



RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY

Literary Impressions

THE BOOK CLUB OF

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



LITERARY IMPRESSIONS

ABOUT:

Literary Impressions, the Book Club of the Department of English was conceptualized in 2023. It is a vibrant community of passionate readers and writers. The club explores diverse literary genres, fosters engaging discussions and celebrates the power of words. Through its gatherings, the club aims to inspire a lifelong love for literature, enriching minds and broadening horizons. Literary Impressions dives into a variety of themes, from classic literature to contemporary works, exploring topics like identity, culture and human emotions. Its discussions often touch on the complexities of societal issues, the nuances of character development, and the artistry of language that promotes a holistic understanding of society at large. Involvement of students from various departments including Philosophy, Economics, Zoology, Psychology, Commerce and Sociology makes literary impressions multidisciplinary and encourages debates from holistic approaches.

MISSION:

To enhance understanding and appreciation of literary texts among students of the Department of English and beyond, to encourage book reading habits in a screen age.

VISION:

Fostering an environment of sensitivity and learning to broaden the horizon of participants against narrow parochial divides of the world.



From the desk of HoD

In the opinion of popular philosopher Rene Descartes, "The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest minds of past centuries." The conversation becomes even more enriching when we discuss the books we read, as the past minds meets the present ones. It is said that reading helps us travel without our feet and we experience living many lives. Literary Impressions, the book club of the Department of English, was conceptualized in 2023. Books of various themes have been discussed animatedly by the students of the Department of English. What makes the club unique is the involvement of students from science and humanities as well in the discussions. It builds a bridge between the arts and the sciences. I wish them success for all their future endeavours.

CORE MEMBERS OF LITERARY IMPRESSIONS

Under the stewardship of the Head of the Department, Dr. Manisha Mishra, the Core Committee of Literary Impressions, the Book Club of Department of English was formed on 23rd March, 2023 with the following members:

1. Amrita Mishra, U.G. 1st Year
2. Subhashree Moharana, U.G. 1st Year
3. Pratistha Panda, U.G. 2nd Year
4. Pratikshya Mohanty, U.G. 2nd Year
5. Swagatika Rath, U.G. 2nd Year
6. Digdarshini Panda, P.G. 1st Year
7. Pragyan Paramita Sahoo, P.G. 2nd Year

The Core Members of Literary Impressions are the driving force behind the vibrant activities of the club. They curate reading lists, organize themed discussions and coordinate events that bring literature to life. These dedicated individuals manage the club's communications, ensuring that every meeting is engaging and inclusive. Through their leadership, they promote a welcoming environment where participants can share their love for books and ideas as they continually seek new ways to expand the club's reach and impact within the university community.

MARCH 2023

Theme: Literature and Morality

RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY
Department Of English

Theme of March: Literature and Morality



"Behind every exquisite thing that existed, there was something tragic."

LITERARY IMPRESSIONS

Invites you to join a discussion on

The Picture of Dorian Gray

ON 27.03.23, FROM 7PM TO 8PM, VIA GOOGLE MEET

<https://meet.google.com/imi-sadw-jdb>



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RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY

Vidya Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751022, India

Website: <https://www.rdwuniversity.nic.in>

Department of English

Email: hod.english@rdwu.ac.in

THEME: Literature and Morality

MONTH: March

On 27th March 2023 LITERARY IMPRESSIONS book club, an initiative by Department of English, Rama Devi Women's University, had its first discussion on the book, "THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY" by Oscar Wilde via Google meet. The surreal tale of a young man who trades his soul for everlasting youth and beauty is the subject of Oscar Wilde's sole novel.

A youthful aesthete in late 19th-century England was the subject of a devastating depiction by Oscar Wilde in this well-known work. The book's remarkable premise—which combines aspects of the Gothic horror tale with decadent French fiction—is as follows: His body continues to be perfectly young and vibrant as Dorian Gray descends into a life of crime and excessive pleasure, but his recently painted portrait transforms into a horrific record of evil that he must keep hidden from the public. This captivating tale of terror and suspense has been immensely popular for more than a century.

The meeting started with CPGC sir Prof. Chandi Charan Rath sharing a few words of motivation and by wishing the students all the best for the presentation. The meeting then proceeded in the presence of Dr. Manisha Mishra HOD Department of English and Ms. Silpa Khan faculty-in-charge of the book club. The theme of the month was "Literature and Morality." The speaker of the meeting Pratistha Panda UG 2nd year started the discussion by providing a brief summary of the book and discussing its various themes like aestheticism, social background of Victorian era, she also says "An artist pours their love in their art" Oscar Wilde's other major works and the importance of this work in contemporary society. Different questions on the book were raised for the discussion by many students. An active participation was seen from Amrita Mishra UG 1st year by saying "Experience doesn't come with age; it comes with

trauma”. Anwasha Nayak UG 2nd year pointed out the female protagonist’s uncanny similarities with the Shakespearean character Juliet and the male protagonists absences of similarities with Romeo and how this ‘damsel in distress’ portrayal negatively affects the identity and the social image of woman, Swagatika Rath UG 2nd year raised the question about aging being the prominent theme in the novel, Pratikshya Mohanty UG 2nd year remarked an excellent quote from the book “Experience is a name man has given to their mistakes” and Digdarshini Panda PG 1st year raised the question about the reflection, correlation and relevance of the novel in the Victorian era and in the current society.

There was an enormous response and enthusiasm shown by the students of the university. Students of different departments showed their interest and participated in the discussion. There were 40 participants across the departments. There were some highly anticipated questions such as being Oscar Wilde’s only novel, can the picture of Dorian Gray be considered as his autobiography, experience and old age are important factors for a person’s intellectual morality establishment, as Dorian was not aging physically can it be considered as a reason for his ill behavior? Various opinionated quotes were put forward by the students which led to an engaging discussion amongst the students. Prejudices and women were another briefly discussed topic of the day.

It is an achievement and a matter of extreme delight for the Department of English to see the surge of positive response from the students through the participation. The repetitive show of the spirit of reading in the young hearts, the enthusiasm to learn more and discover new literary aspects of life is a proud moment for the English Department. The hope to make new changes and shape the young minds for the better by rousing love for the literature and life remains our foremost objective.

APRIL 2023

Theme: Stress and Mental Health Awareness

RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY



Department Of English
LITERARY IMPRESSIONS

Invites you to join a discussion on

Dead Poets Society

Theme of April: Stress & Mental Health Awareness



*"And not, when I had come to die, discover
that I had not lived."*

- Henry David Thoreau

On 20.04.23, From 7PM-8PM, Via Google meet

<https://meet.google.com/ncq-ayvm-xyr>



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THEME: Stress and Mental Health Awareness

MONTH: April

On 20.04.23 LITERARY IMPRESSIONS book club, an initiative of Department of English had its second discussion on the book, "Dead Poets Society" by N.H. Kleinbaum in correspondence to the theme of the month, stress and mental health awareness as the book holds an irrevocable relevance in present era as well.

This is a novel about a group of students at the Welton Academy, an all-boys prep school, and their English teacher, Mr. Keating. Keating teaches his students to think for themselves and to pursue their dreams, inspiring them with his unorthodox teaching methods and his love of poetry. However, when tragedy strikes the boys are forced to confront the harsh realities of life and the consequences of their actions. The novel explores themes of individualism, conformity, and the power of literature.

In this second meet we saw enthusiastic participation of 75 people and more along with people from Odia, Mathematics, Philosophy, Commerce, Political Science and many other departments as well. The presence of CPGC sir Mr. Chandi Charan Rath along with Head of the Departments and other teachers as well gave the students a head start for the meet and an amazing confidence boost. Dr. Itishree Sarangi, Department of English shared a few words regarding the topic and theme of the month along with explaining why Dead Poets Society will always remain close to her heart. The speaker of the session Swagatika Rath, UG 2nd year started with a brief narration of summary. Enthusiastic participation of Samita from Philosophy department is noteworthy. Her message to everyone that going to therapy and asking for help doesn't make anyone weak rather it's a sign for true courage, as fighting for life and regaining the will power to live the life you want is not possible for many people and her journey towards creating a better life for tomorrow was something everyone needed to hear.

The most entertained and appreciable question of the evening was put forward by Joshita Pattnaik, UG 2nd year the question being, "if Charlie would have been in Neil's situation do you think he would have tried to end it all?" Some of the most insightful and lovely answers of this question from many different people put the discussion on the high end.

Chandi Charan sir also shared a moving story of his teacher, a survivor of cancer, a person with strong will power and explained how mental well-being can help us tackle any disease that comes our way and with a proper mindset we should be ready for all the obstacles that is waiting for us. The topic of our respective favourite literary references from the novel led to the discussion of some of the most ethereal quotes from William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer night's dream* to Tennyson's quote with a complimentary mention of *O Captain my captain* by Sir Walt Whitman.

Lastly everyone concluded the session by chanting "CARPE DIEM" in a chorus which was the moment of the day. With a hope of creating better future for ourselves, where we can do what's best for us, speak our minds and follow our passions remains intact, this discussion concluded with a message to everyone who is struggling through mental health problems must come forward and seek necessary help. With the help of everyone this meet was definitely a boost of positive energy and a step forward to break the generational trauma and being kind.

MAY 2023

Theme: Literature and Science



RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY

LITERARY IMPRESSIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Invites you to join an engaging discussion on

FRANKENSTEIN

by

Mary Shelley



"Am I to be thought
the only criminal,
when all human kind
sinned against me?"



Date - 20 May 2023

Time - 7:30pm to 8:30pm

Via Google Meet - ghx-szrb-anm



THEME OF MAY - LITERATURE & SCIENCE





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Theme: Literature and science

MONTH: May

The third book club session of Rama Devi Women's University, on 20th May 2023, zeroed in on the classic novel *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. The session, especially long-awaited surged with the urge to expose one of the most enduring stories in literature. The discussion was led by Payal Swain, a second-year postgraduate student whose very resourceful presentation set a tone for the invigorating session. Payal began with an overview exposure to *Frankenstein*, its themes of creation, responsibility, and ethical dilemmas that the characters are going to face. She pointed out their relevance in today's context, which really engaged the audience in discourse.

The students from other departments also actively participated in the session. She asked a stimulating question regarding what Victor Frankenstein's actions mean to the practice of science today. Digdarshini Panda from PG second year, contributing her insights , referring to the caution in the tale within the novel and to present bioethical debates, asked a query for which the basic response Payal gave, was that the novel warned about the dangers of unchecked ambition.

A second-year undergraduate, Amrita Mishra, raised the question that she wanted discussed further— that is, the representation of isolation, particularly of the creature in the novel. It opened a very emotional discussion on what we know or feel about the impact of loneliness and social rejection. Payal shared her ideas with the participants about how those themes come alive in society today.

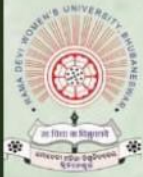
A very strong contributor from the Philosophy group was Adri Dubey, who asked questions regarding the novel's discussion of identity and self-awareness: whether the creature's propensity for violence was part of his nature or his response to the way society treated him. This, of course, elicited wonderful discussion to which

many interpretations contributed deeper meaning to the text.

The session concluded with an attempt to animate the key scenes in the novel to reconstitute the narrative in a manner that highly visceralized the storyline and provide participants with the flavor of the emotional intensity of the original tale. Beyond developing a clear grasp of Frankenstein, this compelling exchange deepened the sense that understanding complex ethical challenges ought to be undertaken using literature.

JUNE 2023

Theme: Pride Month



RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY

LITERARY IMPRESSIONS

Department of English

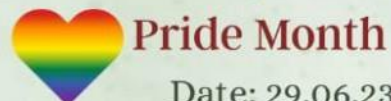


Invites you to join an engaging
book discussion on

THE SONG OF ACHILLES



THEME OF JUNE:



Date: 29.06.23

Time: 7:00PM - 8:00PM

Via Google meet:

<https://meet.google.com/tfo-gxwp-pvt>





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THEME: Pride Month

MONTH: June

The fourth book club session on 29.06.23 of Rama Devi Women's University commenced with a beautiful and poignant tribute to the characters of Patroclus and Achilles. The book selected for this session was "The song of Achilles" by Madeline Miller, the book selection was done on the account of pride month.

Swagatika Rath, a second-year undergraduate student moderated the meeting and hence recited a sonnet dedicated to Patroclus, while Pratistha Panda, also a second-year undergraduate student showed her active participation in the session and delivered an emotional paragraph in memory of Achilles. This heartfelt tribute was curated by Amrita Mishra, a first-year undergraduate student who was in charge of giving the talk for this session and displayed her interest in creating vivid literary compositions.

Following the touching recitations, Amrita Mishra took charge of the session and presented a comprehensive summary of the book under discussion. Her summary encompassed the key themes, plot developments, and character analyses, allowing the participants to gain a deeper understanding of the book's content. Amrita's presentation was well-received and appreciated by all, showcasing her dedication to the book club and her enthusiasm for literature. To enhance the book talk session experience, she even initiated to present an animated narration of the whole story. That helped the audience to understand the storyline in a much better way.

The session then transitioned into a heartfelt and emotional discussion, wherein participants from various departments actively engaged in sharing their thoughts and opinions. Participants joined from various departments such as psychology, philosophy, education, gender studies, history, chemistry, economics, mathematics, political science, biotechnology etc. Around 40-45 students participated in this engaging session and we could even decipher the fact that with every proceeding book

session more number of students are showing their interest in participating and contributing their views in these sessions.

One of the most prominent contributors was Samita, a second-year undergraduate student from philosophy department, who provided insightful perspectives on the book. Samita's interpretations and observations added depth to the discussion and sparked new avenues of thought for other participants.

One of the highlights of the session was the presentation of an animation based on the book. This animated adaptation of the story resonated with everyone in the room, evoking strong emotions and fostering a sense of unity among the participants. Witnessing the book come to life through animation served as a group therapy session, generating a profound impact on the attendees. This touching experience left a lasting impression, encouraging many members to express their desire to read the book in its original form, thus achieving one of the primary objectives of the book club.

In conclusion, the fourth book club session at Rama Devi Women's University proved to be an engaging and impactful gathering. The recitations in memory of Patroclus and Achilles, the informative summary, the passionate discussion, and the emotional animation presentation all contributed to the overall success of the session. The book club achieved its objective of inspiring members to read and explore the chosen book, fostering a deeper appreciation for literature and its ability to touch our hearts and minds.

JULY 2023

Theme: In memory of Julius Caesar

RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY

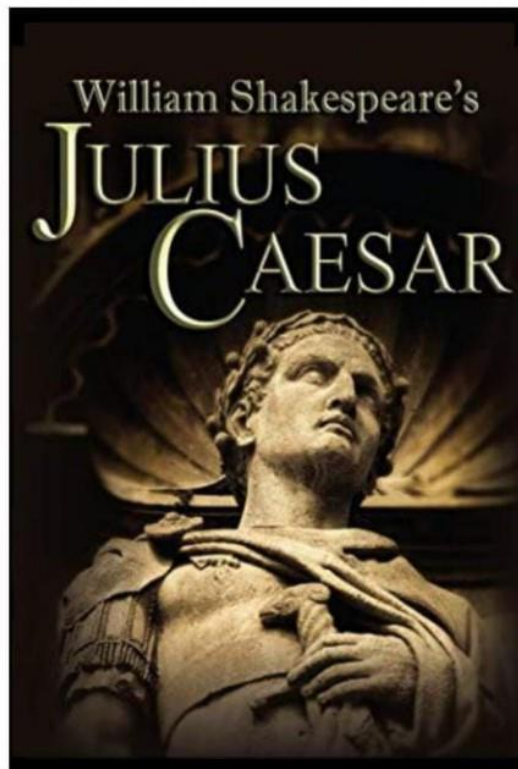


Department Of English
LITERARY IMPRESSIONS

Invites you to join a discussion on

Julius Caesar

Theme of July: July was named after Julius Caesar, the famous Roman dictator.



On 31.07.23; From 7PM to 8PM, Via Google Meet

<https://meet.google.com/jbh-kzsq-dkj>



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THEME: In memory of Julius Caesar

MONTH: July

The July book club session at Rama Devi Women's University, held on 31st July 2023, focused on Shakespeare's classic play Julius Caesar. The session was led by Amrita Mishra, a second-year undergraduate student, who skillfully navigated the complexities of the play, offering a thorough analysis of its themes, characters, and historical context.

Amrita began by summarizing the play, emphasizing its exploration of power, ambition, and the moral dilemmas faced by its characters. Her presentation highlighted the timeless nature of Shakespeare's work and how its themes resonate in contemporary discussions about leadership and ethics.

The first question was raised by Swagatika Rath, a third-year undergraduate student, who inquired about the role of Brutus as a tragic hero. Amrita responded by analysing Brutus's internal conflict and his motivations for joining the conspiracy against Caesar. She explained that Brutus's actions, driven by a sense of honour and patriotism, ultimately lead to his downfall, making him a quintessential tragic hero in Shakespearean literature.

Pratistha Panda, another third-year undergraduate student, asked about the portrayal of betrayal in the play, particularly in the relationship between Caesar and Brutus. Amrita elaborated on how Shakespeare uses betrayal as a central theme to explore the consequences of political ambition and the fragile nature of trust. The group discussed how this theme is still relevant in today's political landscape.

Subhashree Moharana, a second-year undergraduate student, brought up the rhetorical techniques used in the famous funeral speeches by Brutus and Mark Antony. Amrita's analysis focused on how these speeches reflect the power of persuasion and public

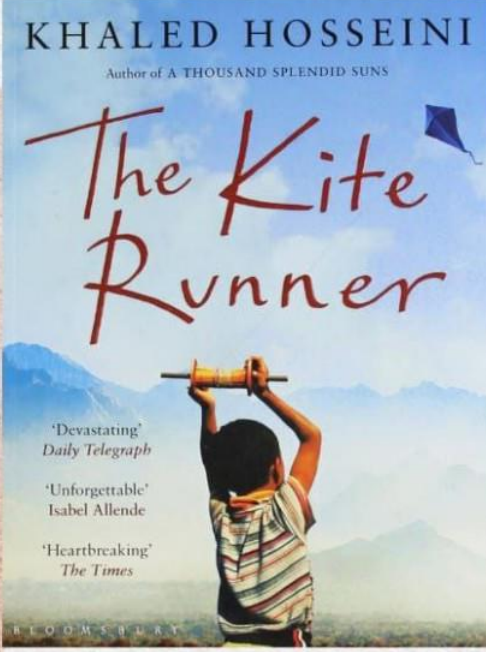


opinion in shaping the course of events. The discussion highlighted how Mark Antony's speech, in particular, manipulates emotions and turns the tide against the conspirators.

The session concluded with a reflection on the enduring relevance of Julius Caesar in modern times. Participants engaged in a lively debate about the ethical questions raised by the play, particularly regarding leadership, loyalty, and the use of power. The session was a success, deepening the participants' understanding of Shakespeare's work and its significance in contemporary discourse.

AUGUST 2023

Theme: Friendship

Rama Devi Women's University
LITERARY IMPRESSIONS
Department of English
Invites you to join a discussion on



KHALED HOSSEINI
Author of *A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS*

The Kite Runner

'Devastating'
Daily Telegraph

'Unforgettable'
Isabel Allende

'Heartbreaking'
The Times

" For you a thousand times over "

THEME: FRIENDSHIP

Date: 24.08.23
Time: 7PM to 8PM
Via Google meet:
<https://meet.google.com/hno-pusm-1ol>



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THEME: Friendship

MONTH: August

The August book club session, held on 24th August 2023 at Rama Devi Women's University, took account of Friendship as the theme of the month conducted the meeting on Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*. The session was moderated by Joshita Pattnaik, a third-year undergraduate student, who also walked the participants through the deeply moving and intricate plot of the novel. Joshita led off with a summary of *The Kite Runner*, referring to redemption, guilt, and complex relationships between characters. Her deep analysis paved the way for a lively and simultaneously very emotional discussion.

The first question posed was by Swagatika Rath, a third-year UG student, where she basically asked about the role of father-son relationships in the novel. Joshita explained how the strained relationship between Amir and Baba basically sets the pace for so many of Amir's actions and decisions through the story. Further, it elaborated on generational conflicts and expectations that seem to shape the characters' lives.

Another student, Pratistha Panda, a third-year undergraduate, asked what purpose the scenes of kite flying serve in the novel and what they symbolize. Joshita explained what the kites symbolize: freedom, control, and the bond between Amir and Hassan. They discussed how the kite symbolizes both the innocence of childhood and very complex emotions of betrayal and loyalty that penetrate the story.

Amrita Mishra, a second-year undergraduate student, asked how the novel translated the themes of guilt and redemption through Amir's journey. Joshita said, "Amir struggles with past mistakes, which in turn, drives him on a quest for redemption. Hosseini uses this journey to make one understand that it is never too late to seek forgiveness and rectify the wrong."

The session was closed with a general reflection on the emotional impact of the novel. People shared how *The Kite Runner* speaks to universal themes of forgiveness and the seeking of personal peace, lingering in the minds of all of those involved. Other than providing a deeper appreciation for the relevance of *The Kite Runner*, this was a very engaging session that inspires depth in exploring the intricacies of human relationships and redemption.

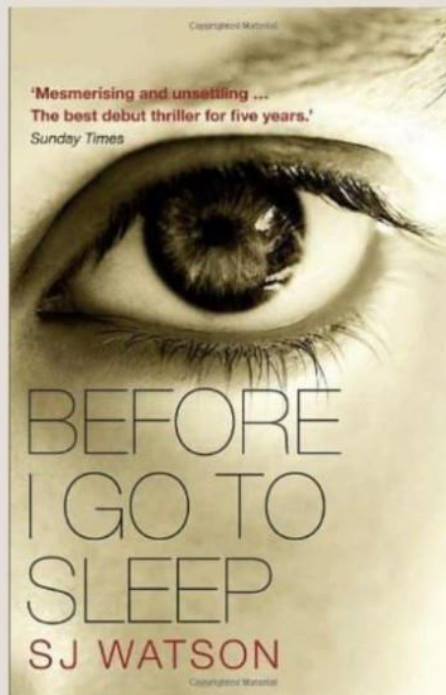
SEPTEMBER 2023

Theme: World Alzheimer's Day



RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
LITERARY IMPRESSIONS

invites you to join a discussion on
"Before I go to sleep"



THEME OF THE MONTH: "WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY"

Date: 28.09.23

Time: 7pm to 8pm

Via Google meet:

<https://meet.google.com/vdg-gmyj-dzw>



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THEME: World Alzheimer's Day

MONTH: September

The September book club session at Rama Devi Women's University, held on 28th September 2023, featured a discussion on *Before I Go to Sleep* by S.J. Watson. The session was led by Payal Pradhan, a second-year undergraduate student, who captivated the participants with her insightful analysis of this psychological thriller.

Payal began by summarizing the novel, which follows the story of Christine, a woman who loses her memory every day when she goes to sleep. She highlighted the book's exploration of themes such as memory, identity, and trust, which set the stage for an intense and gripping discussion.

Pratistha Panda, a third-year undergraduate student, posed the first question, asking about the portrayal of memory as both a fragile and powerful force in the novel. Payal responded by discussing how Watson uses Christine's amnesia to create a sense of suspense and uncertainty, making the reader question what is real and what is imagined. The discussion then delved into how memory shapes our sense of self and reality.



Amrita Mishra, also a second-year undergraduate student, inquired about the role of trust and deception in the novel, particularly in Christine's relationships. Payal explained how the novel masterfully plays with the idea of trust, as Christine struggles to distinguish between truth and lies in her life. The group explored how this theme adds to the psychological tension, keeping readers on edge until the very end.

Atishreya Chottaray, another second-year undergraduate student, asked about the use of unreliable narration in the book and how it affects the reader's experience. Payal elaborated on how Christine's fragmented memories and the unreliable nature of her narrative creates a sense of disorientation, drawing readers deeper into her psychological state. This led to a broader discussion on how unreliable narrators are

used in literature to challenge readers' perceptions. The session concluded with a shared reflection on the novel's ability to keep readers engaged and questioning everything until the final page. Participants appreciated the novel's intricate plot and the way it handles complex psychological themes. This session not only enhanced the participants' understanding of *Before I Go to Sleep* but also sparked a broader conversation on the nature of memory, trust, and the human psyche in literature

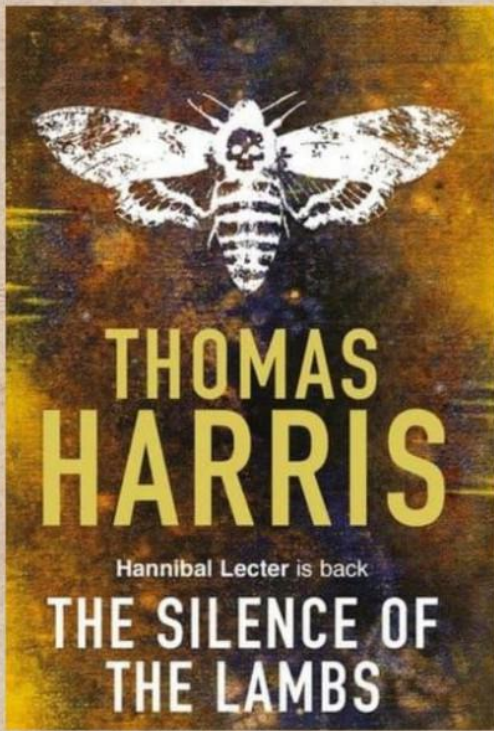
OCTOBER 2023

Theme: Halloween



Rama Devi Women's University
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
LITERARY IMPRESSIONS


Invites you to join a book discussion on



THOMAS HARRIS
Hannibal Lecter is back
THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS

THEME : HALLOWEEN 🎃

Date: 31st October 2023
Time: 7PM to 8PM
venue: via Google meet
<https://meet.google.com/zgj-hici-vye>





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THEME: Halloween

MONTH: October

The book club meeting for the month of October started at Rama Devi Women's University on 31st October 2023 and interestingly coincided with Halloween night. The book was *The Silence of the Lambs* by Thomas Harris. The session was led by Pratistha Panda, a third-year undergraduate student, who led the participants across the chills and suspense that the psychologically horrifying novel had to offer.

Pratistha began by first elaborating on the novel: how the issue of the novel was concerned with two people, an FBI trainee called Clarice Starling and the infamous Dr. Hannibal Lecter. She pointed that the novel addressed such topics as what really evil was, psychological manipulation, and the fine line between property and the hunter, therefore providing a platform for a thrilling discussion.

Another third-year undergraduate, Anwasha Priyadarshini, asked the first query—on the character that Hannibal Lecter is and what exactly made him such a great villain. To which Pratistha replied that it is the intelligence, charm, and unpredictability which make Lecter such a terrifying and at the same time fascinating character. The group then examined how Harris creates a person who is both interesting and frightening as he portrays his character Lecter, blurring the lines between genius and madness.

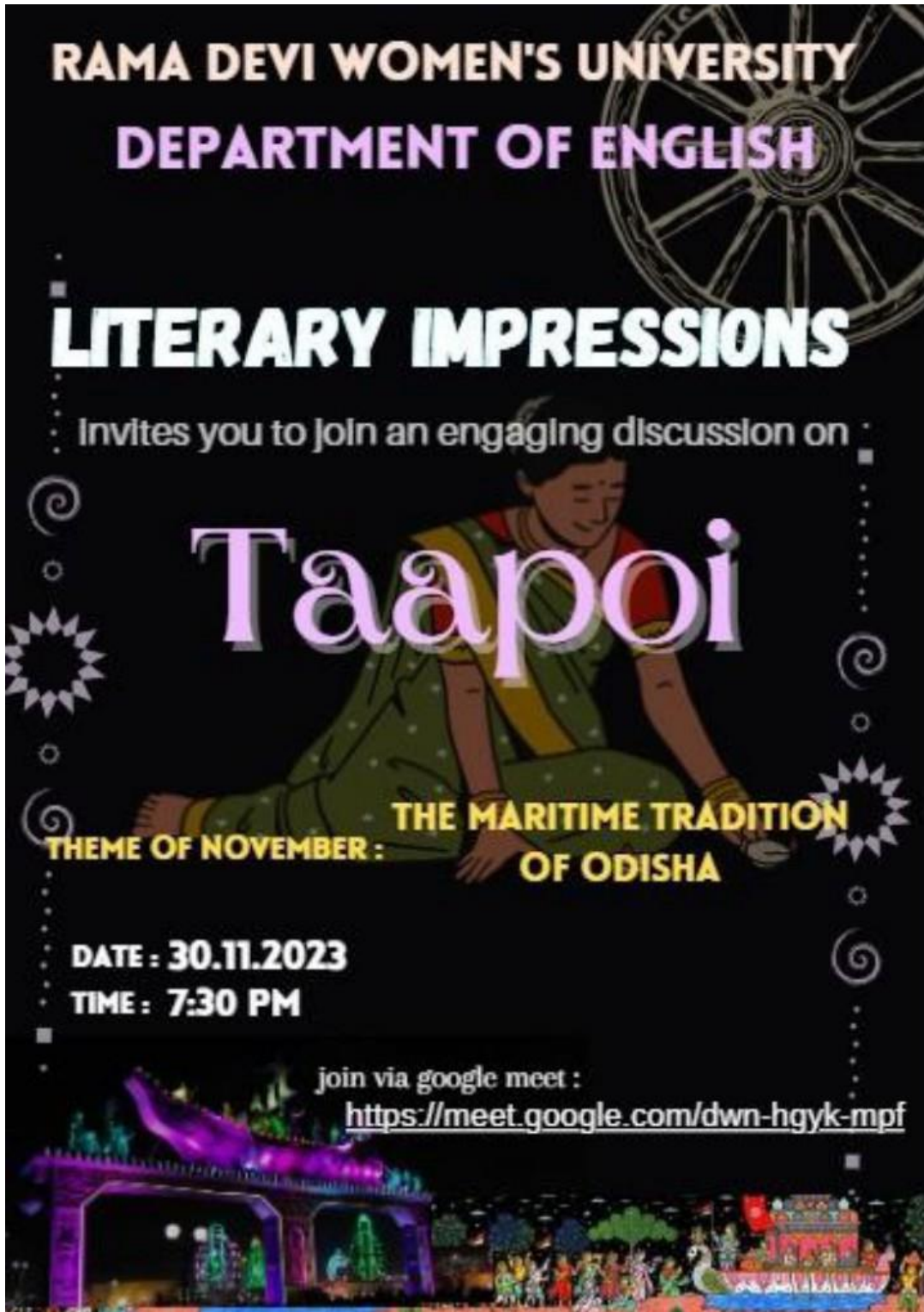
Clarice Starling and Hannibal Lecter share a very interestingly confusing relation, professionally, and in terms of psychological games they tend to play with one another. Pratistha answered the second part, saying that their relation is very important to the novel, as Lecter plays on Clarice's vulnerabilities and also adds to the hierarchy of the information she needs, with vital and crucial insights from Lecter. Above all, it is breath-taking how the interplay between them develops both characters of psychological depth and heightens the suspense in the novel.

Another second-year undergraduate student by the name of Subhashree Moharana asked how the novel wove in elements of horror to drive home its point. Pratistha elaborated on how Harris weaves in psychological horror and avoids overt gore to create a sense of creeping dread and tension. The discussions continued on how the novel's focus is the mind, not physical violence, to make it a deeply unsettling and very effective horror story.

There was an interesting paper on the lasting impact of both the novel and popular culture in general due to *The Silence of the Lambs*. The readers of a novel like this one could definitely enjoy how dark and deeply complex themes may be handled with such flair. This had proven to be another of the sessions this Halloween that deepens the knowledge of participants on psychological horror, coupled with animated debate on the nature of fear and the human psyche in literature.

NOVEMBER 2023

Theme: The Maritime Tradition of Odisha



RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

LITERARY IMPRESSIONS

Invites you to join an engaging discussion on

Taapoi

THEME OF NOVEMBER : THE MARITIME TRADITION OF ODISHA

DATE : 30.11.2023
TIME : 7:30 PM

join via google meet :
<https://meet.google.com/dwn-hgyk-mpf>



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RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY

Vidya Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751022, India

Website: <https://www.rdwuniversity.nic.in>

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THEME: The Maritime Tradition of Odisha

MONTH: November

The book club session at Rama Devi Women's University, on the 30th of November 2023, embarked on the most savoured maritime tradition of Odisha as it read Taapoi, an intrinsically culturally eclectic tale from this land. The compering was done by Digdarshini Panda, a second-year postgraduate student, who made the rich narrative and historicity of Taapoi come alive in reverence for the Balijatra festival.

Digdarshini started off with the story of Taapoi, resplendent with the spirit of Balijatra—a festivity commemorating the ancient sea sojourns of the Odia traders. She brought out the important themes that are part of the tale of Taapoi: sacrifice, devotion, and resilience—what a young girl had to face in waiting for her brothers, who were away on long voyages. The next question, on the importance of Taapoi with respect to Odia culture and reflecting historical Balijatra, came from another postgraduate student in her second year, Payal Swain. Digdarshini explained that Taapoi is a metaphor for the collective memory and traditions of the Odia people about the long-standing maritime history. Discussions ensued as to how this story keeps reminding them of the cultural and economic connecting links between Odisha and faraway lands.

The second-year undergraduate student, Amrita Mishra, asked about how Taapoi was represented as the symbol of patience and faith. Digdarshini replied by citing the example of Taapoi: showing her unwavering hope and endurance, she is revered in Odia folk literature. Further probe by the group: how did her character reflect the virtues of patience and devotion that resound with the cultural values of this region? Second-year post graduate student Adri Dubey asked about the role of women in the story and how Taapoi reflected the position of women in traditional Odia society. Digdarshini elaborated on how Taapoi not only reflected struggles of women but also

their strength and resilience in the face of adverse situations. It evolved into the general implications of the tale for understanding gender roles in historical and contemporary contexts.

The session concluded by reflecting on the importance of preserving and celebrating local traditions within literature. Participants appreciated the layers that Taapoi carried, both as a cultural artifact and as a piece of literature. Enlightened, with a rejuvenated feeling of pride in identity, they felt very connected to their roots. Therefore, this session establishes a connection between participants and their roots by developing an appreciation of Odisha's maritime history and the legacies left behind by Balijatra.

DECEMBER 2023

Theme: Christmas

Rama Devi Women's University
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

LITERARY IMPRESSIONS
welcomes you to an engaging talk on

The Christmas Pig
by
J.K. Rowling

26th December 2023 7:30 pm onwards

Join via google meet :
meet.google.com/yrz-yubg-pxc

Theme of December :
Christmas



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THEME: Christmas

MONTH: December

The December book club session of Rama Devi Women's University was beautifully aligned with the festive spirit on 26th December 2023, around the discussion of *The Christmas Pig* by J.K. Rowling. The session was brilliantly moderated by Digdarshini Panda, a II year postgraduate girl, who brought to life this heart-warming tale of love, loss, and Christmas magic.

The complex narrative of *The Christmas Pig* was summarized in the beginning, which includes the events of a young boy named Jack losing his much-cherished toy—Dur Pig, or DP—on Christmas Eve. In his quest to find DP, Jack embarks on a magical adventure with the Christmas Pig, a replacement toy, in the Land of the Lost. Digdarshini primarily talked about how Rowling uses this fantastical adventure to speak about hope, resilience, and cherishing what we have.

The first question was taken by Payal Swain, second-year postgrad, on the symbolism of the Christmas Pig and how that fits into Jack's journey. Digdarshini mentioned to bring out the hope and new beginning, which the Christmas Pig stands for, taking all fears from Jack and making him understand the power of love and sacrifice. Discussion on how each of these symbolic journeys reflects one's challenges and growth in this journey called life took place. Amrita Mishra, a second-year undergraduate student, asked the meaning of the Land of the Lost and what does it stand for in the story. Digdarshini shared that the Land of the Lost embodies a place where everything lost goes but, at the same time, it is a pulsating metaphor for the loss: it's a metaphor for the emotional turmoil that the very idea of losing points to. Now the discussion broadened: How this imagined setting helps Jack—and readers—in the processing and coming to terms with loss in a meaningful way.

For Adri Dubey, another postgraduate second year, the mass appeal it had with both teenagers and adults also intrigued him. It only added to how Rowling perfectly treads the line between the nuances of an imagined fairy world and what is real, so that the readers— both kids and adults—would feel connected to the story in similar ways. The group reflected how *The Christmas Pig* carries universal and timeless messages about love, kindness, and the power of belief.

The last one she put up was how the function of Christmas in the story enhances all the themes. Digdarshini concluded by saying that how the setting of Christmas really drives home the points of generosity, family, and the magic of the season. All the group members concurred that the holiday backdrop really does add warmth and texture to Jack's journey, thus placing it as the best Christmas tale.

The meeting ended with attendants reflecting on the elevating, magical feeling of *The Christmas Pig*. They appreciated the story as a reminder of the truth about Christmas being around the dear ones and being full of hope, believing in some kind of magical power around this time. This session nicely closed the book club for the year, leaving the members ready for the holiday break with renewed holiday spirit and inspiration.

JANUARY 2024

Theme: In memory of Gandhiji's Death Anniversary

Rama Devi Women's University

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

LITERARY IMPRESSIONS


Welcomes you to an engaging talk

In memory of
Gandhiji on his
Death Anniversary
30th January

**BOOK: WAITING
FOR THE
MAHATMA**

BY: R.K. NARAYAN

Join us on google meet:
[https://meet.google.com/
obu-gfgw-ihe](https://meet.google.com/obu-gfgw-ihe)

 30th January
2024
7:30pm to
8:30pm





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THEME: In memory of Gandhiji's Death Anniversary

MONTH: January

The January book club session at Rama Devi Women's University, on 30th January 2024, commemorated Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary with a discussion on *Waiting for the Mahatma* by R.K. Narayan. The discussion on how these two strands of personal and political narratives against the backdrop of India's struggle for independence were intertwined in this novel was led by third-year undergraduate student Anwasha Priyadarshini. Anwasha summarized the novel first by stating that the story focuses on Sriram, a young man who gets involved in the Indian independence movement because he falls in love with Bharati, a staunch follower of Mahatma Gandhi. She pointed out how R.K. Narayan deftly brings out the ideals Gandhiji aims to achieve, which arouse such transformations in the common man. The first question, by another third-year undergraduate student, Pratistha Panda, was how the story and characters are influenced by the indirect presence of Gandhi. Anwasha replied that the philosophy and acts of Gandhi set a moral compass for all the characters, particularly for Sriram, who goes from being a careless youth to an active participant in the freedom struggle.

The group discussed that even when indirect; his presence drives the plot and the development of characters. Amrita Mishra, a second-year undergraduate student, asked about the theme of love in the novel and how it merges with the political situation. Anwasha explained that the love story of Sriram and Bharati symbolizes the greater revolution of independence: how personal desires often take a backseat to the movement. The discussion grew into examining how Narayan used this relationship to comment on personal sacrifice for the cause of freedom being led by individuals. Sampurna Parida, a first-year undergraduate student, asked how Gandhian principles were presented in the novel—non-violence and civil disobedience. Anwasha explained how Narayan wove them into the narrative to express their influence on character actions and decisions. The group considered how the novel portrays challenges and

rewards that come with sticking to such ideals in the face of adversity.

Another first-year undergraduate student, S. Kiran, asked about the projection of the role of the common man in the freedom movement as put across by the novel. Anwasha replied that the contribution of the common man to the struggle is at the center of Narayan's narrative. He cited how in the larger politico-social canvas, many ordinary persons like Sriram make very important contributions. It brought out the need for individual participation in group movements.

The relevance of *Waiting for the Mahatma* to modern-day readers was challenged by Adyasha Jena, a second-year undergraduate student. Anwasha concluded the discussion by saying that the ideas of love, sacrifice, and moral struggle, espoused in the novel, remain relevant at a time when humanity is still in search of freedom and justice. Some pertinent lessons learned from the novel are the power of non-violence and the permanence of Gandhi's ideals.

The session concluded with how the novel crafted the freedom movement of India and the characters growing up. The participants left with the insight that they also know much about the effect which Gandhi had on Indian Society, and how relevance still exists for his ideals, which makes the session an apt tribute paid to his memory.

FEBRUARY 2024

**Theme: Remembering Sarojini Naidu on her 145th
Birth Anniversary**



RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

LITERARY IMPRESSIONS

invites you to an engaging discussion on

The folk songs of
illustrious poet
Sarojini Naidu :
Remembering
her on her
145th birth
anniversary
this month.



(13 February 1879- 2 March 1949)

28 February, 2024

 **7PM-8PM**

Join us on Google meet:

<https://meet.google.com/jyc-pxpo-hgf>



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THEME: Remembering S.Naidu on her Birth Anniversary MONTH: February

The February book club session at Rama Devi Women's University, held on 28th February 2024, commemorated the 145th birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu, the Nightingale of India. The session was led by S. Kiran, a first-year undergraduate student, who delved into the life and works of the iconic poet and freedom fighter. The discussion centered on some of Naidu's most celebrated poems, including "Bangle Sellers," "In the Bazaars of Hyderabad," and other notable works. S. Kiran began the session with an introduction to Sarojini Naidu's literary journey, highlighting how her poetry combines lyrical beauty with social and political themes. Kiran discussed how Naidu's works capture the essence of Indian culture, while also reflecting her deep commitment to the nation's freedom struggle.

Amrita Mishra, a second-year undergraduate student, posed the first question about the symbolism in "Bangle Sellers" and how it reflects the different stages of a woman's life. Kiran explained that the poem uses bangles as metaphors for the various phases of womanhood— youth, marriage, and maturity. The group discussed how Naidu's depiction of these stages emphasizes the beauty and significance of each phase in a woman's life, while also celebrating traditional Indian customs.

Sampurna Parida, a first-year undergraduate student, inquired about the imagery in "In the Bazaars of Hyderabad" and its significance. Kiran elaborated on how Naidu uses vivid descriptions to bring the bustling market scene to life, showcasing the richness of Indian culture and craftsmanship. The discussion expanded to explore how the poem serves as a celebration of Indian heritage, highlighting the diversity and vibrancy of local markets.

Baijayanti, another first-year undergraduate student, asked about the influence of Naidu's political activism on her poetry. Kiran responded by explaining that Naidu's involvement in the Indian independence movement is subtly reflected in her poems, where themes of freedom, resilience, and national pride are evident. The group

considered how Naidu's dual identity as a poet and activist enriches her literary works, making them both beautiful and powerful.

Subhashree Moharana, a second-year undergraduate student, questioned how Naidu's poetry resonates with contemporary readers. Kiran noted that Naidu's exploration of universal themes—such as love, beauty, and the struggles of life—continues to connect with readers today. The group discussed how her work remains relevant, offering insights into both personal and collective experiences. Sanhita Mishra, another second-year undergraduate student, asked about the role of nature in Naidu's poetry. Kiran concluded the discussion by highlighting how Naidu often draws inspiration from nature, using it as a backdrop to explore human emotions and societal issues. The group reflected on the timeless appeal of her nature imagery and its ability to evoke a sense of peace and harmony.

The session ended with participants expressing admiration for Sarojini Naidu's poetic genius and her contribution to Indian literature and independence. They left with a renewed appreciation for her ability to blend art with activism, making her an enduring figure in India's cultural and political history. This session was a fitting tribute to Sarojini Naidu, celebrating her legacy as both a poet and a patriot.

MARCH 2024

Theme: Celebrating Shivratri

Rama Devi Women's University

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Literary Impressions

invites you to join a discussion on

SHIVA TRILOGY

Theme: Celebrating Shivratri

Date: 09/03/2024
Time: 7-8 pm
via Google Meet
<https://meet.google.com/wtr-tyfj-yww>

THE IMMORTAL TALE OF MELUHA
AMISH

THE REAL SECRET OF THE NAGAS
AMISH

THE OATH OF THE VAYUPUTRAS
AMISH



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THEME: Celebrating Shivratri

MONTH: March

The date, 9th March 2024, has a special place in the March book club session at Rama Devi Women's University. The discussion in the session was headed by Pratistha Panda, who is a final year undergraduate student, and it was an engaging exploration of the significance of Shivratri and the relation of The Shiva Trilogy by Amish Tripathi to it. The trilogy comprises The Immortals of Meluha, The Secret of the Nagas, and The Oath of the Vayuputras and places the legendary image of Lord Shiva into history and myth.

Pratistha started the session by introducing Mahashivratri, its religious and cultural importance, how it is celebrated as the night of prayers, worship, and offerings to Lord Shiva. She then proceeded to The Shiva Trilogy, emphasizing the aspect of the character of Shiva as written by Amish Tripathi: a great human hero with whom the travels and travails connect readers to the modern world. She emphasized how the series reads real mythology with fiction, making it real for the modern audience.

Amrita Mishra, a second-year undergraduate, was the first to pose the question: How, if at all, does Amish Tripathi's portrayal of Shiva today differ from portents that Hindus have long made from their myths? This is how she answers the same: Shiva is depicted by Tripathi as a man and not as a God who already exists, but rather as a man who becomes a God by his own deeds and choices. It was agreed that the anthropomorphic Shiva would make readers find a connection with the character on an ordinary level and see him as a symbol of strength and righteousness.

Sampurna Parida, a first-year undergraduate, inquired about the role of Sati in the trilogy and into what role she does play in Shiva's journey. Pratistha explained Sati's character as a dynamic, individualistic woman who spices up Shiva's life. The group discussed how their relationship is actually pivotally themed around love, duty, and

sacrifice.


Baijayanti, first year undergraduate student, was intrigued by the application of historical and mythological facts in the series. Pratistha explained how Tripathi combines history and stories through his chapters. It is like the blending of 'it is fact' with 'it is fiction'. Now, it was felt that an interpretation could be drawn from here, considering how using it adds in giving a flavor that is educative for the reader, not just about the culture of India, but of historical events as well. When Subhashree Moharana, a second-year undergraduate, asked the relevancy of The Shiva Trilogy in today's life, Pratistha explained that the good vs. evil and the need of the hour in any leadership and the power of belief themes in the trilogy are universal. Universally resonating was some of the keywords the group used to speak of these themes with respect to the ordeals and goals of today's time.

Another query of Sanhita Mishra related to his inner conflicts as depicted and how Shiva's character develops. After thinking on the question, Pratistha concluded by saying how Shiva's internal conflict, with a battle between duty and desire, love and loss, would therefore make him quite complex and plausible. To this everyone in the group agreed, saying how those same struggles came, eventually, to define Shiva as a proper hero of the trilogy.


The session ended with a fuller comprehension of the religious significance of Mahashivratri and the literary depth of The Shiva Trilogy. Overall, the discussion was a very thought-provoking confluence of ideas from mythology, fiction, and cultural tradition that left many in the audience with a sense of revitalized heritage and esteem for the ageless story of Shiva.

APRIL 2024

**Theme: Remembering Shakespeare on his Birth
Anniversary**



Rama Devi Women's University
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
LITERARY IMPRESSIONS
invites you to join a discussion on
"SHAKESPEARE'S SONNETS"



THEME OF APRIL: "REMEMBERING SHAKESPEARE ON HIS BIRTH
ANNIVERSARY"

DATE: 26/04/2024
TIME: 7-8 PM

VIA GOOGLE MEET
[HTTPS://MEET.GOOGLE.COM/VYG-XNSP-OCF](https://meet.google.com/vyg-xnsp-ocf)



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THEME: Remembering Shakespeare on his Birth Anniversary MONTH: April

The book club session for the month of April was organized at Rama Devi Women's University on 26th April 2024, celebrated the birth anniversary of the legendary writer William Shakespeare. The same was hosted and moderated by Swagatika Rath, an undergraduate third- year student, who discussed at length the literary charisma created by Shakespeare and, particularly, his assortment of sonnets. Swagatika briefly outlined the contributions made by Shakespeare, in the world of writing and further dramatized it on his play stage, elucidating how his works continually manifested itself across the ages in the form of drama and poetry.

Swagatika began the presentation by arousing the student body's awareness of Shakespeare's inordinate contribution from his plays and sonnets, which has virtually governed the trajectory of the world of English literature and drama. She mined into deeper levels of his sonnets at the epicenter of love, beauty, and time, focusing greatly on language and design. The first question, on the domination of themes in Shakespeare's sonnets, was raised by a second-year undergraduate student named Amrita Mishra. Swagatika said that mostly, his sonnets deal with three major ideas: love, time, and mortality. They reflect on the transient nature of beauty, the passing of time, and the anxiety of the poet over what he is leaving behind. All these concerns still resonate with readers through the eras.

First-year undergraduate Swikruti Mohapatra asked about the structure and form of Shakespeare's sonnets and how it contributes to its impact. Swagatika discussed the sonnet form: 14 lines of iambic pentameter and specific rhyme schemes. She commented on the form, which facilitates that much thought and emotion can be compacted into such a small compass.

The group discussed how the form enhances the sonnets' lyrical quality and


memorability. One first-year undergraduate student, Anchal, wanted to know how Shakespeare's sonnets had influenced the diction in today's poems. Swagatika went on to elaborate that the diction and themes used had been influential in meeting the said threshold in poetry. This essay engaged the thesis that modern poets always extend motifs and techniques used by Renaissance poets whereby this was evident in the essay. Payal Pradhan, a first-year undergraduate student, was rather worried about how Shakespeare's sonnets wrote his life and personal experiences. Swagatika explained how most of the sonnets are perceived to be autobiographical, providing an insight into Shakespeare's relationships, his idea of fame, and even his contemplation on his mortality. Reflections on how the sonnets provide a peephole into the inner space of the poet were done by the group.

Rajasmita Samal, a first-year postgraduate student asked, "Do the 'Fair Youth' and 'Dark Lady' sonnets have any particular significance in the book and how do they both differ; what's their significance in the book?" I explained to her that the fair youth and dark lady sonnets show the two centers around which Shakespeare's life revolves; they are, in fact poetic fictions bedecked with various features of these characters to contribute themselves to the emotional and thematic thrust of the sonnets.


It ended with the students filled with admiration at Shakespeare's consummate skill and his ability to conceptualize the most sublime and intense emotions through his sonnets. This extended to the general appreciation and celebration of Shakespeare's works and his greatness as a legacy on his birthday.

MAY 2024

**Theme: Remembering Rabindranath Tagore on his
Birth Anniversary**



Rama Devi Women's University
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
LITERARY IMPRESSIONS
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO JOIN A
DISCUSSION ON
**Echoes of Eternity:
Exploring Rabindranath Tagore's Legacy**



Theme: Remembering Rabindranath Tagore on his
Birth Anniversary.

Date: 08.05.24
Time: 7PM - 8PM
Via Google meet: <https://meet.google.com/htu-zcnj-gsc>



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THEME: Remembering Tagore on his Birth Anniversary

MONTH: May

The book club session for May was scheduled on 8th May 2024 at Rama Devi Women's University. On the auspicious day of Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary, Amrita Mishra, a student of the second year of Under Graduation, led the house in his memory, focusing on extensive contributions towards literature through the poem "Last Bargain" and the short story "Kabuliwala".

Amrita started the session giving an insight into the works of Tagore as a poet, philosopher, and Nobel laureate. She then introduced "Last Bargain," reflecting the philosophical and existential themes, and "Kabuliwala," a poignant short story depicting human emotions and cultural nuances. The first question, that is, the themes developed and its significance in "Last Bargain," came from Subhashree Moharana, a student of the second year undergraduate course in. She affirmed the poem talks about the search for meaning and the real nature of value. The material wealth is contrasted with the everyday human light of joy around rickshaws, powerlessness. It shows the real reward of the protagonist to be the purity of a child's smile. The group discussed how the poem reflects Tagore's deeper reflections on life and human values.

Sampurna Parida, a first-year undergraduate student, inquired about the narrative style and structure of "Kabuliwala" and how the same adds to the story. Amrita shared about the simple and evocative language that Tagore prefers, through which he can express intense emotions simply in a straightforward narrative. Also, in the course, the class discussed how Tagore's narrative style not only makes the story simple but also makes the landmarks of friendship, cultural barriers, and personal loss very poignant.

Another first year undergraduate student, Baijayanti, asked in what way "Kabuliwala" represents its socio-cultural background of that particular period. Amrita's response was that, within British India, it represents the characteristics of poverty, migration, and intercultural relationships. In the paper, the group examined the way Tagore, through the story of the Kabuliwala and his connection with the little girl, shows the

larger themes of empathy and connection born across social divides. Asked about the influence of Tagore's poetry and prose on contemporary literature, first-year postgraduate student Rajasmita Samal inquired. Amrita answered that the language he used and the issues he took up, expressed through "the use of words," as well as the universality of the themes he dwelt upon, serve to this day as an influential source of inspiration for "modern writers and poets." The conversation also led to how the work of Tagore continues to be relevant and inspirational in solving the problems of identity, culture, human culture and emotions.

Namita Behera, a first-year undergraduate student, asked how Tagore's personal philosophy influenced his writing. In her final comment, Amrita explained how Tagore's philosophical vision runs regarding life, spirituality, and humanism throughout his works, giving deep insights to his literary creations. The group reflected on how the poet's personal beliefs and experiences shape the emotional and intellectual depth of Tagore's poetry and prose.

The session closed with participants marveling at Tagore's literary genius and his perceptions about the human experience as reflected in his works. It was a discussion that added depth to an understanding of Tagore's contributions and celebrated his lasting impact on literature and culture.

