



# **ELOQUENCE**

**Newsletter of the Department of English**

**St Xavier's College, Mapusa**

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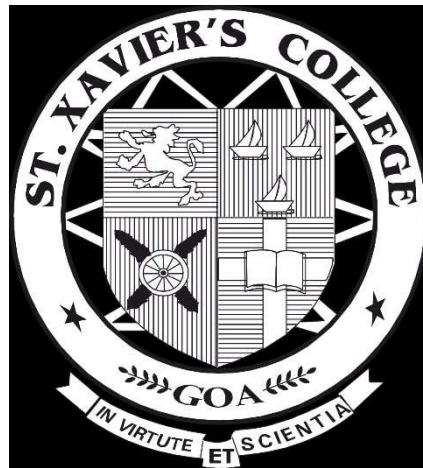


# ELOQUENCE

*Newsletter*

*Department of English*  
*St. Xavier's College*

*2023 - 2024*



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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear readers,

It is with immense pleasure that we present before you the latest edition of '*Eloquence*' our annual departmental newsletter. The English Department actively promotes creativity, and I am grateful to belong to a community where creative endeavors are nurtured. The release of this edition during our farewell adds an emotional touch, marking the culmination of the journey for all the TYs as students, which makes it even more special.

Within these pages, you'll discover a diverse collection of articles, essays, and creative pieces that embody the spirit of our department and I'm thrilled to share the incredible works crafted by our talented contributors. As J.K. Rowling aptly says, "Words are, in my not-so-humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic." With this edition, I hope we can cherish the power of literature and writing and share this magic with all of you.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to this edition, shaping it into the vibrant publication it is today.



- Janice Matilda Noronha (TYBA)

Welcome to the latest edition of the English Department's newsletter where we celebrate the magic of literature and art and share this enchantment with everyone who comes across '*Eloquence*'. Amid our fast-paced lives, it is important to find moments of solace, and literature offers a sanctuary for the mind and soul.

From bringing in twists to your favourite home-cooked meals to exploring the diversity of media in art, this edition hopes to unify various art forms with literature. '*Eloquence*' aims to bind lovers of literature through the Aroma of Nostalgia with appetizing stories and comforting food. Artist's Galore is a preview of the diverse talents that enrich our department, enabling us to appreciate nature's canvas.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition, whether through writing, editing or simply sharing your enthusiasm for literature.



- Nicole Fay Mendes (SYBA)

We're so excited to bring you the latest edition of '*Eloquence*' where the literary talents of our Xavierites can be showcased at its best. The English Department strives to promote literature and the exploration of its beauty and the solace it can bring us; I am grateful to have an entire community of writers, extremely enthusiastic to display their work. From their dynamic poetry to their nostalgic recipes, our budding writers bring you a step closer to embracing literature. I hope everyone who reads your fascinating works gets a taste of the magic each and every one of you has put into it.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to make this edition flourish with their creative writing, editing, and artistic efforts.



- Denize Everlene Dsouza (SYBA)



We are delighted to present to you the latest edition of our departmental newsletter, '*Eloquence*', where we celebrate the artistry of language through a collection of pieces contributed by our very own talented students and faculty.

As my professor once said, "Language is the *buniyad* of life," and within these pages, you will find a rich tapestry of voices exploring a myriad of themes and ideas. Gathering all of these pieces has truly opened my eyes and left me in awe of the immense and precious talent that surrounds us.

We extend our gratitude to all the writers and contributors whose passion for language shines through their work. Through their words and our collective effort, we hope to enlighten and entertain our readers.



- Chetna Thanki (SYBA)

When one thinks of writing, they might imagine stories, poems, essays, and even letters, but not many a time would one consider recipes to come under the canopy of writing. Being a creative writer myself, memories and emotions guild my hand, and food is definitely filled with tons of it, so having the opportunity of introducing a new section in the '*Eloquence*', although daunting, was a culinary delight. So, I'm proud to present '*Aroma of Nostalgia*' for what better way to experience the memories of others than through their food. It truly gives a deeper perspective into people's lives, I truly enjoyed working on it and I believe you will enjoy these recipes too.



- Shane Savio Fernandes (SYBA)

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## Majors Meet Minors

On September 1, 2023, the English minor class of 25 students under the guidance of Dr. Prema Rocha, organised an engaging session where they invited the students from the Third Year (TY) English Honours programme to talk about the text "I, Robot" by Isaac Asimov. In keeping with the new National Education Policy (NEP) syllabus these two classes share two texts namely, "I, Robot" and "The Martian" by Andy Wier under the Science Fiction paper.

The session was held at 10:10 a.m. in the Language Laboratory. It commenced with a warm welcome by Ridaa Shah, a student from the English Minor programme. Following this, Sir Parmanand Mandrekar from the Computer Science department threw light on the distinctions between Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robots which was very well received. The session was then taken over by the Honours students.

During the session, the six Honours students presented chapters from Asimov's thrilling collection of short stories to their juniors. Each of the six presented one chapter each from the novel.

Following the presentations, a brief Q&A session took place where students had the opportunity to ask questions and clarify any doubts. The session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Bhoomi Mujral, expressing gratitude to the TY students. As a token of appreciation, the FY students presented handmade bookmarks to the Honours students which they truly cherished. This session ended with a group photograph that perfectly captured the happy smiles from having had a wonderful time interacting and getting acquainted to each other and their texts in the best way possible.



- Ridaa Shah, FYBA



## **In the Silence of Self**

Nay, I have not done, anything in my  
confinement to achieve anything great.  
I loathe the notion of being something or someone just for society's sake.  
What is it that we are so stuck to be not ourselves, but trying to be everything everyone wants us  
to be?  
If self loathe is something we get from it  
Then why, why do we let other beings empower our lives?  
It is thy self that thou shall serve.  
You shan't pay heed to the grimace of the race beyond.  
Because they have not seen you in your gray shade  
They have not seen you on your rainy days.  
It is you who knows and you and only you who has evolved through the gaze of the melancholy  
breeze

- Tavia De Souza, FYBA

## **Art, Aesthetics & the Abyss: Reviewing “The Picture of Dorian Gray”**

It is not often that you come across a book that makes you question life and its virtues. In contemporary times, classics are seen as tired and overused. No one really wants to hear another story about a wealthy white man in the 1800s. However, there is something important to learn from the classics; that's deeper than the skin colour or gender of the character. It's the plot, the theme. This is why writers like Oscar Wilde in that era crafted their books in a particular manner.

The saying "be careful what you wish for" has arguably never been more apt in literature than it is in this classic novel. Taking the reader in and out of London drawing rooms, to the heights of aestheticism, and to the depths of decadence, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is not simply a melodrama about moral corruption.

When the young Victorian heartthrob Dorian Gray is influenced by Lord Henry Wotton's warning that he only has "a few years in which to live really, perfectly, and fully" due to the transiency of his youthful beauty, he wishes to remain young forever, while his portrait ages with the course of time. Little does he know that he will soon stumble down the rocky road of moral corruption, committing one bad deed after another, destroying relationships with the people he meets, at the same time as any good reputation he used to possess.

Although the characters were sometimes overdramatic, it's difficult to imagine Wilde creating a plain one either. Each character, with his different but loveable flaws, spoke with words that hang on to the reader—words that leave you in awe of his writing.

Sticking to the theme of late Victorian Gothic fiction, the only way to describe Wilde's writing is hauntingly beautiful. He has expressed his thoughts with beautiful wordplay. He is a perfectionist who is very concerned about the produced work because through his works, he is promoting his thoughts.

With the idea that all vice and virtue are written over the face of man, the story itself is merely a Victorian morality play with a tinge of the supernatural. You should read it because Wilde was a genius. But remember not to let immoral hedonistic pursuits find their way to you; art is made simply to be looked at. What it reveals to you, is a reflection of you. Therefore, all art is quite useless.

- Chetna Thanki, SYBA



## Pursuit of Peace

*About: We all surely think to ourselves, "Why don't I feel happy? Am I missing something?" The attached monologue, "Pursuit of Peace" shows a perfectly aligned chain of thoughts and talks about why we feel that way and what we could even possibly do to feel happy. Feel peace. Because, in the end, all we want is peace.*

Life is strange. We all are different people at different times. Going through different situations, phases, problems. We all hold different views.

But eventually, we all want the same thing in the end.

Peace.

Whether it is a guru making his way to heaven in the afterlife or a corporate millionaire trying to have all that he ever wanted.

We all want peace.

Some by satiating their whimsical dreams.

Some try to find their way by placing their trust in a higher being.

But that's the problem, isn't it?

No, not the want for peace, or dreams or soul searching. It is the wait.

The tedious process.

That little voice in our heads that says, "no, we need to do this if we want peace." And then just being left with little time. You're 50 or 60 now, if you're lucky to live that long.

And then, there's just a few more grains of sand left in that clock.

But we weren't always like this. The problem is that we spend all our time, energy, concentration, into building something that we have believed will bring us peace.

But in reality, all we need to do is be content in every moment that we are in.

Think about it. When we were little kids, we didn't have a plan for peace. We were just happy. Smiling. Laughing.

If the 7-year-old me were to meet the present me, he would say, ...

"Chill out.

Take a beat.

Chase the butterflies in the field.

Lay on the cold floor playing with your hot wheels.

Be happy with the little things.

Of the moment you're living in.

The time you have on your clock.

Because no man knows when theirs is ending." So, what do we really want?

The wait to a destination, battling time?

Or just living in contentment, in the moment, enjoying every bit of the journey, with a smile.

## **The Alchemist: An Epitome of Determination, Focus & Faith in a Dream**

"It's the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting", Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*.

Have you ever trod on a journey of realizing your dream? Santiago of Andalusia has. And he achieved his dream.

Paulo Coelho's magnum opus, *The Alchemist* is a widely-read novel that delineates the fantastic journey of Santiago to the Egyptian Pyramids in order to locate his dream treasure. He is aided in a significant way by an alchemist who guides him towards the Pyramids, thus the novel earns its appellation, *The Alchemist*. This articulation highlights certain instances that inspire the reader to believe in their dreams and to possess the courage to make it come true.

On the face of it, the novel is akin to a fairytale and yet it is didactic. It teaches us to never lose our focus but to sustain our determination to attain all our goals. In the Author's Note, Coelho enlists four obstacles that hinder our pursuit of our dream. These are the fear of impossibility, the fear of abandoning and hurting our family for the fulfilment of the dream, the fear of defeats and finally the fear of realizing the dream itself. Santiago undergoes these fears and successfully overcomes them too. He refuses to embrace priesthood in order to be a shepherd. Next, he travels to Africa in the hope of visiting the Pyramids. After slogging it out at the crystal merchant's enterprise for eleven months he wishes to return to Spain and resume being a shepherd, but good sense prevails and he decides to continue his search for the Pyramids. In the Al-Fayoum desert, he decides to cease his pursuit of the treasure believing that he has earned sufficient finances and that he has found the love of his life. At this juncture the alchemist nudges him to travel to the Pyramids.

The narrative is not just a magical journey, but a philosophical one too. The ideas discussed are those which we often take for granted-the concepts of struggle, sacrifice, perseverance, fates and omens. At every stage in life we have to let go of something we adore in order to arrive at the final peak of our destiny. Santiago begins as a shepherd, but has to finally sell his sheep in order to travel to the Pyramids. Nothing happens in a wink of an eye. Even after the arduous journey, Santiago does not recover any treasure below the Pyramids. But a chance remark reveals the real location of that treasure. Had Santiago discovered it in one shot, he might have simply assumed that great things come without a price. Thus, the fruits of success become tastier only with the salt of hard-work and dedication, sacrifice and perseverance.

The concept of omens is a recurring theme throughout the story. The narrator reiterates that if we want something, the entire Universe conspires to help us achieve it. And for this reason we need to follow the omens by observing the minutiae details in our surroundings and drawing the conclusions. He encounters innumerable people who serve as good omens throughout his journey. These are a king, a crystal merchant, an Englishman, and finally the alchemist. We often dwell on the negative omens we encounter, but fail to comprehend the positive ones and hence miss the direction in which they are pointing.

Often we are told that everything that transpires in our lives happens so because it is written in our fate and that nothing can alter it. But through Santiago we also learn that we need to control our own lives. Sometimes, fate requires us to take conscious action to fulfil itself. It is similar to our traditional belief that we need to do our best and let God do the rest for us!

Such is the narrative power of the novel. It nudges us to recapitulate our own lives and assess where we have missed the mark and how we can improve in achieving the target. The magical journey, the physical struggle and the philosophical teaching, all render *The Alchemist* a must-read work of art.

## Lit Quiz 2023

On Friday, the 13th of October 2023, the Department of English at St. Xavier's College, Mapusa, hosted the second edition of "Lit. Quiz" 2023 in the Seminar Hall at 10.45 am. The organising team comprised of Dr. Prema Rocha, the Event Co-ordinator, Sir Aaron-Paul Fernandes, Christie Fernandes and Shane Fernandes, **the Quiz Masters and it was attended by an appreciable amount of staff and students.**

The competition spanned two days, commencing with a written preliminary round held on the 11th of October. An impressive number of nine teams took part, each team comprising three members. Out of these, four teams qualified for the main quiz event, and the results of the preliminary round were announced on the same day.

The competition commenced with a warm welcome extended by Joshua Fernandes from SYBA. The teams were assigned the names Plato, Brontë, Sappho, and Marx, which they selected by lot. Christie Fernandes skillfully guided the proceedings of the event.



The quiz featured five engaging rounds, each designed to test the participants' knowledge of literature and the English language. The five levels were as follows- General Trivia, Goan Literature, Poetry, First Lines of Classic Novels, and, finally, Book Covers & Authors which was the gambit round. The competition was intense, with participants demonstrating remarkable teamwork and quick thinking.

At the end of the five rounds, Team Sappho, represented by Anisha Mendonca, Daniella De Souza, and Melanie Lobo, emerged as the winners of the quiz. The runners-up, Team Brontë, consisted of Cajetan Pereira, Janice Noronha, and Samidha Walke. Both teams were awarded medals and certificates. The faculty of the Department of English did the honours of felicitating the winners during the prize distribution ceremony. Team Plato, comprising Andrea Rosario, Shrutika Padte and Larissa Rodrigues, and Team Marx, represented by Shalom De Melo, Annrose D'Cunha and Jane D'Souza were also congratulated for their commendable performance and active participation.

The programme concluded with a group photograph featuring the organisers, volunteers, participants, and faculty members. Lit. Quiz 2023 was a success, not only bringing students together but also encouraging them to explore the world of literature and language in a competitive yet friendly manner.

- Joshua Lobo, SYBA



## **Ghost Hunt**

Graveyard dirt under fingernails  
Salt and bones crackle in a blaze  
Firelight reflecting in our eyes  
And dying echoes of ghostly cries

Mortal curses cold as ice  
Led souls to be buried twice.  
Night wind rustles withered leaves  
We walk away, silent as thieves

Lights will flicker, gates will creak  
Disembodied voices speak  
Iron, fire, shotgun shell  
Send the wicked straight to hell

- Melita D'mello TYBA

## **Fragile Bridge**

It's a fragile little bridge but we built it,  
Because it's easier than letting go.  
And we make fickle little promises,  
Try to keep it, but it's getting old.

What would happen  
if we crossed it?  
Sinking ships in puddles of water,  
and if along the road  
the waters rise,  
we'll build a million more.

It's a feeble little bridge but we painted  
pictures of a blue sky on it.  
Giving more and getting little  
try to hold it close, then part with it.

What wasn't mine to carry  
I did over every branch.  
Our fickle little bridge is breaking  
and I'm too tired to build another one.

- Andrea J.R FYBA

## Notes in Motion: Tracing the Path of Music

"Music doesn't lie. If there is something to be changed in this world, then it can only happen through music"- Jimi Hendrix.

Hi, my name is Jovan Mascarenhas, I'm currently a student studying in St. Xavier's College Mapusa, Goa. Music has always been a part of my life. From the earliest days of my childhood, I was drawn to the melodies that filled our home. My introduction to music was fairly typical—a child's fascination with the sounds emanating from instruments.

I still remember watching and listening to different Konkani music pieces with my Grandfather. I remember the joy I felt after receiving a toy drum set which I used a lot, so much that it broke after some time. Memorizing nursery rhymes and poems was never a task for me as I loved doing it. I knew a bunch of songs by heart at a very young age. I never actually thought about joining music classes until I saw my cousin playing the guitar and, man, he was too good at it. As he was playing the guitar, I was amused and felt a strong inspiration, something I never felt before. So, that was it, I told my parents that I wanted a guitar and they supported my hobby and got me enrolled for some guitar classes. I did 2 months of music theory and got bored of it. This was a turning point, the thing I once wanted to do, didn't interest me at all. So, I just threw my guitar in a corner of my room and it went untouched for years.

At this time, I was still listening to music, many artists inspired me but I never took it seriously. But things changed when I was 15. Life got a little tough, and music was the only thing I could turn to. Music was no longer only entertainment it was an escape. Music helped me calm my mind. I thought I would give the guitar another try, but this time on my own without any theory. So, I started watching tutorials on YouTube and taught myself to play some chords and I eventually did learn many things. It took a lot of practice and some pain too. I've never been good at talking and expressing how I feel which made me start writing poems and songs, and since then, I've composed a dozen of songs. Along the way, I've picked up other instruments like the keyboard and the ukulele. I find my style in music genres like rock, rap and pop music. I've also uploaded a few on streaming platforms like Spotify. In time, I discovered that music was more than just a hobby—it was a means of self-expression, a language through which I could communicate the depths of my emotions.

As I reflect on my journey thus far, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude for the gift of music and the countless ways it has enriched my life. While the path ahead may be uncertain, I am eager to continue exploring, to continue pushing the boundaries of my creativity. I am a firm believer that music heals and helps any individual. And everyone has a different music taste which is very personal and must be respected. Music also helps a lot to connect to others and nature. Music saved me when I was at my lowest.

The highs and lows of music have comforted me in my highs and lows of my life. I'll will never be qualified enough to understand the depth of music, but some things are just meant to be experienced and felt. I think music in itself is healing. It's an explosive expression of humanity. It's something we are all touched by. No matter what culture we're from, everyone loves music. Without music my life would be unimaginable.

No matter where the path may lead, the music will always be there, guiding me onward with its timeless melody.

- Jovan Mascarenhas, SYBA

## **Mhadei Rap**

Verse 1:

Listen up, let me tell you 'bout a tale,  
'bout a river that's fightin', starting to frail,  
Mhadei's the name flowin' wild and free,  
now it's struggling, let me break it down for thee.

Chorus:

Mhadei river, flowin' so proud  
Heart of the land where spirits are loud.  
Greed and progress threaten your grace,  
Gotta rise, gotta fight, save your space.

Verse 2:

From the Western Ghats, it emerges with might  
Cutting through the earth, sparkling in the light  
A lifeline for us, flora and fauna too  
Corporate interests wanna take more than their due.

Chorus:

Mhadei river, flowin' so proud  
Heart of the land where spirits are loud.  
Greed and progress threaten your grace,  
Gotta rise, gotta fight, save your space.

Verse 3:

Listen to the whispers of the wind through the trees,  
The river's cry, carried on the breeze  
Gotta stand up, unite, the voice that roars,  
Preserve this treasure, for now and evermore.

Verse 4:

They wanna build dams, wanna take control  
But it ain't just water, it's the essence of our soul.  
Ecosystems at stake, cultures in the fray  
Gotta protect our heritage, come what may.

Chorus:

Mhadei river, flowin' so proud  
Heart of the land where spirits are loud.  
Greed and progress threaten your grace,  
Gotta rise, gotta fight, save your space.



Outro:

Let the rhythm of the river guide our way  
In this battle, we'll make our say.  
Mhadei, we stand with you, side by side  
For your survival, your eternal tide.

Chorus:

Mhadei river, flowin' so proud  
Heart of the land where spirits are loud.  
Greed and progress threaten your grace,  
Gotta rise, gotta fight, save your space.

- Shrutika Padte, FYBA

## **Herald of The Realm,**

I can hear the earth calling out to us,  
Softly and tenderly it says,  
"Oh, my lovely children,  
What have you done  
I gave you the daylight,  
Yet y'all live in the dark.  
Gave y'all the air to breathe,  
Yet y'all go breathless.  
The birds that sing,  
The trees that swing.  
With the light of the sun;  
The stars and moon shine bright.  
Take the example of the sun, my love,  
Shine, so others shine too

- Tavia De Souza, FYBA

## **Earth Speaks**

This is my love  
This is my home  
Why fool around it  
When they only made us whole  
Whole to sea, the beauty of sea  
Sea, where there's nothing left  
But straws and plastic poly,  
Plastic in water, plastic all around,  
Ground that was supposed to be brown,  
GREEN, GREEN, GREEN is all that we screamed,  
Nobody heard us then  
And now the nature's mean

- Liya Shrivastava, TY Journalism

## **Nature's Guardian**

In nature's tender embrace, hold creatures dear,  
Nurture their wounds, let compassion draw near.  
Through streets and rain, where sorrows cascade,  
Lend a healing touch to the beings betrayed.

Beneath the veil, sweet creatures lie,  
Caress their heads, let empathy fly.  
In their own realms, let them thrive,  
As homes crumble, let compassion revive.

Dogs and cats, on streets they roam,  
Feed and shelter, create a loving home.  
In aging shadows, don't abandon the old,  
United community, let compassion unfold.

Ancient trees, with stories untold,  
Guardians of air, in their shade, we're bold.  
Preserve their essence from fiery flashes,  
For they breathe life, not mere ashes.

On shores where turtles silently nest,  
Shield them from lights, let them rest.  
In the hallowed ground, keep noise at bay,  
A haven for life, let serenity sway.

Land, sky, water, all life's kin,  
Deserve the chance to thrive within.  
Set aside greed, embrace what we hold,  
In nature's symphony, let love unfold.

In patterns of nature, find the rhyme,  
Appreciate its beauty, stand the test of time.  
Let's be in tune, a harmonious blend,  
Nature's embrace, a timeless friend.

Amidst the chaos, let emotions stir,  
Inspire change, let compassion confer.  
For in nature's ballet, where life takes its stand,  
Let's be the guardians, hand in hand.

- Chandrika Bogati SY Mass Comm

## The Absurdist's Victory at Pegasus Nexus

After days of auditions, exhaustive practice sessions, and meticulous preparations, the much-anticipated day dawned – “PEGASUS NEXUS.” Hosted at Parvatibai Chowgule College on the 18th and 19th of January, this two-day extravaganza boasted a diverse range of competitive events. Enthusiastic students brimmed with excitement as they eagerly anticipated the opportunity to partake in these events and exhibit their talents. Seventeen talented individuals who were ever so enthusiastic and put their heart and soul for the same were led by Sir Aaron-Paul Fernandes and Tavia De Souza, the student coordinator. The team was called “THE ABSURDISTS”, a name that was chosen from various other literary ages. Having that name gave the team an excuse for every mistake that was made (giggle) and the team's tagline was “We are the absurdist of course everything we do is absurd”



Kimberly Vales diligently and creatively crafted the absurdist's website. Completed within six days, the website showcased videos, pictures, and relevant information, encapsulating the essence of Team Absurdist's journey and participants' work from day one. The Introduction of our team started with the PROMO submission directed by Andrea Rosario, Larissa Rodrigues along with a few others while Brian Pereira was the main director, and Cybil Rodrigues, the editor. Shanoor Shaikh, the mascot dressed as “Mad Hatter” delivered an outstanding performance throughout the two-day event, brimming with enthusiasm and confidence.

Pegasus XIV kicked off with an inaugural ceremony that set the tone for a day filled with fun and competition. Participants were eager to showcase their skills and creativity in various categories that were lined up throughout the day. It started with the Globe Theatre, an event for all theatre enthusiasts. The team chose the play “The Monkey's Paw” - improvised by Sir Aaron-Paul as one had to add in two or more options to decide the way the story would go. It was gracefully performed by Rachel Gauncar, Srushti Chodankar, Tavia De Souza, Janhavi Mahambre Andrea Rosario and Ridaa Shah.

‘Rhapsody’ was an event for those who love to argue and know how to prove a point. Adi Sharma participated in this debate consisting of two rounds. Rachel Rodriguez was required to create her own poem for ‘Slammit’, which she then eloquently presented through her original poem.

“Sashay!” was an interesting dance performance where the participants had to perform a recited poem. Our dancers Janhavi Mahambre, Destiny D’ Souza, Rachel Gauncar and Rachel Fernandez danced gracefully. For “Booker x Toony Lits”, Andrea Rosario had to create booker pages. She then went on to the real challenge- the Toony Lits pages. From visualizing an individual to naming and creating them in real-time was a task that Andrea managed to complete.

For “ Poncho Pallet” Ridaa Shah was required to create artwork on a poncho that was stitched by the participant. For the ‘Pegasus Laureate event, the participant had to participate in a gauntlet of five events. These events were more competitive than the regular events. Shrutika Padte was our



'Laureate' this year and participated in a series of events like "The Professor", "The Showman", "The Influencer", "The Raconteur: What's my cue?" and "Nexus A.I.". She gave her best shot and won three of the five events, earning some bonus points for the team. Through "The Variant" competition, Ridaa Shah and Larissa Rodrigues brought Andrea Rosario's "Booker" vision to life with the support of the model Aloysha Fernandes. Additionally, the 'Run For El Dorado' tested Adi Sharma and Tavia De Souza's ' endurance and problem-solving skills.

On the second day, participants continued to impress with competitions like 'Roast!' where Andrea Rosario excelled as Ursula and the Little mermaid, and "Cosplay Cuisine" where Rachel Fernandes showcased her culinary creativity inspired by Bella Swan from the Twilight Saga. The day also saw the creation of the "Montage" that was the Absurdist blog done by Kimberly Vales, capturing the essence of Team Absurdist's journey. The montage encompassed cinematic shots filmed by Brian Pereira and Cybil Rodrigues. The day continued with "Literary Snakes and Ladders" that put Kelly D'Souza's and Srushti Chodanka's spellings to the test, with participants rolling the dice and performing various tasks in the hopes of good luck. In "No Empty Rhetoric" Adi Sharma participated in a lively debate, arguing that " Absurdist is the best literary age" Finally, The "Bohemian Euphony" competition featured an original musical composition inspired by the poems "The Caged Bird" by Maya Angelou and "The Tyger" by William Blake performed by Brian Pereira, Andrea Rosario, Kelly D' Souza and Tavia De Souza. Their performance gave a magical end to the event.

The Bonus events that the team participated in were "Flag and Tag", "Book Donation" and the Clean-up Drive for which the students went to the Rotary Park near the college campus to clean up the area.

The team participated in all the events and were thrilled to win the following- Third place in "Globe Theatre", first place in "Rearview× Montage", second place in "PROMO", overall second place in "Pegasus Laureate", first place for the Mascot, first place for "Makeupmorphosis", third place in "Edna× Mode", second place in "The Variant", first place in "Bohemian Euphony" and first place in "The Roast".

These impressive achievements led to the Xavier's team winning the championship and bringing the coveted rolling trophy home for the second consecutive year and for the seventh time since 2008. The event was a memorable experience for everyone involved. The students were overjoyed with the win, and the faculty members were proud of their achievements. The participants excitedly took photos with their respective medals and certificates and the prestigious trophy before it was handed over to the college the following day.

## **A Warrior's Resolve**

"In shadows cast by blades so keen,  
A warrior strives, his heart unseen.  
Battles lost, a mind entwined,  
Yet forward marches, strength to find.

His sword, a whisper in the night,  
A struggle deep, an endless fight.  
Amidst the clash, his spirit yearns,  
For every lesson, every turn.

With faltering steps, he treads the path,  
Each stumble met with echoed wrath.  
Yet in his heart, a fire burning,  
For a maiden's love, he's ever yearning.

Through sweat and tears, he trains his might,  
A journey lonely, lost in the night.  
In every failure, a lesson learned,  
In every scar, a story earned.

For love's sweet sake, he battles on,  
His spirit fierce, though hope is gone.  
A dance with shadows, a war within,  
He fights his demons, seeks to win.

In the chaos, a resolve takes hold,  
A warrior's tale, forever told.  
Through struggles deep, his soul refined,  
A relentless heart, his only bind.

So onward, he moves, with purpose clear,  
Through doubts that linger, shadows near.  
For in his heart, a promise made,  
To be the protector, in love's crusade."

- Renba Fernandes, SYBA

## **Ice and Fire**

Through Ice and Fire  
My heavy heart shall never tire  
Across Land and Sea  
My mind only yearns to be free

Like the melody of an angel's lyre  
Her voice to hear I shall never tire  
And though I wish for freedom  
I am a prisoner of her kingdom

Through Fire and Ice  
A shallow existence will not suffice  
Across Sea and Land  
I may soon drift along with the flowing sand

So with the love behind my sacrifice  
Perhaps someday I shall see paradise  
Or maybe I shall finally let go  
And give myself a chance to grow

- Hanes Avios, SYBA

## **From personal memoirs I'll never complete**

I've come to realize that I can no longer write about love. It's jarring and almost always incomplete. There's that inconsistency to its texture that I just can't seem to smooth out with the right words because those don't seem to exist anymore. You might say it's rubbish of me to think love doesn't have its inconsistencies and that all love is perfect but you misunderstand. Love is forever flawed yet beauty ridden with those imperfections.

I just can't seem to understand where, how, love's existence would thrive in such dark parts of a soul.

- Evelyn, SYBA

## WORDSUP 5.0 – A Report

Awakened from a slumber of four years, the Department of English of St. Xavier's College was back with WordsUp 5.0 and Writers' Corner, which were held from the 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> of February 2024. Diving into the realm of Fairytales, dreamy fiction and folklore frolic, the theme this year was *Once Upon A Time: May thine be the happily ever after*. 13 colleges from across Goa participated in the event and each team consisted of around 15 to 35 participants.

The Writers Corner, a customary precursor to WordsUp, marked the start of WordsUp 5.0 on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Ms. Shirlene Fernandes organised this curtain raiser and notable personalities from the literary world of Goa and literature enthusiasts graced it with their presence.

Somewhere between colourful streamers at the entry points and posters on the lookout for fictional thieves, the campus came alive. It seemed magical and full of vibrant colour. Four years of anticipation was finally realised as 9<sup>th</sup> February saw the inauguration of WordsUp 5.0 with renewed vigour, excitement and liveliness. The song "A Whole New World" was performed in acapella by our own students, giving the event a melodious start. The dignitaries for the day included Fr. Antonio Salema, the Administrator of St. Xavier's College, Ms. Sandra Fernandes, Vice Principal and Dr. Prema Rocha, Head of The Department of English, and Ms Alice D'Cruz, co-ordinator of WordsUp 5.0. In his address, Fr. Antonio shared thoughts of motivation, the importance of learning and its correlation to extracurricular activities. He also urged the students to work towards their goal and opt for courses which may help them in the long run, no matter how hard they initially seem. He commended the efforts of the students and faculty of the English department and the work they had put in to host the event. Dr. Prema Rocha earlier delivered the welcome address and Ms. Alice D'Cruz proposed the vote of thanks. The event officially commenced with the grand unrolling of the scroll and unveiling of the shining, shimmering and splendid plaques and medals, at the hands of the dignitaries present.

As the age old saying goes "Teamwork makes the Dream work" and the success of WordsUp 5.0 holds this statement to be true. What you see is the result of the ideas and hard work of the many people engaged behind the scenes. WordsUp has had a strength of approximately 250 volunteers who work incessantly during and way after college hours, along with a capable core team to oversee preparations. WordsUp involved 26 events being held which correspond to the 26 letters in the English alphabet; spanning over the course of two days, at choice venues across the college campus. Budding entrepreneurs showcased their wares at a pop-up bazaar that lined one end of the entrance, offering an assortment of food stalls to keep the crowd energised and sated. A book stall with a wonderful selection of books from local authors was also put up.

The line-up of events stretched across various genres and forms of media; be it showcasing video logs shot on campus or coming up with fantastical and witty one-liners. Events such as *Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Bee (spelling bee)*, *Peter Pan's pirate Pursuit (letter writing)*, *Wiz Quiz*, *Aladdin's Lamp of Jam (just a minute)* and *Liliputian Chronicles (story writing with a twist)* tested the participants on their knowledge of words, fairytales, pop culture and their creative writing abilities. Some events like *A Fairytale to Rhyme (performance poetry)*, *The Enchanted Escapades (Musical theatre)*, *Laughapalooza (Stand-Up Comedy)*, *Enchanting Echoes (Singing)* and *Rap- Time stories (Rap-battle)* challenged the participants to bring the world of dreams to life and showcase their theatrical, musical and comedic prowess through plays and the like.

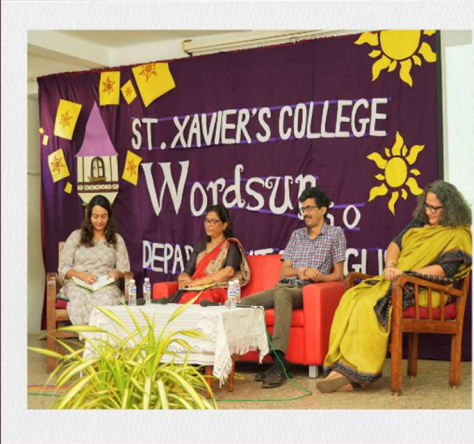
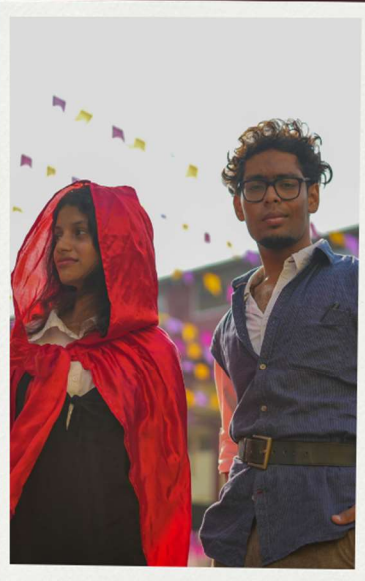
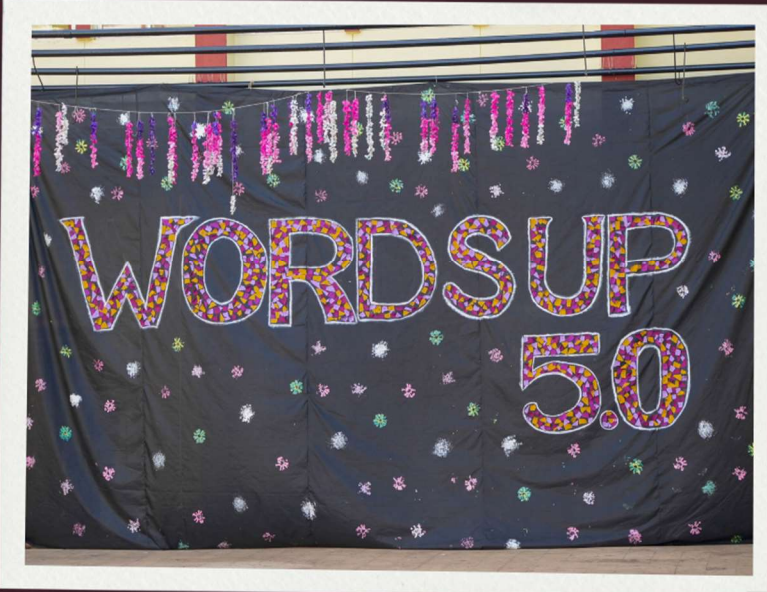
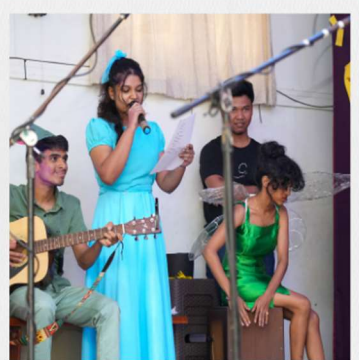
From The Genius and the Hare (triathlon) testing their physical endurance and team spirit and The Yummiest of them All (Cooking) their culinary skills to the March to the Midnight Ball presenting a wondrous parade, WordsUp 5.0 brought out the competitive streak among all the promising young contenders through events; both new and old. Judges for the events included the faculty and alumni of St. Xavier's College, and household names in the field of comedy, music and more.

There exists no banquet in the world that does not come to an end and so, following two days filled with cheers and buzzing energy, WordsUp 5.0 concluded with the valedictory function. The student co-ordinators for the event Ms. Samidha Walke and Ms. Janice Noronha expressed gratitude and the bittersweet emotions that hosting their first and last WordsUp event brought out. The faculty of the English Department, Ms. Alice D'cruz, Dr. Prema Rocha, Ms. Sunita Mesquita, Dr. Claudette Gomes, and Dr. Leanora Madeira gave away the prizes and certificates to the winners of individual events. WordsUp was created by, and is the brainchild of Mr Aaron Paul Fernandes who thanked everyone for playing their part in making WordsUp 5.0 a success and gave away the awards to the top three winners of the fest. Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science and MES Vasant Joshi College of Arts and Commerce won the title of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> runners up, respectively. Sealing the win and claiming the overall championship of WordsUp 5.0, Nirmala Institute of Education emerged champions.

And so, the curtains came down on a memorable WordsUp 5.0.

- Kimberely Vales, FYBA









## Building Good Innings

Cricket, a sport steeped in tradition and strategy, pits two teams of eleven players against each other on a sprawling oval field. The heart of the action lies on a rectangular pitch, where bowlers bowl a hard leather ball towards batsmen holding flat-faced wooden bats. The batsman's job? To hit the ball and score runs by running between the wickets – three wooden stumps topped with two small bails. Dismissing the opposing batsmen and restricting their runs is the fielding team's objective.

Hi my name is Karan Aital. Currently, I'm studying at St. Xavier's College, Mapusa, Goa.

Cricket wasn't just a game for me; it was a passion that burned bright since childhood. Hours spent glued to the television screen, mesmerized by the likes of Rohit Sharma and Sachin Tendulkar, fuelled my desire to one day hold the bat with similar mastery.

My journey began at the Campal-Panjim academy, where Coach Narayan Kambli became my guiding light. Under his watchful eye, I sharpened my skills, improving the elegant cover drives and powerful pull shots of my idols. The dusty pitch became my second home, Coach Kambli, recognizing my potential, encouraged me to test my strength in local tournaments. My game flourished, and by the age of 15, the dream of representing Goa at the Under-16 State Level tournament seemed within reach.

The state selection camp buzzed with nervous anticipation. While others practiced with ease, I struggled. My performance in the practice matches was far from impressive, often succumbing to the off-spinners. Disappointment clawed at me as the final team was announced, my name absent from the list. Dejected, but not defeated, I vowed to come back stronger.

Analyzing my weakness, I practiced relentlessly, visualizing myself conquering the challenge. This time, my approach was different. I trained not just my skills but also my mind, cultivating the unwavering focus needed to succeed.

The Under-16 tournament was underway, and Goa's performance was lackluster. Seeing this as my opportunity, I grabbed the bat in the GCA division matches, determined to prove myself. My scores soared – two magnificent fifties, both unbeaten – a testament to my dedication and newfound mental fortitude. The call from the Head Coach came as a sweet surprise. "You're in the team," he said, his words igniting a spark of joy.

Standing on the pitch, wearing the State jersey a symbol of countless hours of sweat and sacrifice, I realized the truth of Sir Garfield Sober's famous quote: "Talent is important, but nothing is more important than passion. Without passion, you'll never be a champion." My cricketing journey has just begun, now that I'm 19 I have also been part of Goa's U-19 team but failed to get into the playing 11. Still the fire within burns brighter than ever. I am still working on myself with the dream of representing the senior men's state team, by perfecting the game day by day and even the dream to represent the national side. Cricket is not just runs and wickets. It's a crash course in life skills. You learn to work as a team, to bounce back from dropped catches (and missed opportunities!), to stay calm under pressure, and to shake hands - win or lose. It's a game that teaches you to be a better player, both on and off the pitch. The game can be a rollercoaster of emotions. A batsman's dream innings can be shattered by a single dismissal. Yet, the game continues. Players learn to bounce back from failure, dust themselves off, and strategize for the next innings. It's also a test of temperament. The bowler needs nerves of steel to maintain accuracy, while the batsman is required to build a long innings. The game thrives on mutual respect between opponents and adherence to fair play.

- Karan Aital, SYBA

## Digital Life

*About: The poem "Digital life" talks about how people are lost in this digital era and how people are not genuine with each other and how the speaker wishes things were.*

Digital Life. We spent our time together,  
than facing the screens.  
We forgot that they even exist.  
All the moments spent are in my memories.  
But not in pictures in my gallery.  
And I'd like this pattern to persist.  
So what if I don't have pixels to look at?  
I lived those moments entirely.  
Why would I need to look back at those albums to relive the memories?  
As I can just call you over in a second.  
The good old days might be gone.  
But you're still with me.  
Let's go out again then.  
Yes, we won't run around and jump over fences.  
But we can still have fun.  
Mend our broken hearts.  
Have fun till this ends.  
And if you want to talk.  
Come meet me at our spot.  
Yes, the park is sometimes green and brown.  
But all we need is each other, my friend.  
I still do have a picture or two.  
But if either of us are gone.  
Let's just visit our graves.  
Instead of sitting idly staring at those screens.  
And breaking all over again.  
And I don't want to live in these static screens.  
Pixelated lies and numbered lives.  
A canvas painted with smiles,  
but it's only a disguise.  
All the moments, not true.  
But just a show to the world.  
To their followers.  
Not friends.

- Jaherul Mallick FYBSc Biotechnology



## Research Paper Presentation Competition at DMC College

Dnyanprassarak Mandal's College and Research Centre organised an annual inter-collegiate Student Research Paper Presentation Competition 'Epiphany 6.0' on the theme 'Nurturing Ecological Consciousness through Literature and Pop Culture: A Teen Perspective' on 17th



February 2024. The program began with an inaugural function followed by a talk by the keynote speaker, Dr. Prakash Parienkar, who enlightened the audience on the importance of conserving our environment, making a special reference to Goa and the Mhadei River. The judges for this competition were Ms. Annamarie Nicole Remedios, Mr. Shubhankar Shah, and Ms. Jisha Ponnachan. There were a total of twelve participants for this competition. St. Xavier's College was represented by two students from the Department of English. Ms. Amber Freitas presented a paper titled 'No Price Tag on Nature: Understanding our environment through literature and culture', while Ms. Anisha Mendonca presented the paper titled 'Earth is calling, are we listening? Analysing the Connection

between Climate Fiction and Popular Culture'. Ms. Amber Freitas secured the Second place for her research paper. At the end of the competition, each student was given a booklet which included abstracts of their papers presented and a participation certificate.

- Amber Freitas (TYBA)

## Discussing Detective Fiction & Agatha Christie with Ms. Giann

On 17th February 2024, Ms. Giann, a literary enthusiast and dedicated faculty member, was introduced to Dr. Prema Rocha's English minor class to discuss the renowned author Agatha Christie, as her celebrated work, *The Murder On the Orient Express* is a part of the first-year syllabus. Ms. Giann displayed a profound familiarity with Christie's literature and expressed her enthusiasm for detective fiction. She shared that she owns approximately forty Agatha Christie novels, highlighting her deep admiration for the author. The students engaged in an exchange of questions and answers regarding detective fiction and related topics. The session concluded with the students presenting Ms. Giann with bookmarks and taking a group photo.

- Megha (FYBA)



## Things That Can Alter Your Brain Chemistry

It's amazing how some movies, books and even just random things or events can change your brain chemistry. From the Bollywood movie 'Zindagi na milegi dobara', I learned that life is simple, people and feelings make it complicated. It's good to feel, it's good to be expressive. Nowadays the "I don't care" attitude is in trend where people 'pretend' to be heartless and cold when they are not and they do it all in the name of protecting their feelings but is it really protecting? Or is it just you suppressing your emotions?

We are emotional beings, we are supposed to feel and let life happen.

A quote by the writer George R.R Martin got me into reading: -

"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one." Books really do change your perspective about the way you look at the world. Happy books give you happy vibes and joy but the sad books leave you with a void in your heart. Once you finish a sad book and cry your heart out is when you realise how deeply a simple book can make you feel such complicated emotions. Sometimes you find yourself in books where you relate to the main character or sometimes you're just a side character in the main character's story and that's fine. You can only be the main character of your life, your own story and that's beautiful.

Here's my go-to hack when you feel a little lost or just empty: -

Someday just try to help someone in need when you don't feel good enough about your own life. Just one kind act and the blessings of that person will make your heart feel a little less heavy.

Some days you're sad,

Some days you're happy

And some days you're just empty...

But the good and bad thing about time is that it shall pass. And this too will pass.

So Dear Reader

Feel, express and let it go

And on the bad days, be a little kinder to yourself.

- Tapasya

## Poetry and me

Here comes Wordsworth

Who tells you poetry is worth

He says, poetry is superior

And exposes all truth.

Here comes Coleridge

He talks about imagination and fancy

And says, poets have powers

And are geniuses

Poems are history

But to me they are a mystery.

- Daniella Miriam De Souza TYBA

## **Last Train**

He took the first train out of her city  
She took his last name because it was pretty  
He was a chess game  
to play you had to be witty  
Everything was black and white  
And the rules changed every night

It was madness!  
That the two of them could be  
She believed in miracles  
You had to see her to believe  
All her friends were worried  
They knew his history  
And now every night when they fight  
She's always wrong and he is right

I hate that  
The ground that he walked on remains her pilgrimage and  
She kept her promise at the altar but he was estranged  
She did her best  
but all he could do was just  
Tolerate it  
He never stayed put

So she took the last train  
Out of his city  
He took her pride  
And gave her pain  
She took the kids  
And ran away  
She booked the last train  
Out of his city  
She made it out that's a miracle  
She had to see it to believe  
  
She had to...

- Andrea J.R FYBA

## I & the Lack Thereof

Do you ever wonder what it's like to be asked the simplest question and not have an answer at all? Well, that was me. The question, you may wonder, was simply,

Who am I?

Growing up, I always felt like a little bit of a nomad. Traveling around the Middle East and Egypt, hopping around different schools and new neighbourhoods. You'd expect me to take time to adapt to their culture and their customs but no. It was a cake walk. What wasn't was the fact that I couldn't make sense of where I stood as a person and what my supposed culture and community was. We would have cultural days and programmes to celebrate our heritage and it felt like Halloween to me. I participated in traditions my parents brought over from our hometown but it was merely a practice.

When I was shipped off to boarding school in South India for 9 years, I felt foreign as I lacked the ability to connect to the Bollywood songs everyone loved so much, or the Indian mother tongues everyone spoke so fluently. I participated in folk dance competitions, classical music and dance but I felt out of place. It didn't matter if I topped or flunked a class, if I played an instrument or not, or even had a creative side because I wasn't what everyone expected me to be.

Growing up here and there built my culture, belief systems, opinions and manner but it felt incomplete. I couldn't define myself especially with everyone's expectations for me to be culturally inclusive, able to embrace other's livelihood while also keeping intact my Indian heritage which I wasn't exposed to enough. I could never understand some of my relatives because of the language barrier and they blamed my lack of 'Indianness', I would always be the foreigner, white-washed, uncultured and lacking a true personality and identity. I do remember fragments of home in Goa, and really liking how complete it made me feel but as a bigger picture it felt like it was scripted, just material for a school project on where I came from and who it made me.

It was funny really, that no matter the age, 5, 9, 12, or 16, I couldn't figure out how to perfectly develop the personality and become truly who I was supposed to be. No matter where I went, people solely cared about the fact that they thought I wasn't Indian enough, not Arab enough, always too foreign and that really shook me. But then, I graduated high school, I turned 18, I got into college and I came back home and everything changed and no, it wasn't as simple and quick as I make it sound right now but it felt magical. I finally was given the space to define myself on my own and guess what I realized?

It didn't matter. Not one single bit. Sure, my passport is Indian, and sure I traversed the middle east for the first decade of my life, sure I didn't get the option to learn Hindi as I kid but so what?

Who decided that there was a criteria that made me who I am?

I do lack the stereotypical cultural background but that makes me, me. I was, no, I am more than just that. I thought I lacked a strong basis to my personality and identity when it was the contrary. Yes, I am made of the places I live in and was born in but I am also the people that I surround myself with, the skills I learn, the thoughts I voice, the emotions I feel.

I'm the girl who wrote an entire play by herself; who belts musicals like her life's a motion picture, who loves playing music even if she's not a modern-day Mozart, who learnt to stitch clothes she could never bring herself to buy, the one who's still fascinated by animated movies, the one who cries at symphonies and gets lost in the experiences of loving and learning alongside people

I know now that if you were to ask me who I am, again, I'd know that I don't need an answer.

Because I grew up. I flourished and finally saw myself for what I really was; all my places, my triumphs and failures, my people, and my purpose.

I am not just the title I am given by others. I am everchanging, infinite, intangible, undefinable. I am I and the lack thereof.

- Evelyn, SYBA

## Lit. Star 2.0

“In any Quiz, you either win or you learn... there are no losers. As every opportunity is a learning opportunity.” These were the words said before the Department of English of Rosary College of Commerce and Arts declared Anisha Mendonça (TYBA) and Christie Fernandes (SYBA) winners of Lit. star 2.0. The Quiz in its second edition covered Indian writing in English and spheres of English Literature.

Eight teams fought in the preliminary round for a spot in the finals including Goa University, MA students of Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts & Science as well as the MA students of Government College Sanquelim, Vasant Joshi's MES College, Nirmala's Institute of Education among others. The Quiz was held on the 15th of March in the college Seminar Hall. The final round consisted of ten rounds id est based on the themes of Popular and Classic Literature, Indian writing in English, Poetry, Audio-visual rounds such as Author and cover identification and recognising memes. The participants and the audience were on the edge of their seats. At the end of the final round, there was a clear winner. Team Juliet, represented by the students of St. Xavier's College of Arts, Science and Commerce took home with them the trophy and the title of the 'WINNERS' for the second time in a row. That being said, students of Nirmala Institute of Education once again received the First Runners-up. It was history repeating itself. Christie Fernandes and Anisha Mendonça Scored a total of 150 points that day defeating Nirmala's by 50-point margin. After a job well done, we exchanged congratulations and took pictures. Lit. Star 2.0 was all in all sweeping success.



- Christie Fernandes, SYBA

## **In the name of love**

I had nothing to lose  
Until I lost you  
Looked me straight in the eye  
A million lies, I can't undo  
I had nothing to prove  
Until I found you  
I was lost in your tide,  
you were lost in your pride  
And I never stopped you...

You gave me roses that made me bleed oceans And I took it all In the name of love  
You gave me unfinished pages and I had to complete them all In the name of love  
Oh how couldn't I see it,  
You truly just played me  
And i did it all In the name of love  
You took just what you needed  
Leaving with the breeze  
And I waited for you  
In the name of love

You were taking and taking and taking  
And I was giving and giving and giving  
And you heard rumours and blindly believed it  
Were you searching for ways to get rid of me  
You are selfish and cruel and jaded  
And I was a fool because I tried to mend it  
You were a master at making me clueless  
you searching for ways to get rid of me

- Andrea J.R, FYBA

## **Escape from reality**

How wonderful will it be?  
Living in a world created by you,  
Where everything is controlled by you,  
And not by someone...God knows "who".  
But people keep reminding me,  
"Stop living in your delusional world,  
Snap back to reality";  
So I romanticise my reality to  
Escape from reality...

- Tapasya, SYBSc



## **Movie Review: Wake Up Sid**

Maybe I am a little late to write a review on a movie released in 2009 but it's a movie close to my heart- a timeless masterpiece one cannot ignore. The movie has Sid as its main character, played by Ranbir Kapoor, son of a rich business man- a spoiled brat, chill and carefree who hates his fathers business and fails to graduate. Responsibilities start knocking the doors, but Sid isn't ready, he just wants to party and live his life spending his father's money. Until he has a fight with his father which ultimately leads to him leaving the house. He moves in with Aisha, a friend he had made. Aisha Banerjee played by Konkana Sen sharma is a true face of feminism, a young girl, new in Mumbai with a dream to become a writer and above all to live her life independently. She finds Sid to be immature and kiddish.

What will serve as a wakeup call for Sid now? Will he find a way to make a living and prove himself to his father? Will he try to be mature for Aisha? As the movie progresses Sid sets out to try and become responsible. Eventually he finds purpose, true love and an independent life.

As a soon to be graduate student, this movie captures the excitement and fear that a new phase of life bestows upon youngsters. It's a great coming of age movie and has a refreshing and healing effect on the viewer. The songs too are timeless and beautifully written. It has a rather predictable storyline but what holds importance is what the viewer takes back from the movie. The viewer will be able to relate with its characters, sometimes you will feel like Sid- trying to navigate through life which comes without instructions. And sometimes you may feel like Aisha sorted, fearless yet unclear. Or a mix of both.

If there's anyone who has not watched the movie yet, I urge you to watch it and those who have already watched it, there's no harm to watch it again and relive a part of yourself that you must've lost as life happened or finding comfort in a new part which you're exploring and trying to be.

- Kehya Dcosta, TYBCom

## **“I am Evelyn Hugo”: A Review on the Book That Broke the Internet**

Let me just start by saying, this book is an absolute masterpiece and it has touched my heart in so many ways. It's a deeply sentimental and captivating tale that takes you on an emotional rollercoaster through the life of Evelyn Hugo, a legendary Hollywood icon. The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo is a book that changed me.

From the very first page, I was completely drawn into Evelyn's world, her triumphs, and her struggles. The author's storytelling is so beautifully crafted that it felt like I was right there beside Evelyn, experiencing every joy and heartbreak she encountered along her extraordinary journey. One of the things that struck me the most about this book is the incredible depth of the characters. Evelyn Hugo is such a complex and multi-dimensional protagonist. Her strength, vulnerability, and unapologetic pursuit of her dreams left a lasting impression on me. Each of her seven husbands is uniquely portrayed, and their relationships with Evelyn are explored with such nuance and authenticity. As I delved deeper into the story, I couldn't help but be moved by the themes of love, ambition, and sacrifice that are woven throughout. The book delves into the complexities of relationships and the choices we make in pursuit of our dreams. It made me reflect on my own life and the sacrifices I've made along the way. Without giving too much away, I have to mention the unexpected twists and turns that kept me hooked until the very last page. Just when I thought I had it all figured out, the author would throw a curveball that left me gasping. It's a testament to the author's skill that she kept me guessing and emotionally invested throughout the entire story.

"The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" is not just a book; it's an experience. It's a poignant reminder of the power of love, the complexities of human relationships, and the sacrifices we make in pursuit of our dreams. I can't recommend it enough. Trust me, you won't be able to put it down. Happy reading!

- Andrea. J. Rosario (FYBA,)

## Interactive Session between the FY & TY Students

Under the initiative of Dr. Prema Rocha, first-year students of the English minor class were given the opportunity to participate in a session with more experienced third-year English honours students on 15th March 2024 which aimed at introducing the two groups and bridging the gap between them. Given the structural changes in the education policies between the two batches, it helped the first years gain an interesting insight into what the next phase of their education could look like if they choose the English paper. The session, set in a much more casual way to allow for maximum interaction between the students, allowed one to ask any and all questions they could come up with in order to satisfy their curiosity, whether that be about the paper, the college, or even the books themselves.



Beginning the session with a small round of questions allowed us to familiarise ourselves with one another and open up our personalities more. There were discussions about the books in the syllabus as well, which was a crucial part of the session. It served as a common point from where we could be on the same page (pun intended). The books in question were *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as well as the lesser-known but equally important *Inspector Ghote Goes By Train* by H.R. F. Keating both of them leading to a chat about their content and their impact in a literary and cultural sense.

Many interesting points were made, taking into consideration the opinions which differed from book to book. Opening up such casual discourse about these books and related subject matter helps us learn more from different points of view, both from a pair of eyes just at the start of their journey into literature and analysis as well as a more experienced and learned thought process. All in all, it helps breathe a breath of fresh air into a newer environment. It does not take a hardened critic to point out the shortcomings of a piece of literature, nor does it take a novice or beginner to enjoy a book for its simplicity. Therein lies one of literature's greatest strengths; there is something for everyone at all points of their journey through life, and this session was a neat way of hammering that nail into this wall.

- Mariza Fernandes (FYBA)

## **Watching *Mrs. Dalloway* at Ms. Alice's Villa Rosa Cruz**

With the desire to journey away from the four walls of the classroom, the TYBA English Honours class took to D'Cruz Villa on October 2nd, 2023. Situated along the lush green lanes of Saligao, Villa Rosa Cruz is the loving home of the prominent Goan architect Dean D'Cruz and his wife, Ms. Alice D'Cruz. Embellished with green wood and a hint of mosaic at every nook of furniture, Villa Rosa Cruz made it the perfect theatre to watch the extraordinary adaptation of Virginia Woolf's acknowledged masterpiece, *Mrs. Dalloway*. The film was nominated for a total of eight awards from the 7th Golden Satellite Award and 9th Screen Actors Guild Award ceremonies.

Based on the 1925 novel, director Marleen Gorris continually moves between the present and the past in the characters' heads. The story covers a day in the life of Mrs. Dalloway, the wife of a prosperous politician in London. The plot displays many intersecting realities of the times: a war-torn Europe, complex PTSD, suicide, bourgeois hypocrisy, homosexuality, memory, love, dilemma, and its choices. The tension between the movie and its viewers condensed with some chilled refreshing lemon barley water and snacks. The students then had an appetising lunch offered by the dear teacher. The movie concluded with ambivalent feelings which were then discussed over some hot piping tea. Ms. Alice then took the class on a little jaunt around the backyard of her exotically ornate house. The students were in awe of the hand-selected plants and flowers the garden tendered. The excursion concluded with lovely photographs and warm goodbyes.



- Shaina D'costa (TYBA)

## The Red Gloves

"It has been seven years since I last saw her", I thought to myself as I sat in the attic. Back then, we were at our regular café on a Sunday afternoon. It was May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1999, a mix of Elvis Presley was playing on the speaker and there wasn't much crowd like usual. Rosy sat across from me at our favourite table wearing her red coat and floral maxi dress. It wasn't unusual for us to be so quiet, we'd become distant after four years into our relationship, both emotionally and physically. Work, our own little dreams and her moving to another city seemed to loosen our bond.

We promised we'd make it work and I still thought so then. After ordering the drinks, Rosy begins to speak in a low tone. "Sanjay, I... I think it's time that we go our separate ways. Forever." Surprisingly, I saw it coming. I just looked at her with a softening gaze and thought to myself, "I could never un-love you or move on. How could? You're the best thing that ever happened to me". I told her we could give it time but none of my convincing worked. In fact, it looked as if she wanted nothing but to end it.

"I'm moving to New York next week. And it's best we end it, for our own good. I'm sorry.", as she said it, tears ran down her cheeks and, in an instant, she began to sob.

I held her hands tightly and kept gazing at her. That day we hugged the longest and with the most heart-breaking intensity. She left after that. Leaving her red gloves on the table.

Next day, to save our relationship I went to her place to talk. But it was locked. I asked the neighbours, they said she had left the place the night before. Leaving a note to be handed to me. It read, 'Don't look for me. I'll always love you. I'm sorry. - love Rosy'. It was her shabby little handwriting, it was her note. After a search with people she knew, they all said the same, the same thing that she had said to me.

Soon I moved to another city, with her gloves in my pocket. As time passed, so did the feeling of finding her. I settled in that city and married another woman named Stacy, the kindest and the most beautiful. Who loved me and who I now loved. We had twins, a girl and a boy. This was my little home. I was my happiest self after Rosy had left. I had somehow not thought of her over the years.

Until, I found the box. Inside were my graduation pictures, toys, medals and her red gloves.

The memories flashed in front of me one by one. How we first met in the college cafeteria, how her hair would be tied in a bun, how she smiled and laughed. What were her favorite songs, her most

traumatic moments, what scared her, what were her dreams, how sounded asleep, the sigh when she cried and the way I felt in her presence.

That's when I realized, I could never forget her.

Who could ever forget Rosy?

The girl of my dreams, one who wore quirky shoes and dreamt big. Who always found ways to make me laugh.

Who found comfort in my arms and I, in hers.

As I was reminiscing about the times, my wife called out to me. She knows about Rosy, all of it. And would often tell me I had the best college romance and humbled me by saying I had gotten a girl way out of my league.

But if she did not know about the gloves, I never told her. Neither did she nudge me to show her the box. That's one of the things I loved about her.

Years passed, our kids grew up and got into college. We moved to a bigger home, happy in our own little world. I told them about Rosy and about the gloves too. They said it was like a classic romance and shed a few tears between the story right after the break up part.

Soon, me and Stacy got older and our kids started their own family.

And too soon, I lost my beautiful Stacy.

I lived for four years alone at our old home, reminiscing about our lives spent there. Our marriage and the kids growing up.

Pictures of us hung on the walls and one of Stacy's inside my wallet.

A month later, I moved to my old city for the weekend. As I was grocery shopping at the local store, I saw her. Rosy. The wiser and older version of her.

Her silver hair was tied in a bun, she was laughing with a little girl. I presumed her granddaughter. It felt like the first time I saw her at the college cafeteria.

So, I approached her and instantly, she recognised me. We just gazed into each other's eyes for a while.

"Hello, Sanjay", she said with a smile.

"Hi, Rosy," I said, returning the smile.

I took out the red gloves from my pocket that hadn't seen any daylight and handed it to her, saying, "You forgot these".

THE END.

- Chandrika Bogati, SY Mass Com

## AROMA OF NOSTALGIA

Food has always had a unique ability to evoke nostalgia and take us back to moments frozen in time, certain dishes have become intertwined with some of our most precious memories, from the comfort of our grandparents, to the challenges that got us into cooking in the first place.

In this section of the eloquence you will discover memories through aroma and taste, shared by students. From their childhood favourites to hearty family classics, there's something for everyone.

So, gather your ingredients, preheat your oven, and let the aroma of nostalgia fill your kitchen as you embark on a delicious journey down Memory Lane. May these recipes tantalize your taste buds while you experience the memories of others and inspire your own.

### Tuna Mayo Onigiri

Every time my mother used to pack my lunch when I was a child, my lunchbox would come home either full or partially eaten. But, when she made these Tuna Mayo Onigiris, my lunchbox would be completely empty, devoid of even a single morsel of rice. To encourage me to finish my lunch she'd give me Tuna Mayo Onigiri as often as she possibly could, along with a bit of fruits and vegetables, of course...She KNEW this dish was IT for me!

So, here's the recipe for you all to make and enjoy too!

Ingredients (For about 8 Onigiris):

- 300g Rice
- Water
- Salt
- Sesame Oil
- Canned Tuna
- Japanese Mayo (or regular Mayo works too)
- Nori (Seaweed)

Preparation:

1. Place 300g of rice in a bowl. Add some water and gently wash the rice with your hands in a swirling motion. Throw the water out and repeat this process till the water is clear.
2. Soak the rice in clean water for 30 minutes and then drain the rice completely using a sieve.
3. Place the rice in a heavy-bottom saucepan and add 360ml of water. Bring the rice to a boil over medium heat. Once this is done, reduce the heat to low and let it simmer for approximately 12 minutes. Keep the lid on until the rice is cooked.
4. Turn off the heat and let the rice sit for 10 minutes to steam with the lid on.
5. After this, using a wooden paddle, or spoon if not available, fluff up the rice to help the excess moisture evaporate.
6. Then, in a large mixing bowl, mix your warm cooked rice, sesame oil, salt and sesame seeds until well combined. Keep this warm and set it aside.
7. In another small bowl, combine drained canned tuna and mayo together. Set this aside.
8. Cut a sheet of nori into 2 strips or you can use a whole sheet if you want to.

9. Lay out a large sheet of cling-film/plastic wrap on your counter or working surface. Take 1 cup of cooked rice and spread it out into a circle so its half an inch thick.
10. Place a spoonful of tuna mayo mixture into the centre of the circle. Take the corners of the plastic wrap and twist the rice into a ball pushing the tuna mayo mixture inside the circular ball of rice.
11. Follow this by shaping the rice ball into a triangle.
12. Finally, remove the plastic wrap and adhere a strip of the nori around the base of the triangle rice ball and ENJOY!

- Naomi Julia Fernandes, SYBA

## Potato Chops

We all have our own nostalgia meals and this meaty evening snack is definitely up there for me. My grandfather was a strict and stern man, but regardless I loved him a lot, and cherish all my memories with him, as a kid having my grandparents cooking was always a treat, no matter what they made, and as strict as he was my Gupa was an amazing cook. On many evenings when I'd come home tired he'd make these steak sized potato chops as a snack for me, and you best believe I devoured at least 2 of them, now that he's passed on, my mum still makes them from time to time and although they'll never be as good as the ones my Gupa made, they're still really tasty and serve as a nostalgic reminder of all the time I spent with him.

Ingredients:

- 5 Large Potatoes (Boiled)
- ½ kg mince (I'm using beef)
- 1 Large Onion (Finely Chopped)
- 3 Green Chillies (Finely Chopped)
- 1 Tbsp Ginger-Garlic Paste
- ¼ Tsp Turmeric Powder
- ½ Tsp Jeera Powder
- ½ Tsp Pepper Powder
- 1 Tbsp Salt
- 1 Tbsp finely chopped Coriander leaves
- 1 lime
- Rava / Bread crumbs
- 2 Eggs

Preparation:

1. Wash your mince and add all ingredients from mince to coriander leaves to a pot and mix well, add the juice of 1 lime to the mixture and let it cook on high flame till all the water is dried up, stirring occasionally. Once mince is ready, set aside to cool.
2. Next in a separate bowl, peel and mash the boiled potatoes, adding salt to taste.
3. To make the chops themselves, make portions of the mashed potatoes into balls of your preferred size, then create an indentation into each ball and fill with the desired amount of filling, close the balls and slightly flatten them.
4. Make a breading station with rava / breadcrumbs and beaten eggs in separate plates, coat the chops in egg first and then rava.
5. Shallow fry on medium-high heat and flip once golden and crispy, once both sides are fried, serve hot and enjoy with a side of ketchup.

Hope you enjoy this nostalgia filled recipe just as much as I do.

- Shane Savio Fernandes, SYBA

## Soy Chicken

"Mum and a few other colleagues were invited over for a get-together at their manager's residence. Little did they know that besides managing an office, he was a great cook. 'Soy



Chicken' was cooked to perfection and laid on the table. Mum couldn't resist to ask for the recipe and since then it has become a staple main course on occasions like birthdays and anniversaries or simply cooked regardless of an occasion"

Ingredients:

- 500 gms chicken
- 3 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp Tomato ketchup
- 1 tbsp oil
- 2 green chillies, slit
- 1 tbsp chopped ginger and garlic
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp Tomato ketchup
- 1 tbsp ginger garlic paste
- 2 tsp pepper
- Salt to taste
- 1 capsicum, diced.
- 1 tbsp corn flour + 2 tbsp water = slurry to thicken the gravy
- 1 tsp sugar
- Salt and pepper

Preparation:

1. In a large bowl, add in the ingredients and mix well until the chicken is well coated.
2. Marinate for 1hr
3. After 1 hr, use a saucepan, fry the marinated chicken with 1 tbsp of oil and take it off heat as soon as it is well cooked.
4. In a saucepan, fry the chillies, ginger and garlic, both the sauces and capsicum. Stir well.
5. After 2 mins, add in the cornflour slurry, salt and pepper. After a semi thick gravy is established, add in the cooked chicken and turn off the flame.

-Tanushka Pankar, SYBA

## Béchamel Pasta Bake

Hello wonderful readers,

I will be sharing with you one of the recipes that my sister and I used to make during the pandemic. This recipe has brought comfort into our stomachs whenever we missed going out. My sister is known to be the chef in our family and I am known to be her sous-chef. The recipe is called "béchamel pasta bake".

Ingredients you will need:

For Pasta:

- 3 - 4 cups Elbow macaroni or penne pasta
- 4 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tsp salt
- For Red sauce:
- 500g Beef mince (or any minced protein of your choice)
- 1 bottle of pasta sauce
- 4 garlic cloves finely chopped
- 1 big onion cut in small cubes
- 1 tsp mixed herbs
- 1-2tsp chilli flakes
- For béchamel sauce:
- 3 tbsp unsalted butter
- 3 tbsp all purpose flour
- 1 3/4 cup milk
- Salt and black pepper

## Directions:

Boil water with salt on medium heat. Once water starts boiling add in your pasta and olive oil. Once pasta is par boiled leave it in its pan with just a bit of the pasta water (you'll need to water to be added into your pasta sauce later). In a separate vessel, heat olive oil and add in the garlic, fry the garlic till slight brown and then add in the chopped onions. Once the onions become soft and slightly golden brown add in your minced protein and stir to fry the meat without adding in any water. Pour in the red pasta sauce and add in the pasta water into the pasta bottle to get that extra bit of sauce. Add this into the cooked meat and add in the chilli flakes and mixed herbs. Leave to simmer. Once simmer switch off the stove and add in your pasta into the sauce and mix well. Leave this aside.

At this point, preheat the oven to 220 degrees Celsius.

For the bechamel sauce, first heat the milk until the bubbles form around the edges. Leave aside. Take a heavy bottomed pan and add the butter and stir in the flour. Cook this while stirring continuously until this paste is cooked (do not brown this paste) slowly add in the heated milk from earlier while whiling continuously. Bring to a boil to let this mixture thicken while adding salt and pepper to season the sauce.

Once thick enough leave aside and start work on assembling your baking dish.

Layer the pasta with the sauce at the bottom of a baking dish, evenly spread the bechamel sauce on top of this, top this dish with grated mozzarella and bake in the oven till the cheese is golden brown (usually 10 -15 mins). Enjoy!

- Kristin D'Souza, SYBA

## Spicy Butter Maggi Noodles

This spicy butter Maggi holds a special spot in my heart due to its association with my early life, amidst tight schedules where my parents weren't home and looming assignments left for me to complete, this quick and flavorful dish became a go-to comfort meal. It gives me the joy of feeling like a MasterChef as I cut and fry and boil my various ingredients to heighten the flavour profile of my already delish maggi.

The spicy aroma of the Maggi cooking in the buttery masala sauce instantly transports me back to a comforting and memorable evening. It's more than just a convenient meal; it symbolizes the camaraderie of happy feelings to me, each bite resulting in a flavourful reminder of the first and easiest dish I've ever made.

So, with that being said here's how to make it:

## Ingredients:

- 2 packs of Maggi noodles
- 2 tbs butter
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 tomato, finely chopped
- 1 green chili, chopped
- Grated cheese (of your choice)
- 1 tsp ginger-garlic paste
- 1/2 teaspoon turmeric powder
- 1 teaspoon red chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon garam masala
- Salt to taste
- Fresh coriander leaves for garnish

Directions:

1. Boil Maggi noodles as per package instructions. Drain and set aside.
2. In a pan, melt butter over medium heat.
3. Add chopped onions and sauté until golden brown.
4. Stir in chopped tomatoes, green chili, and ginger-garlic paste. Cook until tomatoes are soft.
5. Add turmeric powder, red chili powder, garam masala, and salt. Mix well.
6. Toss in the boiled Maggi noodles and mix until they are coated with the spicy butter masala.
7. Once the Maggi noodles are well-coated, sprinkle a generous amount of cheese on top.
8. Cover the pan with a lid and let it melt for a couple of minutes, allowing the cheese to become gooey and delicious.
9. Garnish with fresh coriander leaves and serve hot.

Enjoy your spicy butter Maggi noodles! A dish ripped straight from my memories!

- Renba Fernandes, SYBA

## Chicken Biryani

Biryani is definitely one of the most iconic Indian Dishes out there and to me it's one loaded with memories, from childhood whenever we went out and reached home too late to make lunch, bawarchi biryani was there for us, and as I got older, I dare say my mother mastered the art of making quick and delicious biryani, making it a staple of our Sunday lunches and celebration meals, my mother's Biryani is the best I've ever had and although I might be biased it never fails to be a treat for the senses and the stomach too and if you try it I think you'd agree, packed with love, spice and everything nice, you really can't go wrong. So, here's the recipe of this soulfully heart-warming dish, for you to try and enjoy.

Ingredients:

- 1.5kg Chicken
- 3 cups/ 750gm Basmati Rice
- 250gm Curd
- 6 Large Onions
- 20 Garlic Cloves
- 4-inch Piece of Ginger
- 5 Green chillies
- Big Handful of Coriander
- 1 Fistful of Mint
- 2 Limes
- 2 Heaped Tbsp of Chilli Powder
- 1 Tbsp Turmeric Powder
- ½ Tbsp Garam Masala
- 1 Heaped Tbsp Ginger-Garlic paste
- Whole spices (Cinnamon, Cloves, Star anise, Cardamom, Bay leaves, Cumin seeds, Fennel seeds) to taste
- 1 Tbsp Ghee
- Salt to taste

Directions:

Slice onions and deep fry in oil till golden brown and caramelized, later drain and set aside (reserve the oil). In a bowl clean, cut into medium pieces and wash the chicken, for the marinade add Salt to taste, along with all the powdered spices and Ginger-Garlic paste, next in a blender add ginger, chilli, mint, garlic and coriander with the curd and half of the caramelized onions along with the juice of 2 Limes and blend, add this to the marinating chicken and set aside.

Bring water to a boil and add the whole spices, followed by washed rice and add 3 Tbsp salt, cook till rice is  $\frac{3}{4}$  cooked (al dente). Drain rice and set aside.

Take a large vessel for the biryani, add 3 Tbsp of the reserved onion oil, put in the marinated chicken and spread evenly, place the rice on top of the chicken, make holes in the rice layer till the chicken layer with a skewer, sprinkle the remaining caramelized onions on top of the rice and finally drizzle over with ghee, cover and cook on medium flame over a tava, add a weight on the lid and let it cook for an hour or till steam rushes out of the vessel, the aroma feels the air and the chicken is cooked.

Serve hot alongside raita and enjoy this classic Indian one pot Chicken and Rice.

- Shane Savio Fernandes, SYBA

### Goan Bath

Staying in the Gulf, always means missing out on your home country's delicacies especially "the Goan sweets" This sweet dish/item has been my favourite since the age of 6. Coming to Goa during the holidays especially Christmas time this Goan Bath was a must. As I grew up and settled down in Goa, I thought of learning this recipe and since it has been my favourite. It's very simple and easy to make. So here I am sharing a sweet piece of my heart with you!!

Hope you enjoy it too.

Ingredients:

- 65 grams Salted Butter
- 65 grams Pure Ghee
- 250 grams White Granulated Sugar
- 3 Large Eggs
- 125 grams Fresh Grated Coconut
- 250 grams Coarse Semolina
- 1/2 tsp Pure Vanilla Extract
- 1/8 tsp Nutmeg
- 1/8 tsp Crushed Cardamom
- 1/16 cup / 1 tbsp Rose Water (Optional)
- 1/16 cup / 1 tbsp Milk
- A dash of Yellow Food Colour
- 1/2 tsp Baking Powder

Preparation:

Make sure all your ingredients are at room temperature.

To a mixing bowl, add the butter, pure ghee and sugar. Using a hand mixer, on a medium-high speed, beat for approximately 5 minutes or until it turns pale.

Reduce the speed on the hand mixer to low and add the eggs, one at a time, mixing between each addition till the eggs have blended in well. Don't overbeat! When the eggs are well incorporated, add the coconut and semolina and fold them in gently, moving in one direction. Now cover the batter in the bowl and allow the semolina to soak for 8 hours at room temperature.

Preheat the oven to 350F/180C. Line a 7 Inch round cake tray at the bottom and around. Add the crushed cardamom and the freshly grated nutmeg to the batter. In a small bowl mix the milk, rose water (if you are not adding rose water, double the quantity of the milk) and yellow food colour.

Add the baking powder to it and make sure it mixes well. Immediately add it to the batter and gently incorporate it. Pour the batter into the lined cake tray and bake for 55-60 minutes or until a toothpick when inserted in comes out clean. Allow the cake to cool completely before cutting.

-Janelle DeSouza, SYBA

## Vanilla Panna Cotta Topped with Strawberry Compote

Panna Cotta is one of the most delicious Classic Italian Desserts there is. It is a delicate & creamy chilled vanilla treat. I love to serve it with an easy berry sauce.

The reason behind me making one is a little petty.

One day my cousin and I were discussing what we should bake, and then another one of our cousins remarked that we couldn't even make a panna cotta so to prove him wrong we DID!!

So, here's how you can make one too (4 actually)

The ingredients you'll need are as follows:

### THE PANNA COTTA

- 1 tablespoon gelatine
- 2 tablespoons milk (I used 2 %)
- 2 cups cream whole/whipping or heavy (470 grams)
- 6 tablespoons granulated sugar (80 grams)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla

### THE BERRY TOPPING

- 1 cup fresh strawberries
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon corn-starch
- 2 tablespoons water
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice

Preparation:

### \*THE PANNA COTTA\*

In a medium pot add the cream and sugar, heat on medium / low heat just until the cream starts to boil, immediately remove the pot from the heat.

In a small pot add the 2 tablespoons of milk and sprinkle the gelatine on top, let stand for one minute, then place the pot on low heat and heat just until the gelatine has dissolved (1-2 minutes), do not boil, then immediately remove from heat.

Add the gelatine mixture and the vanilla to the cream mixture, combine well with a whisk. Pour into 4 moulds or glasses, let the mixture cool then refrigerate for at least 5 hours or overnight or until the panna cotta is firm.

If using moulds then dip the mould into boiling water for about 3-4 seconds, gently slide the tip of a knife around the edge of the mould and invert onto a plate. Top with the berry

topping and serve. If using a glass then add the berry topping to the top of the panna cotta and Enjoy!

**\*THE BERRY TOPPING\***

In a medium pot mix together strawberries, sugar, corn-starch, water and lemon juice, bring to a boil then lower heat and simmer until desired thickness. Pour into a bowl, let cool then refrigerate for at least a few hours.

**Notes**

Cover any leftover panna cotta well and refrigerate to enjoy later for up to 3-4 days.

- Christiana Maria De Melo, SYBA

**Buko Salad (Coconut Salad)**

"My mother, originally from the Philippines, has not had the chance to visit her native land in quite some time ever since marrying in Goa. However the coconut trees of Goa serve as a nostalgic connection to her roots, inspiring her to prepare this Filipino coconut sweet dish. Since then, every summer, my mom has made this sweet for me. A dish that revives cherished memories of having it with her mother back home

**Ingredients:**

- Tender coconut shreds 4 cups
- Approx 5 tender coconuts)
- All-purpose cream 500 ml
- Fruit cocktail tin 850g
- Condense milk 380g
- Block cheese (optional)

**Preparation:**

1. Shred the tender coconut in a bowl either by using a shredder or a spoon. (preferably a shredder, to get thinner shreds)
2. Drain the fruit cocktail and pour it into the bowl.
3. Pour in the All-Purpose cream.
4. Add in the condense milk into the mixture.
5. Chop small blocks of cheese and add it into the bowl (desired amount).
6. Give it a good mix.
7. Refrigerate it for 1-2 hours and serve it cool, and enjoy!

- Ash Fernandes, SYBA

## LISTEN TO THE LINGUIST

- \* The inability to pronounce the “r” sound in English is known as Rhotacism.
- \* The Oxford word of the Year is “Rizz” which comes from the word “Charisma”.
- \* Other words that were added this year to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary include “padawan”, “negroni”, “nerf”, “simp”, “carbon capture”, “cold open”, “thirst trap” and another 683 words
- \* Essentially, the opposite of “Déjà vu” (the illusion of remembering scenes and events when experienced for the first time) is “Jamais vu” (a disorder of memory characterised by the illusion of the familiar being encountered for the first time). There is also “Presque vu” (the feeling one gets when something is on the tip of your tongue).
- \* The term ‘friendzone’ actually came from the popular American sitcom ‘Friends’.
- \* In English, adjectives seem to follow a particular order id est opinion, size, age, shape, colour, origin, material, purpose, noun. example. Sweet, short, old, rectangular, purple, Portuguese, leather-bound, fun novel.
- \* A palindrome is a word, phrase, or sequence that reads the same backwards as forwards, e.g. madam or nurses run. The fear of palindromes is Aibo phobia which is also a palindrome.
- \* Before beginning to work on ‘The Lord of the Rings’ Tolkien worked for the Oxford Dictionary for the chapter ‘W’.
- \* A person who is learned in a plethora of languages is called a polyglot.

## QUIZ

- Q1. Who is Percy Jackson's father?
- Q2. What book by Diana Wynne Jones was animated by Hayao Miyazaki in 2004?
- Q3. What short and round character in Gotham City wore a three-piece suit, monocle and top hat?
- Q4. Who wrote a series of comic novels about a boy detective and a white fox terrier?
- Q5. J.K Rowling shares the same birthday as Harry Potter. What is that date?
- Q6. What type of animal was the only one mentioned in the nursery rhyme Humpty Dumpty?
- Q7. Ned Nickerson is a boyfriend to which famous girl detective?
- Q8. Who was the poor orphan caught up in a Victorian criminal gang in a novel by Charles Dickens?
- Q9. A central or recurring image or action in a literary work?
- Q10. A sonnet is known to have fourteen lines but which one of Shakespeare’s sonnets is an exception to this rule?
- Q11. What is the name of J.D. Salinger’s only full-length novel?
- Q12. Who is the author of ‘Tivolem’?
- Q13. Ernest Hemingway’s ‘A Moveable Feast’ is set in which country?
- Q14. What does the Latin phrase ‘In Omnia Paratus’ mean?
- Q15. How many books are there in ‘The Chronicles of Narnia’ series?
- Q16. Which blind ancient Greek poet is now linked with an animated donut-loving cartoon dad?



Q17. Luke Skywalker was trained by Yoda and who else?

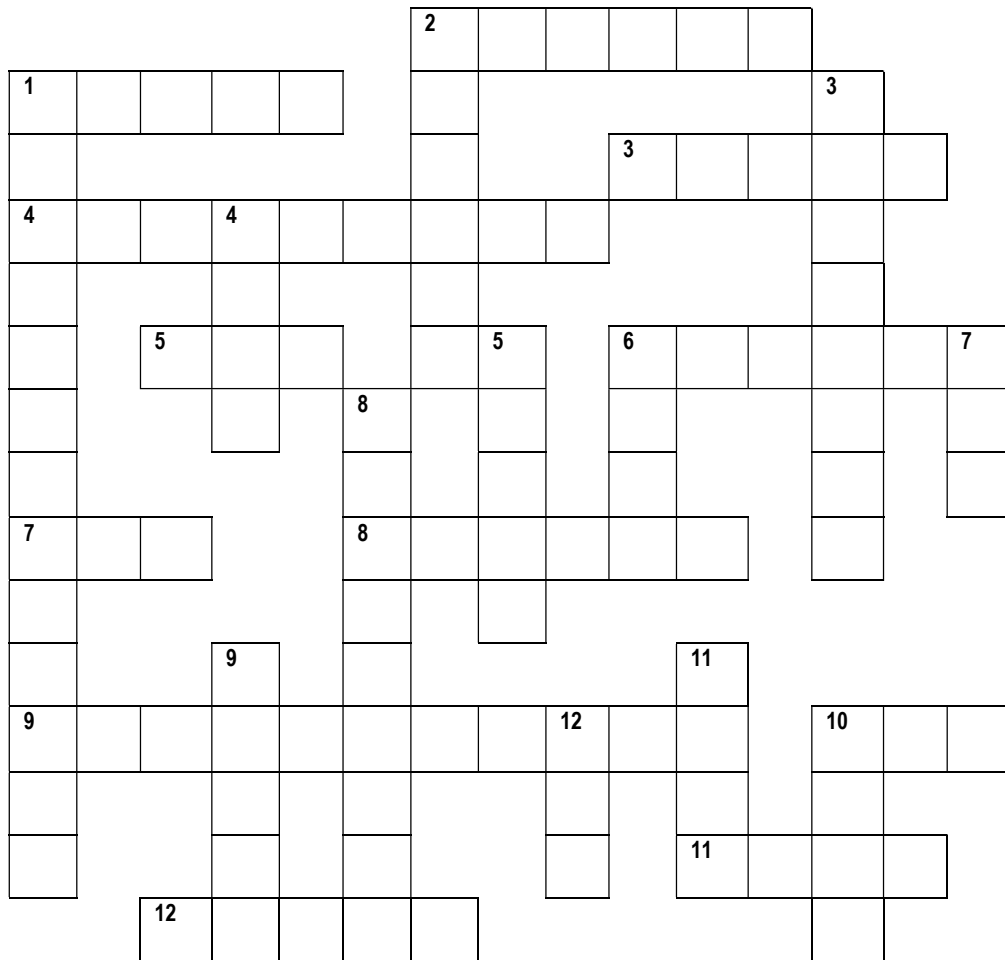
Q18. George Chapman was the first man to complete translating Homer's 'Odyssey' and 'Iliad' into English in 1616. However, who is the first woman to translate Homer's epic poems and in which year?

Q19. What was the name of the Weasley Family's owl?

Q20. What does one call a stanza (poetic unit) of three lines?

(Refer to the end for the Answer Keys)

## CROSSWORD



# Clues

## ACROSS

1. Organ in the skull
2. An underground/undersea passage
3. A plucked string instrument popularised by Hindustani classical music
4. Identify the maze-like structure depicted in the image given below
5. A cartographer is a person who creates a \_\_\_\_\_
6. Country with the most Nobel Prizes in Literature
7. Black, Red and Dead
8. A sea creature with a body full of holes
9. A 16<sup>th</sup> century Italian philosopher, author of *The Prince*
10. A genre of music that originated within African-American communities in the 1940s
11. A novel by English author Jane Austen
12. A small but noticeable part of a film, TV program or play performed by a famous personality

## DOWN

1. A literary genre that focuses on the psychological and moral growth of the protagonist from childhood to adulthood
2. Wimbledon is a championship for the sport \_\_\_\_\_
3. The more you have of it, the less you see. What is it?
4. Calendar duration
5. The laid-back bear in *The Jungle Book*
6. Dr. Facilier turns Prince Naveen into this amphibian
7. What has to be broken before you can use it?
8. A figure of speech that is characterised by the use of words having similar vowel sounds consecutively
9. The movie *Mulan* is set in the country \_\_\_\_\_
10. Name the city in which the monument is located (refer to the image below)
11. Number of sides in a pentagon
12. The fifth sign of the zodiac

### 4. ACROSS



### 10. DOWN



(

Refer to the end for the Answer Keys)

## Artists Galore



Kehya Dcosta, TYBCom



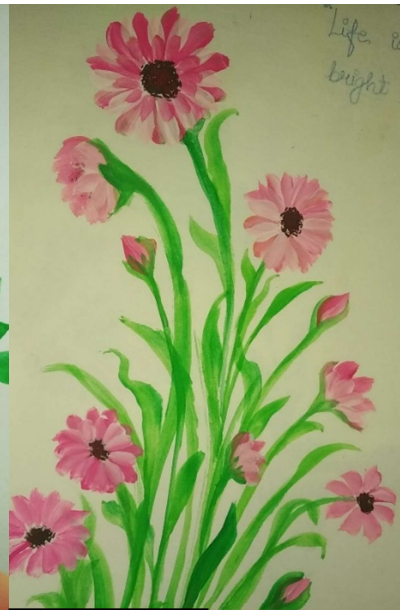
Disha D. K., SYBCom

Beauty in the mundane is a theme captured vivaciously through these artworks. Kehya Dcosta uses a pastel medium and vibrant colours to romanticise the magic of a still moment between companions strolling through the rain. Disha K. uses the tricky and delicate medium of origami to bring to life an adorable feline friend. Charlize Rangel, also using the pastel medium, illustrates the beauty of simplicity as many best envision it; a book, a cup of hot cocoa and delicious cookies.



Charlize Rangel

Charlize Rangel



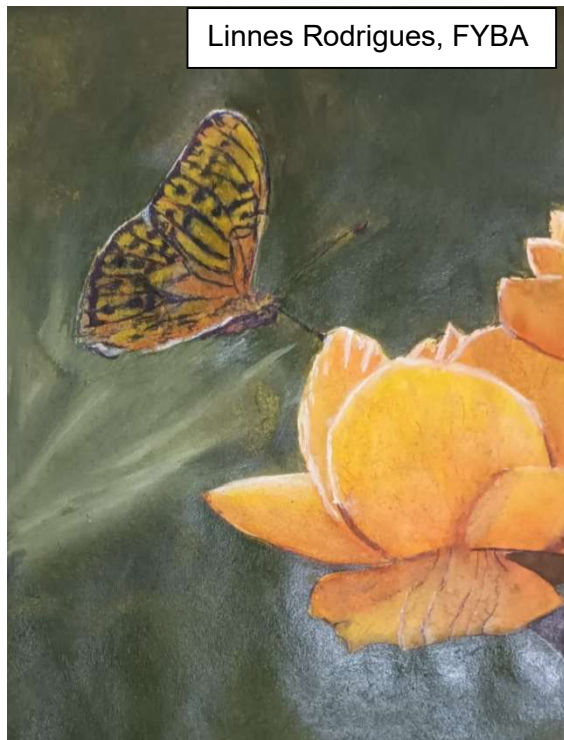
Arti Kumari

Nature stilled is always something humanity has embraced by capturing photographs from everchanging sunsets and skies, floral gardens to autumns leaves and a rainy day. Charlize shows us two extremes of what nature's beauty can look like –a bouquet of blue roses and the eye-catching red and orange of a bonfire. Arti Kumari illustrates the beauty of floral bouquets that can bring peace and tranquillity through both painting them and just admiring them. Linnes Rodrigues paints a butterfly fluttering down to rest on a bright flower shows great appreciation for the beauty of nature at a moment so common as a resting insect.

Charlize Rangel

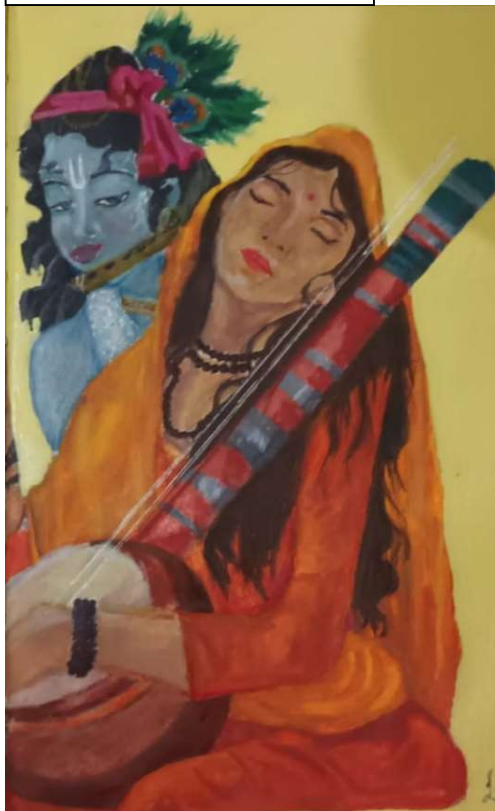


Linnes Rodrigues, FYBA





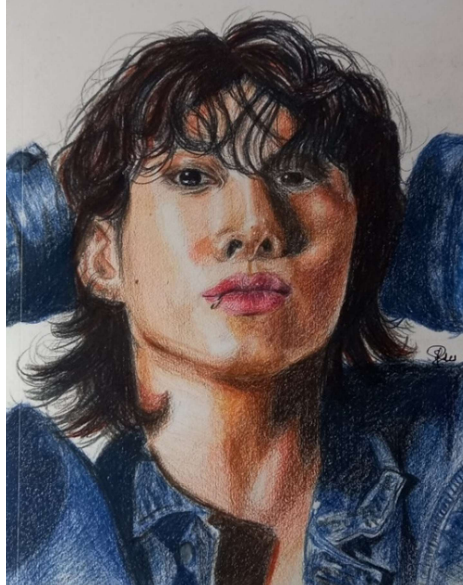
Linnes Rodrigues, FYBA



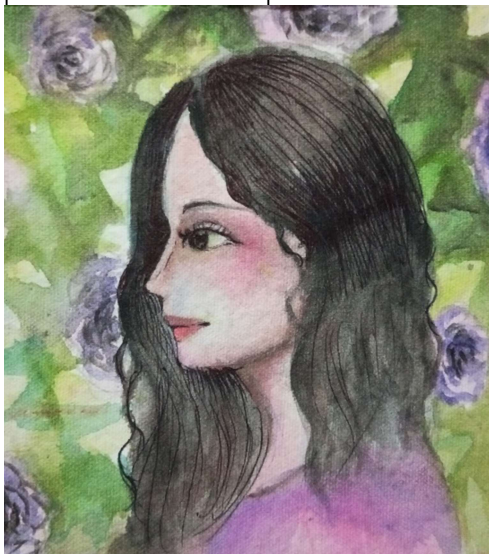
Arti Kumari

Just as beauty is in the eye of the beholder, it too is the beholder. We look for beauty in the abstract, nature, everything but we seem to forget how beautiful humanity can be. Arti Kumari and Charlize Rangel illustrates this well by sketching a portrait of her friend. Painting portraits can also be a way to showcase our devotion for gods and love for celebrities like Linnes Rodrigues and Suzen Fernandes

Suzen Fernandes, TYBCom



Charlize Rangel



# Answer Key

## Answers

1. Poseidon, Greek God of the Sea
2. Howl's Moving Castle
3. The Penguin
4. Hergé
5. 31st July
6. Horse
7. Nancy Drew
8. Oliver Twist
9. Motif
10. Sonnet 126: O thou, my lovely boy, who in thy power (contains only 12 lines)
11. The Catcher in the Rye
12. Victor Rangel-Ribeiro
13. France, Paris
14. Prepared in all things
15. Seven
16. Homer
17. Obi-wan Kenobi
18. Emily Wilson 2023
19. Errol
20. Tercet

## Answer key crossword

### Across

1. Brain
2. Tunnel
3. Sitar
4. Labyrinth
5. Map
6. France
7. Sea
8. Sponge
9. Machiavelli
10. RNB/R&B
11. Emma
12. Cameo

### Down

1. Bildungsroman
2. Tennis
3. Darkness
4. Year
5. Baloo
6. Frog
7. Egg
8. Assonance
9. China
10. Rome
11. Five
12. Leo







