



BISHOP COTTON WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

MA ENGLISH STUDIES WALL JOURNAL

Alpas: Free from the shackles of mundane norms

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

On behalf of the P.G. Department of English Studies, I am glad to present our 5th Weekly Wall Journal 2024-2025 "*Alpas*" a Filipino phrase that means being free from the shackles of monotony. It is the ability to get away, to feel a sense of freedom, and to escape the mundane. The journal for this week is based on the theme "folklore.". The journal attempts to explore and record various themes within the field of English Studies. We could reach this stage through the faculty's constant support and the 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 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 "The Heidi" put together by Ms. Ramya S student of the 1st semester. We also provide a platform for creative writing and critical thinking, towards which Mrs. .Abilin Sharina, from 2 nd semester has authored a short story " The song of the sea mermaid". Ms. Manju B of 2 nd semester puts her thoughts on the theme in the form of a poem "The fisherman's bride".The movie review section features "12th fail" by Ms. Ramya E of 1 st semester. followed by the transcription of Q&A sessions from Ms.Suryakumari Dennison.

The MA English 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, Ms. Shwetha M.

Student Editor: Ms. Vindhya Shree K.S



Movie Review



Film Title: 12th Fail

Director: Vidhu Vinod Chopra

Genre: Biography / Chopra

Writer: Vidhu Vinod Chopra

Original Language: Hindi

Release date: 21st October 2023



About: 12th fail directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra is based on a novel by Amrutha pathak which was inspired by the real life story of IPS officer manoj Sharma and his wife IRS officer shraddha joshi.

Story line: The story revolves around the journey of manoj Kumar Sharma (Vikrant Marry) a 12th class student from Chambal district. He belongs to a poor family where his Father gets suspended from the agriculture department due to his Honesty Manoj studies in a school where his headmaster encourages students to cheat during exams meanwhile, an honest and strict DSP Dushyant Singh arrives during the exam and stops the cheating process. He arrests the headmaster for encouraging cheating Manoj one day meets the same DSP again and he gives him the motto of not cheating he explains to Manoj that honesty is the most important thing in life inspired by the DSP words Manoj begins his mission to become an officer. The film explores Manoj's journey to success and the challenges.

Message: The film gives the message of determination, resilience, integrity , patience, hard work and the power of education. The film also delivers a very important message to restart Manoj's journey was full of failure but throughout his journey he didn't give up the film reminds us that it doesn't matter how many times you fail, what matters is how many times you pick yourself up and cheer your dreams it gives the message of hope and believe that dreams can be achieved if you believe in yourself and never give up.

Recommendation: I would highly recommended to watch this movie it is not just a movie it is a lesson about patience, courage, hard work and most importantly the power of starting again when faced with adversity. Over all 12th fail is a must watch movie.



Short Story

The Song of the Sea Mermaid

In a village by the sea, people spoke of the Mermaid of the Waves. It was said that on stormy nights, she would sing to calm the waters and protect fishermen. Many believed that hearing her song brought good fortune.

One night, a young fisherman named Leo was caught in a fierce storm. As he struggled to keep his boat afloat, he suddenly heard a beautiful melody rising above the crashing waves. Following the sound, he saw the Mermaid, her shimmering hair glowing in the moonlight.

Grateful for her song, Leo promised to share the tale of her kindness. As the storm passed, he safely returned to shore. From that day on, he told everyone about the Mermaid of the Waves, keeping her legend alive and reminding the villagers of hope and the magic of the sea

**Abilin sharina
2nd MA**

"The Fisherman's Bride"

Down by the restless shore,
where the waves rise and fall like sighs,
a fisherman's voice once mingled with the sea breeze.

She emerged from the foam,
her skin pale as moonlight,
her eyes the color of forgotten depths.

He swore to her the ocean's vow,
etched in the rhythm of the tide,
his hands rough, his heart tender.

But the sea, jealous and wild,
reclaimed her with the dawn,
leaving only the echo of her song
to linger where the gulls cry.

Now, each morning,
the waves carry whispers of her name,
a love carved into the restless water,
never to fade, never to stay.

~Manju B
2nd MA English

~ Inspired by Maritime Folklore:

BOOK REVIEW

HEIDI



Heidi was originally written in German and later translated it was written in 1880. The description of the story is beautifully written about the Swiss Alps. Every detailing is mentioned making the reader to really delve into the story. The story evolves around a little girl named Heidi who is an orphan, who goes on to live with her grandfather on the Alps mountain. She later moves to Frankfurt to be a companion to a wealthy girl, Klara, but ultimately returns to her beloved mountains. The story of Heidi tells us about the power and might of nature. Heidi grew great habits and gained happiness from living in the mountains, where everything was pure and clean Giving us the sense of living life to the fullest. Heidi is an easy-to-read story for all age groups its simple and fun to read.

RAMYA S
1st Sem

Folklore

Folklore consists of traditional stories, customs, beliefs, and practices passed down through generations, often orally. It includes myths, legends, fairy tales, and folktales that reflect cultural values, explain natural phenomena, or teach moral lessons. Folklore also encompasses superstitions, rituals, and festivals that help shape a community's identity and provide insight into its history and worldview. It serves both as entertainment and a way to preserve collective wisdom and traditions.

Asfiya Banu
1st M.A
November 2024-
2025



APAS

-Freedom from the shackles of mundane norms

BISHOP COTTON WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

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Weaving Words, Shaping Worlds: A Writer's Passion for Children's Stories



Ms. Suryakumari Dennison, an author specialising in children's literature, has a remarkable gift for turning everyday experiences into magical tales that captivate young minds. Drawing inspiration from real life, her stories are filled with humour, relatable characters, and meaningful lessons. As both an educator and a writer, she skilfully balances creativity with a deep understanding of what resonates with children. Through her work, she continues to inspire young readers, weaving imagination and life lessons into stories that leave a lasting impression.

Mam answers questions of the students of English Literature, sharing her journey as a writer and educator. Her insights into storytelling, rooted in everyday experiences and human connections, provided valuable lessons for aspiring writers. Speaking passionately about the art of writing for young readers, she emphasised the importance of creativity, relatability, and imagination in crafting stories that leave a lasting impact.

Ms. Dennison inspired students to explore the world of literature, not just as readers but as potential storytellers who can make a difference. She offered a glimpse into the joys and challenges of writing, encouraging students to pursue their own literary passions. Here are some highlights from the engaging Q&A session that followed her address.



1.How are characters developed, and how do you make sure that they are authentic and relatable to your readers?

“Let me address the second part of your question first. To a great extent,

I base the characters in my stories on people I have known through the years. They include family members, friends, colleagues, others whom I have encountered randomly and, in large part, myself. Actually, events in my stories often recall real-life happenings. Long ago, my classmate at school fainted during a Math lesson. That incident triggered my story, ‘The Classroom Collapse’. Of course, not everything is factual: poetic licence plays a key role in enhancing each narrative. Developing characters is difficult mainly because of space constraints. While writing short stories (often with a specified word limit), I cannot afford to ramble, and have to bring my fictional figures to life through brief but vivid descriptions and crisp revealing dialogue. I find the age-old method of using minor characters as foils to set off important ones (Shakespeare's Banquo a contrast to Macbeth) effective. Characters come across as ‘authentic and relatable’ because --- dare I say it? --- like Jane Austen, I stick to the small corner of the planet I know, and those who inhabit it.”



2. What is your approach to revision and editing?

“At the risk of sounding boastful, I must say I am meticulous in this area. I write and rewrite, chopping and changing over and over again until I am satisfied with the finished product. I tend to be obsessive about not repeating words, and finding appropriate synonyms takes up a lot of my writing time.”

3. How do you conduct your research and stay updated on trends within your genre?

“I confess that, much as I enjoy reading, I do not really keep abreast of the short-story genre. Consequently, I am not familiar with contemporary authors from whom, I am sure, there is a great deal I could learn. I do, however, admire older authors. Jeffrey Archer, especially, is a master in the field. Research is important. Nothing terribly complex and scholarly, but getting one’s facts right. Recently, as I was working on a story set in our capital city, I suddenly realised that I was using the old names of places though many have changed. For example, the road I knew as Rajpath, while growing up in New Delhi, is now Kartavya Path.”

4. How do you handle feedback and criticism?

In common with the majority of mankind, I do not particularly relish criticism. I have been fortunate, however, that when it does come my way it usually proves constructive, and helps me hone my craft.

As for positive feedback, to quote a fellow freelancer, ‘it makes my day to receive words of praise.’ I am happy indeed to hear that readers enjoy what I write. Occasionally, they discover something in a story that I may or may not have had in mind while writing it. I find this sort of analysis exciting, since I do it regularly with the great literary texts I teach.

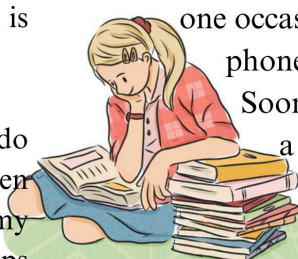
5. What is the most challenging part about writing?

I would like to say finding time for it, but that would not be entirely true. Good

old writer’s block is perhaps the biggest challenge. There are times when I have deadlines to meet, and my mind goes blank. A feeling akin to panic sets in, as I stare blankly at my computer screen wondering where to begin. When this happens, there is a tendency to procrastinate, hoping that inspiration will strike. That does happen, but not always. I have to force myself to get started, even if it is just a sentence or two. Suddenly, much to my immense relief, the piece begins to take shape.

6. What themes or subjects do you find most compelling to explore in your creative writing?

On the whole, I would say school situations. This, no doubt, has to do with the fact that I have been a teacher these past 47 years. Thus, students copying someone’s homework, forging a parent’s signature, bringing forbidden items to school, being exceptionally helpful or the reverse ----all these give me ideas for stories. On



one occasion, a girl brought her cell-phone to class and it was confiscated.

Soon after, I wove that episode into a story, even including her name.

She was delighted. I also enjoy writing tales of mystery and adventure, preferably with a slice of humour.

7. What are some of your favourite books or authors, and how have they influenced your writing style?

I have read every single thing written by Agatha Christie, and that’s not all! I never tire of reading her detective novels, and have read most of them at least a dozen times each. When it comes to writing for youngsters, however, I owe a debt of gratitude to Enid Blyton. Quite forgotten these days, she was very popular in my childhood.

Her books --- the school stories especially --- have definitely influenced my writing.



8. What genres do you enjoy writing the most?

Now, this is a tough one. I enjoy writing short stories, but also like travelogues, generally after trips to places of historical interest. I remember how excited I was to learn that Rabindranath Tagore had translated 'Jana Gana Mana' (not yet our National Anthem) into English, at a college in Madanapalle. When I paid a visit, the Principal arranged for a young man to show me the room where Tagore had painstakingly worked on the script, in 1911. Then, there are short pieces with a philosophical slant that I contribute to Deccan Herald, and, of course, 'middles', so called because they appear in the centre of the newspaper. These have to be short and yet be rich in content. It's great to face that challenge. Book reviews, educational pieces, quizzes, puzzles and more --- all good fun!

9. What inspired you to write about the concept of a "picture-perfect life," and how has your personal experience shaped your views on this topic?

Personal experience has a lot to do with it. In 1998, I experienced my very own 9/11, when my husband suffered a massive stroke and I lost my father just three weeks later. I know people, however, who have gone through much worse. Their seemingly 'picture-perfect' world has turned upside down in an instant. It happens all the time to everyone, but when a glamorous celebrity like the Princess of Wales is diagnosed with cancer, it is big bad breaking news. She was the immediate inspiration for the article.

10. Can you share the story behind your favourite piece of writing?

I have so many favourites that it's hard to choose one, but since you ask, I think I would pick a story called 'The Anonymous Letters'. It's about this popular girl who keeps receiving poison-pen letters. She strongly suspects a new student who is sullen and unfriendly, but it turns out that the person sending them is someone she considers her best friend. That story again (minus the embellishments) is true, and stems from the experience of practically every human being. All of us, at some time or other, have suffered the pain of betrayal, though not perhaps in the dramatic way in which it takes place in the story.

11. What inspires you to begin a new piece of writing?

Grand-sounding question, but the answer is simple. Most of the time, I write because I have to dash off a piece if I hope to see it in print. Writing for the children's supplement of Deccan Herald, for example, as soon as a story appears, I have to work on the next one, or at least start thinking about it. Similarly, the moment a 'middle' or quiz is published, another must follow. There are, of course, the odd occasions when something I hear or read urges me to write (directly or indirectly) about it.

12. How do you balance your roles as an English teacher and a freelance writer?

This is a classic case of saving the best for last! I was waiting for this query. Balancing has never been my strong point, and it is no different when it comes to my two commitments. Both are dear to me, but there are times when I wish I could set aside setting question papers or marking answer scripts and write instead. In the same way, I could be planning an interesting school activity, but cannot get down to it as I have to meet a Deccan deadline. Actually, 'deadline' is the bottom line! That's a good thing, at least as far as I am concerned. Without a date looming ahead, I might relax that little bit longer than necessary. I have done so with typing responses to your incredibly well-framed questions. Should have done so a fortnight ago, but, anyway, here they come!

