

Mar.2024



# ALPAS

*-Freedom from the shackles of mundane norms*

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## BISHOP COTTON WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

#19, 3rd Cross, Mission Road, C. S. I. Compound, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560027.

### NEWSLETTER FROM THE PG DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

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#### EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

On behalf of the P.G. Department of English Studies, I am glad to present our 4th Weekly Wall Journal 2024-2025 "Alpas" a Filipino phrase which means to be free from the shackles of monotony. It is the ability to get away, to feel a sense of freedom and escape the mundane. The journal for this week is based on the theme "Children's literature". The journal attempts to explore and record various themes within the field of English Studies. We could reach this stage through the constant support of the faculty and intellectual generosity of the authors and scholars we encounter in our syllabus.

One of the objectives of this journal is to encourage its students and faculty to publish scholarly articles, creative writing and enriching reviews to further the discourse on the weekly themes. Readers can notice the progression of ideas made through book and film reviews, which emerge as an important section of this journal. The book review section this time features "Black Beauty by Anna Sewall" put together by Ms Vindhya Shree K.S student of the 2nd semester. We also provide a platform for creative writing and critical thinking, towards which Ms. Afifa Fatima, from 2nd semester has authored a short story "The sparkle of friendship". Ms. Abilin Sharina of 2nd semester puts her thoughts on the theme in the form of a poem. The essay section features "The Magic of Child Literature" by Ms Manju B of 2nd semester. The movie review section features "Children of heaven" by Sowmya C of 2nd semester.

The MA English weekly wall journal encourages students from other disciplines to contribute in the areas of creative writing and critical thinking. We would be greatly pleased to have them published in our future editions.

Vindhya Shree K.S  
STUDENT EDITOR

ALPAS

Editorial Team

Chief Editor: Dr. K Rita Josephine

Faculty Editors: Ms. Samantha Christopher, Mrs. Swetha M.

Student Editor: Ms. Vindhya Shree K.S

## "Whispers of Enchantment"

In pages filled with wonder's glow,  
Where tales of magic ebb and flow,  
Children find a world to know,  
In stories told, their hearts aglow.

Through forests deep and mountains high,  
With every word, they learn to fly,  
In children's literature, dreams sigh,  
A journey endless, under In pages filled with wonder's glow,  
Where tales of magic ebb and flow,  
Children find a world to know,  
In stories told, their hearts aglow.

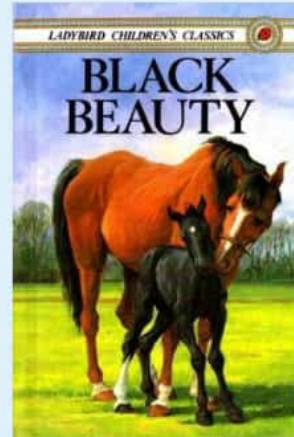
Through forests deep and mountains high,  
With every word, they learn to fly,  
In children's literature, dreams sigh,  
A journey endless, under the sky.the sky.

~ Abilin Sharina

# BOOK REVIEW

## Black Beauty by Anna Sewell

Black Beauty is a beautiful black colt living with his mother in a pleasant farm meadow. Soon he is grown and becomes a coach horse at his happy home at Birtwick Park. But nothing lasts forever, and eventually Black Beauty falls upon misfortune at the hands of other owners. This is the story of a horse's life told from the point of view of the horse, and is an endearing children's classic.

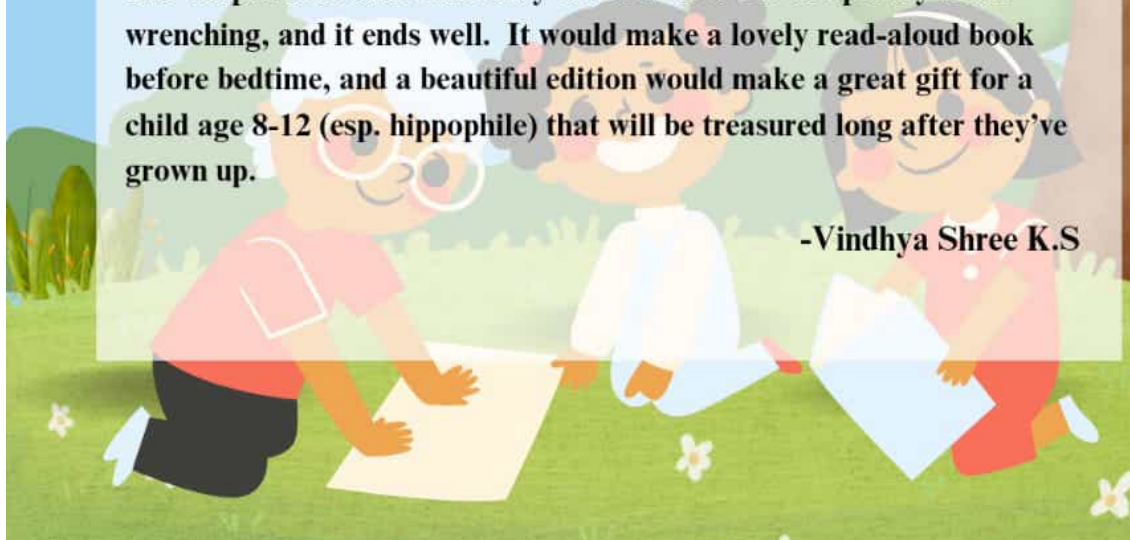


A lot of people have a sentimental attachment to it, and I can see why. There aren't a great many dramatic scenes, no love scenes, no mysteries to solve. But you are immediately drawn into a moving story that goes straight to the heart. It's hard not to feel so many different things while reading about Black Beauty. We feel relieved, warm, glad during the times in his life when he is well-treated by good-hearted owners. We feel anxious, saddened, even angered during the times when he or other animals suffer cruel mistreatment.

There are so many good lessons for children to learn throughout the course of the story, but it never really comes off as goody-two-shoes moralizing. Rather we learn by observing different people's characters with the horses. This is how the lessons seep 'through the back door' and into our hearts. We learn how to treat animals with thoughtfulness and compassion, rather than mere objects of service. We learn that they enjoy fresh air, playing, exercise, appropriate work, and healthy food just as we do. Even though animals were not made in the image of God as humans, they still have their feelings. We do well to be mindful of the creatures God has given to us to take care of.

The chapters are short and easy to read. It is not completely heart-wrenching, and it ends well. It would make a lovely read-aloud book before bedtime, and a beautiful edition would make a great gift for a child age 8-12 (esp. hippophile) that will be treasured long after they've grown up.

-Vindhya Shree K.S



## Movie Review



Name: Children Of Heaven  
Director : Majid Majidi  
Genre: Children literature  
Release Date: 1997

“Children of Heaven” was established in Persian language, which is Iran's selection for best foreign film at the Academy Awards, is a poignant movie because anyone can relate to the idea of family and expressing love to each other no matter the circumstances. As an Iranian film, it is definitely played safe but a film with such an universal theme and elegantly told as here should really not be missed, especially. “Majid Majidi's” film is about a young boy named Ali who accidentally lost his sister Zahra's shoes. But their family can not afford to buy new shoes so Ali decides to share his shoes with his sister until he can get new ones for her and so he can avoid punishment. The acting is touching, and pretty heartfelt. There is no questioning the chemistry between Amir Farrokh Hashemian as Ali and Bahare Seddiqi as Zahra. Reza Naji who plays as their father is also the perfect example of a man who is trying to do all he can to provide food for his family. Overall, Children of Heaven is a simple film but it displays a strong message about the bond of family. There are some outstanding films from the Middle East and this is one of them. It's a strong film about courage and about doing what's right. My favorite scene is where the father and the son leave their poor slums as they head uptown to the rich neighbour. This film shows how American children are quite different from the kids from these parts of the world there is no denying how powerful this film is. This film is a true example of exquisite acting by child artists, and it shows how far they can go in their ability to explore the innocent spirit of childhood. “Baeccaha-Ye Asman is a wonderful cinematic experience, which must not be missed by anyone”. Just go and grab your seat, I assure it will keep you on the edge of it for one hour and a half and will be engraved in your heart long afterwards.

~Sowmya C

# Essay

## The Magic of Child Literature

Child literature, often referred to as children's literature, is an enchanting genre that profoundly impacts young minds. These stories, books, and poems are specifically crafted for children, providing a gateway to learning, imagination, and understanding the world.

The origins of child literature lie in oral traditions, where stories and folklore were passed down through generations to entertain and impart moral lessons. With the advent of printing, the 17th century saw the publication of children's books, including classics like Charles Perrault's "Mother Goose Tales" and the Grimm Brothers' fairy tales. These early works often contained dark themes, reflecting societal norms and cautionary lessons.

The 19th century introduced more whimsical tales, such as Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and J.M. Barrie's "Peter Pan," shifting towards imaginative and fantastical storytelling. The 20th century became a golden age for children's literature, producing beloved works like A.A. Milne's "Winnie-the-Pooh," Dr. Seuss's playful rhymes, and J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" series, which captivated young readers worldwide.

Children's literature plays a crucial role in cognitive and emotional development. It sparks imagination and creativity, as seen in fantastical worlds like those in "The Chronicles of Narnia." It enhances language and literacy skills through engaging narratives and playful rhymes. Moral and ethical values are subtly imparted through characters and plots, with books like "Charlotte's Web" teaching empathy and kindness. Stories also help children process complex emotions, fostering emotional resilience.

Parents and educators are vital in fostering a love for reading by selecting engaging books and reading aloud to children, enhancing their listening skills and strengthening the bond between reader and child. Encouraging discussions about the stories read can deepen comprehension and critical thinking.

In conclusion, children's literature is more than entertainment; it is essential for young minds' development. Through magical stories, children learn about the world, themselves, and others, fostering imagination, empathy, and knowledge. By cherishing and promoting children's literature, we invest in a brighter, more compassionate world.

*"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."*

*- Emilie Buchwald*

*"In the heart of every children's book lies a lesson that whispers to young minds."*

*~ Manju B*



# SHORT STORY

## The Spark of Friendship

Once upon a time, in a quaint little village between rolling hills and lush forests, there lived a curious young girl named Lily. Lily had a mop of wild, curly hair that danced in the wind as she scampered through the cobblestone streets with boundless energy. Her eyes, as blue as the summer sky, sparkled with wonder at the world around her.

Every day, Lily would embark on grand adventures, exploring every nook and cranny of the village. She would chase butterflies in the meadow, climb the tallest trees in the forest, and befriend every creature she met along the way. From wise old owls to playful fox cubs, Lily's kindness knew no bounds.

But one day, as Lily ventured deeper into the heart of the forest, she stumbled upon a mysterious cave hidden beneath a tangle of brambles. With a mischievous grin, she pushed aside the thorns and stepped into the darkness beyond. Inside the cave, Lily found herself in a world unlike any she had ever seen. Glowing mushrooms illuminated the walls, casting eerie shadows that danced across the rocky floor. But it was what lay at the heart of the cave that truly captured Lily's imagination—a magnificent dragon curled up in a bed of shimmering jewels.

Instead of being afraid, Lily approached the dragon with a gentle smile. "Hello there," she said softly, her voice echoing through the cavern. "What's your name?" The dragon stirred from its slumber, blinking its large, golden eyes in surprise. "I am called Ember," "What brings a brave young girl like you to my lair?" Lily shrugged, her eyes alight with curiosity. "I was exploring," she replied simply. "But now that I've found you, I think we could be friends."

Ember cocked its head to the side, studying Lily with a mixture of amusement and intrigue. "Friends, you say? And what do you suppose we do, little one?" And so, Lily and Ember forged an unlikely friendship that transcended the boundaries of their worlds. Together, they soared through the skies on the dragon's back, exploring distant lands and encountering all manner of creatures. Through their adventures, Lily learned that true friendship knows no bounds, and that sometimes, the most extraordinary companions can be found in the unlikeliest of places.

From that day forward, Lily and Ember were inseparable, their bond stronger than steel and fiercer than any flame. And though their adventures took them to the ends of the earth and beyond, they always returned home to the village, where their story began a testament to the enduring power of friendship and the magic that dwells within us all.

~ AFIFA FATHIMA

