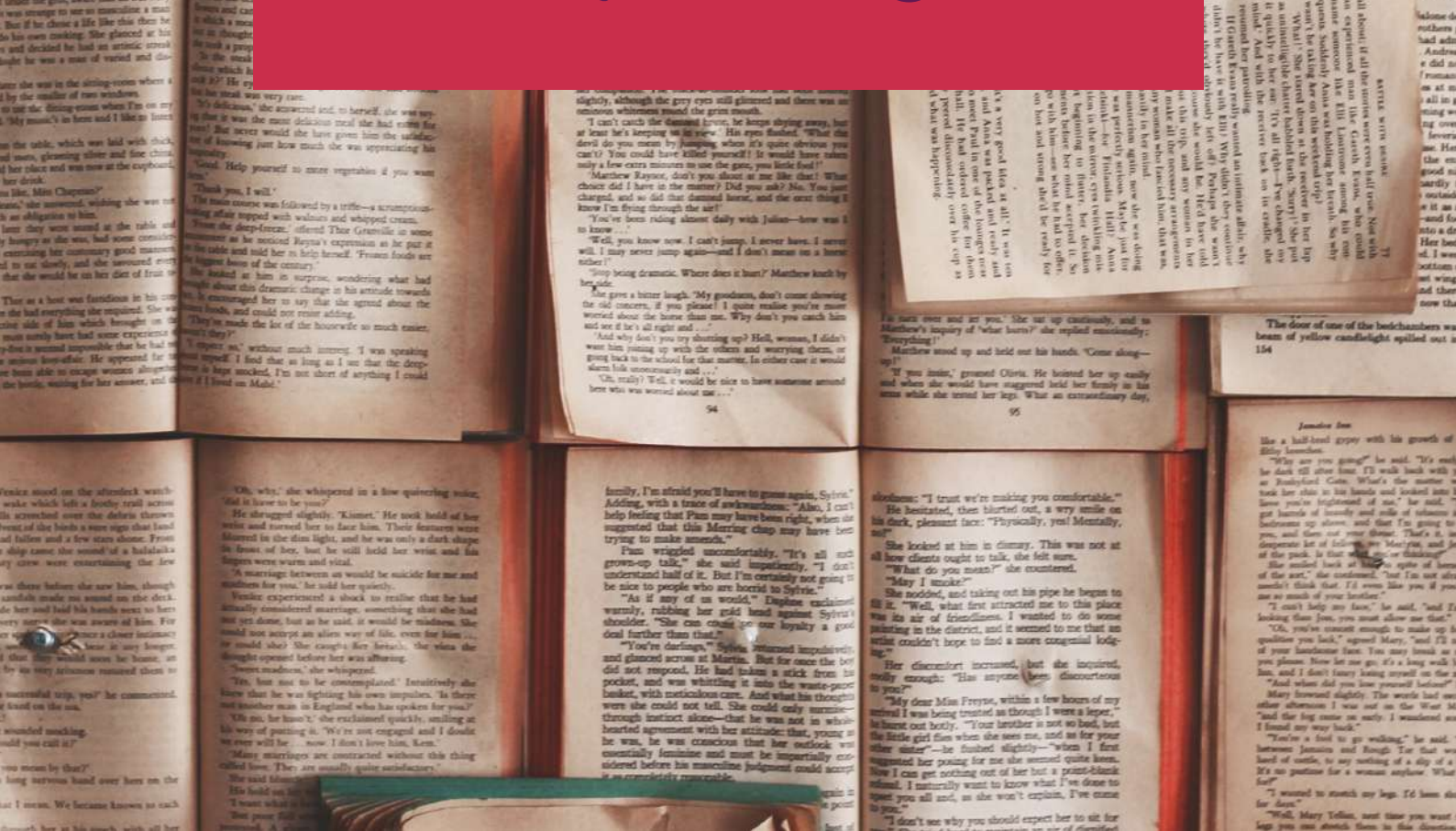
Nathaniel Hawthorne

Hester Prynne is forced to wear a scarlet 'A' for adultery after conceiving a daughter through an affair.





Short Stories



The Lady with the Dog

Anton Chekhov

Tells the tale of an affair that transpires between a wealthy banker in a failing marriage and a young newlywed ingénue.



The Lottery

Shirley Jackson

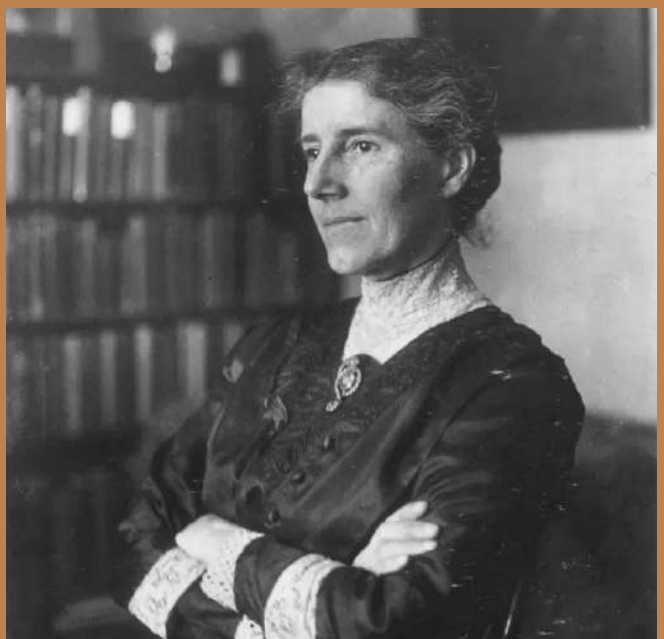
The members of a small town get to take part in a lottery, little do they know what's in store for them when they win.



The Yellow Wallpaper

Charlotte Perkins Gilman

It's impossible to condense this work of fiction into one line, but it's feminist prose at its peak.



Symbols and Signs

Vladimir Nabokov

An old couple goes to visit their deranged son on his birthday.



Laurie

Stephen King

A widower is forced to make a connection with a dog and forms a fulfilling relationship.



The Terrible Old Man

H. P. Lovecraft

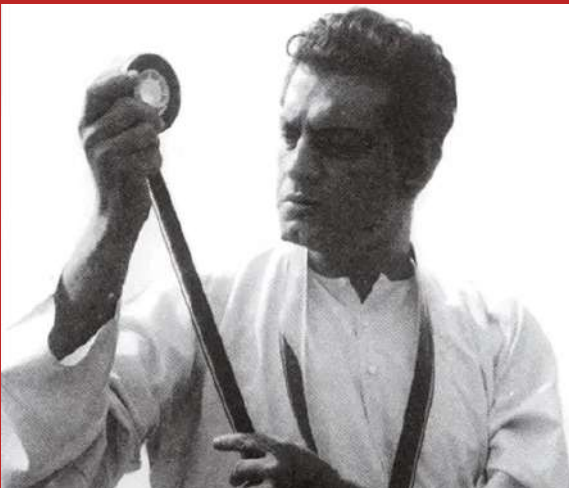
The tale of three robbers who attempt to steal from a defenseless old man, who isn't defenseless at all.



Films

Sergio Leone

- The Dollars Trilogy
- Once Upon a Time in the West
- Once Upon a Time in America



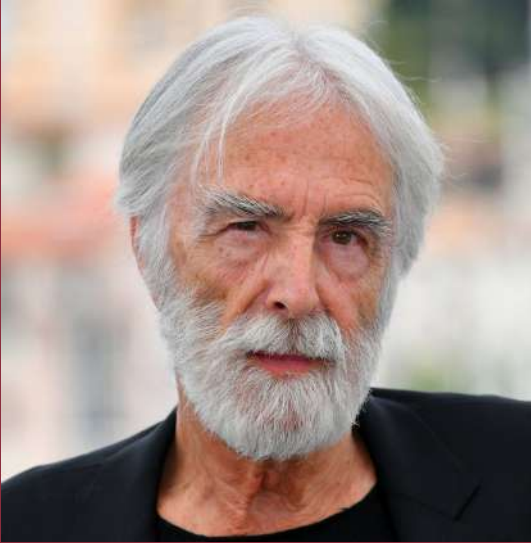
Satyajit Ray

- The Apu Trilogy
- Charulatha
- Nayak
- Mahapurush
- Jalsaghar

Steve McQueen

- Hunger
- Shame
- 12 Years a Slave
- Widows





Michael Haneke

- Amour
- The Piano Teacher
- Funny Games
- The White Ribbon
- Caché

Abbas Kiarostami

- Taste of Cherry
- Certified Copy
- The Koker Trilogy
- Ten



Alfonso Cuarón

- Children of Men
- Y tu mamá también
- Sólo con tu pareja
- Roma



Park Chan-wook

- Oldboy
- The Handmaiden
- Thirst
- Stoker
- The Vengeance Trilogy

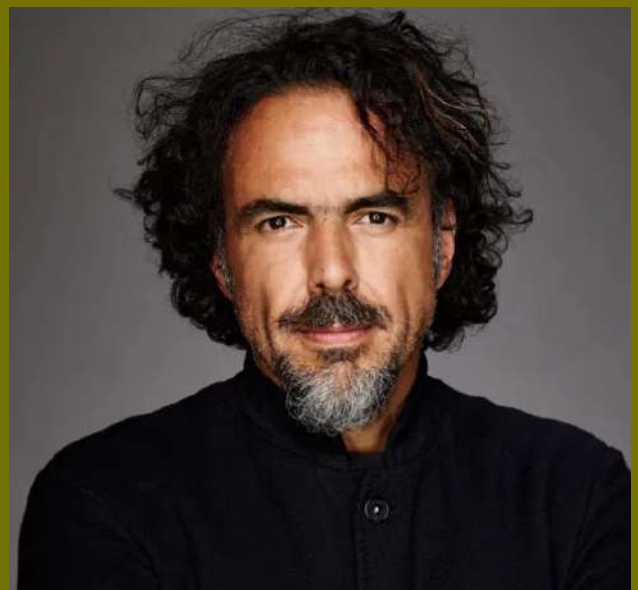


Wes Anderson

- The Grand Budapest Hotel
- The Royal Tenenbaums
- Moonrise Kingdom
- Fantastic Mr. Fox
- The Darjeeling Limited

Alejandro González Iñárritu

- Amores Perros
- Babel
- Birdman
- 21 Grams



A vintage television set with a glowing screen, serving as a background for the title. The screen is a bright, warm yellow, and the word "Television" is written in a white, elegant script font across it. The television's casing is a dark, textured material, possibly wood or plastic, and the overall lighting is dim, emphasizing the screen's glow.

Television



Arrested Development

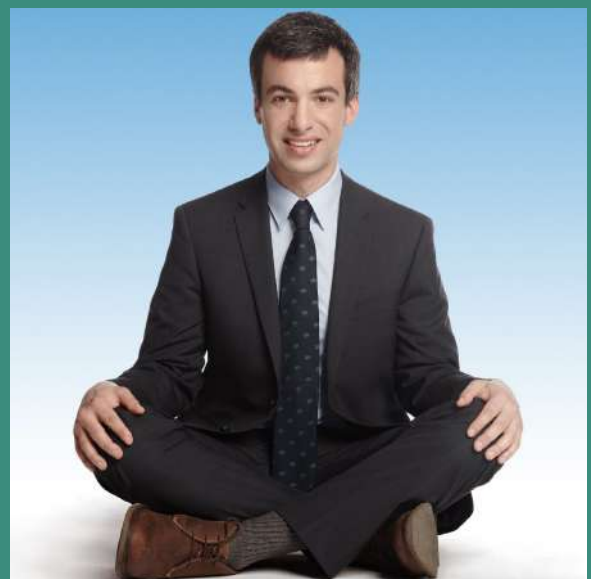
Mitch Hurwitz

The tale of an extremely wealthy dysfunctional family.

Nathan For You

Nathan Fielder

Nathan shows the underbelly of capitalism and the extreme measures people take to amass wealth.



True Detective

Nic Pizzolato

Two detectives with completely different moralities team up to solve a crime.

Avatar: The Last Airbender

Michael Dante DiMartino, Bryan Konietzko, Aaron Ehasz

Please watch this if you haven't already.



Community

Dan Harmon

A conman pretending to be a lawyer is forced to graduate from a college where he finds a strangely fulfilling life.



The Queen's Gambit

Scott Frank, Allan Scott

An orphaned chess prodigy has to overcome her limitations to win the greatest match of her life.



Anime



Full Metal Alchemist Brotherhood

Adventure, Dark Fantasy, Steampunk

Written by *Hiromu Arakawa*

Illustrated by *Hiromu Arakawa*

Directed by *Yasuhiro Irie*



Death Note

Thriller, Mystery, Crime

Written by *Tsugumi Ohba*

Illustrated by *Takeshi Obata*

Directed by *Tetsurō Araki*

Code Geass

Mecha, Adventure, Thriller, Action

Written by *Ichirō Ōkouchi*

Illustrated by *Majiko!*

Directed by *Gorō Taniguchi*





Bungou Stray Dogs

Action fiction, Mystery, Occult Fiction

Written by *Kafka Asagiri*

Illustrated by *Sango Harukawa*

Directed by *Takuya Igarashi*

Cells at Work!

Biology in fiction, Comedy

Written by *Akane Shimizu*

Illustrated by *Akane Shimizu*

Directed by *Kenichi Suzuki, Hirofumi Ogura*



Erased

Mystery, Science Fiction, Thriller

Written by *Kei Sanbe*

Illustrated by *Kei Sanbe*

Directed by *Tomohiko Itō*

The Disastrous Life of Saiki K.

Comedy, Occult Fiction

Written by Shūichi Asō

Illustrated by Shūichi Asō

Directed by Hiroaki Sakurai



Haikyuu!!

Comedy, Coming-of-age story, Sports

Written by Haruichi Furudate

Illustrated by Haruichi Furudate

Directed by Susumu Mitsunaka (#1-60)

Masako Satō (#61-85)

Gakuen Babysitters

Comedy, School, Slice of Life

Written by Hari Tokeino

Illustrated by Hari Tokeino

Directed by Shūsei Morishita



Non-Fiction

The Myth of Sisyphus

Albert Camus

An introduction to the absurdist thought.



The Righteous Mind

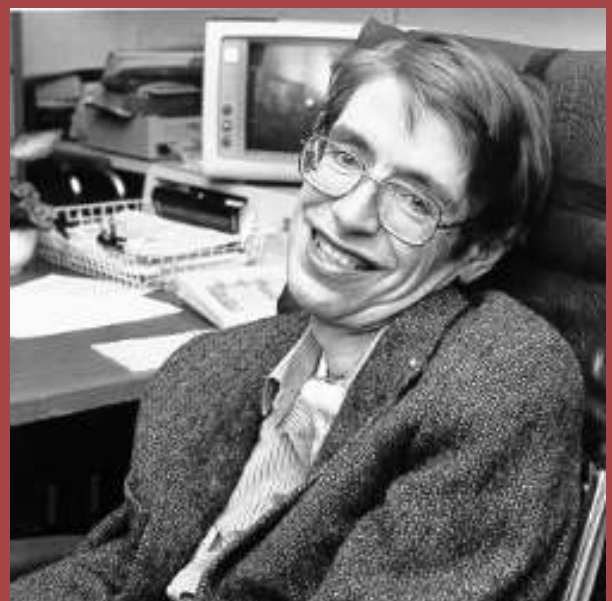
Jonathan Haidt

Haidt explains everything from leftist and rightist thinking, moralities which vary across cultures and what makes something moral.

A Brief History of Time

Stephen Hawking

A very comprehensible guide to one of the most arduous topics.





The Diary Of a Young Girl

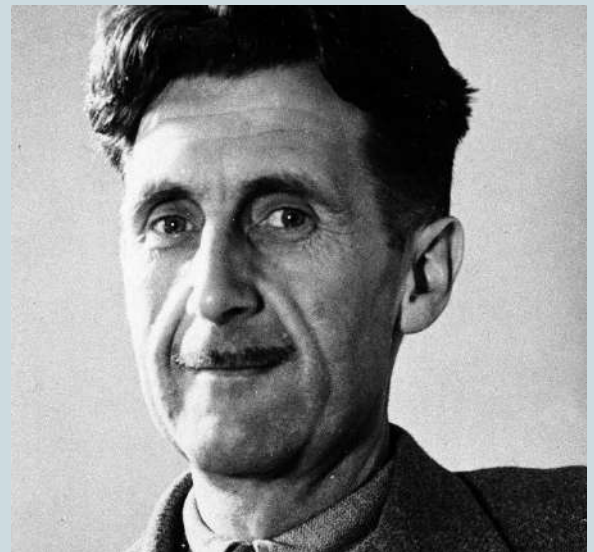
Anne Frank

A must read if you haven't already.

Homage to Catalonia

George Orwell

Orwell recounts his experiences of fighting for the Republican Army during the Spanish Civil War.



An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation

Jeremy Bentham

First treatise on the utilitarian approach to morality.

Photography





何藩
Fan Ho

何藩

Fan Ho





Alex Webb

PAGE 155



Saul Leiter







Annie Leibovitz

PAGE 158



Paintings



Salvador
Dalí

Salvador
Dali





Jackson Pollock

Jackson Pollock





M.C. Escher



M.C. Escher

A vibrant collage of fresh produce. At the top, two ripe peaches with red and yellow-orange skin are nestled in crumpled brown paper. To their right is a bunch of fresh green basil leaves. Below the peaches, a large, bright red tomato is visible. In the bottom left, another red tomato sits next to a green, bumpy vegetable, possibly a cucumber or zucchini. To the right of that is a dark purple eggplant. The entire scene is set against a background of crumpled brown paper, creating a rustic and natural feel.

*Food
throughout
the country!*

Gujiya

A special sweet during the Holi season. Deep-fried maida chapatis folded in a semi-circular shape, stuffed with khoya or mawa (dried evaporated milk solids) and dry fruits.



Baati Chokha

An all-time favourite dish from east UP and Bihar. Baati is a round wheat dough baked in an oven and chokha is a mixture of boiled potatoes, tomatoes and brinjals, served with chopped onions and coriander, and desi ghee.

Dalma

Dalma is a traditional delicacy from Odisha which consists of toor dal cooked with vegetables. The vegetables typically comprise eggplant, unripe banana, pumpkin and potatoes and include a special spice blend. This dish has multiple variations.





Chhena Poda

Chhena Poda is a famous cheese dessert from Odisha and literally translates to "Baked Cheese". It is traditionally prepared using homemade cheese (chhena) which is baked with sugar till it browns. The caramelized sugar diffuses the flavor in the cheese.

This is usually prepared during traditional festivals.

Mutton Kosha

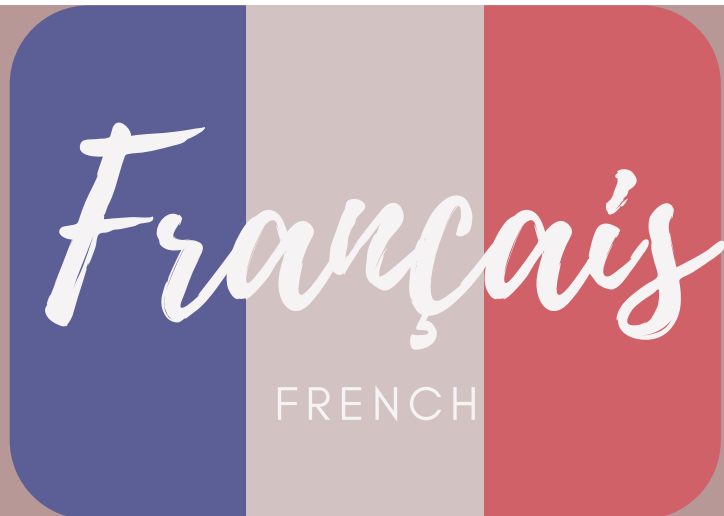
An iconic Bengali delicacy. The word kosha is similar in meaning to bhuna, which involves slowly cooking a gravy over low flame for a very long time to get a rich, dark-brown gravy and melt-in-the-mouth mutton pieces. Mutton is commonly used to refer to goat's meat. It can be served with porota, polao, and plain rice.



Patishapta Pitha

A winter must-have for Bengalis, it is made of sweetened rice flour or wheat flour batter. It has a filling made of grilled coconut and milk cake. It looks like a flattened roll.

Languages



Novellas

Le Petit Prince by
Antoine de Saint-
Exupéry



Poems



Poet: Jacques Prévert
Collection: Les Paroles

- Je suis comme je suis
- La grasse matinée
- Familiale
- Déjeuner du matin
- Le cancre
- Barbara



Poetry

Poème à mon frère
blanc by Léopold
Sédar Senghor

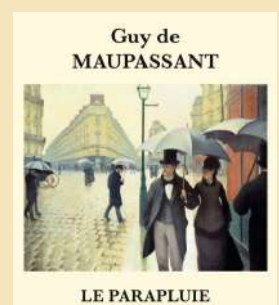
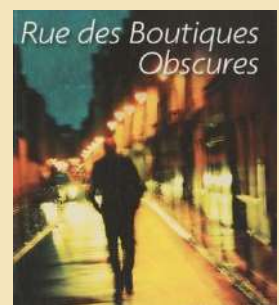
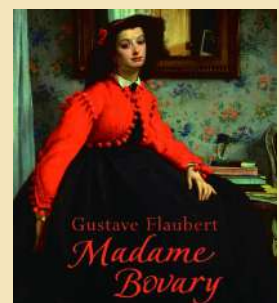
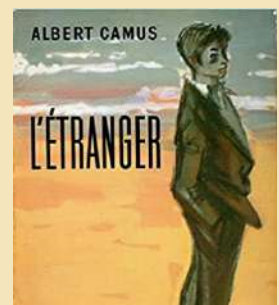
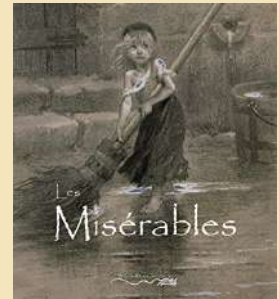
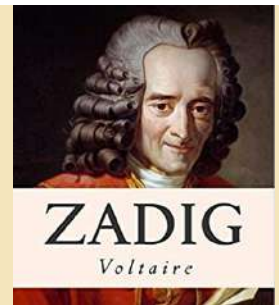
Other Prose

- Le deuxième sexe by Simone de Beauvoir - Spectacular Feminist Prose
- Le Petit Chaperon Rouge by Charles Perrault



Novels

- Candide by Voltaire
- Zadig by Voltaire
- Les Misérables by Victor Hugo
- L'étranger by Albert Camus
- La Peste by Albert Camus
- Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert
- Rue des Boutiques Obscures by Patrick Modiano
- Le Parapluie by Guy de Maupassant

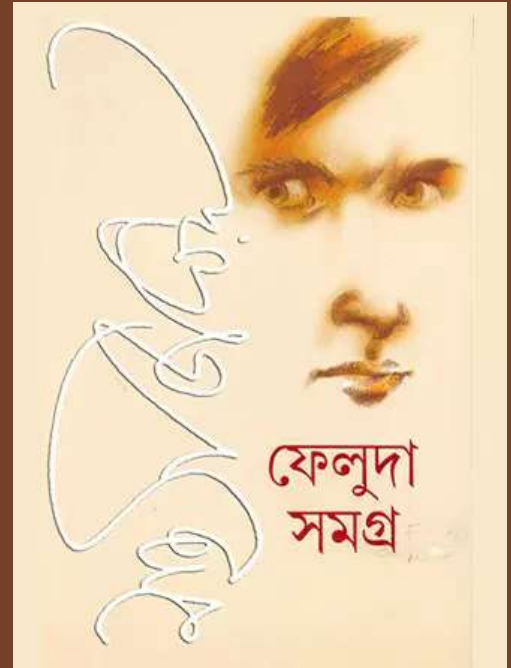


Bengali

বাংলা

Novel

- Feluda (ফেলুদা) Series by Satyajit Ray
- Choritrohin (চরিত্রহীন) by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay



Poetry Collection

Geetanjali (গীতাঞ্জলি) by Rabindranath Tagore

Marathi

मराठी भाषा

Novels

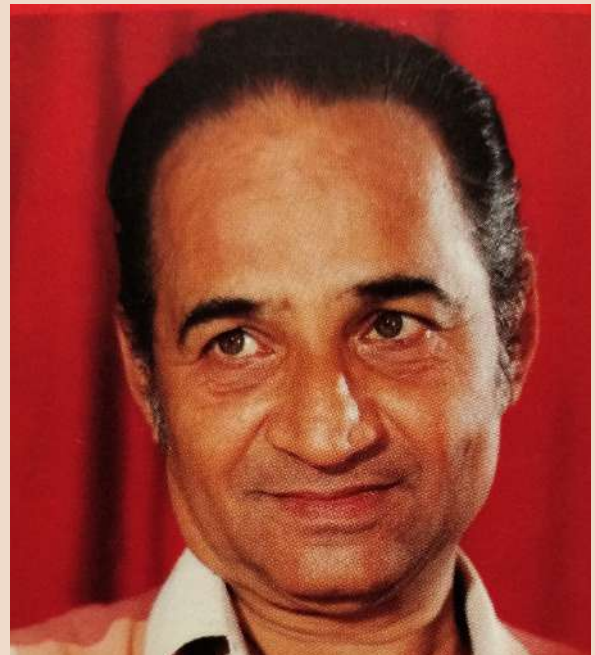


Vishnu Sakharam Khandekar

- Yayati
- Amrutawel

V P Kale

- Vapurza
- Hi Waat Ekatichi
- Thikri



Poetry

Shanta Shelke

- Varsha
- Godan
- Rupasi



Urdu

اردو حروفِ تہجی

Poetry Collections

Sohail Akhtar

- Dasht Zaad (2017)
- Jaon Toh Kahan Jaon (2009)
- Kagaz Pe Sehra (2008)
- Munjamid Aflak Ke Saye Tale (2009)



Ghazals

Faiz Ahmed Faiz

- Aae Kuchh Abr Kuchh Sharab Aae
- Aap Ki Yaad Aati Rahi Raat Bhar

Jaun Elia

- Umr Guzregi Imtihan Mein Kya
- Be-Qarari Si Be-Qarari Hai



Mirza Ghalib

- Dil-e-Nadan Tujhe Hua Kya
- Aah Ko Chahiye Ek Umr Asar Hote Tak

Hindi

हिन्दी

Poet

Sahir Ludhianvi

- Yeh Zulf Agar Khul Ke Bikhhar Jaye
- Taj-Mahal



Novelist

Amrita Pritam

- Pinjar
- Rasidi Ticket

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