



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



ELOQUENCE

Newsletter Edition 12
Department of English
St. Xavier's College, Mapusa-Goa
2025-26

Ink, Ideas and Ingenuity!







ELOQUENCE

Newsletter Edition 12

2025-2026

Department of English
St. Xavier's College, Mapusa-Goa



Publisher

The Department of English, St. Xavier's College, Mapusa

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From the Principal's Desk

It gives me great pleasure to pen a few lines on the release of the latest edition of the newsletter "Eloquence".

The Department of English has always been a hub of literary exploration and creative expression, and this newsletter captures the vibrancy of your pursuits. Through 'Eloquence', we see students and faculty sharing insights, celebrating literature, and sparking meaningful conversations.

I commend the editorial team, Ms Giann Fernandes, for curating engaging content and congratulations to the Head of Department Ms Sunita Mesquita and all the faculty members for fostering a community of readers and writers. Here's to many more issues that inspire, inform, and delight!

Best wishes,



- Ms. Ursula Barreto
Officiating Principal

Administrator's Message

The Department of English has taken this innovative theme 'Ink, Ideas, Ingenuity' for Eloquence this year. These three elements are very much intertwined. Ink gives shape to our ideas in the form of written words, and these give rise to ingenuity, the creative power that unravels new paths for moving ahead.

Eloquence is an innovative arena that fosters ingenuity which in turn helps the writers to think differently, or create something new by coming together and sharing their ideas. It is a great chance at being her/his imaginative best. We can look up to an author and a playwright, who is perhaps the greatest proponent of the English language, William Shakespeare. This path blazer continues to be a force majeure in the English literature even today, and, may be, the inspiration behind the new words that are being added to the dictionary in modern times.



“When ink records ideas and ingenuity shapes them, the result is progress. Every student who writes, every teacher who teaches, and every thinker who reflects become part of this beautiful tradition” of dissemination of ideas that help the individuals to grow, and the world to move forward.

I congratulate the English department for this much awaited event, and to the students who left no stone unturned to make it a grand success. I wish every one all the best, and more especially to all those students who will participating and competing in the various events that are lined up. God bless you all.

-Rev. Fr. Antonio Salema
Administrator

Message from the H.o.D

Eloquence chronicles another exuberant year in the life of the Department of English. We are proud to highlight the academic achievements, creative endeavours, and scholarly engagements of our faculty and students who have used language to sharpen thought and literature to deepen sensibility. As always, our department remains a lively space where educational experiences are stretched beyond the ordinary through class discussions, debates, literature festivals, field trips, research programmes, cultural events and career conclaves. This newsletter is evidence of the acquired ability to read deeply, think critically, and write confidently.

The year witnessed a transition in departmental leadership which felt like the ending of an inspiring novel with echoes of a quiet hope for continued excellence. Our Former Head, Dr. Prema Rocha who has steered the Department for more than three years, navigated shifting curricula, assessment demands and the ever-changing landscape of Higher Education under NEP 2020. Her tenure shaped a culture where academic dialogues mattered and student engagement was a hallmark. As a valuable outcome, the Department marks a significant milestone as our current Finalists are a pioneering batch who will leave not just as graduates but trailblazers

From the time that Ma'am Alice D'Cruz has retired as senior faculty on 31st July 2025, the department feels subtly altered where we miss a voice that once anchored so many conversations, classrooms and generations of students. Her supportive association with the department turned to a new page with her vibrant voice and passionate persona at WordsUp 7.0.

The arrival of a new Head inevitably evokes balanced skepticism. I step into this position fully aware of the strong foundations laid by my predecessors and the collective effort that has sustained the Department over the years. Change is literature's favourite theme but what remains is the Department's core values including a belief in the power of language, a dedication to teaching and research, and a shared responsibility to one another.

Putting together a newsletter like Eloquence is no small task—it requires editorial judgment, patience with drafts and deadlines, and a genuine love for ideas and words. My sincere thanks to Ms. Giann Fernandes, our debutante faculty, for her editor's guidance. Gratitude to the Editorial Team led by Student Editor, Ms. Kimberly Vales. Together, you have created a written universe that reflects a diversity of perspectives, freshness of opinions and a collective spirit that the Department takes pride in. Thank you for your invisible labour and for reminding us that good writing, careful editing, and teamwork still matter. As the Department aligns its vision with Viksit Goa 2037 and Viksit Bharat 2047, we embark upon a journey of stories yet untold while sustaining a culture of curiosity, creativity and collaboration.



~ Ms. Sunita Mesquita
Head, Department of English

The Editor's Voice

“Writing is an expression of the soul, a reflection of the present and a record of the past.”

Dear readers,

The department newsletter, Eloquence, embodies all the above ideas. Students put thought to screen and pour out their inner emotions through poetry, articles, or sketches. To sharpen the wit, we have challenging activities; and recipes to tickle the taste bud. Every student's and faculty member's achievements in research, cultural activities or workshops have found a place in the newsletter. Finally, the best moments of the academic year are captured and framed in our newsletter.

In today's AI-driven world, very few people pen original ideas, and one believes that creativity will rest in peace. But Eloquence serves as an optimistic testament that the ingenious streak is still alive and waiting to be heard. For many students, our newsletter becomes a first experience at being published. And there is nothing greater than the reward of seeing one's work featuring in a newsletter!

Eloquence hasn't curated writings only from English Major or B.A students. It features works from students across streams, marking the relevance and universality of the English language. We hope that every student and teacher will continue to kindle their inner ingenuity and find a spot in our newsletter. I am grateful to our Officiating Principal, Ms. Ursula Barreto; Administrator, Rev. Fr. Antonio Salema; Head of the Department, Ms. Sunita Mesquita and outgoing Head of the Department, Dr. Prema Rocha for their unwavering support, valuable insights and blessings.

Let us journey into the realm of words and art and we hope that the writer's writings resonate with you.

HAPPY READING!



- Ms. Giann Fernandes
Faculty Editor/Assistant Professor
Department of English

Note from the Student Editor

Dear Reader,

We are excited to bring to you the 12th edition of 'Eloquence', the annual newsletter of the Department of English bearing a year's worth of fulfilled dreams, literary experiences and achievements. As is tradition here, we not only have the chronicles of the Department of English along with works of prose and poetry, but also mouth-watering recipes, art, book recommendations and a fun section to tickle your brain.

Words were born out of a need to communicate, to express and to establish connections. Although we live in an age where creation has been left to the machines, the machines that generate perfect works with little to no errors and that have rendered words plastic, the crux of any piece will always lie in the human intention behind it, the raw imperfections and the emotions that run through it. This space stands as a testimony to everything that language can hold and, by extension, to what it means to be human.

I would like to thank Ms. Giann Fernandes, our faculty editor, for her guidance and attention to detail that helped shape this edition. I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the faculty of the Department of English for their invaluable support. A special thanks also goes out to the editorial team comprising Kelly, Vaibhavi, Kimaya, Anshika and Larissa for their cooperation, creativity and hard work that brought this edition to fruition. I would also like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all those who have contributed to this newsletter, adding to its soul.

May the creative works within these pages delight you as much as they did us.



- Kimberly X. Vales
Student Editor

THE EDITORIAL TEAM 2025-26



**Kimberly
Vales**



**Kelly
D'souza**



**Vaibhavi
Kerkar**



**Larissa
D'souza**



**Kimaya
Vengurlekar**



**Anshika
Thakur**

FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH 2025-26



Ms. Sunita Mesquita



***Ms. Alice D'cruz
(Superannuated on 31st July 2025)***



Dr. Maria Claudette Gomes



Dr. Prema Rocha



Ms. Shirlene Palha Fernandes



Mr. Aaron-Paul Fernandes



Ms. Giann Fernandes



Ms. Urvi Ghotge

Graduating Class of 2025-26

(Single Major)



"Just another brick in the wall."

~Shrutika Padte



**"Vienna waits for you."
- Billy Joel**

~Tavia De Souza



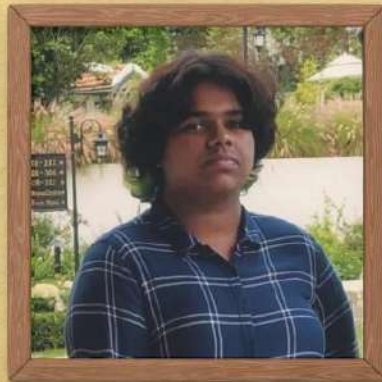
**"Nothing to be done.
Not on my watch."**

~Kelly D'souza



"At least I can say I did it my way."

~Janhavi Mhambre



Exit, stage left.

~Kimberly X. Vales



**"In the end, we only regret
the chances we didn't take."**

~Racheal D'Souza



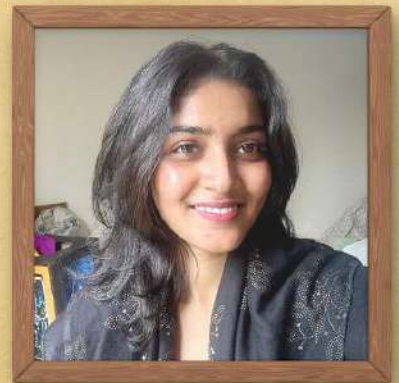
**"Hold on to the memories,
they will hold on to you." -T.S.**

~Andrea Rosario



**"College is finding yourself between unread
textbooks, unexpected friends, and impossible
deadlines—so I traded my pen for steel. Third
year isn't just studying the epic; it's slaying the
syllabus."**

~Ishrath Shaikh



**"Setbacks and flaws remind you
that you are human; progress
and acknowledgment help you
become better."**

~Hirtika Chauhan

Graduating Class of 2025-26

(Single Major)



"Trusting God with every step,
making friends on every way."

~Tabitha Mascarenhas



"Sometimes small memories cover
a large part of our heart."

~Annecya Fernandes



"You don't have to be perfect
to be successful."

~Valencia D'costa



"Believe in the beauty of
your dreams."

~Cynara Desouza



"Baked by a student, loved by
everyone — Reuella's Delicacies."

~Reuella Azavedo



"It all started with a letter
on a tree."

~Aloysha Fernandes



"Words give shape to thoughts
we are still learning to understand."

~Anangsha Chikhlikar



"Graduating with a phone full of notes
I never wrote."

~Valanky De Souza



"Attendance: optional.
Sarcasm: mandatory."

~Sania Colaco

Graduating Class of 2025-26 (Single Major)



"We didn't realize we were making memories, we just knew we were having fun."

~Chandana Raju



"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

— Eleanor Roosevelt.

~Pearl Fernandes



"Work hard in silence, let success make the noise."

~Ramona Fernandes



"Wherever He leads, I will sail."

~Brenda Mendes



"You define your own life, don't let other people write your script."

~Fariha Beig



"Nothing will ever feel exactly like this again."

~Vallencia Fernandes

(Double Major)



"No mistakes made, just some lessons learned."

~Ashwarya Pawar



"Lessons learned, memories earned."

~Charuta Moye



"If you expect disappointment, then you can never really get disappointed"

~ Michelle (MJ) Jones Watson

~Joyce Fernandes

Graduating Class of 2025-26

(Double Major)



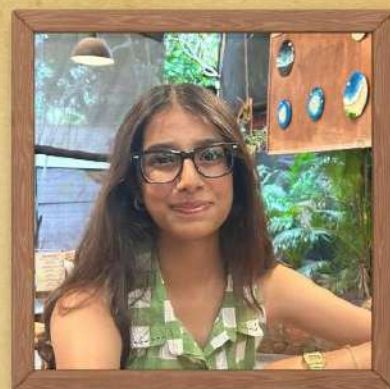
"I didn't come here to follow the script;
I came here to rewrite it."

~Megan Gomes



"Your voice, your opinions matter! What
are we without tales to tell?"

~Meloshka Cardozo



"Rocky road to graduation
—thanks, ice cream!"

~Bhoomi Mujral



"A student's journey is measured
not in grades, but in growth."

~Jessia Fernandes



"Through History we learn the past,
through Literature we inhabit it."

~Rachel Gauncar



"Graduating with endless memories,
unforgettable friendships,
and below 75% attendance ..."

~Saniya Pednekar



"Proof that I survived."

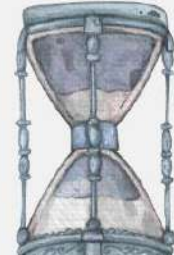
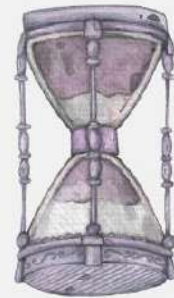
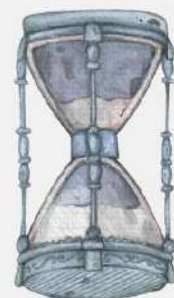
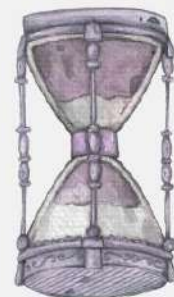
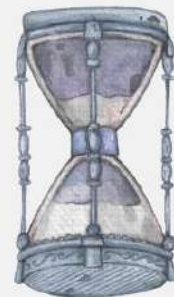
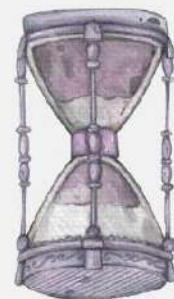
~Melita Pinto



"Romanticize that library window and be
ridiculously you."

~Cynthia Madgaonkar

DEPARTMENT CHRONICLES 2025-26



LAUNCHPAD TY: PROJECTS WITH PURPOSE: The Department of English, St. Xavier's College, organized "*Launchpad TY: Projects with Purpose*," a Third-Year Project Orientation Programme. The session was attended by 27 third-year students and four faculty members, with Ms. Alice D'Cruz as the resource person. (5 July 2025)

ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE: The Green Initiative Cell held a 'Trash to Treasure' competition. Student participants: Cynara de Souza and Pearl Fernandes, TYBA. (14 July 2025)

GUEST LECTURE, 'THE HORROR! THE HORROR!': Talk on Joseph Conrad's 'Heart of Darkness' attended by 20 Third-year students. Key speaker, Ms. Alice D'Cruz, provided valuable insights on the text. Faculty Co-ordinator: Dr. Prema Rocha (31 July 2025)

FAREWELL MS ALICE D'CRUZ: A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE: The college community bid a heartfelt farewell to Ms. Alice D'Cruz, marking over thirty years of dedicated service. The programme was attended by dignitaries including Officiating Principal Ms. Ursula Barreto, Administrator Rev. Fr. Antonio Salema, Vice Principals, and DHE representatives. (31 July 2025)

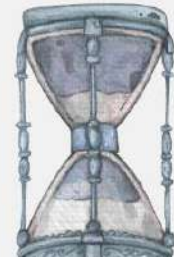
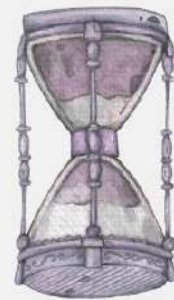
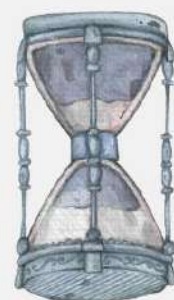
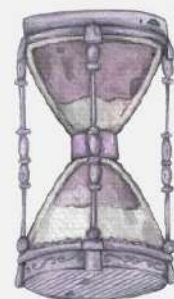
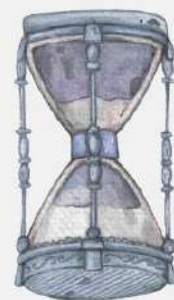
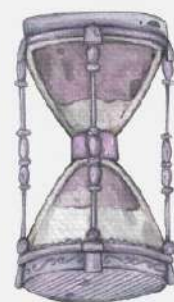
RELEASE OF NEWSLETTER ELOQUENCE: The annual newsletter of the department of English *Eloquence* was released at the hands of Ms Alice D'Cruz on 31st July 2025. (31 July 2025)

'MIND YOUR ENGLISH' QUIZ: Inter-collegiate quiz organised by P.E.S.'s Ravi Naik College of Arts and Science, Ponda. Shrutika Padte (TYBA) and Sumaiya Khan (SYBA) participated. Faculty co-ordinator; Dr. Claudette Gomes

ENGLISH TEACHER'S MEET CUM WORKSHOP: Dr. Prema Rocha, Dr. Claudette Gomes, Ms. Shirlene P. Fernandes, and Mr. Aaron Paul Fernandes attended the English Teachers' Meet-cum-Workshop on T.Y.B.A. Syllabus Implementation organised by the Department of English, Dnyanprassarak Mandal's College and Research Centre, Assagao. (4 August 2025)

NATIONAL BOOK LOVERS DAY, A LITERARY CELEBRATION: National Book Lovers Day celebrated in the College Library, with 41 students and four faculty members participating. A key highlight was the donation of books collected through the WordsUp 6.0 community initiative. Faculty Co-ordinators: Dr. Prema Rocha and Mr. Aaron- Paul Fernandes. Resource Person: Ms. Dakshata Zambulkar. (9 August 2025)

ONE DAY STATE LEVEL FDP: Ms. Shirlene Fernandes and Ms. Giann Maria Fernandes, Faculty of the Dept. of English, attended the One-Day State Level Faculty Development Programme organised by Dnyanprassarak Mandal's College and Research Centre on the topic: Integrating Performance in Classroom Teaching. The resource person: Ms. Runa Menezes, Assistant Professor, SGSLL, Goa University. (23 August 2025)



EPIPHANY 8.0: Ms. Anshika Thakur (SYBA) and Ms. Vaibhavi Kerkar (FYBA) represented St. Xavier's College, Mapusa at Epiphany 8.0, an inter-collegiate UG Seminar cum Research Paper Presentation and Competition organized by Dnyanprassarak Mandal's College and Research Centre, Assagao. The theme of the paper presentation was "Bridging Ages through Classics: A Teen Perspective." Ms. Anshika Thakur's paper title: "A feminist from the flames: Panchali's epic". Ms. Vaibhavi Kerkar's paper title: "The duality of pessimism: Dazai's inherent immorality and Dostoevsky's moral awakening". (20 September 2025)

STATE-LEVEL WORKSHOP ON TRANSLATION: Ms. Meloshka Cardozo and Ms. Hirtika Chauhan, TYBA and Faculty member, Ms. Urvi Ghotge, participated in a one-day State-level Workshop on Translation at Dhempe College, organised with the Institute Menezes Braganza. (7 October 2025)

FIELD TRIP TO LOUTOLIM, GOA: Second- and third-year English Single Major students visited Loutolim with Mr. Aaron-Paul Fernandes and Dr. Maria Claudette Gomes. They explored the Figueiredo Mansion, Big Foot, and Jila Bakery, gaining insight into Goa's colonial history, cultural traditions, and enduring Indo-Portuguese heritage. (11 October 2025)

VALUE ADDED COURSE: *BACK TO BASICS: ENGLISH FOR COMPETITIVE*

EXAMS: Value Added Course titled '*Back to Basics: English for Competitive Exams*'. Thirty students from various streams participated. Coordinated by Ms. Giann Maria Fernandes under the leadership of Dr. Prema Rocha. (2 September - 13 October 2025)

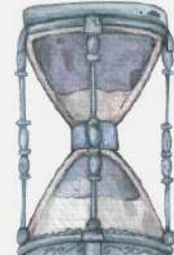
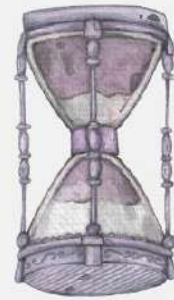
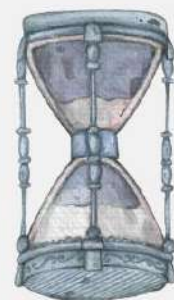
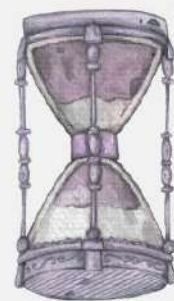
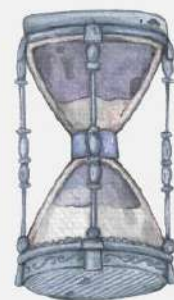
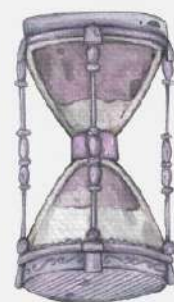
INVITED LECTURE: Lecture titled "Things Fall Apart: Rethinking Africa" attended by 23 TY students and 2 Faculty members. Faculty Co-ordinator: Dr. Prema Rocha. Resource Person: Mr. Aaron-Paul Fernandes and Ms. Giann Fernandes(6 December 2025)

INTER-COLLEGIATE EVENT: Team Zelda won the overall trophy at Pegasus Renaissance Ed. XVI organised by the Department of English, PCCAS, Margao, marking their eighth win since 2008. 19 students participated led by faculty coordinator Giann Maria Fernandes.(15 December and 16 December 2025)

SESSION ON GOA UNIVERSITY PROJECT GUIDELINES (UG) AS PER

ORDINANCE OA -38 : The session familiarized TYBA English students with project guidelines, report structure, evaluation criteria, plagiarism norms, and addressed queries; 24 students attended. Faculty co-ordinator: Ms. Sunita Mesquita. Resource person: Dr. Claudette Gomes.(22 December 2025)

LITERARY FIELD TRIP TO THE DOGEARS BOOKSTORE – MARGAO: 25 First-year English majors visited Dogears Bookstore, Margao, encouraging quality reading, literary appreciation, and broader perspectives; 25 students benefited from the enriching experience. Faculty co-ordinator: Ms. Shirlene Fernandes. Resource Person: Mr. Leonard Fernandes, Curator: Ms. Jessica Faleiro. (8 January 2026)



JAIPUR LITERATURE FESTIVAL: 21 English students from St. Xavier's College attended the Jaipur Literature Festival, engaging with eminent global thinkers. Across diverse sessions, they explored literature, politics, history, and ideas, gaining inspiration, insight, and a deeper appreciation of literature's transformative power. Faculty in-charge: Mr. Aaron-Paul Fernandes and Ms. Urvi Ghotge. (13 January - 19 January 2026)

BOOK RELEASE: Ms. Shirlene Fernandes attended the book release of Amitav Ghosh's novel, 'Ghost Eye' at Literati Bookshop and Cafe, Calangute at 6 pm. She was accompanied by 2 FYBA English Major Students. (17 January 2026)

PRIDE, PREJUDICE AND PERSPECTIVE- A PEER PRESENTATION: An interactive peer-learning session, where FYBA students presented *Pride and Prejudice* to SYBA English majors. Faculty co-ordinator: Dr. Prema Rocha. (21 January 2026)

THE BIG BOOK SWAP: Students of English Major, Minor, AEC, VAC participated in the Book Swap organised by the Department of BBA in collaboration with the College Library and the Literature Club. (21 January 2026.)

STATE-LEVEL WORKSHOP: Sir Aaron-Paul Fernandes attended a State-Level Workshop organised by the Department of English, DCT's Dhempe College of Arts and Science on "The Mechanics of Print and Digital Writing." (27 January 2026)

LITERATURE QUIZ 4.0: Jointly organised by the Department of English and the Literature Club. Conducted in January 2026.

Preliminary round: 24th January 2026. 12 Teams participated.

Final Round: 28th January 2026.

First place: Ramona Fernandes, Pearl Fernandes and Meloshka Cardozo, TYBA

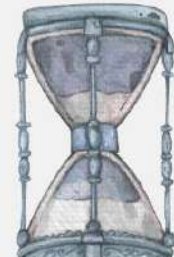
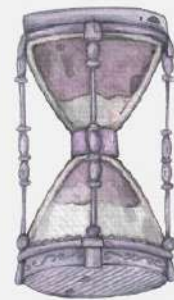
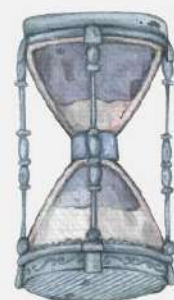
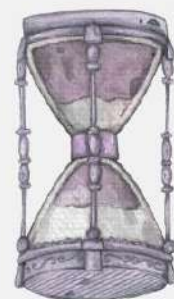
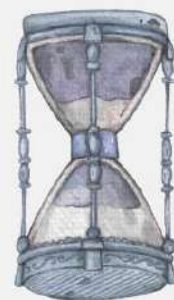
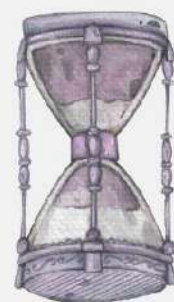
Second place: Shrutika Padte, Tavia De Souza (TYBA) and Sumaiya Khan (SYBA).

(24 January 2026 & 28 January 2026)

CAREER CONCLAVE: Organised by Employment Exchange, Government of Goa at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium, Bambolim. Attended by 5 TY students of the Department of English. (30 - 31 January 2026)

M.A. ADMISSION INTERVIEW: Kelly D'souza and Kimberly Vales (TYBA) qualified for the MA English program at St. Joseph's University, Bangalore, following their interviews. (30 January 2026)

BOOK EXHIBITION: English Major students visited the in-house book exhibition held in the college library. (9 and 10 February 2026)



ISA ACTIVITY-LITERATURE TURNS DRAMATIC FOR THE SYS: Students were responsible for interpreting characters in the drama entitled *The Waterfall* by Rabindranath Tagore by staging scenes and presenting ecological dimensions through dialogue, gestures and props. (12 February 2026)

GALF 2026: The First Year English Major students of St. Xavier's College, Mapusa, Goa attended the Goa Arts and Literature Festival (GALF) at the International Centre Goa (ICG), Dona Paula. (13 and 14 February)

WORDSUP 7.0: 16th and 17th February 2026

Writers' Corner: 14th February 2026

Theme: Science Fiction : "The Final Frontier: May The Words Be With You"

Writers' Corner – 14th February 2026

Session 1 – Keynote Address: Mr. Gaurav Padte

Session 2 – Panel Discussion: "The Scientific Cosmos: Deciphering the Impact of Technology on Humanity, Environment and Ethics" Panelists: Dr. Sarath Guttikunda, Dr. Nandakumar Kamat, Mr. Gaurav Padte Moderator: Dr. Frederick Noronha

Session 3 – Extempore by Public Speaking and Oratory Club

Session 4 - Open Mic (Afternoon)

Main Event – 16th & 17th February 2026

Participating Colleges: 12

Chief Guest: Ms. Alice D'Cruz

Faculty Coordinator: Mr. Aaron-Paul Fernandes

Student Coordinators: Ms. Shrutika Padte, Ms. Tavia De Souza, Ms. Kelly D'Souza

Overall Winners: Srinivassa Sinai Dempo College, Bambolim Runners-up: Parvatibai Chowgule College, Margao Second Runners-up: Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Sanquelim

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: Dr. Prema Rocha, Associate Professor, presented a paper titled "*Wounds Into Wit: Caregiving, Moral Injury, and Ethical Resistance in Em and the Big Hoom*" at the Two-Day International Conference on "*Ethics, Values and Human Dignity in Healthcare: Psychological, Literary, Artistic and Medical Perspectives*", at DCT's Dhempe College of Arts and Science, Miramar–Goa, organized in collaboration with Sangath and Manipal Hospital Goa. (23rd and 24th February 2026)

WINNERS OF INGENUITY CONCLAVE 2026: Sumaiya Khan, Kelly Fernandes, Iqbal Singh were winners of Ingenuity Conclave 2026 organized by Agnel Institute of Technology and Design, Assagao. (28th February 2026)

POST GALF SESSION: A session titled 'Continued Conversations – Awakened Voices Post GALF' was held where young GALFites shared how stories still speak to the heart (post-GALF reflections) and their experience at GALF 2026, attended by faculty of the department of English and students of FYBA (4 March 2026)

RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATION: Gyana – Research Paper Presentation
Competition Organizer: Rosary College of Commerce and Arts, Navelim, Goa where Ms. Giann Maria Fernandes (Assistant Professor, English) won Best Paper, Faculty Category for her paper "Constructing Violence, Reality and Filicide: Exploring 'The Pomegranate Queen' From a Student's Lens". Ms. Charlene Desouza (FYBA) won Best Paper, Undergraduate Category for her paper "Franz Kafka's 'The Metamorphosis': A Mirror of Today's Youth" and Ms. Stacie D'Souza (FYBA) presented her paper titled Scapegoating as a Medium of Injustice: A Comparative Study of Deceptive Characters in "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "The Great Gatsby" (7 March 2026)

ISA ACTIVITY-A GOOD LIFE WITH PLANTS: During an Ecology and Literature based assignment on Ruskin Bond's autobiography titled Lone Fox Dancing, students described chapters related to his life in solitude enriched in the company of Nature. At 91 years, students recommended medicinal plants for Ruskin Bond's better health while enumerating how these plants benefit individual well-being. (9 March 2026)

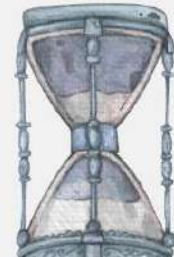
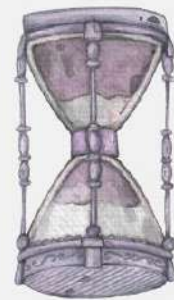
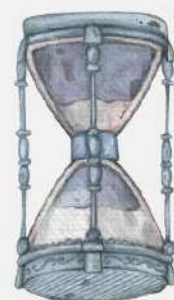
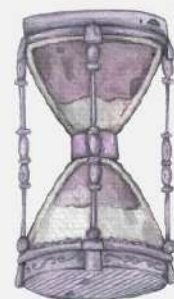
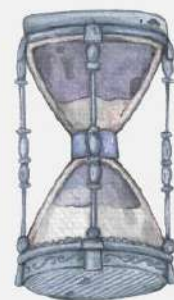
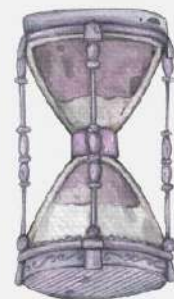
WOMEN'S DAY GUEST SESSION: The Department of English celebrated Women's Day by organizing a guest session featuring Vaibhavi Kerkar (FYBA), who shared profound insights into her journey as an author, focusing on her published short story. (9 March 2026)

GU-ART SESSION: Katherine Manuel delivered a session on GU-ART for TY students applying for the Master's programme at Goa University. (13 March 2026)

ANNUAL STAFF PICNIC: Department faculty collaborated with the Department of Physics to organize the Xavier's annual staff picnic. (14 March 2026)

LIT STAR 4.0: Kelly D'souza and Kimberly Vales (TYBA) participated in an inter-collegiate quiz organised by Rosary College of Commerce and Arts, Navelim and secured the third place. (17 March 2026)

GAMIFIED LEARNING: Miss Giann Fernandes, introduced the concept of Kahoot in her FYBA VAC: Introduction to the Folktales of India class. Kahoot is an online quiz platform that allows participants to connect with their syllabus and prepare for examinations in a much more vibrant manner. Student Rachel Nazareth took initiative and conducted the quiz for the class. (17 March 2026)





POET'S NOOK

You Choose You

For things to fall into place, they need to fall first,
For things to be better, it needs to be worst first.

The soul you gave all in,
just for your soul to get crushed in
Moments where you feel numb,
and you question yourself if you're 'dumb.

But it wasn't you, it was them
who made you feel all this,
Because maybe you did really give your all in.

Why Do I Choose Others
When I can choose myself,

Why be hurt?
If I can be happy myself?

Let all the things sink in,
Let it hurt so bad that you feel nothing.

Let happiness not be like the waves,
Which come and go,
Let it be the star,
Which will shine every night,
And let all the pain go.

-Manisha Pahadiya, FYBA

Jar of Melancholy

I am a raging can of soda,
Froze in the top shelf of persona.
In me was the overflowing river,
to which I was told to build a dam,
In me was the Kevin who got lost at the airport away from his fam.

I was never the door always the window,
Picked from the crowd always kept below.

I found crying as an escape until eyes showed the color,



Embraced in the beauty of all left one hollow.

Walls were better than humans when it came to listening
Said no word even with hammering.

I feel someone pulled the red thread of my brain,
Shattered like glass felt only pain.

My head throbs like the city road being dug up,
Body chilled like ice-cream's oldest stock up.

Carried nothing and still felt heavy,
Forced to live like this always envy.

-Manisha Pahadiya, FYBA

A Man in a White Shirt

He lived in a kingdom of pride,
Shook hands with the people who didn't want to hide.

Promised roads like he wasn't the one knocking doors.
But guess what?
We still slept on the floor, stomach empty, continued with our chores.

The people in the slums yearned for a piece of bread,
While he pretended to be the God who only fed.

Life like this where only their dreams shred,

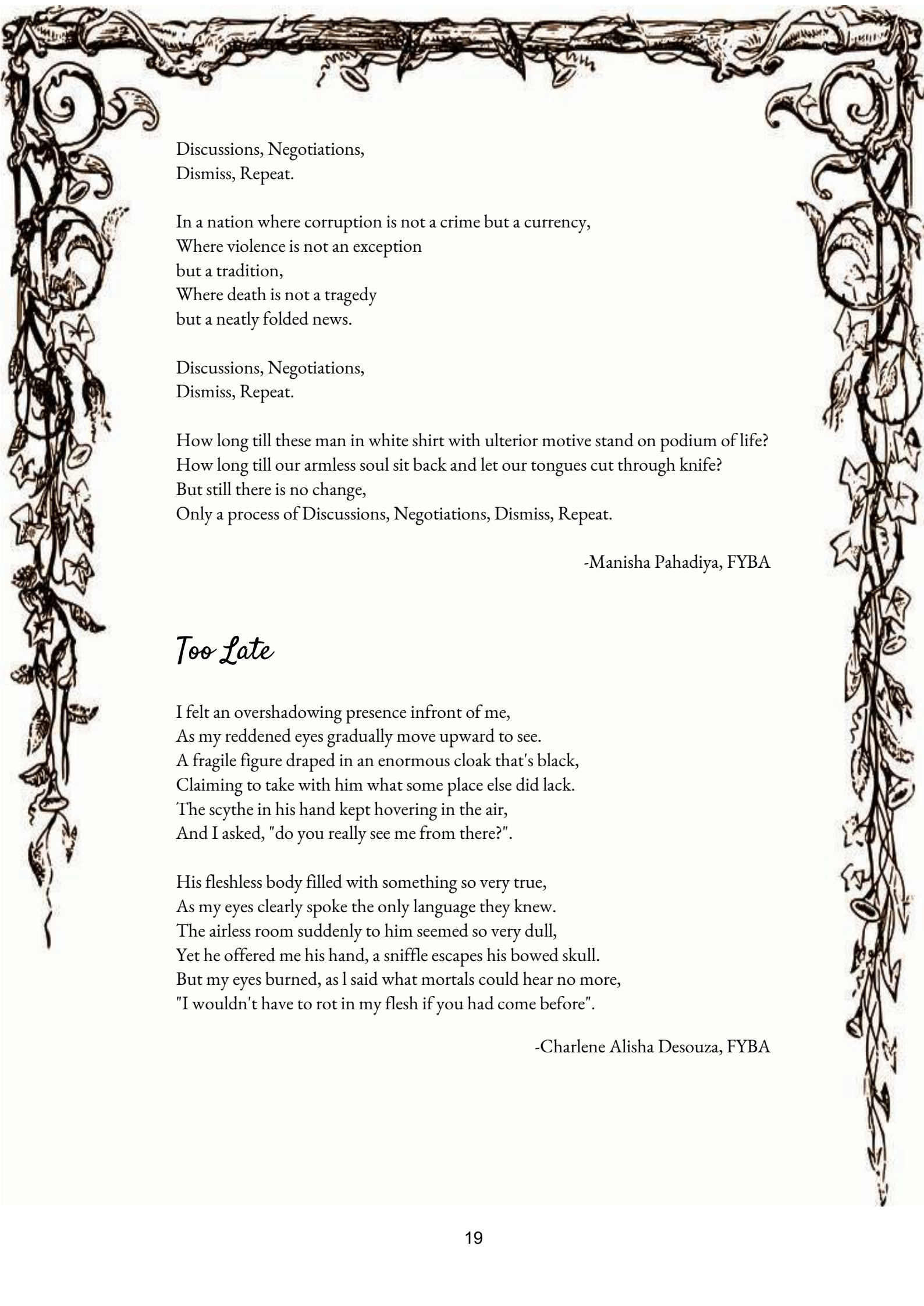
On a slate of trust, hearts filled with dread.

He cut the ribbon of a hospital that had no doctors and medicines,
An echoing voice from a shanty disappeared in the sound of engines.

Provided blanket only to receive double of that in his pocket.
Yet still we hope, for leaders true,
who keep their word and see us through.

So why live in a country like this?
Where rich becomes richer and poor becomes poorer?
Raise your voices and make a call,
Because surviving like this will soon make you fall.

In a society where ten-percent of the people hold ninety-percent of the power,
On a land where justice and equality are words that lay hower.



Discussions, Negotiations,
Dismiss, Repeat.

In a nation where corruption is not a crime but a currency,
Where violence is not an exception
but a tradition,
Where death is not a tragedy
but a neatly folded news.

Discussions, Negotiations,
Dismiss, Repeat.

How long till these man in white shirt with ulterior motive stand on podium of life?
How long till our armless soul sit back and let our tongues cut through knife?
But still there is no change,
Only a process of Discussions, Negotiations, Dismiss, Repeat.

-Manisha Pahadiya, FYBA

Too Late

I felt an overshadowing presence in front of me,
As my reddened eyes gradually move upward to see.
A fragile figure draped in an enormous cloak that's black,
Claiming to take with him what some place else did lack.
The scythe in his hand kept hovering in the air,
And I asked, "do you really see me from there?".

His fleshless body filled with something so very true,
As my eyes clearly spoke the only language they knew.
The airless room suddenly to him seemed so very dull,
Yet he offered me his hand, a snuffle escapes his bowed skull.
But my eyes burned, as I said what mortals could hear no more,
"I wouldn't have to rot in my flesh if you had come before".

-Charlene Alisha Desouza, FYBA



A Love That Unclasps

Your colours dance perfectly all over you,
Meticulous details etched with ink, forever new.
Your dance so calm, you express with grace,
My beloved peacock always lights my dull face.
Today I've unlocked your golden cage to let you soar,
Far into the unending expanse, for you to see much more.
Much more than golden pillars that halt your growth,
For I've vowed to love you and I'll stick by my oath.
I held you too tight but now you must learn to fly,
For how long more will I leash you onto my lie?
Your wings have now loosened and I watch as you go,
For my love is strong enough to hide the tears I don't show.

-Charlene Alisha Desouza, FYBA

The Impossible Leaving

You looked beautiful today, running in a hurry,
I never knew someone could look good with worry.
But that was until I saw you trying to catch your cab,
Your sweet fragrance sent to my heart a painful jab.
Not aging even a bit from the last time I saw you,
Your cheerful eyes, your windswept hair's hue.
Subtly smiling even under immense tense,
The kind of beauty that everyone saw through their lens.
I didn't hate you, I couldn't ever think of it,
I didn't love you either, that won't rightly sit.
For love was a word too mild for a feeling like this,
Just a glimpse of you was on my wounds a healing kiss.
You made leaving impossible but I had to go,
Back to my house and my wife, a smile to show.
But every time she did, only you reflected in my eyes,
While my smile was only built on hollow lies.
Today I'll be greeted with my daughter's warm embrace,
Her warmth is strong yet not enough to leave a trace.
My child looked nothing like the one my heart knew,
But how could I love anyone who wasn't you?.

-Charlene Alisha Desouza, FYBA



Save Me From Drowning

I wonder how the world is so quiet
around me,
or it's a silence that drowns me.

I don't want to wait for a happy moment,
I want to create.

I don't want to be burden on someone,
I just want to be my own soulmate.

The close I get to someone,
It feels a new way to destroy me.

Thinking about my life feels like a book without words describe me.

The ocean full of water hitting me with strong waves,
Taking me deep inside save me from drowning in it.

-Jafar Khan, FYBCOM

Journey of a Student Life

We write day and night, there is no one to look after what's going in our life.

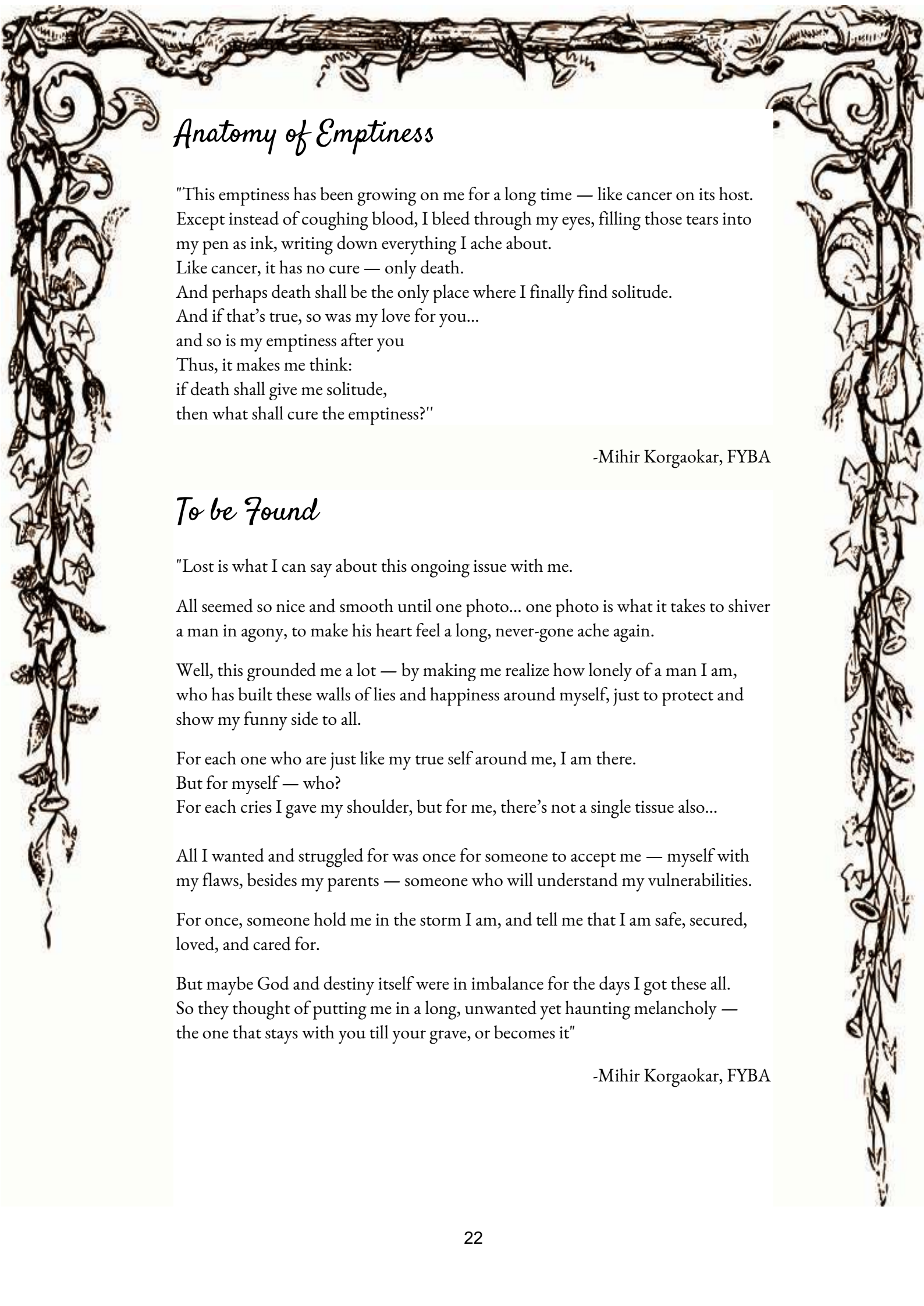
Each lesson learned, a stepping stone,
In this journey of life, we're never alone.

Our each day of life is like a roller coaster ride,
We study we pass or a depressive episode of our life starts.

The lectures blur, the notes unclear,
The grades slip down, the hopes disappear,
The pressure mounts, the anxiety grows,
A fragile heart, in silent woes.

With hopes and fears, we face each day,
In the dance of student life, we find our way.

-Jafar Khan, FYBCOM



Anatomy of Emptiness

"This emptiness has been growing on me for a long time — like cancer on its host. Except instead of coughing blood, I bleed through my eyes, filling those tears into my pen as ink, writing down everything I ache about. Like cancer, it has no cure — only death. And perhaps death shall be the only place where I finally find solitude. And if that's true, so was my love for you... and so is my emptiness after you. Thus, it makes me think: if death shall give me solitude, then what shall cure the emptiness?"

-Mihir Korgaokar, FYBA

To be Found

"Lost is what I can say about this ongoing issue with me.

All seemed so nice and smooth until one photo... one photo is what it takes to shiver a man in agony, to make his heart feel a long, never-gone ache again.

Well, this grounded me a lot — by making me realize how lonely of a man I am, who has built these walls of lies and happiness around myself, just to protect and show my funny side to all.

For each one who are just like my true self around me, I am there.

But for myself — who?

For each cries I gave my shoulder, but for me, there's not a single tissue also...

All I wanted and struggled for was once for someone to accept me — myself with my flaws, besides my parents — someone who will understand my vulnerabilities.

For once, someone hold me in the storm I am, and tell me that I am safe, secured, loved, and cared for.

But maybe God and destiny itself were in imbalance for the days I got these all. So they thought of putting me in a long, unwanted yet haunting melancholy — the one that stays with you till your grave, or becomes it"

-Mihir Korgaokar, FYBA



Magician

I look for you
In those thousand gleaming lights
You're nowhere to be seen
I should have known.

And these strangers
Never knowing me
I was hoping, beloved,
You would come.
I lied to my family
And everyone around me
Fell for your trickery
But you were never sorry.

You wouldn't even dare
Make a move backstage
To see if I was ok
You'd never know a magician's secret
So I guess you didn't want me anyway.

And if I disappear
Would you come looking for me?
Or say good riddance
She's gone anyway.

As I perform this final act
Will you come looking for me?
Knowing you're gonna lose me
Forever and ever.

-Kaira Pereira, FYBA

Fear

Fear that struck me,
Fear that locked me, Fear that would be seen day to day,
Fear that would lead me astray,
All day all night, it went on and on
I thought to myself, "How will I overcome my fear?"
And then I looked besides me knowing
God was near.

-Gresal Conchita De Souza, FYBA



If You Knew Me

If you knew me,
You'd probably walk away.
I'm glad you can't see through me,
But just so you know, I'm struggling today.

I'd deserve it if you left,
'Cause I've done nothing for you to stay.
I'm holding years of debt,
I wish I could repay.

If you knew me,
You wouldn't want to stay.
I'm glad you can't see through me,
'Cause who would choose to love decay?

If you knew me,
You'd probably try to run.
Try to find the nearest exit,
When all is said and done.

I won't cry, or whine, or weep,
I know this pain runs deep.
I wish for a chance to fix the unfixable,
But I know that won't be commendable.

If you knew me,
you'd probably hate me,
Leave before I hurt you,
It's my most horrific virtue.

But still, you're here, unaware,
of the weight I've come to bear.
I fear one day you'll see it too,
and realize I'm beyond repair.

-Samantha Fernandez, SYBCA



The Trees

The trees don't speak, yet somehow
it seems like they know everything;
They hold memories in their bark,
for as long as nature will allow.

The trees don't say anything,
yet you hear them cry in the dark;
For the trees, emotions are null,
But for me, when I feel— it seems dull.

The trees hold ideas longer than me,
so, some say, they're waiting to be free.
Lost are their leaves, season to season;
Why they stay? I have no reason.

The trees grow old, wispy and pale,
Some branches now, brittle and frail;
Hold on dear trees, for it's the end,
I hope now at last, they'll feel content.

-Samantha Fernandez, SYBCA

Impulsive Thoughts

"Do not say
What you do not mean"
An advisory statement
Never taken to mind.

For in the heat of a moment
Nothing really matters.
Until it's too late
And the bond between two shatters.

You regret it,
You wish you hadn't.
But a solution to it
You cannot find.

-Sofia Halarnkar, SYBA



The Yapper

As I sat by the window
Of the rumbling bus
The Yapper yaps loud in my ear.
I'll soon go deaf
Or my ear may fall off
I fear.

Stories unending
Stories told before
Stories i have no interest in
But on and on they go

How do I make it stop?
With tape or an apple?
What could be
The way most compatible?

To shut it out
With my own thoughts
Is the way I finally choose.
For in this way
No one gets hurt
And nothing we lose.

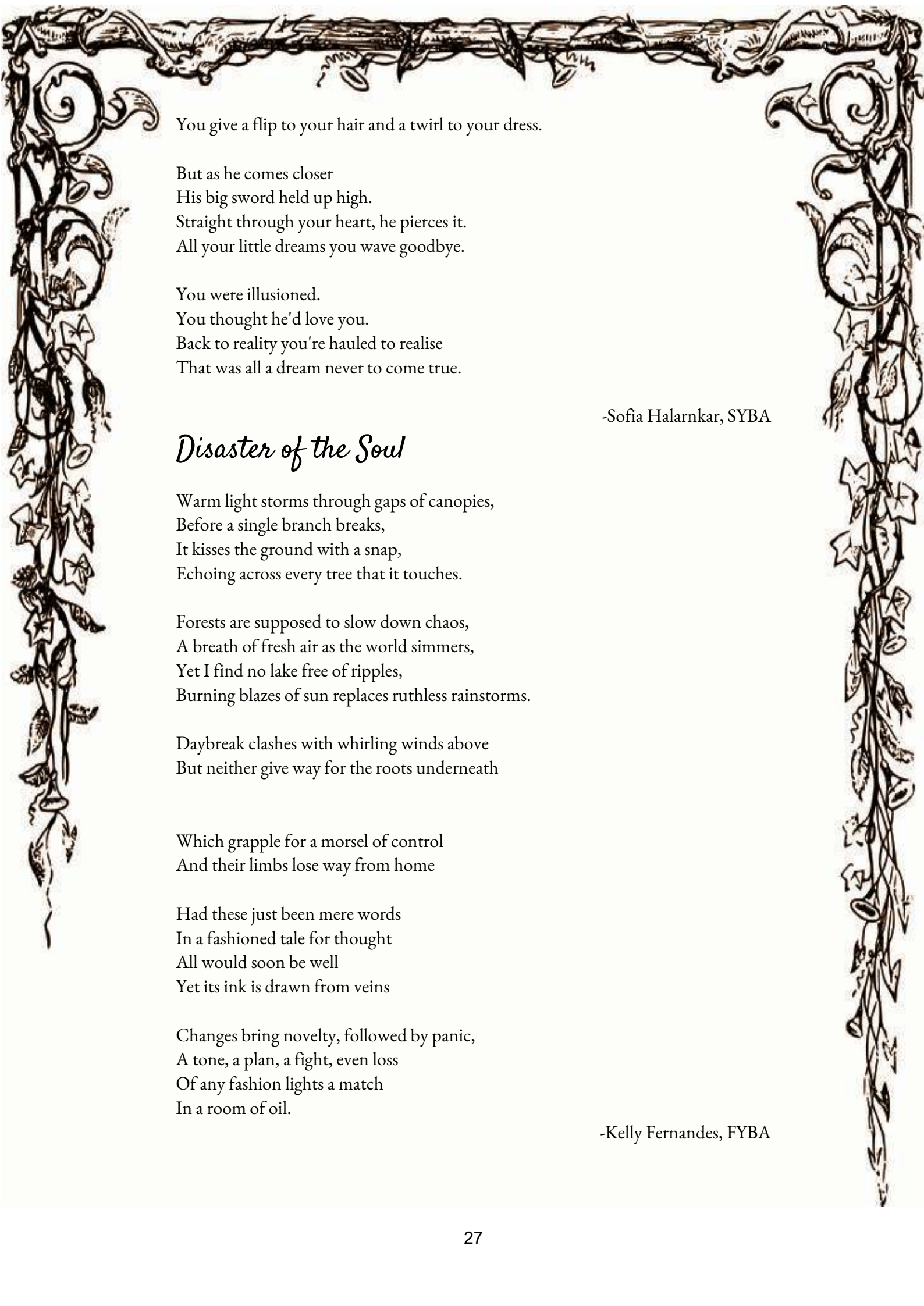
-Sofia Halarnkar, SYBA

The Illusioned

Through a field of green, you walked
The wind blowing softly through your hair.
A bird flies swiftly across the blue sky
A soothing sight beyond compare.

Then far in the distance, atop a stallion
A knight in silver with a head of curls,
He races towards you, all brave and tall.
An eruption of emotions from you unfurls.

Could he be the one?
Who saves the damsel from distress.
Your fairytale was coming true,



You give a flip to your hair and a twirl to your dress.

But as he comes closer
His big sword held up high.
Straight through your heart, he pierces it.
All your little dreams you wave goodbye.

You were illusioned.
You thought he'd love you.
Back to reality you're hauled to realise
That was all a dream never to come true.

-Sofia Halarnkar, SYBA

Disaster of the Soul

Warm light storms through gaps of canopies,
Before a single branch breaks,
It kisses the ground with a snap,
Echoing across every tree that it touches.

Forests are supposed to slow down chaos,
A breath of fresh air as the world simmers,
Yet I find no lake free of ripples,
Burning blazes of sun replaces ruthless rainstorms.

Daybreak clashes with whirling winds above
But neither give way for the roots underneath

Which grapple for a morsel of control
And their limbs lose way from home

Had these just been mere words
In a fashioned tale for thought
All would soon be well
Yet its ink is drawn from veins

Changes bring novelty, followed by panic,
A tone, a plan, a fight, even loss
Of any fashion lights a match
In a room of oil.

-Kelly Fernandes, FYBA



Company beats Misery

My neighbour is a bit strange
Walks across town never end
Without boasts from unfamiliar mouths
I note to quicken my pace
Escaping taunting truths.

My neighbour is intolerable
Whose name my ears fail to flee
Taking common place in rooms with me
The darkest corner catches unwelcome kindness
Comfort would pretend that ill will plague his nature.

I wish my neighbour were intolerable
Yet the source reflects an ashamed gaze
His feats fare heavier on scales in the sky
Clear blue defeats any trace of grey I seek
I'd rather fix my eyes to the earth
Than part with my wish for rain.

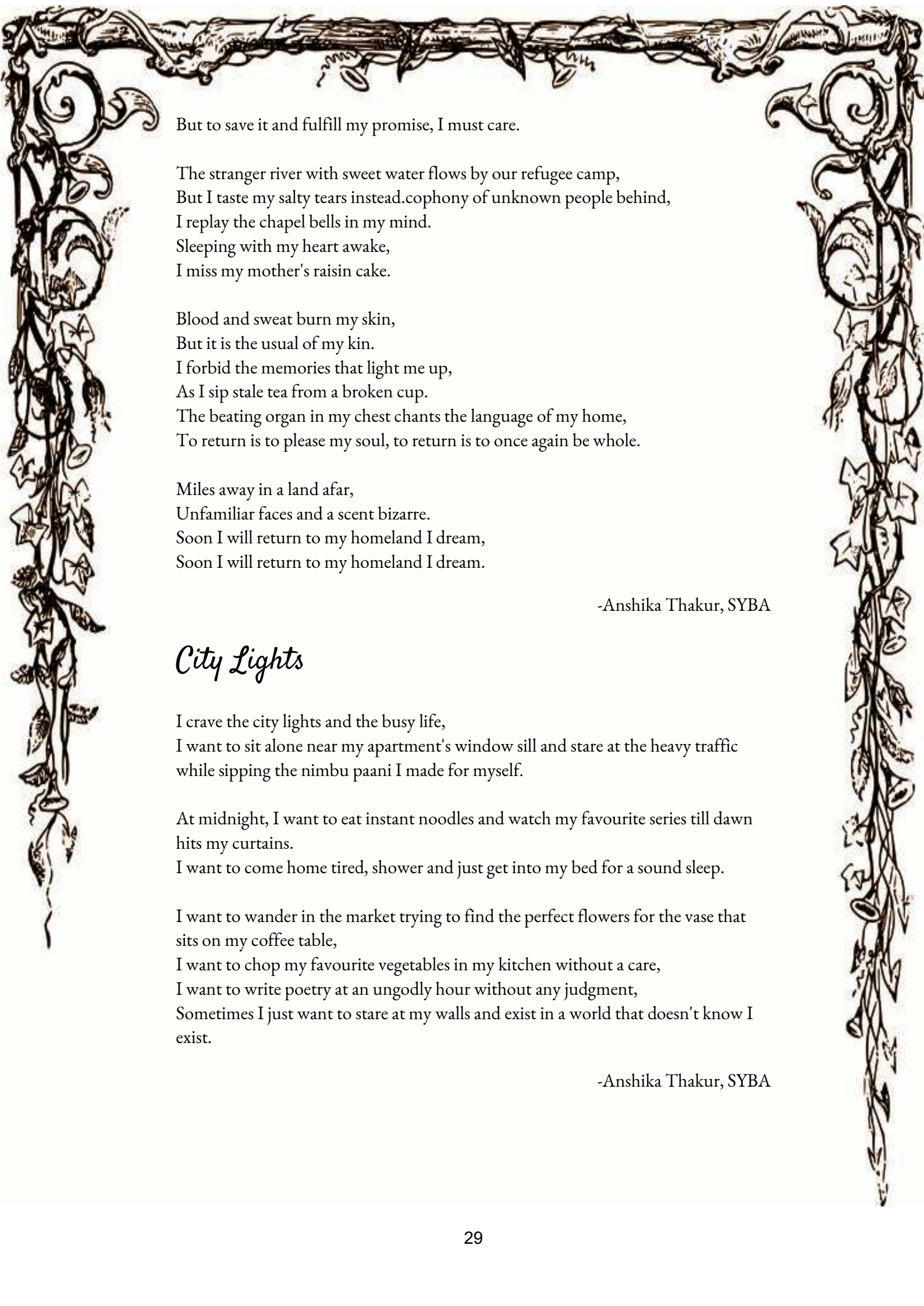
My neighbour finds himself in the middle
Unforeseen exchanges turn to awaiting future chats
A supposed absence of fault washes away to reveal cracks
Running past each breach lies a pulse
Long chats as dusk greets us brings me no protest.

I was mistaken for a neighbour
Blossoms emerge, their green cases shed with time
I act as I see, with a laugh at imagined disaster
I barely recognise dreading the image of another
As approaching days lay incomplete without that presence
Of that intolerable neighbour, or a dear friend.

-Kelly Fernandes, FYBA

A Land Afar

Miles away in a land afar,
Hills and prairies, grazing cattle there are.
But not the smell of soil I crave,
Not the streets and paths I'd pave.
My land calls my name like the sweetest prayer,



But to save it and fulfill my promise, I must care.

The stranger river with sweet water flows by our refugee camp,
But I taste my salty tears instead. cophony of unknown people behind,
I replay the chapel bells in my mind.
Sleeping with my heart awake,
I miss my mother's raisin cake.

Blood and sweat burn my skin,
But it is the usual of my kin.
I forbid the memories that light me up,
As I sip stale tea from a broken cup.
The beating organ in my chest chants the language of my home,
To return is to please my soul, to return is to once again be whole.

Miles away in a land afar,
Unfamiliar faces and a scent bizarre.
Soon I will return to my homeland I dream,
Soon I will return to my homeland I dream.

-Anshika Thakur, SYBA

City Lights

I crave the city lights and the busy life,
I want to sit alone near my apartment's window sill and stare at the heavy traffic
while sipping the nimbu paani I made for myself.

At midnight, I want to eat instant noodles and watch my favourite series till dawn
hits my curtains.
I want to come home tired, shower and just get into my bed for a sound sleep.

I want to wander in the market trying to find the perfect flowers for the vase that
sits on my coffee table,
I want to chop my favourite vegetables in my kitchen without a care,
I want to write poetry at an ungodly hour without any judgment,
Sometimes I just want to stare at my walls and exist in a world that doesn't know I
exist.

-Anshika Thakur, SYBA



Her Life Through Her Eyes

They call me impure, unholy and what not.
Even when it's as natural as water.
They won't let me go wherever I want.
They expect me to use dirty pieces of cloth.

Even when God himself protects me, they won't let me pray.
When the goddess herself bleeds, they won't let me worship her.

I may scream for help, but they won't enter those four walls assigned for me.
They'll celebrate the beginning of me, but later those same people won't even look after me.
They forget that they were born because of this same blood.

It breaks my heart when a mother, a sister, a woman won't take a stand for themselves.
When they won't break these stone-aged stereotypes.

Instead of pampering each other, satisfying each other's cravings, making sure that they're okay, giving hot packs to each other, we turn our backs because of these so called superstitions.

They say that it's been proven scientifically, but tell me one thing,
Is the scientific reason more important or the woman who just craves for happiness and emotional support.

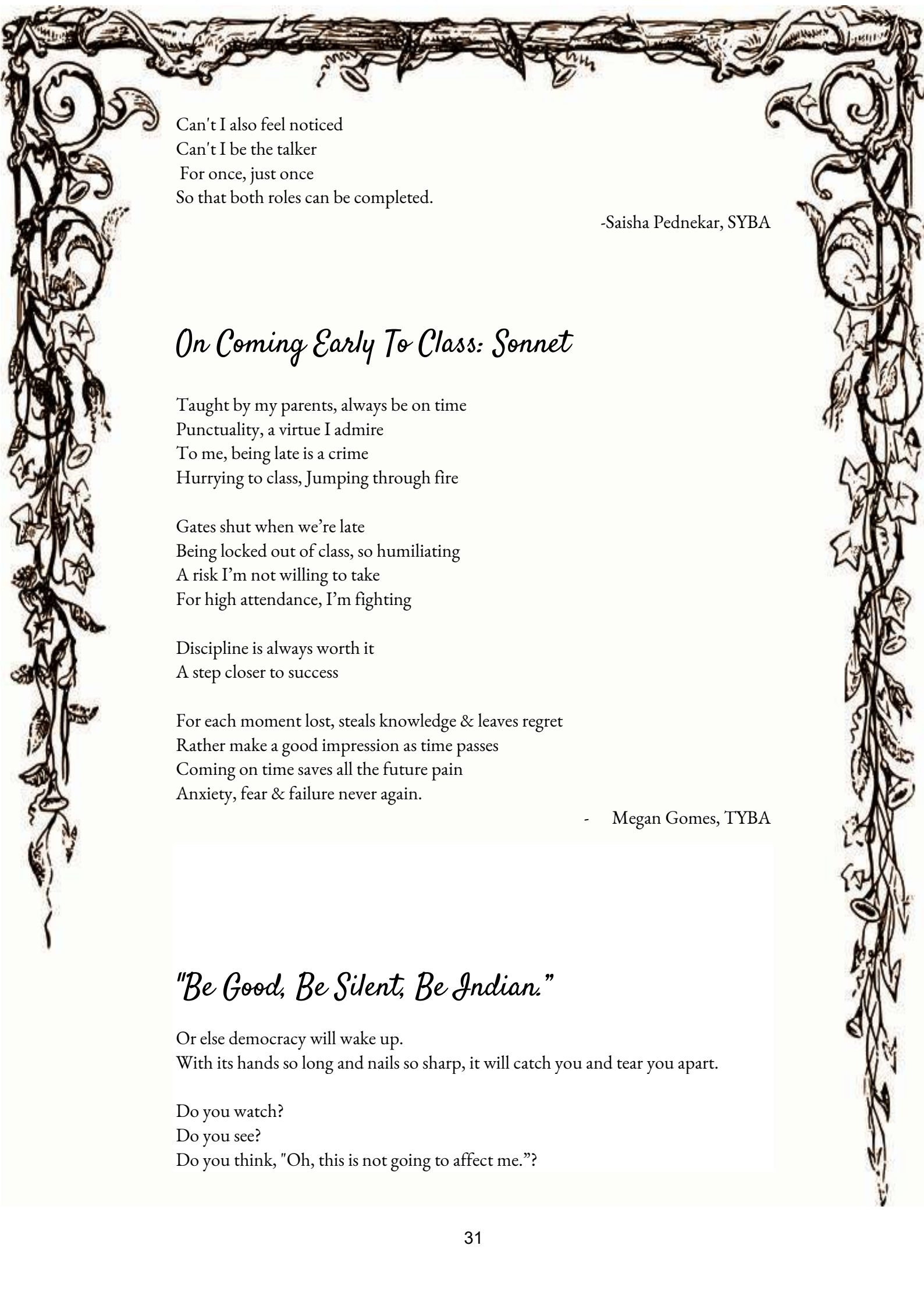
-Vismaya Raut, SYBA

The Listener

Have you ever realized,
That in your life, maybe
You have always been a listener,
The kind that heals people,
The kind that, makes people feel noticed

The listener to their problems,
But again, at some point
There you are, the listener to everyone
Thinking, will I always be the listener

Can't the world listen to what I have to say



Can't I also feel noticed
Can't I be the talker
For once, just once
So that both roles can be completed.

-Saisha Pednekar, SYBA

On Coming Early To Class: Sonnet

Taught by my parents, always be on time
Punctuality, a virtue I admire
To me, being late is a crime
Hurrying to class, Jumping through fire

Gates shut when we're late
Being locked out of class, so humiliating
A risk I'm not willing to take
For high attendance, I'm fighting

Discipline is always worth it
A step closer to success

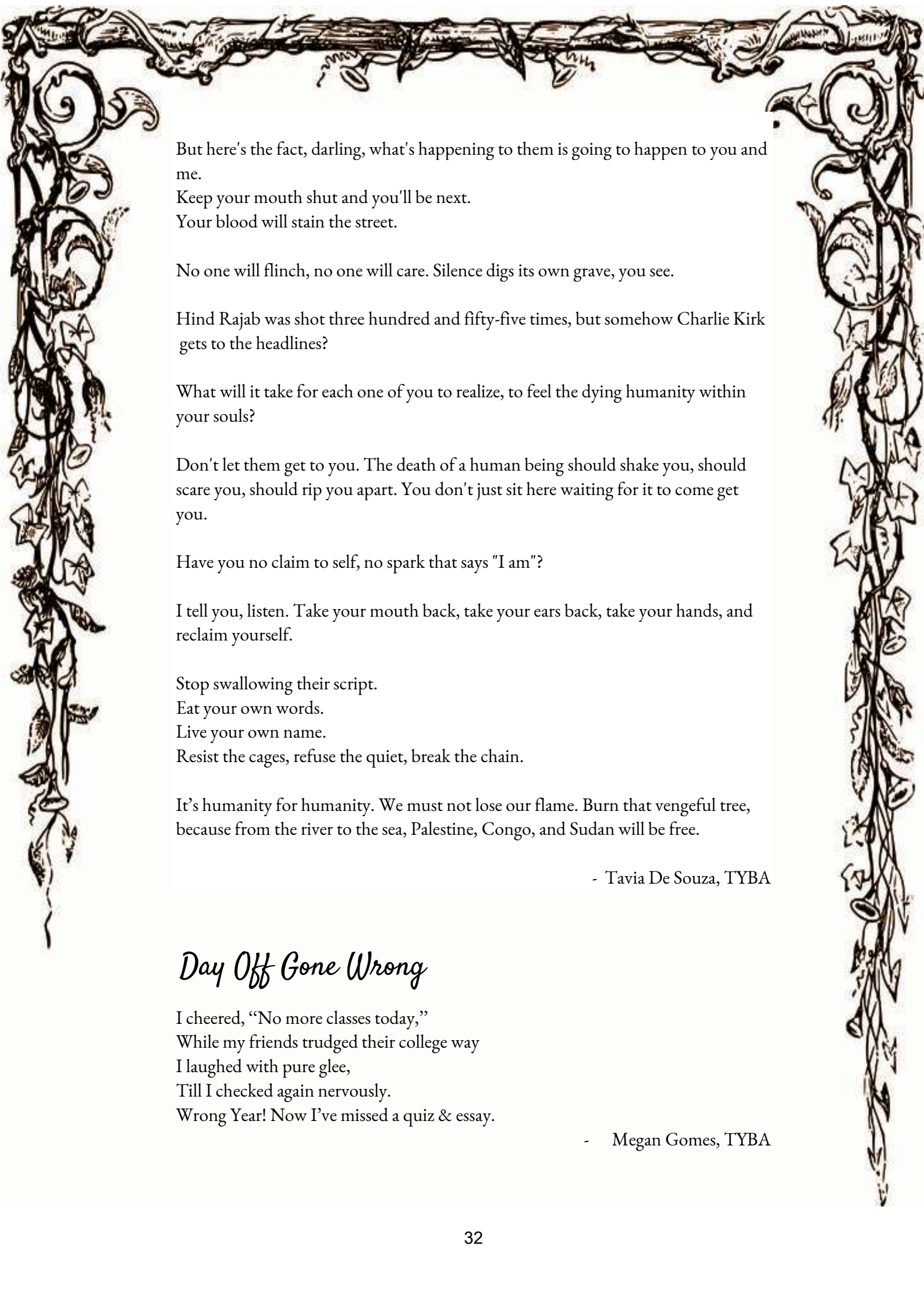
For each moment lost, steals knowledge & leaves regret
Rather make a good impression as time passes
Coming on time saves all the future pain
Anxiety, fear & failure never again.

- Megan Gomes, TYBA

"Be Good, Be Silent, Be Indian."

Or else democracy will wake up.
With its hands so long and nails so sharp, it will catch you and tear you apart.

Do you watch?
Do you see?
Do you think, "Oh, this is not going to affect me."?



But here's the fact, darling, what's happening to them is going to happen to you and me.

Keep your mouth shut and you'll be next.
Your blood will stain the street.

No one will flinch, no one will care. Silence digs its own grave, you see.

Hind Rajab was shot three hundred and fifty-five times, but somehow Charlie Kirk gets to the headlines?

What will it take for each one of you to realize, to feel the dying humanity within your souls?

Don't let them get to you. The death of a human being should shake you, should scare you, should rip you apart. You don't just sit here waiting for it to come get you.

Have you no claim to self, no spark that says "I am"?

I tell you, listen. Take your mouth back, take your ears back, take your hands, and reclaim yourself.

Stop swallowing their script.
Eat your own words.
Live your own name.
Resist the cages, refuse the quiet, break the chain.

It's humanity for humanity. We must not lose our flame. Burn that vengeful tree, because from the river to the sea, Palestine, Congo, and Sudan will be free.

- Tavia De Souza, TYBA

Day Off Gone Wrong

I cheered, "No more classes today,"
While my friends trudged their college way
I laughed with pure glee,
Till I checked again nervously.
Wrong Year! Now I've missed a quiz & essay.

- Megan Gomes, TYBA



Atrocities

The working class
caught in the corporate hellhole;
Forever receiving the bare minimum to survive,
While the billion dollar industry works underneath the table.
A labyrinth without a finish line.
A system that feeds on our fear and insecurities.
A system where justice is a dish served rotten.

The gluttonous men draped in cash,
Blindfolded to the plight of the cadavers.
Power-hungry men that eat war for breakfast;
Oblivious to the sound of missiles, hiding in their evil lairs.
While the smiles of innocent faces are wiped away from existence.

Oh, the inherent apathy of the masses frightens me.
There is blood on our hands; on each and every one of us.
And when the veil of darkness descends upon the earth,
You stand on a barren land that has drunk the blood of your comrades.
What are you going to do then?
Other than tremble incessantly?

- Shrutika Padte, TYBA

"Song Of The Sea"

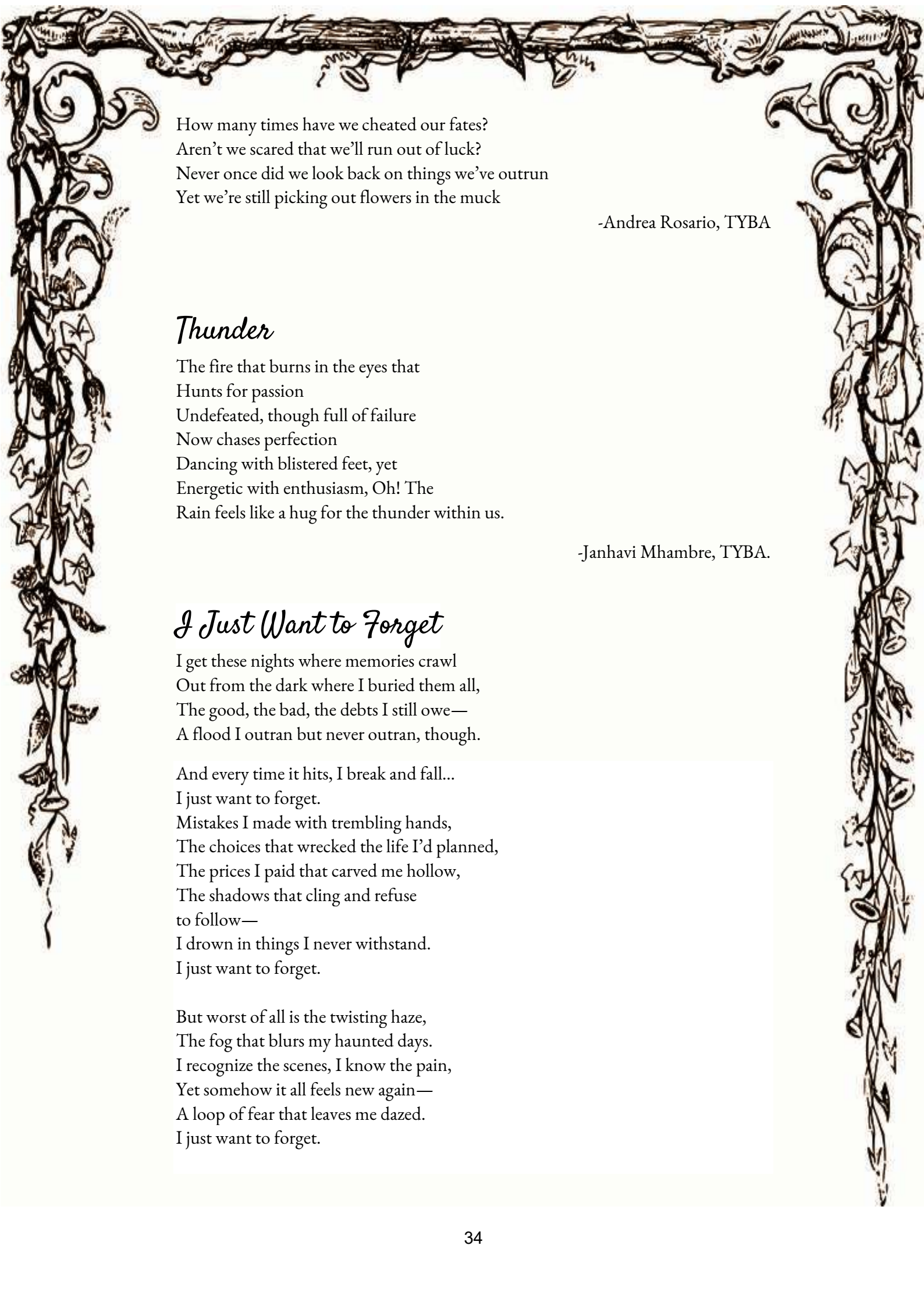
The sea is wide, the sea is deep,
It sings to us when we are asleep.
Waves that crash and waves that play,
Carry our dreams far away.

The breeze is soft, the salt is sweet,
Where the sky and the ocean meet.
The sea reminds, with each return,
There is always something new to learn.

-Annecya Valina Fernandes, TYBA

Epiphany

Every so often I wonder if there's a
Price that we pay for a pondering thought
In moments so dull that we wander
Play games and we play against gods



How many times have we cheated our fates?
Aren't we scared that we'll run out of luck?
Never once did we look back on things we've outrun
Yet we're still picking out flowers in the muck

-Andrea Rosario, TYBA

Thunder

The fire that burns in the eyes that
Hunts for passion
Undeclared, though full of failure
Now chases perfection
Dancing with blistered feet, yet
Energetic with enthusiasm, Oh! The
Rain feels like a hug for the thunder within us.

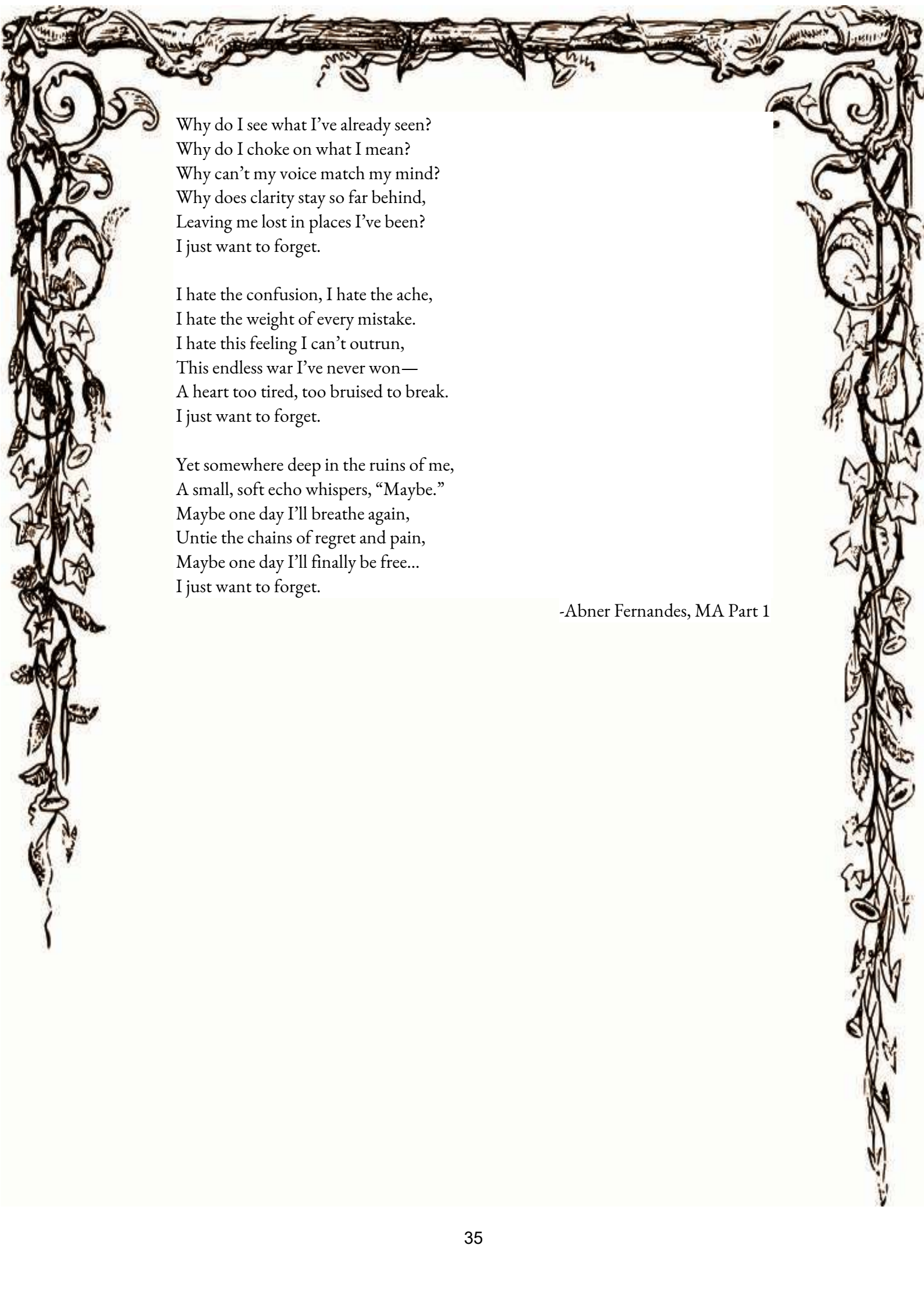
-Janhavi Mhambre, TYBA.

I Just Want to Forget

I get these nights where memories crawl
Out from the dark where I buried them all,
The good, the bad, the debts I still owe—
A flood I outran but never outran, though.

And every time it hits, I break and fall...
I just want to forget.
Mistakes I made with trembling hands,
The choices that wrecked the life I'd planned,
The prices I paid that carved me hollow,
The shadows that cling and refuse
to follow—
I drown in things I never withstand.
I just want to forget.

But worst of all is the twisting haze,
The fog that blurs my haunted days.
I recognize the scenes, I know the pain,
Yet somehow it all feels new again—
A loop of fear that leaves me dazed.
I just want to forget.

A decorative border of a vine with leaves and flowers runs along the top, left, and right edges of the page. The vine is drawn in a detailed, sketch-like style with fine lines and shading.

Why do I see what I've already seen?
Why do I choke on what I mean?
Why can't my voice match my mind?
Why does clarity stay so far behind,
Leaving me lost in places I've been?
I just want to forget.

I hate the confusion, I hate the ache,
I hate the weight of every mistake.
I hate this feeling I can't outrun,
This endless war I've never won—
A heart too tired, too bruised to break.
I just want to forget.

Yet somewhere deep in the ruins of me,
A small, soft echo whispers, "Maybe."
Maybe one day I'll breathe again,
Untie the chains of regret and pain,
Maybe one day I'll finally be free...
I just want to forget.

-Abner Fernandes, MA Part 1

Prose Perspective

Are We Living or Just Scrolling?

How many nights have we spent mindlessly scrolling through Instagram, and how many smiles and reactions of our friends have we missed because we were simply too busy taking the perfect picture for our Instagram story? And not to mention, when we're conversing with our family, do we notice the hurt that flickers on their face like the sheen of moonlight, as we ignore them to scroll through the lives of those that we do not even know?

It's the 21st century, and social media—be it Instagram, X (formerly known as Twitter until Elon Musk decided to completely ruin the iconic bird logo and all sense of creative design), or Snapchat—exists among the plethora of applications and software that surround us. So it's safe to say that we all are hooked onto social media even in the most minute of ways; it's something we can no longer ignore. Social media existed way back in the early 2000s, but the explosive growth was all thanks to Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook, and from that point onwards, the rise of social media has been unstoppable.

While these applications began as an instrument to connect with friends, family and people around the world—building a sense of community through digital means (successfully destroying the art of letters and emails that once enticed feelings of yearning, waiting and longing)—the original meaning or significance has been long forgotten. People today are more worried about how many followers they have online, because if you have a lot, you must be a really good human. Or they worry about what's aesthetic enough to post on their story rather than a blurry picture taken simply because they felt they looked beautiful. Since when did it feel good if people just double tapped their phones to like a picture rather than personally conveying their feelings towards you?

Social media went from having a symbolism that signified human connection, society, friendships, and

meaning to becoming a place that fostered an increase in mental health problems, suicidal thoughts, and depression. This has led to the slow degeneration of all the beauty it once meant to have. Various studies show us how exactly social media became a place of anxiety, loneliness, comparison, and ingratitude toward the lives we have. With an increase in mental health issues, loss of concentration, sleep disorders, overall disconnect from reality, and with the most recent additions to every Gen Z vocabulary, such as “brainrot,” it becomes clear how deeply this shift has affected us.

Yet the world is not lost, with a small portion of the global community posing a silent rebellion against social media. Many celebrities and common people alike are choosing to live a life off social media platforms. But it is important to acknowledge that it's not easy to just stop using something that once governed your life. Social media is made to be addictive, and it's not entirely our fault that we get hooked. But if we're able to end this addiction, the gains outweigh the initial discomfort. People share how exactly their lives changed after quitting social media. From better sleep to improved moods, quitting social media allows us to be who we fundamentally are: human beings. Our true selves—not curated for posts, likes, or comments; not shaped to prove ourselves to others, but to simply be who we are even when nobody is watching.

To look at the sunset in all its marvellous glory without thinking about how many likes a picture of it would get. To enjoy a day out with your best friend, being silly and crazy, without worrying about which picture to post. To allow ourselves to make decisions not influenced by the latest trends. To not lose the ability to think critically for our own lives. The sad thing about all this is that deep down in the corners of our hearts, we know it's not what we want to do. We don't want to idle our hours away scrolling instead of living, but it somehow cruelly has a hold on us.

So, how exactly do we end the chokehold that it has on us? Simple—delete the apps. And I know you're scared

you may miss out, or you may lose your friends, because what does friendship even mean if you and your friend stop sending reels to each other? Nothing happens. But quitting social media, like any other addiction, isn't easy, and people experience withdrawal symptoms, often leading back to old ways. Breaking up with social media will force you to confront life and yourself. The escape that it provides seems sweet, but it's the sweet poison that ruins lives. The fear that you may be missing out, or that you'll lose your friendships, or that people will perceive you differently—these are all deeper issues we escape by doomscrolling our lives away.

Once you've quit, you realise that there's a whole world beyond your phone—one you belong in, one you can experience, one where you are real and important. You find that life has so much more to offer, and so much more that we lost experiencing, because we were too busy staring at our phones.

So stare at the fan as you wait for sleep to caress you. Look at the people that chatter away as you wait for your order to arrive. Watch that movie thoroughly, feel what the characters are expressing, smile at the old woman on the bus. Because maybe, in the midst of all this, we've forgotten the plain joy of being human.

- Xena Sen Britto, FYBA

The Pressure To Be Passionate

Be passionate, they say, do what you are passionate about—it's that easy. But it's not, especially for all the young adults that have to plan their life on the basis of one word: PASSION.

Passion, a word we are all familiar with; but when we say the word, what comes to our mind? When I hear the word passion, I get a dreadful shiver of anxiety deep in my bones, perhaps because I've always been told to do what I'm passionate about, but I don't really know what fills me with that passion that everyone's always raving about. I imagine the feeling of passion as walking down a road with the radiance of the sunlight glittering upon it as I step on the crunch of the fallen leaves, my heart swelling with an unexplainable fullness of joy, intoxicated and electrified by love for what I do.

As per the formal definition of passion, it means a strong or extreme feeling of enthusiasm or excitement towards something or someone. And for all those that struggle with finding something that drives them and fills them with intense devotion, they are shunned by being told, "You're just lazy, boring, or you lack discipline." However, just like not everyone is born with talent, passion similarly doesn't ignite like a wildfire on a random Tuesday; it burns like a slow wick the more you find yourself.

We live in the dread that maybe we are just not passionate about anything and absolutely nothing can make us tick. But like the world believes that every human has some goodness and love in them, in the same way, we all have something we are passionate about. So what happens to those that can never find their passion? They get stuck in a cycle of feeling like an imposter among a world of people that are all just so driven, stuck in a life they no longer enjoy. From a young age, we've been told that we have to have one single thing that we are passionate about and make that our job—a lie that's been fed to us ever since we've been asked what we want to become when we grow older.

Life is one long journey, and we don't need to have one thing that we are passionate about or make it our job, because let's be realistic—sometimes the things we are passionate about don't really support the capitalist civilisation that we live in. Society, family, schools, neighbours have fed us ideas about what we can be passionate about; what we are allowed to do to make ourselves happy is often dictated by them. Maybe as a child, you had a passion for sticking different papers together, and at the time it couldn't be defined as anything concrete—but we were never allowed to make that grow, which led to us never tapping into what we feel passionate about. The small comments and invisible disbelief led you to repress that passion so deep that you can no longer find it.

So yes, passion exists and burns in each and every one of us; it's only a matter of time and experience, mistakes and failures that eventually lead you to ignite that fire. But the age-old question lies in how exactly we find our passion. It's not exactly the easiest answer to find,

and I myself struggle with finding it. But one way is to do everything that you might have the slightest interest in. You think the people on MasterChef are so cool and you feel a spark as you watch them cook? Then go to the kitchen and try to cook. You see people on social media doing pottery and wonder how that would feel? Then take a class. The key is to explore everything and anything that sparks even the faintest light in your heart.

It's not an easy path, but just like life, it's those small moments that truly make it matter—when you bake for the first time and the cake is just atrocious, but the glee and love that glow as they force that burnt cake down for your sake make it beautiful; or when the vase turns out crooked, but it's yours. And if you choose to persevere through all the failures and all the hurt, you'll find your passion—given that you find joy in it.

Passion, as the world tells us, isn't an epiphany, but rather a journey of self-discovery. It's about finding the pieces of yourself that have been hidden from you and others, stored away in the corners of your soul. It's not about one single thing passion is felt for; passion is in everything that you want to do. Don't box yourself into one thing—let everything that you love be your passion. Don't let anything chain you down, especially not the walls you build for yourself in your head. Soar towards everything, no matter how minuscule, difficult, or painful it is, as long as it makes sparks glimmer in your eyes.

- Xena Sen Britto, FYBA

Us Humans, We Are Impatient Creatures

Us humans, we are impatient creatures. We fear losing the time we have, and in turn, rush into things that aren't ready for us just yet. I mean, look at the way we are with a cup of tea on a rainy day. Fidgeting hands trying to hold a cup too soon, blowing at the fumes dancing in the light. This impatience though, is not always to experience new things too soon. It could also be because we're social beings that long for comfort. The comfort of knowing the warm liquid will wrap

around us, like arms of safety from the chill in the air. The satisfaction of sweetness flooding our taste buds as we take a sip.

But then again we forget the burn that comes with rushing in too soon. The sudden sting that makes you alert and pricks your senses as a reminder that you've not only hurt yourself but wasted what could have been enjoyed, if you only had the patience.

We fear a cold cup so much that we're willing to get hurt in return. Because, what is more terrifying than the cold desolate taste, disenchanting us by its numbing feel. A fear of missing what once was.

But my friends, at the end of the day the waiting game catches up to us all. It is up to us to decide the path we choose.

No one tells you when it is too soon or just right until it's too late. I read somewhere once, "To wait is not to lose time, but to allow it to soften what might otherwise burn." And personally, I feel that applies to life quite spot on. So wait for what's to come, and try figuring out the way to approach it soon enough. Once the train leaves the station there's no catching up, but hop in too soon and you will have to wait alone for a while. I guess there's no right way of waiting in the end. All we can do is find comfort in ourselves, and when the time is right you might just know.

- Delilah D'souza, FYBA

Home?

What is this? Am I dead? What is this place? Hell, heaven? Or home? If home, then please take me to hell — it will be more peaceful than home. Yeah, you heard it right. For everyone else, they have home, but for me, there was no such place. Maybe materialistically it was, but to feel safe, happy, at peace — it never was. All my life I searched for this home in everything — from living to non-living — searched all corners, one where darkness resides, one where I reside, too. I took every other road in hope of this home, and all of those just led me to another home filled with the same never ending agony, continuous despair, and a lot of self-hatred.

For once, I wanted to feel what being loved is, what being cared for is. What is this home? Where? How do I get there? If home is a place where you are with people you care for, then I never experienced that. If home is a place where everyone, from their work, school, or college, wants to go to and rest, then for me, that home is my death — my sleep of eternity in this small box, dumped and forgotten. Just like my mind filled with turmoil and always with a sense of melancholy. By now, you might have understood that I am talking from my grave — or I can say, from my eternal sleep. Yet this sleep is also not home. Then what is it? Do you know? Do you know where it is? Can you please take me there — to let my decomposed body feel home for once...

- Mihir Korgaokar, FYBA

Cry of Chimbel

The quiet and serene town of Chimbel is now roaring. The place that is home to over fifteen thousand people, a land that is deeply loved and treasured like an heirloom of their ancestors, is now in danger. But the government cannot strut into villages and towns with bulldozers whenever they please, the voice of Chimbel will not let them.

In February 2025, the central government proposed the Unity Mall in Chimbel, Goa, as a part of the initiative 'one district, one product'. The facility was planned on 25,000 sq. mtrs. of land transferred from the IT department to the tourism department. Toyar Talle or Toyar lake is a natural waterbody situated in and around the Chimbel area. According to the villagers it plays a crucial role in groundwater recharge, flood control during the monsoon, and is the base of local flora and fauna. The lake and its surrounding low-lying areas are considered environmentally sensitive. Despite being aware of the environmental sensitivity of the Toyar lake, the government argues that it is a 'development project'.

This ecologically inconsiderate initiative and the lack of transparency enraged the locals and led them to protest. The residents were furious and demanded answers for their questions. A forty-four day hunger

strike by two-hundred locals was followed by a written assurance from the government to reallocate the project to an alternative site. Protests were largely due to environmental concerns, specifically that the projects were planned on a protected wetland.

The lack of consideration for the sentiments of the villagers of Chimbel was bound to stir-up rage among the residents. Surrounded by lush cashew trees and a hidden waterfall, Chimbel deserves to be cherished and preserved. The 'unity' of the people of Chimbel is an epitome of community spirit.

-Anshika Thakur, SYBA

ONCE UPON A TIME

Inch By Inch

In the picturesque village of Reis Magos, Antonio had witnessed ninety winters come and go; yet, despite the aches in his bones and the fading strength in his eyes, he made his way to the veranda of his ancestral house each evening, admiring the sun. I could always sense a profound melancholy woven into his presence. The clatter of construction on the hill filled the air with desolation—hammers striking in an uneven cadence, scaffolding creaking as though the evening itself grieved with him.

Today, as I was passing by, I heard him murmuring to himself, his voice low and tremulous, “Every evening, I sit on my big old voltaire, blissfully watching the sun sink slowly at the horizon, for the sun has always kept its ancient promise of returning the next day. But oh! In the name of development, my beloved village is being torn apart. I can hear the flora and fauna mourning and feel the air grow sour and sense my land withering before my very eyes. With every structure built, every tree felled, we think we are moving forward. Yet we forget that true life comes from balance. The air, the water, the soil, the organisms—they all are a part of and belong to this land. And without them, we too lose our essence. Oh! What have we done? Where have the days gone when we laughed and played among the trees, picked wild berries from the forest, drank the crystal-clear water descending from the hills, woke up to the songs of birds at dawn? Memories that now feel as though they belong to someone else. How are we supposed to let our children experience these organic joys of life if we allow our land to die slowly, inch by inch?”

Antonio’s soliloquy continued. Suddenly, the sound of footsteps in the veranda drew his attention. His son emerged from the drawing room saying, “Papa, you’re talking to yourself again. How often have I told you to distract yourself with newspapers and board games? Anyways, I am heading out for a friend’s birthday and will be back late. Don’t wait up for me, go to bed early.” Having said this, Antonio’s son rushed out. Antonio sighed and returned his gaze to the fading horizon. “My vision is weak with age.” He continued murmuring, “How am I to read anything? And board games... whom have I left to play with? My wife... she passed away four years ago and my daughter—Oh, what a beautiful life she must be living in Australia, surrounded by family, laughter and all the things I long for here.”

“The resemblance...the resemblance between this land and myself. I am old, worn and forgotten. My children have left in search of better prospects. My value...diminished. Why is my life mirroring my Goa? Why are we dying a slow death?” Antonio didn’t speak for a while, lost in the weight of his thoughts. Suddenly, his eyes rested on the lone sapling growing, stubborn and alive, in the crevice of the roof tile, “One day,” he chuckled, “nature will take back what we stole.” As I walked away from the old house, Antonio’s words lingered in my mind. Glancing back one last time, I saw his still figure bathed in twilight, slowly being swallowed by the dusk, much like the Goa he mourned.

- Kelly D’Souza, TYBA

The Dog That Flinches

Wandering the blistering tar roads that bind one college building to another, there is a campus dog, the color of laterite soil, who flinches when you try to pet him. I do not know whether he is orphaned or disowned; all I know is that he does not act familiar into the pack like the other dogs. When the dogs all went into heat, and the male strays ringed together like teeth in a mouth, searching for a female to bite and breed, the dog that flinches burrowed himself inside post-graduate block, trying to womb itself safe.

We have tried to name him, but every name slips off his back like he was reptilian, scaled and slippery instead of furred, an exotic animal, not meant to be petted or loved. Ginger, Alicent, the girlboy dog – but we cannot manage to find a name for him that sticks. We understand this completes the trio: Orphaned, disowned, and nameless.

The dog that flinches wanders around in semicircles, never completing its loop around the campus, avoiding the bar that hangs over the entrance gate like a guillotine. The dog that flinches walks on soft, wobbly knees like a fawn, staying five steps behind you, never chasing, never having learned how to want. The dog that flinches lets you come close only to feed him, because hunger will always conquer fear.

Out of pity, I invent him a story. You can only say you love something if you are willing to birth something for it. The story my mind births is not set in the city, because dogs were never bred for the city. Dogs were bred for the hunt and for help. All incisors and bark and the thirst for affection, that is what makes good soldiers. In another life, he walks steadier. In another life, his eyes are not always smothered by the metallic-bright sunlight. I dream a home for him, and a mother. I wonder whether his mother used to flinch too, whether fear can be inherited the same as features. Same as honey-yellow eyes you can see through, same as the hound-like curve of his belly, same as his penitent, pleading gaze, looking up to god, looking up at you, eyes glazed over like those virgin mary statues with beaded dripping glass tears. I dream him a mother licking him clean of dirt and dust and distress.

Can you have a favourite stray if you do not favour it enough to take it home? I dream that one day I will lure him home. I will wash his back with turmeric and lye soap, and my raking fingers will find the seams of scar that root in all the way to his heart. In the bath, wombed once again in the water, he will curl back up into a pup. The dirt suspended in the water will stain me red up to my elbows.

- Vaibhavi Kerkar, FYBA

Tickling Your Taste Buds (Recipes)

SPICY KOREAN WINGS

Ingredients :

- 1 kg chicken wings
- Salt, to taste
- Black pepper, to taste
- 2 tbsp cornflour
- Oil, for frying

For the sauce:

- 2 tbsp gochujang (Korean red chilli paste)
- 1½ tbsp soy sauce
- 1½ tbsp honey or brown sugar
- 1 tbsp rice vinegar
- 1 tbsp sesame oil
- 3–4 garlic cloves, finely minced
- 1 tsp grated ginger
- 1–2 tsp Korean red chilli flakes (gochugaru)

For garnish (optional):

- Toasted sesame seeds
- Spring onions, finely chopped



Method:

Clean and pat dry the chicken wings, then season them with salt and black pepper and coat lightly with cornflour. Deep-fry the wings in hot oil on medium heat until golden brown, crispy, and fully cooked, then drain on paper towels.

In a pan, heat a little oil and sauté the garlic and ginger until fragrant, add gochujang, soy sauce, honey, rice vinegar, sesame oil, and chilli flakes, and cook for 2–3 minutes until the sauce thickens slightly. Add the fried wings to the pan and toss well until every wing is evenly coated in the sticky, spicy sauce. Turn off the heat, garnish with sesame seeds and spring onions, and serve hot.

CLASSIC CHEESECAKE RECIPE (BAKED)

Ingredients:

For the base:

- 200 g digestive biscuits
- 100 g melted butter

For the filling:

- 400 g cream cheese (room temperature)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup fresh cream
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 1 tbsp lemon juice



Method

1. Prepare the base; crush the biscuits into fine crumbs. Mix with melted butter. Press firmly into the base of a springform pan. Refrigerate for 20 minutes.
2. Make the filling; Beat cream cheese until smooth. Add sugar and mix well. Add eggs one at a time. Mix in fresh cream, vanilla, and lemon juice.
3. Bake; Pour filling over the biscuit base. Bake at 160°C for 45–50 minutes. The centre should be slightly wobbly.
4. Cool & set; Let it cool completely. Refrigerate for 4–6 hours or overnight.

Optional Topping

- Strawberry / blueberry compote
- Fresh fruits
- Chocolate ganache

- Racheal D'souza, TYBA



CLASSIC YEAST DOUGHNUTS RECIPE

Ingredients:

For the dough:

- 2½ cups all-purpose flour (maida)
- 2¼ tsp instant dry yeast (1 packet)
- ¼ cup sugar
- ½ tsp salt
- ¾ cup warm milk (not hot)
- 2 tbsp melted butter
- 1 egg (room temperature)
- ½ tsp vanilla essence



For frying:

- Oil (for deep frying)

For glaze (optional but recommended):

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2–3 tbsp milk
- ½ tsp vanilla essence

Method

Step 1: Activate the yeast

- In a bowl, mix warm milk + 1 tbsp sugar + yeast
- Let it rest for 5–10 minutes until frothy
(If it doesn't foam, the yeast is inactive)

Step 2: Prepare the dough

- In a large bowl, add flour, remaining sugar, and salt
- Add the yeast mixture, egg, melted butter, and vanilla
- Mix to form a soft dough

Step 3: Knead

- Knead for 8–10 minutes until smooth and elastic
- Dough should be soft, not sticky
- Grease the bowl lightly and place dough inside

Step 4: First rise

- Cover and let it rise in a warm place for 1–1½ hours
- Dough should double in size



Step 5: Shape the doughnuts

- Punch down the dough
- Roll out to about ½ inch thickness
- Cut using a doughnut cutter or two round cutters
- Place on a tray and cover lightly

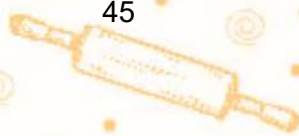
Step 6: Second rise

- Let shaped doughnuts rise for 30–40 minutes
- They should look puffy and light

Step 7: Fry

- Heat oil on medium heat
- Fry doughnuts 2–3 at a time
- Fry until golden brown on both sides
- Remove and drain on paper towels

- FAITH MICHAEL, TYBA



NO- BAKE BLUEBERRY CHEESECAKE

Ingredients:

For the Crust:

- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 2 cups graham cracker crumbs finely crushed

For the cheesecake:

- 1½ cup powdered sugar
- 11 ounces cream cheese softened
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 16 ounces whipped topping



For the blueberry topping:

- 2 cups blueberry compote

Method

Step 1: Make the base

- Stir together the melted butter, graham cracker crumbs, and sugar.
- Press into the bottom of a baking dish, preferably glass.

Step 2: Cheesecake mixture

- In a large bowl, beat together the powdered sugar, cream cheese, milk and vanilla until smooth.

Step 3: Assembly

- Carefully spread on top of the crust, being careful not to break it.
- Top with the whipped topping or homemade whipped cream.
- Carefully spread on the blueberry compote.
- Chill for at least 6 hours before serving. Store in the refrigerator

- Vaibhavi Kerkar, FYBA



PARRA - SALT FISH PICKLE

INGREDIENTS :

- 50 pieces of salt fish or mackerel to be washed in vinegar, sprinkled with turmeric powder and dried in the sun for a day
- 1½ cups cumin
- ½ cup peppercorns
- 4 whole pods of garlic
- 6 inch ginger
- 4 cups chilly powder
- 1½ cups turmeric

METHOD :

- Grind the cumin, peppercorns, 2 pods of garlic and approximately half the ginger in vinegar.
- Mix in the chilly powder and turmeric.
- Crush the remaining 2 pods of garlic and ginger. •Mix this with the ground massala and the fish.
- Put it in an earthenware crock and cover the fish with vinegar.
- Pickle for about a month, at least, before using. •Before serving, take out the mackerel and shallow fry quickly on both sides for a minute or two.

This is an accompaniment with rice and curry.

GOAN FISH-CURRY

INGREDIENTS :

- 1 pomfret
- 1 coconut (grated)
- ½ teaspoon cumminseeds
- 4 flakes garlic
- 10 gms. tamarind (a small ball, mix in water thrice till 1 cup juice is obtained)
- 4 green chillies (slit and halve)
- 1 onion (sliced)
- 1 inch piece ginger chopped fine
- 6 dry red chillies
- 1 inch piece turmeric





- 1 raw mango (cubed) or 6 pieces kokum
- 1 lemon and salt

METHOD :

- Clean and wash the pomfret well, cut into pieces and sprinkle salt and lemon juice on them and marinate for an hour.
- Grind the coconut, dry chillies, cumminseeds and garlic together.
- Mix sliced onions, ginger and green chillies together and mash well with the tamarind juice.
- Add chopped mango or kokum.
- Add ground masala and sufficient water and allow to cook slowly till curry begins to boil.
- Simmer slowly for about 10 or 15 minutes, add fish and cook for another 10 minutes.
- Do not cover the pot at any stage while the curry is being cooked.
- Serve with boiled rice.



FISH CALDEEN

INGREDIENTS :

- 2 teaspoons coriander seeds
- 2 inch piece turmeric
- 2 onions (sliced)
- 1 tomato (sliced)
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 2 green chillies or as desired
- Salt and vinegar to taste



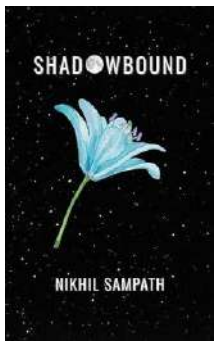
METHODS:

- Clean the fish, wash and cut into desired pieces. •Apply a little salt and vinegar and keep aside.
- Grate the coconut, mix cumin seeds, peppercorns, coriander seeds and turmeric and grind together slightly.
- Extract thick juice as well as thin juice and keep aside in separate pans.
- Fry the sliced onions and tomatoes with oil in a pan, add the thin juice, allow to boil, then add the fish, green chillies (sliced) and thick juice.
- Boil till fish is cooked.

-Jocelyn Alisen D'souza, SYBA

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

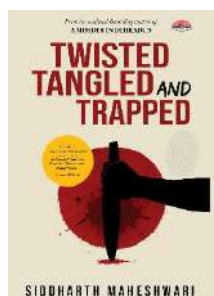
1. *The Shadow Bound* by Nikhil Sampath



Not every superhero story is about saving the world...some are about surviving what the world turns you into. *The Shadow Bound* by Nikhil Sampath is the kind of book that sneaks up on you, settles into your bones, and refuses to leave. It's not loud or flashy, it's atmospheric, emotional, and quietly devastating in the best way. Once the narration clicks, the story completely consumes you. Kattur doesn't feel like a setting; it feels alive. The silence, the whispers, the temples, the legends—it all seeps into the pages. Kathir isn't your typical hero; he's awkward, scared, unsure, and painfully human. Watching him navigate power, guilt, and responsibility feels raw in a way that makes the story hit harder. Surekha is sharp, grounded, and effortlessly brilliant. And Naren... he stays with you. Gentle, exploited, and misunderstood, his arc blurs the line between hero and villain so beautifully that you can't help but feel for him. What truly stands out is how Tamil folklore, mythology, and science blend so seamlessly, deeply rooted, culturally rich, and never forced. No overdone heroics, no exaggerated powers, just the emotional cost of becoming something more than human. By the time I closed the book, it felt less like I'd finished reading and more like I'd witnessed a legend unfold.

2. *Twisted Tangled And Trapped* by

Siddharth Maheshwari



When a famous movie producer is found dead, three people step up to confess the crime. But here's the twist: why would they all admit to the same murder?

This thriller will have you questioning everything with its changing perspectives and unexpected turns. The deeper you dive, the more tangled the story becomes, leaving you hooked until the very last page. Eka and Inspector Waghmare? Total powerhouses. Their complex motives and shady moves make the plot that much juicier. Every chapter is a mind game, and honestly, you won't see any of it coming. If you love wild twists, a psychological ride, and characters that get under your skin, this book is your next obsession. It's fast, gripping, and full of surprises, definitely one you'll finish in one sitting. Don't miss out!



3. *A Soul Reaping Gone Wrong* by Rosheena Zehra

Can you imagine waking up dead by mistake? Yeah, chills.



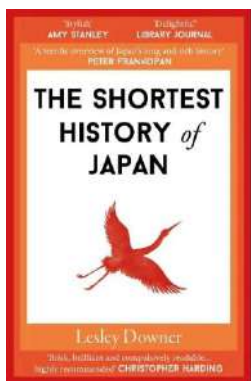
Okay, WOW!!! This book hit me right in the feels! From the very first page, I was sucked into *Nasayan*, the afterlife, where Katha wakes up in a world she was never meant to be in. Enter Varuna, the reaper whose job it is to guide souls, but Katha's soul wasn't supposed to be his responsibility. Their journey together is emotional, fast-paced, and filled with twists I didn't see coming. There's betrayal, loss, second chances, and a dash of romance that feels real, not forced. What really stuck with me were the human moments; despite being in this mythical world, Katha and Varuna's

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

struggles and choices felt SO relatable. If you're looking for a fantasy that's not just a wild ride but also emotional and thought-provoking and will have you reflecting on fate and second chances long after you close the book, this is it!

4. *The Shortest History of Japan* by Lesley

Downer



Okay, so imagine binge-watching 1,000 years of Japanese history like it's a limited anime series ... that's this book. No filler arcs, just straight plot. Lesley Downer takes you from ancient gods to samurai sword fights to the neon chaos of Tokyo, and it's all written so you get it without feeling like you're

stuck in a history lecture. If you're into manga/anime, you'll love spotting the real-life inspo behind shogun, ronin, and all those dramatic honor duels. It's short, it's sharp, and it'll make you want to deep dive into more. Basically, it's perfect if you've got a Japan obsession but no time for a 500-page textbook. History, but make it bingeable.



5. *Myth Run: Chasing Legends* by Aleius

Sofar



"Why am I probing into the origins of stories and their evolution into myths?"

Perhaps it's just a diversion, keeping you away from the place where a story is about to unfold. Or perhaps it isn't. You'll see. "Rainy

nights have their own kind of magic... the kind that makes you want to talk about old ghost stories and the myths we grew up with. In *Myth Run*, two journalists do exactly that... except their casual conversation begins to twist, and the myths stop feeling so distant. The line between storyteller and subject? Almost invisible.

This one felt like sitting by a dim lamp, listening to voices drop lower with every chapter, the air growing heavier until you're wondering if you just heard something move. It's not just about the supernatural... It's about curiosity, the thrill of chasing what shouldn't be chased, and the way stories can pull you in until you're no longer just reading them. If you like the sound of rain, folklore at midnight, and the quiet kind of fear that settles in your bones... this might be your next late-night read.

- Larissa Clessia Rodrigues, TYBA

FUN FACTS

1. "I am." is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.
2. No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, and purple.
3. The original story from Tales of 1001 Arabian Nights begins, 'Aladdin was a little Chinese boy.'
4. The earliest known written instance of the word 'book' is in a book by Alfred the Great.
5. 'Bibliosmia' is the enjoyment of the smell of old books.
6. Sherlock Holmes is the most-filmed fictional character.
7. Horace Walpole, author of the first Gothic novel, coined the word 'serendipity' in the eighteenth century. It means the 'faculty of making happy and unexpected discoveries by accident'.
8. As A Schoolboy, Roald Dahl Was A Taste Tester For Cadbury's Chocolate Eggs
9. The Most Expensive Book Ever Purchased Cost Over 30 Million Dollars
10. The First Novel Was Written By Japanese Author Murasaki Shikibu Around The Year 1000

THE FIRST SENTENCE CHALLENGE

Guess The Book From The Opening Line

1. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..."
2. "It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen."
3. "When Mary Lennox was sent to Misselthwaite Manor to live with her uncle everybody said she was the most disagreeable-looking child ever seen."
4. "A beginning is the time for taking the most delicate care that the balances are correct."
5. "When I wake up, the other side of the bed is cold."
6. "We slept in what had once been the gymnasium."
7. "It was a pleasure to burn."
8. "There was a boy called Eustace Clarence Scrubb, and he almost deserved it."
9. "In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit."
10. "In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since."
11. "Marley was dead, to begin with."
12. "When he was nearly thirteen my brother Jem got his arm badly broken at the elbow."

RIDDLES

1. What has a face but no eyes?
2. I have four fingers and a thumb but I will never be alive, who am I?
3. What has a head but no body?
4. What goes up and down but doesn't move?
5. It begins with T, ends with T, and has T in it, what is it?
6. It's yours but everyone uses it more than you.
7. Which is the richest nut?
8. I am an odd number. You take out a letter I become even.
9. It has a mouth but never eats.
10. I never ask questions but am answered almost always, who am I?

A decorative border in blue ink, featuring a repeating pattern of stylized leaves, vines, and circular floral motifs. The border frames the central text.

DETAILING
THE
EXPERIENCE

Third - Year Project Orientation

Launchpad TY: Projects with Purpose, a Third-year Project Orientation Programme was organised by the Department of English, St. Xavier's College on 5th July 2025 and was attended by 27 third-year students along with four faculty members of the Department of English. Ms. Alice D'Cruz was the resource person for the session. The project orientation commenced with the students being introduced to the basics of academic research followed by the process of selecting a particular area of study, formulating a suitable project title, undertaking literature reviews, identifying the aim, objectives, scope and limitations of the project and structuring and formatting information in the prescribed standard format. Ms. Alice D'Cruz also shared valuable inputs on successfully preparing for the Project Viva and highlighted the importance of team work, endurance and ethical research.

At the end of the session, students were able to form a stable foundation needed to cultivate the temperament for research, which would help them successfully work towards their final year project and allow them to approach it with a confident and informed mindset.



Environment Sustainability Initiative



As part of Environment Day, the Green Initiative Cell invited students from departments to participate in their Trash to Treasure competition on 14th July 2025 at the Recreational Hall.

Keeping in mind this year's theme, 'Beat Plastic Pollution,' two student participants from the Department of English, namely Cynara de Souza and Pearl Fernandes (TYBA), used plastic waste generated by the department, as per the rules of the competition, to create handicrafts. The student team showcased remarkable creativity with their innovative creations. The flowerpot with flowers and a wall hanging was entirely out of the plastic waste previously generated from departmental activities.

These items were made by using materials like plastic bubble wrap, plastic bags, and plastic bottles. The student team was motivated to participate in the competition on account of interest generated during a syllabus-prescribed paper, Ecology and Literature, designed to establish an environmental consciousness among the learners.

Guest Lecture On Joseph Conrad's 'Heart Of Darkness'

The Department of English, St. Xavier's College, organised a guest lecture titled "The horror! The horror!': Journeying into the Heart of Darkness" on the 31st of July 2025, which was attended by 20 TY students and Dr. Prema Rocha. Associate Professor Ms. Alice D'Cruz was the resource person for the lecture.

Ms. Alice D'Cruz first emphasised the importance of reading Joseph Conrad's 'Heart of Darkness,' as it reflected and helped one understand the process of human evolution and Colonisation. She elaborated on the historical context of the text, shared methods and strategies to identify key points and themes that would help the students prepare well for their semester-end examination, and advised the students to go beyond the text and read critical material on the same.

During the interactive part of the session, Ms. D'Cruz addressed questions regarding the title of the text and explained how it represents a dichotomy of meaning. She also provided insight into what the iconic phrase "The horror! The horror!" could potentially mean, relating it to the degeneration of the troubled mind and the hearts of the colonizers.

The discussion also touched upon ongoing debates surrounding 'Heart of Darkness,' particularly postcolonial criticism and the controversy surrounding Conrad's portrayal of Africa and Africans. Ms. D'Cruz put forth her point of view and stated how the text, in fact, exposes the harsh reality of the time in an unfiltered manner, providing stark contrasts between the colonisers and the colonised. Students also shared their views on the ending and voiced strong opinions on the same. The discussion inspired the students to engage with the text through a broadened perspective. The lecture concluded on a bittersweet note, as it marked Ms. Alice's final official address to the Third-Year Single Major batch of 2025-26.



Felicitation Programme Of Ms. Alice D'cruz And Mr. Suresh Parsekar On Superannuation




The college faculty came together to bid farewell and express heartfelt thanks to Ms. Alice D'Cruz and Mr. Suresh Parsekar for their more than thirty years of exemplary service. Rich tributes were paid acknowledging the generations of students impacted and the legacy of excellence, kindness, and integrity left behind. The programme was graced by Officiating Principal Ms. Ursula Barreto; Administrator Rev. Fr. Antonio Salema; Vice Principals Ms. Sandra Fernandes, Prof. Filipe Rodrigues e Melo; and

Directorate of Higher Education representatives Dr. Keshav Dhuri, Assistant Director (Development), and Mr. Datta Jalmi (Accounts, Pension Section).

The Administrator, Fr. Antonio Salema appreciated Ms. D'Cruz's contribution to education and thanked Mr. Parsekar for his dedicated service. Officiating Principal Ms. Ursula Barreto recalled fond memories of a perceptive, likeable, and creative teacher whose witty presence would be missed while stating that Mr. Suresh worked with commitment. Dr. Prema Rocha, HoD, in her speech, remarked, "Her Aliceness is irreplaceable." Rev. Fr. Ramiro Luis spoke warmly about Mr. Parsekar's hardworking nature.

Ms. D'Cruz and Mr. Parsekar were officially felicitated with a Plaque of Recognition and a Token of Appreciation by DHE. Ms. D'Cruz, in her speech, said, "All teachers should be like gardeners," encouraging fellow educators to continue helping students grow. The departmental newsletter *Eloquence* was released at the hands of Ms. Alice, creatively curated by the student editorial team, under the guidance of Dr. Prema Rocha. A video tribute honouring Ms. D'Cruz was conceptualized and screened by Mr. Aaron Paul Fernandes. Ms. D'Cruz was felicitated on her birthday during the cake-cutting ceremony.

Earlier, a prayer service led by Ms. Shirlene Fernandes and Ms. Giann Fernandes was dedicated to the retirees, who were welcomed with potted plants. The programme was anchored by Ms. Sunita Mesquita who concluded with a vote of thanks, quoting Charles Dickens: "The pain of parting is nothing to the joy of meeting again."



Report Of The English Teachers' Meet-Cum-Workshop On T.Y.B.A. Syllabus Implementation

The English Teachers' Meet-cum-Workshop on the T.Y.B.A. Syllabus Implementation was held on 4th August 2025 at the Conference Hall of Dnyanprassarak Mandal's College and Research Centre, Assagao. Organised by the Department of English of DMs College, the event, witnessed active participation from teachers across affiliated colleges, fostering an engaging atmosphere of academic exchange and collaborative learning.

The first part of the session involved a review and detailed scrutiny of the NEP-aligned T.Y.B.A. English papers for Semesters V and VI—namely, Creative Writing, Modern European Drama, Indian Writing in English Translation and Women's Writing, and News Reporting and Editing. Prof. Shanthi led the deliberations. Discussions centred on understanding the structure, scope, and expectations of each paper, along with clarifying the division between theory and practical components. Teachers shared their initial classroom experiences and voiced concerns regarding ambiguities in paper design and implementation.

The second half of the workshop followed a hands-on format, where participants were grouped based on the papers they handle. Each group deliberated on pedagogical approaches, common classroom challenges, and the formulation of assessments. Questions were examined in the light of Bloom's Taxonomy, using templates provided by the Board of Studies, to ensure alignment with expected learning outcomes. This collective brainstorming led to insightful suggestions and ideas for improved student engagement and curriculum delivery.

Overall, the workshop served as a collegial and constructive platform to reflect on effective strategies for teaching, evaluating, and supporting students through the new syllabus. It provided clarity, built confidence, and reinforced the importance of continuous dialogue among educators.

National Book Lovers Day

The Department of English, St. Xavier's College, celebrated National Book Lovers Day on 9th August 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in the College Library. The event was attended by 41 students and 4 faculty members of the English Department.

The event commenced with introductory remarks by Dr. Prema Rocha Head of the Department of English, who spoke about the transformative power of books as portals to other worlds. A collection of books was donated to the library. The books were collected as a community initiative of WordsUp 6.0, an intercollegiate English language event organized by the English Department of the college. The librarian, Ms. Dakshata Zambulkar emphasised the significance of books in our lives and acknowledged the consistent collaboration of the English Department which she commended for issuing the most number of books from the Library. "Books are our guides," she asserted, encouraging the students to read.

The faculty members of the Department of English guided the first-year students to specific cupboards and shelves housing various categories of English literature. This hands-on session enabled the students to explore the English literature collection and become familiar with the diverse genres and resources available.

The activity fostered a deeper appreciation for books and instilled in the students a sense of responsibility towards maintaining and respecting shared resources.



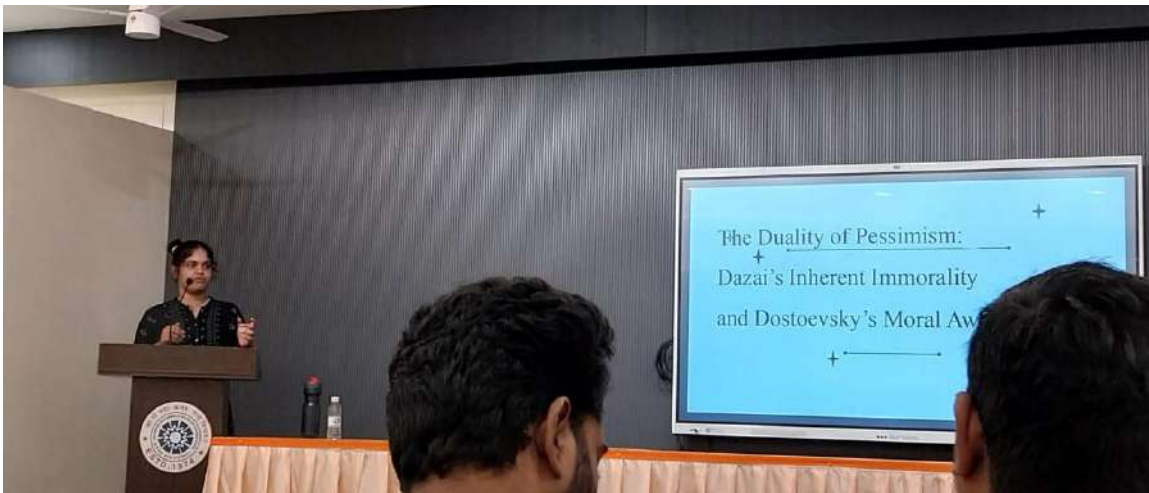
One Day State Level Fdp

Ms. Shirlene Fernandes and Ms. Giann Maria Fernandes, Faculty of the Dept. of English, attended the One-Day State Level Faculty Development Programme organised by Dnyanprassarak Mandal's College and Research Centre on the topic of Integrating performance in Classroom Teaching. The resource person: Ms. Runa Menezes, Assistant Professor, SGSLL, Goa University on 23 August 2025.



Epiphany 8.0.

Epiphany 8.0: Ms. Anshika Thakur (SYBA) and Ms. Vaibhavi Kerkar (FYBA) represented St. Xavier's College, Mapusa at Epiphany 8.0, an inter-collegiate UG Seminar cum Research Paper Presentation and Competition organized by Dnyanprassarak Mandal's College and Research Centre, Assagao, on 20th September 2025. The theme of the paper presentation was "Bridging Ages through Classics: A Teen Perspective." Ms. Anshika Thakur's paper was titled "A feminist from the flames: Panchali's epic". Ms. Vaibhavi Kerkar's paper was titled "The duality of pessimism: Dazai's inherent immorality and Dostoevsky's moral awakening"



One-day State-level Workshop On Translation

On 7th October 2025, two students from the English Department of St. Xavier's College, Mapusa, accompanied by Assistant Professor Urvi Sanjay Ghotge, participated in a One-day State-level Workshop on Translation at DCT's Dhempe College of Arts and Science, Miramar, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The workshop was jointly organized by DCT's Dhempe College of Arts and Science in collaboration with the Institute Menezes Braganza.



style, beyond literal interpretation.

The workshop was conducted in two sessions. The morning session, led by Miss Sneha Sabnis, focused on the nature and scope of technical translation. This interactive session explored various opportunities and nuances in translation, further enlightening us on children's literature, and highlighted potential career avenues in the field, where participants engaged with practical examples and discussions.

Next, Assistant Coordinator Dr. Akshata Bhat elaborated on transcreation and digital/literary translation and transmutation, culminating in an activity where participants translated a children's story from *Storyweaver : A Book for Puchku*.

The afternoon session featured the Vidyapati Project (under Digital India), where resource persons presented the project's objectives, introducing a bidirectional machine translation programme. They provided insights into POS (Part-of-Speech), NER (Named Entity Recognition), and MWE (Multiword Expression) terms, and demonstrated their machine translation system and related tools, showcasing their accomplishments, and addressed the challenges faced while developing an app for translation among regional languages such as Hindi, Konkani, Marathi, and Bengali.

The event concluded with students from various colleges sharing feedback, reinforcing the notion that this workshop was not only a one-day event but the beginning of ongoing collaborative efforts in translation and the independent utilization of related resources.

The Department Of English Visits Loutolim, Goa On A Field Trip

On 11th October 2025, second- and third-year English Single Major students of St. Xavier's College, Mapusa, accompanied by Mr. Aaron-Paul Fernandes and Dr. Maria Claudette Gomes, went on a field trip to Loutolim. They visited the Figueiredo Mansion, Big Foot, and Jila Bakery.

At the Figueiredo Mansion, built in 1590, the curator guided them through the 400-year-old ancestral home of the Figueiredo family, showcasing its ornate interiors, Ming dynasty vase, East India Company dish set, and gold-coated altar with ivory statues.

The visit highlighted the grandeur and history of Goa's colonial past. At Big Foot, the students explored clay models and cultural exhibits that depict Goan life and traditions. The site also features Mahadev's sacred footprint and Mahendra Alvares's single-rock sculpture of Sant Mira Bai. The trip offered a rich educational experience, deepening students' appreciation of Goa's cultural heritage and the enduring blend of Goan and Portuguese influences.



Value Added Course: Back To Basics: English For Competitive Exams

The Department of English, St. Xavier's College, Mapusa, Goa conducted a Value-Added Course titled, Back to Basics: English for Competitive Exams from 02 September, 2025 to 13 October, 2025. The course was coordinated by Ms. Giann Maria Fernandes, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English under the leadership of Dr. Prema Rocha, Head, Dept. of English. It was curated to meet students' needs of grammar and vocabulary building; comprehension and poetry evaluation, and interview readiness.

Faculty of the department served as resource persons. Dr. Prema Rocha presented the debut session on "Parts of Speech in Grammar". Ms. Urvi Ghotge and Mr. Aaron Paul Fernandes covered "Tenses" and "Vocabulary (Homonyms, Homophones, Homographs)" respectively. Ms. Sunita Mesquita suggested tips to crack job interviews. Ms. Shirlene Fernandes dealt with poetry evaluation. Ms. Giann Fernandes solved comprehensions of competitive examinations.

Thirty students participated, belonging to the F.Y.B.A., F.Y.B.Sc., and F.Y./S.Y. B.Com. classes. The Value Added Course concluded with a group photograph of the participants and the department.



Invited Lecture On Chinua Achebe's 'Things Fall Apart'



The Department of English, St. Xavier's College, organised an invited lecture titled "Things Fall Apart: Rethinking Africa" on 6th December 2025, which was attended by 23 TY students and two faculty members. The guest speakers were Mr. Aaron-Paul Fernandes and Ms. Giann Fernandes.

Mr. Aaron-Paul Fernandes began by expounding on the postcolonial aspects of the text, citing the importance of dispelling any prejudices one might have against the people of Africa. The discussion focused on the colonialism of Africa, which was then related to the Portuguese conquest in Goa for better understanding. He elaborated on the significance of the title as encompassing the breakdown of society as well as the background of the author, Chinua Achebe.

Ms. Giann Fernandes shared what the term 'post-colonial literature' truly means: its roots, and the misconceptions around it. She explained the colonized writing back to the colonisers, sharing their lived experiences, native cultures, and values. The ideas of dominance and hegemony, factors that allowed colonialism to thrive, were also briefly introduced. She then elaborated on the balanced perspective the novel provides, highlighting the moral ambiguity between the positive and negative elements of their native culture and how, contrary to the white man's belief of the colonised being 'savage,' they were capable of introspection and change.

The lecture facilitated an enhanced comprehension of the text among the students. The lecture concluded with Dr. Prema Rocha and student coordinator Valencia D'Costa (TYBA) presenting tokens of appreciation to the guest speakers.





Team Zelda's Victory at Pegasus Renaissance Ed. XVI

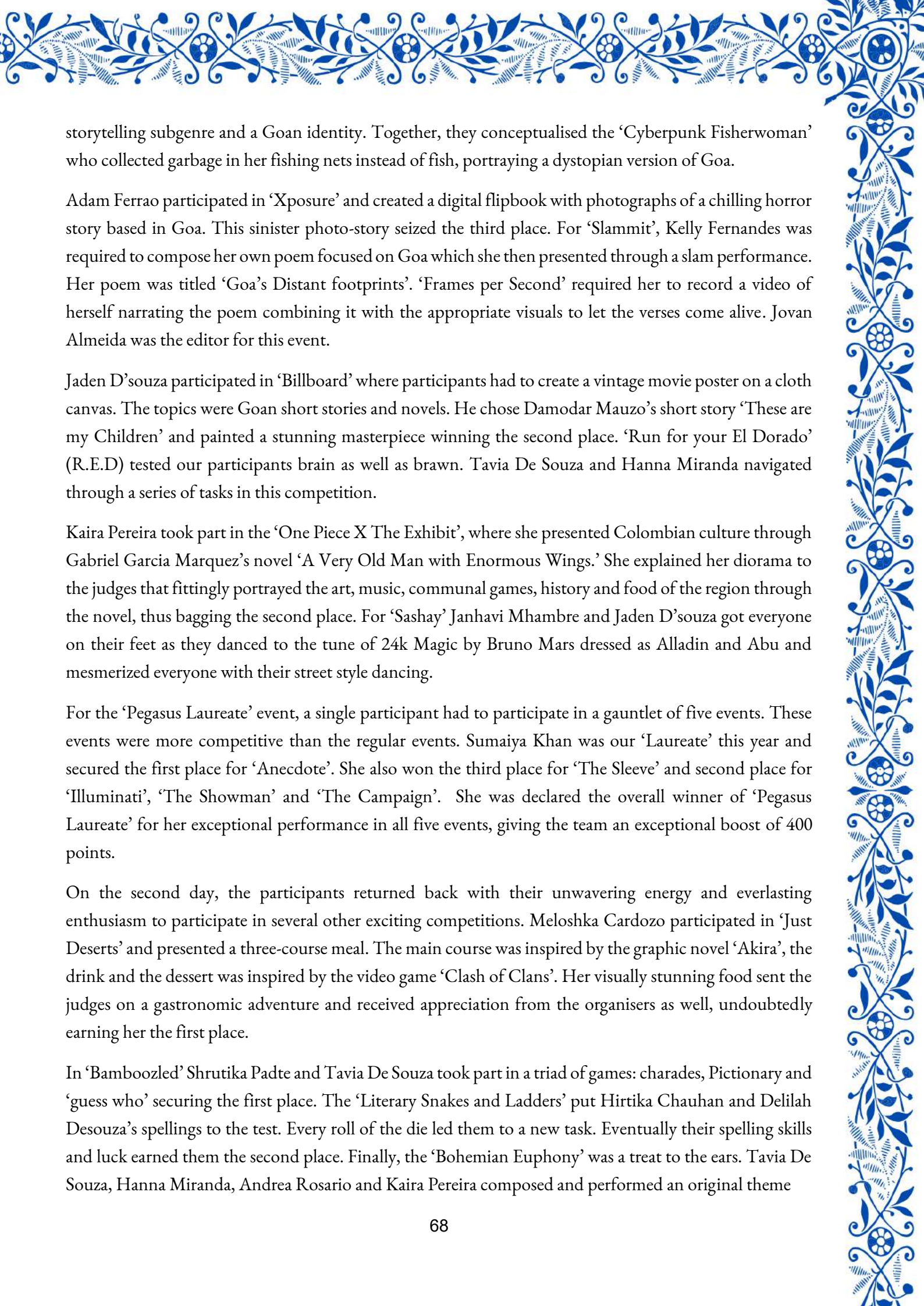
Pegasus Renaissance Ed. XVI spawned participants into the fantastical video game world at Parvatibai Chowgule College, Margao. The two-day quest, which took place on the 15th and 16th of December 2025, comprised a series of competitive events, from theatre and singing to spelling bee and treasure hunt. With video games as the central theme of the event, students actively participated in the various competitions, showcasing their talents.

The team comprised of 19 students from FY, SY and TY who have opted for English Major, Minor or SEC. They were led by Ms. Giann Maria Fernandes as the faculty co-ordinator and Tavia De Souza as the Contingent Leader. The team members were resolute in their choice to be known as 'Team Zelda'. Our slogan effectively reflected our zeal, enthusiasm, and strong sense of team spirit. "Team Zelda hand in hand, with swords of courage we rule the land!" was shouted with full vigour throughout the event.

The team members were introduced through the P.R.O.M.O video that was directed and shot by Adam Ferrao and edited by Jovan Almeida. The task involved introducing the team members as characters from our chosen video game, and the retro, video game inspired aesthetic of the video aptly supported this portrayal, thus, winning the second place.

Pegasus XVI kicked off with an inaugural ceremony that pumped up everyone's competitive spirit. Participants were eager to showcase their skills and creativity in various categories that were lined up throughout the day whilst also having fun. It started off with 'Globe Theatre', a treat for all theatre enthusiasts. It had to be a wacky play amalgamating characters from two different Indian comics. We chose Tantri the Mantri and Betaal, where Betaal was an A.I assistant helping Tantri to get a job. The play with its humourous dialogues and hilarious acting by all the participants was well-received by the audience. 'Rhaposdy x No Empty Rhetoric' was an event for those articulate and eloquent speakers who also love to argue. Kelly Fernandes participated in this debate and extempore speech competition consisting of two rounds. She bagged the second place for 'No Empty Rhetoric' where she argued against the motion that video games should be considered literature.

For the 'Mascot', Rachel Nazareth brought Princess Zelda to life enchanting the campus with her graceful, resolute demeanour and her intricate costume securing the second place. For the 'Variant' Ashik Ahmed Sarkar participated in 'Drape of the Lock X Makeupmorphosis' while Ishrat Shaikh participated in 'thrEDNA mode and Propmaster'. The challenge was to create a character that embodies both a



storytelling subgenre and a Goan identity. Together, they conceptualised the ‘Cyberpunk Fisherwoman’ who collected garbage in her fishing nets instead of fish, portraying a dystopian version of Goa.

Adam Ferrao participated in ‘Xposure’ and created a digital flipbook with photographs of a chilling horror story based in Goa. This sinister photo-story seized the third place. For ‘Slammit’, Kelly Fernandes was required to compose her own poem focused on Goa which she then presented through a slam performance. Her poem was titled ‘Goa’s Distant footprints’. ‘Frames per Second’ required her to record a video of herself narrating the poem combining it with the appropriate visuals to let the verses come alive. Jovan Almeida was the editor for this event.

Jaden D’souza participated in ‘Billboard’ where participants had to create a vintage movie poster on a cloth canvas. The topics were Goan short stories and novels. He chose Damodar Mauzo’s short story ‘These are my Children’ and painted a stunning masterpiece winning the second place. ‘Run for your El Dorado’ (R.E.D) tested our participants brain as well as brawn. Tavia De Souza and Hanna Miranda navigated through a series of tasks in this competition.

Kaira Pereira took part in the ‘One Piece X The Exhibit’, where she presented Colombian culture through Gabriel Garcia Marquez’s novel ‘A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings.’ She explained her diorama to the judges that fittingly portrayed the art, music, communal games, history and food of the region through the novel, thus bagging the second place. For ‘Sashay’ Janhavi Mhambre and Jaden D’souza got everyone on their feet as they danced to the tune of 24k Magic by Bruno Mars dressed as Alladin and Abu and mesmerized everyone with their street style dancing.

For the ‘Pegasus Laureate’ event, a single participant had to participate in a gauntlet of five events. These events were more competitive than the regular events. Sumaiya Khan was our ‘Laureate’ this year and secured the first place for ‘Anecdote’. She also won the third place for ‘The Sleeve’ and second place for ‘Illuminati’, ‘The Showman’ and ‘The Campaign’. She was declared the overall winner of ‘Pegasus Laureate’ for her exceptional performance in all five events, giving the team an exceptional boost of 400 points.

On the second day, the participants returned back with their unwavering energy and everlasting enthusiasm to participate in several other exciting competitions. Meloshka Cardozo participated in ‘Just Deserts’ and presented a three-course meal. The main course was inspired by the graphic novel ‘Akira’, the drink and the dessert was inspired by the video game ‘Clash of Clans’. Her visually stunning food sent the judges on a gastronomic adventure and received appreciation from the organisers as well, undoubtedly earning her the first place.

In ‘Bamboozled’ Shrutika Padte and Tavia De Souza took part in a triad of games: charades, Pictionary and ‘guess who’ securing the first place. The ‘Literary Snakes and Ladders’ put Hirtika Chauhan and Delilah Desouza’s spellings to the test. Every roll of the die led them to a new task. Eventually their spelling skills and luck earned them the second place. Finally, the ‘Bohemian Euphony’ was a treat to the ears. Tavia De Souza, Hanna Miranda, Andrea Rosario and Kaira Pereira composed and performed an original theme

song for the video game 'The Legend of Zelda' drawing inspiration for their lyrics from William Wordsworth's 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud' and Alfred Lord Tennyson's 'Ulysses'.

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

Our promise to return stronger after last year's defeat came to fruition when Team Zelda of St. Xavier's college, Mapusa were declared as the Overall winners of Pegasus Renaissance Ed. XVI, bringing home the much-coveted rolling trophy for the eighth time since the event's inception in 2008. The administration and faculty were proud of our achievements and congratulated the team for their remarkable performance against strong competitors.

- Shrutika Padte, TYBA



Session On Goa University Project Guidelines (Ug) As Per Ordinance Oa -38

The session was conducted to acquaint the TYBA English students, working on their research projects, about updated instructions, expectations and best practices related to the project reports. The Resource Person presented an outline of the purpose, nature of activity, duration, rules and responsibilities as stated in the Guidelines formulated by Goa University. Dr. Gomes further informed about report writing guidelines and evaluation rubrics.

The primary aim was to familiarize students about guidelines for research projects, plagiarism-free academic writing and to explain the structure, format, and evaluation criteria. Project Supervisors present, answered student queries related to the evaluation scheme, submission timelines, and significance of avoiding plagiarism. There were a total of 24 in attendance.



Best All-Rounder



Saniya Pednekar (TYBA) was awarded the best All-rounder of the Year award at the 60th Annual Sports Meet held on 13th December 2025.

Jaipur Literature Festival

On 13 January 2026, the students of the Department of English, St. Xavier's College, Mapusa, set out on an intellectually invigorating journey to the Jaipur Literature Festival 2026, accompanied by Mr. Aaron-Paul Fernandes and Ms. Urvi Ghotge. The 21 students attended the festival on 15 and 16 January at Hotel Clarks Amer, Jaipur, where ideas, imagination, and inquiry converged on a global stage.

The festival hosted an illustrious line-up of speakers, including Javed Akhtar, Stephen Fry, Banu Mushtaq, Kiran Desai, Anne Applebaum, Esther Duflo, Tim Berners-Lee, Stephen Greenblatt, Sudha Murthy, Jeet Thayil, Jimmy Wales, Ashwin Sanghi and William Dalrymple, co-director of the festival. A rich tapestry of panel discussions spanning literature, theatre, politics, history, colonial studies, travel writing, art, and astrophysics offered the students an experience that was both expansive and transformative.

The sessions provoked reflection beyond academic boundaries. Javed Akhtar incisively observed the evolving moral landscape of society, remarking, "A hero in cinema is a reflection of the morality of society. When morality changes, so does the hero." Stephen Fry, with wit and warmth, celebrated the power of language and selfhood, moving the audience when he said, "I cannot be ashamed of who I am. I can only be ashamed of what I do."

As the festival unfolded, the speakers' personal narratives, layered with wisdom and insight, made each session deeply engaging. A memorable highlight was the opportunity to meet International Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq and have her book *Heart Lamp* personally signed.

Through this immersive experience, the SY and TY English students witnessed firsthand the enduring power of literature and ideas, returning enriched, inspired, and intellectually awakened.



Pride, Prejudice and Perspective: A Peer Presentation

An interactive session was organised on January 21, 2026, from 12:00 to 1:00pm in Room 326, wherein the FYBA AEC English students of Division 3 made a presentation with the help of slides to the SYBA English Major 1 students. Organised for the learners of the paper titled British Literature: 18th and 19th Century; under the guidance of Dr. Prema Rocha and Ms. Giann Fernandes, the session aimed to provide F.Y. students a platform to lead learning, share insights and engage seniors in a collaborative discussion.

The students presented Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice*, exploring her timeless insights into human nature, societal expectations, and relationships—showing why her work remains relevant far beyond Regency England. Well-designed PowerPoint slides, along with thoughtfully selected film clips, brought the story and its themes to life, making the session dynamic and engaging. Xavier Lobo and Klydivinia D'souza compered the session, while Dr. Rocha welcomed participants and remarked on how the session demonstrated the power of peer-led learning and resonated with Austen's themes. A question-and-answer segment enabled seniors to interact with the presenters. Bookmarks designed by the SY students were presented as keepsakes.

The session successfully demonstrated the innovative power of peer learning: The team of 6 FY students acted as facilitators, fostering literary understanding, critical thinking, and collaborative leadership in a lively and interactive environment.



Literary Field Trip To The Dogears Bookstore–Margao.

The First Year English Major students were treated to a literary experience, when they visited The Dogears Bookstore Margao on 8th January 2026. This cozy bookstore boasts of a varied range of reading, catering to different types of readers .

The objective was to introduce and initiate youngsters to indulge in quality reading so as to acquire an expansive world view . The outcomes would be to appreciate literary texts and get insights into the nuances of language , style, and content of these texts . The beneficiaries included 25 English major students who benefited tremendously from this literary experience .



Literature Quiz 4.0

'Literary Cardio for the Brain'

Believing that participation in a quiz is testing one's knowledge and critical thinking skills, the Literature Quiz 4.0 was jointly organized for the first time by the Department of English in collaboration with the Literature Club of St. Xavier's College, Mapusa. The Quiz was held in two rounds, the preliminary written round on 24th January 2026 in Classroom 327 which saw 13 teams competing to qualify for the Finals. The four qualifying teams battled their wits at the Finals held on 28th January 2026 in the college seminar hall from 12 pm onwards.

At the Finals, while introducing the four teams to the audience, Ms. Vaibhavi Kerkar, Secretary, Literature Club stated "There is no better way to sharpen your mind, than to challenge it. Quizzes do exactly this." Facing four challenging rounds, Team Kafka, Team Austen, Team Mauzo and Team Tagore competed while thinking under pressure to gain every point to ensure a win. Round 1 and 2 tested their literary ability as well as their deduction skills. Round 3 added a fun twist to the game wherein teams had to select a "mystery box" with a keyword on it and wager a certain number of points based on how familiar they were with the key word. If this round revealed clear winners, the fourth written rapid fire round completely turned the tables towards the very end. The final score was Team Austen: 105 points, Team Mauzo: 100 points, Team Tagore: 70 points and Team Kafka: 45 points.



In her address, Ms. Sunita Mesquita, Head, Department of English and Mentor, Literature Club emphasized upon the significance of a quiz where "Literature has everything life is made of including mystery, comedy, romance, fantasy, tragedy and participation at a quiz is crucial activity for the brain." The Quiz Hostess, Ms. Kimberly Vales from TY English Major coordinated the quiz rounds while the vote of thanks was proposed by Ms. Kelly D Souza, President, Literature Club. Faculty from The Department of English including Dr. Claudette Gomes, Dr. Prema Rocha and Ms. Giann Fernandes felicitated the teams and presented tokens of appreciation to the student organizing team.

The Winners (Team Austen): Ramona Fernandes, Pearl Fernandes and Meloshka Cardozo from the TY English Major performed spectacularly well. The Runners Up (Team Mauzo): Shrutika Padte (TYBA), Sumaiya Khan (SYBA) and Tavia De Souza (TYBA) matched their opponents in equal measure. The Winners and Runners Up teams were presented Certificates of Merit and medals. Spot prizes were given to the audience. Team Kafka comprising of Anshika Thakur, Saniya Phadte and Klydivinia D'Souza from the SYBA English Major while Mehul Chavan, Soumya Sinari and Soharsha Kole from FYBSc English AEC as Team Tagore were presented Certificates of Appreciation for being tough contenders and showing off their literary proficiency.

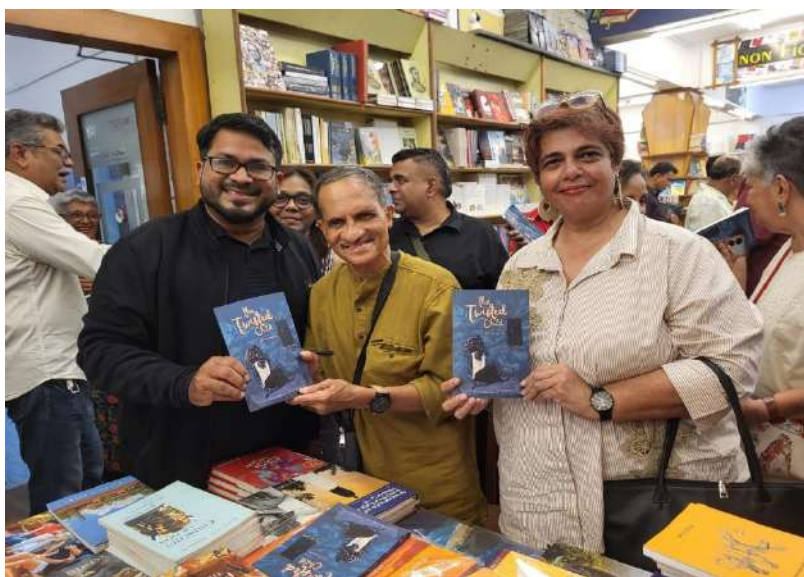


State-Level Workshop



Sir Aaron-Paul Fernandes attended a State-Level Workshop organised by the Department of English, DCT's Dhempe College of Arts and Science on "The Mechanics of Print and Digital Writing" on 27 January 2026.

Book Launch



Sir Aaron-Paul Fernandes and Ma'am Shirlene Palha at Author Mario Coelho's latest book launch, 'The Twisted Child: Tales of the Unexpected', at Broadway Book Centre, Panjim, on Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 5 pm.

The Big Book Swap

Students of English Major, Minor, AEC, VAC participated in the Book Swap organised by the Department of BBA in collaboration with the College Library and the Literature Club on 21 January 2026.



Book Exhibition

English Major students visited the in-house book exhibition held in the college library on 9th and 10th February 2026. The comprehensive collection ranged from educational textbooks to literature classics.



Literature turns dramatic for the SYBs



Understanding literature through performative methods has increasingly become an effective pedagogical strategy. An enactment as a test mode during the Ecology and Literature class was one such experience for SYBA students on 12th February 2026. Students were responsible for interpreting characters in the drama entitled *The Waterfall* by Rabindranath Tagore by staging scenes and presenting ecological dimensions through dialogue, gestures and props.

GU-ART Session

Katherine Manuel delivered a session on GU-ART for TY students applying for the Master's programme at Goa University. (13 March 2026)



Goa Arts and Literature Festival , GALF , 2026

The First Year English Major students immersed themselves in a vibrant series of literary sessions , spread across two days on the 13th and 14th of February 2026 for the Goa Arts and Literature Festival held at International Centre (ICG), Dona Paula . These sessions included book readings , film screenings , literary workshops , book launches , comic presentations among others , conducted simultaneously at three venues . The student attendees , embraced every opportunity to engage with the world of literature , eagerly buying books and enthusiastically indulging in book signings . It was truly an enriching experience at GALF . The objective was:

- 1) To document and critically respond to the major sessions, themes, and intellectual discourses .
- 2) To promote students' literary awareness and interdisciplinary understanding through the sessions at GALF .

The Learning Outcomes would include the ability

- 1) To critically engage with contemporary literary and artistic debates, thereby strengthening analytical and interpretative skills.
- 2) To broaden intellectual horizons and foster informed cultural engagement.

The beneficiaries included 36 English major students who benefited tremendously from this literary experience .

FYBA Students and Ms. Shirlene Fernandes captured with Padmashri Awardee Dr. Armida Fernandez (left) and with Vidya Krishnan and Charlene Farrell (right)



Writers' Corner 2026



music collided with science, leaving everyone present awe-struck.

The 'Writers' Corner' prelude of WordsUp 7.0 was organised by Kelly D'souza and Faculty co-ordinator Ms. Giann Fernandes along with Ms. Sunita Mesquita, Head, Department of English. It sparkled with Mr. Gaurav Padte, a proud St. Xavier's alumnus now teaching at Sharada Mandir Higher Secondary School, Miramar, delivering a keynote address that plunged attendees into the mesmerizing world of science fiction, through experiments where

This was followed by an engaging panel discussion titled "The Scientific Cosmos: Deciphering the Impact of Technology on Humanity, Environment and Ethics," featuring panelists Dr. Sarath Guttikunda, Dr. Nandakumar Kamat, and Mr. Gaurav Padte, skilfully moderated by Dr. Frederick Noronha, as they navigated topics of technology and AI's influence on our world and revolved around its the effect on education, the environment and human life. Mr Gaurav Padte elaborated on how AI should help one perform a task and not let it dictate what task one should perform, preserving human intention and creativity. Dr. Sarath Guttikunda elaborated on how AI helps one easily collect information and how it has helped advance studies in various fields. The topic primarily focused on the balance of using developing technology alongside human creativity and not letting it take full control.

It then moved onto Science Fiction and the qualities needed to write for the genre as well. Dr. Nandakumar Kamat commented on how one must possess the intent, imagination and scientific temper to write good science fiction stories by incorporating real science facts and the vision of the past to create something new. Dr. Guttikunda emphasized the importance of storytelling and how every action, scientific or otherwise, can be conveyed through a simple story. Mr. Gaurav Padte spoke briefly on the future of Science Fiction in Goa and how it will slowly grow as a genre as more young minds get to know it and study it, highlighting its potential. The discussion provided the audience with a deeper insight into the world of science and its fiction. At the end, the dignitaries were then presented with a token of appreciation in the form of a potted plant and a memento by student volunteers. Ms. Giann Fernandes

Writers' Corner wrapped up with an open mic session in the afternoon where budding artists performed and poets read out their poems.

WordsUp 7.0: The Final Frontier: May The Words Be With You

The Department of English at St. Xavier's College, Mapusa, held a stellar celebration of words during the seventh edition of their English festival, WordsUp, transforming the college campus into something right out of a cosmic dream on February 16th and 17th 2026, with 'Writers' Corner' serving as a shimmering curtain raiser on February 14th 2026, drawing in all English literature enthusiasts from across the state.

Twelve colleges with around 360 participants brought their energy and spirit to the event along with over 250 devoted volunteers from St. Xavier's various departments and faculty members, all uniting to honour the boundless English language; these included Don Bosco College, Panjim, Rosary College of Commerce and Arts, Navelim, Parvatibai Chowgule College, Margao, MES Vasant Joshi College, Nirmala Institute of Education, Padre Conceicao College of Engineering, Verna, Agnel Institute of Technology and Design, Assagao, Government College Khandola, Srinivassa Sinai Dempo College, Cujira, Dhempe College of Arts and Science, Panjim, and Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Sanquelim.

A Plant Donation drive was organised on 14th February 2026, where contingents brought in fruiting, flowering and medicinal plants. This initiative was undertaken keeping in mind the Sustainable Development Goals of 'Climate Action' and 'Life on Land'.



“WordsUp is part of the history of St. Xavier’s College,” said Principal Ms. Ursula Barreto as she addressed students, volunteers, participants and faculty members of participating colleges during the inaugural function of WordsUp. She went on to appreciate the months of effort put in by the co-ordinators, student volunteers and the Department of English during the preparation of the event. Ms. Alice D’cruz, a retired faculty member from the Department of English was the chief guest. She congratulated the organizers of WordsUp for providing students with a platform to explore their different talents and emphasized that WordsUp was not just a literary event but a long-running platform to engage in healthy competition and showcase your talent. Ms. Sunita Mesquita, Head of the Department of English encouraged the participants to put their best foot forward. The newsletter of the Department of English, ‘Eloquence’ was also released at the hands of the Chief Guest. The grand unveiling of the trophies followed by a soulful a cappella performance signalled the commencement of the 2-day literary adventure.



This year’s WordsUp theme was the amalgamation of science and literature - Science Fiction, showcased in the subtitle that read “The Final Frontier: May The Words Be With You”. The electrifying lineup of 26 events hurled contestants into imaginative black holes and intellectually charged wormholes, including Launch Sequence Initiated (Introductory Video), The Meme Awakens (Meme Making), Maze Runner: Out and Beyond (Vlogging), Byer’s Lens (Photo Caption) that tested the participants creative as well as digital abilities.

Pandora Realms Redesigned (Poster Design), A Na’vi’s Mural (Wall Painting) put the artists to the ultimate test. The Restaurant at the End of the Universe (Cooking) was a showdown of sciency flavours, Upside Down Letters (Letter Writing), The Kobayashi Maru Test (Quiz), Wobbly Wobbly Wordy Wimey (Spelling Bee), Zeep Xanflorp’s Micro Tales (Terribly Tiny Tales), evaluated the literary prowess of those who were up for a challenge, Ready Player One-Minute (Minute to Win It), Sixty Seconds to Sentience (Just a Minute), Dyad of the Unknown (Two Can Tell a Tale), The Senate Showdown (Debate), Build

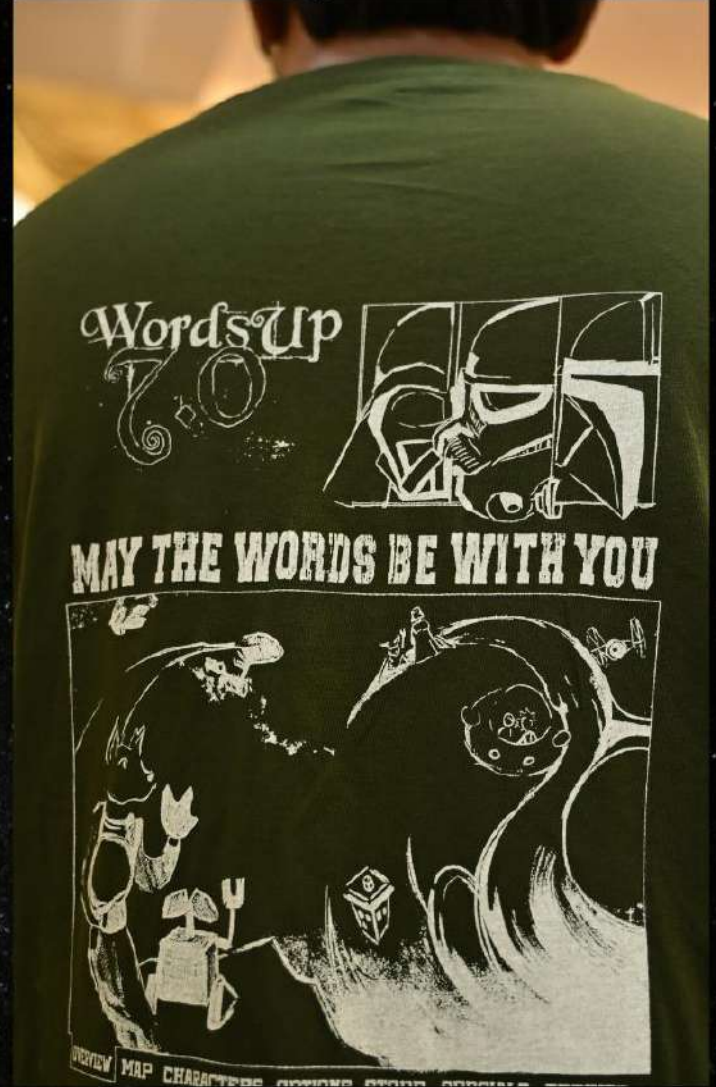
Your Own Daemon (The Pilot), The Theatrix Reloaded (Theatre), and Vogon's Verse (Performance Poetry) made the participants battle it out with their elocution and showman skills.

Through all the 26 events, competitive spirits soared like warp-speed rockets, and put the various skills of the participants to the utmost galactic test. WordsUp was kept open to all colleges, regardless of whether they offer English Literature as a major. Food and pop-up stalls added to the spirit of the event and a book stall by 1556 Publication provided a selection of Goan-authored books.

The valedictory ceremony began with the student co-ordinators for the event, Ms. Shrutika Padte, Ms. Tavia De Souza and Ms. Kelly D'souza expressing their heartfelt gratitude to all those who worked hard behind the scenes to make WordsUp 7.0 a grand success. The faculty of the English Department, Ms. Sunita Mesquita, Dr. Prema Rocha, Dr. Claudette Gomes, Ms. Shirlene Palha, Ms. Giann Fernandes and Ms. Urvi Ghotge gave away the prizes and certificates to the winners of individual events. Fr. Antonio Salema and faculty-coordinator of WordsUp 7.0, Mr. Aaron-Paul Fernandes gave away the cash prizes to the top three winners of the event. Srinivassa Sinai Dempo College of Commerce and Economics, Bambolim rocketed to victory as overall winners, with Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science, Margao securing the runners-up position and Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Sanquelim claiming second runners-up. This marked the end of the celestial literary event, leaving all suspended in anticipation for what it would bring along when it next returned.

-Kimberly Vales, TYBA







Winners of Ingenuity Conclave

The Ingenuity Conclave held at Agnel Institute of Technology and Design took place on the 28th of February, 2026. A Public Speaking and Solution Pitch contest, this integrated Science with Creative Presentation.

Our students Sumaiya Khan (SYBA), Iqbal Singh(SYBA) and Kelly Fernandes(FYBA) made a presentation about decreasing road accidents through a gamified app for rental cars. This presentation, along with their participation in the debate and elocution round, won them the First Place in this event.



International Conference



Dr. Prema Rocha, Associate Professor in the Department of English at St. Xavier's College, participated in and presented a paper titled "*Wounds Into Wit: Caregiving, Moral Injury, and Ethical Resistance in Em and the Big Hoom*" at the Two-Day International Conference on "*Ethics, Values and Human Dignity in Healthcare: Psychological, Literary, Artistic and Medical Perspectives*", held on 23rd–24th February 2026 at DCT's Dhempe College of Arts and Science, Miramar–Goa, organized in collaboration with Sangath and Manipal Hospital Goa.

Staff Picnic 2026

Department faculty collaborated with the Department of Physics to organize the Xavier's annual staff picnic. (14 March 2026)



Continued Conversations: Awakened Voices Post-GALF



The Department of English organised Continued Conversations : Awakened Voices Post GALF. The programme sought to create a space where learning moved beyond the classroom , imbibing the intellectual climate to create a transformed post GALF plan of action . The event was steered by the faculty coordinator, Ms. Shirlene Fernandes, whose guidance and vision ensured the smooth conduct of the programme.

The session commenced with warm and cordial greetings by the compere Ms Pearl Khanolkar to the faculty members, along with students of the English Major and Minor programme . What followed was a comprehensive presentation on GALF, delivered through an engaging PowerPoint by Ms Manisha Pahadiya who revisited key moments of the festival, highlighting significant literary sessions, and the prevailing vibrant academic atmosphere . One of the most impactful segments of the programme was titled Voices of Resonance, where students shared their personal experiences at GALF. Their reflections revealed how the festival had broadened their perspectives, deepened their literary appreciation, and inspired meaningful academic curiosity. The sharing was thoughtful, articulate, and deeply reflective of the transformative potential of literary exposure.

The session then moved towards a discussion on Post-GALF Plans. Ms Rachel Nazareth offered a planned and creative structure to the question What Next After GALF ...She elaborated on engaging in reading circles, holding of a Literature Festival involving invited authors, poets, performers, film makers to pool resources under one roof to hosting Literature Day , inter departmental collaborations which would provide an opportunity to interact with other litterateurs. This segment reinforced the programme's core objective: to continue the conversations that GALF had initiated.



The programme concluded with insightful closing remarks delivered by Ms. Sunita Mesquita, Head of the Department of English. She commended the students for their active participation and encouraged them to remain intellectually engaged and creatively inspired. The event culminated with a group photograph, capturing the spirit of shared learning and collective enthusiasm that defined the programme. Continued Conversations thus stood as a testament to the department's commitment to nurturing reflective learners and fostering a vibrant academic community.

Battle of Intellect and Ideas - Report on the Research Paper Presentation Competition Held at Rosary College

"Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought," Albert Szent-Györgyi.

Ms. Giann Maria Fernandes, Assistant Professor in English, St. Xavier's College, Mapusa-Goa and two F.Y.B.A. English students participated at Gyana: A research paper presentation competition organized by

Students, faculty present papers at Rosary College research contest

NT KURIOCIETY

Rosary College of Commerce and Arts, Navelim, recently organized a Research Paper Presentation Competition at its seminar hall. Students from undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) programmes, along with faculty members from colleges across Goa, participated in the competition. Research papers were presented in disciplines such as Management, Commerce, Tourism, Psychology, Geography, Political Science, Law and English. Principal and professor Helic Barreto, emphasised that research should be pursued as a continuous process of inquiry and learning. He congratulated the participants for presenting their work and contributing to academic research. The papers were judged by Cidalia Bodade, Brian Mendonca, Aloysius Godinho, Zamilia Pacheco and Surabhi Gore.

In the faculty category, Giann Fernandes of St Xavier's College, Mapusa, secured first place. In the PG category, Kay Fernandes of Chowgule College emerged as the winner. In the UG category, the winners were Charlene Desouza of St. Xavier's College, Mapusa and Siya Bhohe and Manvi Gaonkar of Damodar College, Margao.

Selected papers from the competition will be published in the college research Journal Gyana: Journal of Management, Commerce and Interdisciplinary Research (ISSN 3049-2394 Print | 3049-5900 Online).

Rosary College of Commerce and Arts, Navelim, Goa, on 07 March, 2026. *Gyana* is an interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journal published by Rosary's and looks to publish the best research papers through this competition. The contest was arranged at three category levels: Faculty, Post-Graduate and Undergraduate students. There were approximately twenty-two participants in all. Participants were allowed only eight minutes for presentation accompanied by a power-point, and two minutes for question/answer.

Ms. Giann won the award for the 'Best Research Paper Presentation' under the faculty category Her paper was titled, "Constructing Violence, Reality and Filicide: Exploring 'The Pomegranate Queen' From a Student's Lens". Ms. Charlene Desouza, F.Y.B.A student of Xavier's also won the award for the best paper presentation award in the undergraduate category, shared with students of Damodar college. She worked

on the topic: "Franz Kafka's 'The Metamorphosis': A Mirror of Today's Youth". Ms. Stacie D'souza, F.Y.B.A also presented a paper on: "Scapegoating as a Medium of Injustice: A Comparative Study of Deceptive Characters in Harper Lee's 'To Kill a Mockingbird' and F. Scott Fitzgerald's 'The Great Gatsby'". The competition not only gave students a taste of research, it also acquainted them with myriad ideas put forth by different fellow researchers from diverse fields.

-Ms. Giann Fernandes



A Good Life With Plants

During an Ecology and Literature based assignment held on 9th March 2026 on Ruskin Bond's autobiography titled Lone Fox Dancing, students described chapters related to his life in solitude enriched in the company of Nature. At 91 years, students recommended medicinal plants for Ruskin Bond's better health while enumerating how these plants benefit individual well being.



Lit Star 4.0



Kelly D'souza and Kimberly Vales (TYBA) participated in an inter-collegiate quiz organised by Rosary College of Commerce and Arts, Navelim on 17th March 2026. They qualified the preliminary written round comprising of 25 questions and made it to the finals out of 11 teams from colleges across the state, where they secured the third place.

Women's Day Celebration



We rise, We empower. We celebrate
Women's power.

On March 9, 2026, the Department of English at St. Xavier's College celebrated International Women's Day by hosting a guest session featuring Vaibhavi Kerkar (FYBA),

who shared profound insights into her journey as an author. Focusing on her published short story, Ms. Kerkar provided a comprehensive overview of her creative process and the practicalities of the publishing industry, offering students a rare glimpse into the professional literary world. Her thoughtful reflections on the challenges and triumphs of a writer served as both a technical guide and a significant source of inspiration for fellow aspiring writers.



Gamified Learning



On 17 March, 2026, Miss Giann Fernandes, introduced the concept of Kahoot in her FYBA VAC: Introduction to the Folktales of India class. Kahoot is an online quiz platform that allows participants to connect with their syllabus and prepare for examinations in a much more vibrant manner. Student Rachel Nazareth took initiative and conducted the quiz for the class.



TYs Go Beyond Books: Internships for AY 2025-26

The internships taken up by the students of the Department of English under the supervision of **Dr. Maria Claudette Gomes** from the Department of English, St. Xavier's College, Mapusa-Goa, as part of the NEP course guidelines mandating students of the final year undertake an internship of 02 credits (60 hours).

Sr. No	Name of Student	Internship Organisation	Nature of Internship
1	Brenda Mendes	Santana Beach Resort, Candolim	Front Office Operations
2	Cynara De Souza	Radisson Goa, Candolim	Front Office Operations
3	Fariha Beig	DNA Pvt. Ltd., Goa	Human Resource Department
4	Ishrath Shaikh	Goa Bazaar, Mapusa	Communication and Sales
5	Kelly D'Souza	Herald Publications Pvt. Ltd, Panaji	Feature Writer
6	Racheal D'Souza	Mojigoa, Assagao	Spa Manager
7	Tavia De Souza	Prime TV, Panaji	Reporting/ Writing Articles/ Editing/ Field Work
8	Valanky De Souza	Adamo The Bellus, Calangute	Front Office Operations
9	Andrea Rosario	I-Help Foundation, Goa	Content Writing, Event Management, Social Media Management
10	Annecya Fernandes	National Insurance Company Limited, Mapusa	Data Management
11	Hirtika Chauhan	Cesar & Pamela Cabral's Insurance Advisory Office, Mapusa	Back Office Administration
12	Kimberly Vales	Office of Notary & Adv. Sebastian Vales, Porvorim	Intern at Law Office
13	Pearl Fernandes	Radisson Goa, Candolim	Front Office Operations
14	Ramona Fernandes	Carnival De Goa Hotel, Pilerne	Front Office Operations
15	Reuella Azavedo	Picnic Plaza, Porvorim	Front Desk Intern
16	Shrutika Padte	Prime TV, Panaji	Reporting/ Writing Articles/ Editing/ Field Work
17	Valencia D'Costa	Bookworm, Saligao	Library Work, Day to Day functioning of Library

18	Megan Gomes	Deva Matha Convent of the Pallotine Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate, Assagao	Library and Documentation Assistant
19	Rachel Gauncar	Village Panchayat, Chodan-Madel, Choraio	Documentation, Manage Office Inventory, Correspondence
20	Joyce Fernandes	De Cero's Food-Drink Restaurant, Siolim	Content Writing
21	Aloysha C Fernandes	St. Anthony High School, Monte de Guirim, Mapusa, Bardez-Goa.	Library Attendant
22	Bhoomi K. Mujral	Alchemy Initiative Events, Mapusa	Communication & Hospitality
23	Chandana Raju	ASRO Care Home for Children, Tivim	Coaching & Tutoring
24	Cynthia K. Madgaonkar	Dr. K.B. Hedgewar School, Assonora	Teaching Assistant
25	Melita V. Pinto	Our Lady of Remedies High School Nerul, Bardez, Goa	Teaching Assistant
26	Meloshka R. Cardozo	Samira Gauns, Notary, Bicholim	Office Management
27	Sania Colaco	Amey Medicals Chemists & Druggists, Bambordem, Moira.	Customer Assistance & Support
28	Saniya V. Pednekar	Fish-Wish Restaurant, Ozarim, Goa	Service & Front of House
29	Vallencia Fernandes	Basilica of Bom Jesus, Old Goa	Crowd Management Volunteer
30	Ashwarya G. Pawar	ASRO Care Home for Children, Tivim	Coaching & Tutoring
31	Anangsha H. Chikhlikar	Suzuki Supermarket, Cansaulim	Customer Assistance & Support
32	Janhavi R. P. Mhambre	Food Express, (Farm Express), Goa	Creative Writing
33	Tabitha A. Mascarenhas	Lourdes Convent Pre-Primary School, Saligao	Teaching Assistant

Across Canvases

-Larissa
D'souza, SYBA



@larururuu_



-Faith Michael, TYBA



-Saideep desai
FY BSC

Across Canvases



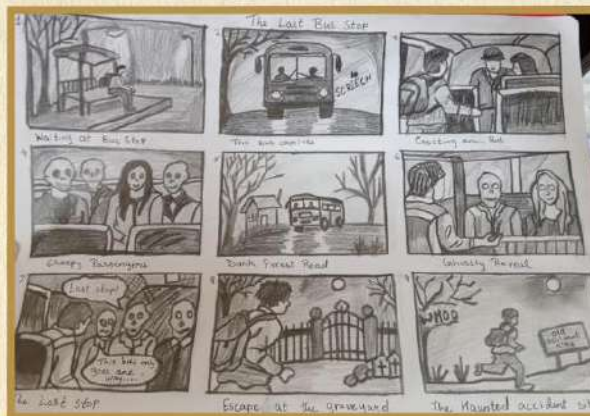
-Kaira Rasine Pereira, FYBA



-Raksha, FYBA



-Kratika pednekar, FYBsc



-FYBA



-Delilah D'souza, FYBA



-Gandhali S. Paste, F.Y. Bsc.

THE FIRST SENTENCE CHALLENGE: ANSWER KEY

1. A Tale Of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
2. 1984 by George Orwell
3. The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
4. Dune by Frank Herbert
5. The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
6. The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
7. Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
8. The Voyage Of The Dawn Treader by C.S. Lewis
9. The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
10. The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
11. A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
12. To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee

ANSWER KEY: RIDDLES

1. Clock.
2. Gloves.
3. Coin.
4. Stairs.
5. Teapot.
6. Your name.
7. Cashew.
8. Seven.
9. River.
10. Doorbell.

