Progressive Education Society's Modern College of Arts, Science and Commerce,
Ganeshkhind, Pune



Department of English

Murson

Litearally the Literary : Confessions of Literaholics

An initiative taken for the students, by the students.

Vol. III

Acknowledgements

We would like to take this as a chance to thank everyone who has helped in the making of this magazine. We always have the blessings and best wishes of the patron of Progressive Education Society Dr. GR Ekbote and his associates Prof Suresh Todkar and Dr. Prakash Dixit. We would like to thank our respected Principal, Dr. Sanjay Kharat Sir, who has inspired, encouraged, and been incredibly generous, to provide us with a platform that helps us to showcase our talents and opinions. This was an opportunity to start something new. We have been able to come up with this virtual magazine because of his involvement and dedication to this college as well as its students' interests.

Dr. Jyoti Gagangras, our Vice-Principal has also been a very supportive presence. She is very enthusiastic about all the activities and programs that are held in the college. She helped this journal come to life with her support. She was very substantial in giving us liberty in order to release this journal. Her support is greatly appreciated and has been part of the motive that kept us going.

Dr. Shampa Chakravarthy is not only our teacher, but a very optimistic and cheerful person who motivates us to delve into our interests. She pushes us to achieve far more than we thought we could. She believes in the hands-on method of teaching and has always been at our aid. This journal was just an idea, but she put so much faith in it and us. She has been the driving force behind this initiative and we are very thankful for her critique on all of the work.

We would like to thank all the members of the English Department who spared time from their busy schedule and helped us put forth our initiative and introduce the virtual journal. They have supported us in our endeavor, been proud of us for taking initiative and become the motivation we needed to succeed.

Everyone who has contributed, the budding writers and poets who have submitted their work and have been selected to feature in the journal, we thank you for being willing to participate. We would also like to appreciate your courage in overcoming your insecurities and being ready to bare your soul through your words.



This magazine is to be viewed as a launch-pad for the creative urges to blossom naturally. As the saying goes, the mind like a parachute works best when opened. This humble initiative is to set budding minds free, allowing them to roam in the realm of imagination and experience to create a world of beauty in words.

The enthusiastic write-ups are indubitably sufficient to hold the interest and admiration of the readers. This magazine is indeed a sincere attempt to create and learn the art of being aware because I believe that success depends upon our power to perceive, the power to observe and the power to explore.

We are sure that the positive attitude, hard work, sustained efforts and innovative ideas exhibited by our writers will surely stir the mind of readers, taking them to the surreal world of unalloyed joy and pleasure. We have put in relentless efforts to bring excellence to this treasure trove.

Helen Keller rightly says that the world is moved along not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.

This Herculean task of editing the magazine would not have been possible without the sincere support of the members of the Editing Team, who sorted the items from the flood of articles we had got from our enthusiastic writers, edited and finally made a fair draft of them.

Lastly, I would like to extend my gratitude to all the members of the Literary Committee who dipped their oars in the turbulent and testing waters that have sailed this magazine to the shore of publication.

I believe that this magazine will enjoy your critical acclaim and prove to be gripping enough.

Ananya Saraswat Editor-in-chief

"It has never been my object to record my dreams, just the determination to realise them."

~ Man Ray

Catalogue of Hues

Behind the Scenes

Erudite

Theme Cover

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//clues unfound//

Behind the Scenes



Hi, I'm Ananya Saraswat. A total Janeite (Jane Austen fan), an enthusiastic ambivert and a self proclaimed weirdo.

P.S. I came up with this Virtual Journal as a platform to showcase the beautiful work of budding authors and poets like myself...

Hey! My name is Isha Paranjpe. I love reading and my favorite genre is psychological fiction—there's nothing that intrigues me more than a body of work that analyses something as complex and intricate as the psychological growth of a human being. I present as an introvert, but don't let that discourage you from saying hi!



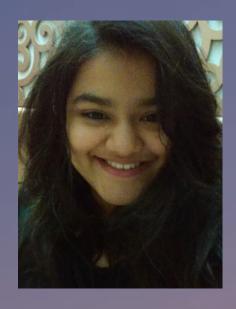


Hello, I am Kaurobi Paul. I am weirdly creative when it comes to opportunities. I find joy in enhancing my skills which begins with the journey of "a learner to an experienced" and leads to a destination named "wholesome productive human being".

"We are such stuff as dreams are made on."

~ William Shakespeare, Tempest

Hi! I am Ritika Anchalia, I'd say I'm a bit of an introvert. A weird combination of Chandler and Joey where I handle difficult situations with sarcasm and well. I don't like sharing food. I like creative work and trying out new things; which is why I'm a part of the public outreach team!





Hey, I'm Roma Chiplunkar. I like to write essays or poems sometimes when inspiration strikes, love to listen to music a little too much every day. I dabble with photography and video editing.

I read a lot of books on Wattpad. I also have a tendency to procrastinate, a lot.

Hello everyone! My name is Sakshi Nowrangi and I love reading and writing. I'm also a huge fan of random fun facts and you may find me talking about them if I get the chance to. Also, here's a fun fact! Otters have favourite rocks that they store in underarm pockets.





Hello, I am Savani Nibandhe. I love to dance and write when I am super motivated. I am a part of the public outreach team in the literary committee.

Kudos to your support for this journal and hoping more support from you all in the future.

Hello, my name is Yugandhara Joshi. I love reading, mostly fiction. Percy Jackson is one of my favourite series. I love dancing and singing and I'm a huge K-pop fan! I'm also on the editing committee.





- The Assassin's Blade
- Throne of Glass
- Crown of Midnight
- Heir of Fire
- Queen of Shadows
- Empire of Storms
- Tower of Dawn
- Kingdom of Ash
- A Court of Thorns and Roses
- A Court of Mist and Fury and many more.....



Sarah J Maas (1986 to present)

Sarah Janet Maas (born 5 March 1986) is an American fantasy author, best known for her debut series Throne of Glass published in 2012 and A Court of Thorns and Roses series, published in 2015.

Maas began writing what would become her debut novel, Throne of Glass when she was sixteen years old.

After writing several chapters of the novel, then titled Queen of Glass, Maas posted them on FictionPress.com, where it was one of the most popular stories on the site. It was later removed from the site when Maas decided to publish the novel.

The storyline of the series is based on the story of Cinderella, with the premise of "What if Cinderella was not a servant, but an assassin? And what if she didn't attend the ball to meet the prince, but to kill him, instead?"

The series is available in 15 countries and 35 languages. The second book of the series, Crown of Midnight was a New York Times young adult best-seller. The final book in the series, Kingdom of Ash, was released on October 23, 2018; the finished series comprised seven books.

A Court of Thorns and Roses, Maas' second fantasy series, is a loose retelling of the traditional Beauty and the Beast. The first book of the trilogy was written in 2009 but was not published until 2015. Due to the success and popularity of the original series, it was extended, and a spin-off series was announced which would feature stories of other popular characters.

On May 16, 2018, Sarah announced her third fantasy series which is also her first adult fantasy series, Crescent City.

In an interview with Writers & Artists, she told them that "Music— especially movie scores and classical music" is her inspiration of writing. She continued on to say that Sabriel written by Garth Nix and The Hero and the Crown by Robin McKinley "kindled my love for reading fantasy and my desire to write it..."

Sarah has mentioned that, "The sense of discovery is why I love writing so much. It's a total thrill for me."

"You could do anything, if only you dare. And deep down, you know it too.

That's what scares you the most."

-Sarah J Maas



On Dreams and Reveries

Rêver, yume, sognare, khwaab – these words may be divided in language, but all of them talk about the same experience – it is a collection of random, sometimes even borderline absurd sights and events you see when you are fast asleep. Scientists say the stage of sleep called REM (rapid eye movement) is at play: it is when brain activity is high and resembles that of being awake. The length of a dream can vary; they may last for a few seconds or approximately 20–30 minutes. The average person has three to five dreams per night, and some may have up to seven; however, most dreams are immediately or quickly forgotten.

Even before science had a chance to analyse the meaning behind dreams, a lot of cultures across the globe had their own theories and practices which continue to be popular even today. As we see, humanity has always had this recurring motif throughout time and history: we are naturally curious beings who theorize about basically everything.

The ancient Sumerians in Mesopotamia have left evidence of dream interpretation dating back to at least 3100 BC. Throughout Mesopotamian history, dreams were always held to be extremely important for divination and Mesopotamian kings paid close attention to them.

In ancient Egypt, as far back as 2000 BC, the Egyptians wrote down their dreams on papyrus. People with vivid and significant dreams were thought to be blessed and were considered special. Ancient Egyptians believed that dreams were like oracles, bringing messages from the gods.

In Chinese history, people wrote of two vital aspects of the soul of which one is freed from the body during slumber to journey in a dream realm, while the other remained in the body, although this belief and dream interpretation had been questioned since early times.

The Indian texts Upanishads, written between 900 and 500 BC, emphasizes two meanings of dreams. The first says that dreams are merely expressions of inner desires (this belief was shared by Sigmund Freud). The second is the belief of the soul leaving the body and being guided until awakened.

The Greeks shared their beliefs with the Egyptians on how to interpret good and bad dreams and the idea of incubating dreams. The earliest Greek beliefs about dreams were that their gods physically visited the dreamers, where they entered through a keyhole, exiting the same way after the divine message was given.

The concept of dreams has been widely explored and imagined upon in pop culture and literature. While in literature there is a lot of symbolism and mystery involved with dreams and premonitions, pop culture in the form of films and shows have very straightforward and realistic depictions of their dreamer's fears and desires.

In the following pages, there are various shades and hues that you will see about dreaming and its interpretations, and it all aims to provide you with a more wide-angled perspective of this unique yet shared experience. We hope you enjoy it.



Hey! this is Isha. I like everything ranging from existential questions to astrology (call me a poor man's polymath), and you can find me browsing obscure Wikipedia articles during my free time.

The abode of the damned

In the depths of the underworld,

A distant land of shadows,

Pitch black and with an unquenchable fire,

Lies the land of the dead and deceased,

One that we call hell.

"Hell was reserved for those who knew their actions were wrong,
And did them regardless,
Enjoying the anguish of others
Taking what was not rightfully theirs."
Or so we were taught.

What if this was just created to keep us safe?

From all those thoughts,

That greed,

The envy,

The anger.

What if darkness had its talons deep in all our minds,
What if the terrible precincts we imagined hell to have,
Were an illusion created by our mind?
To contain that part of our mind which annihilated peace.
Or is our sanity an illusion?

What if we're in hell,

But not aware,

And maybe our nightmares are those tiny

moments of reality,

Before we slip back into the manipulations of our

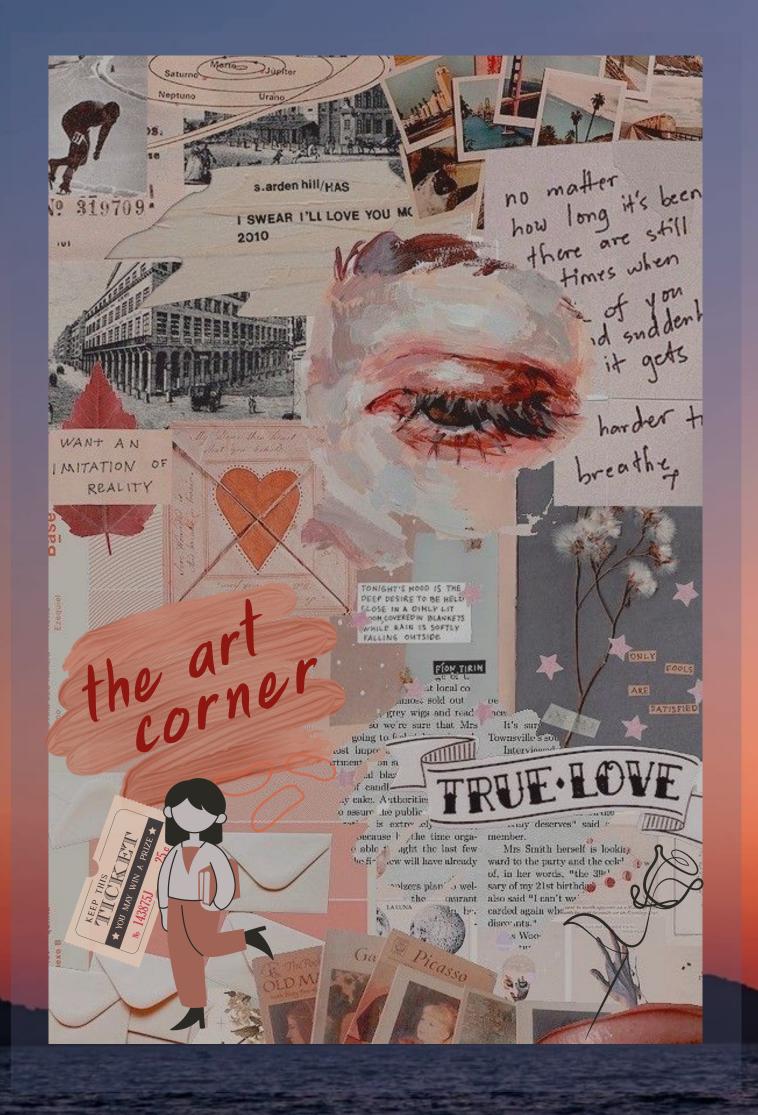
own brain,

Just to survive.

What if?



Hi, I'm Ananya. I love traveling. I survive on coffee and live for aesthetics! Although I'm shy I enjoy singing, I'm not a professional singer. I have my own blog called 'Epistles and Verses'.





The Vision of a Knight (also called The Dream of Scipio or Allegory) painted by the Italian Renaissance artist Raphael, finished in 1503-1504. It is currently in the National Gallery in London.

The Sleep/Dream of Reason Produces Monsters
(Spanish: El sueño de la razón produce monstruos) is
an aquatint by the Spanish painter and printmaker
Francisco Goya. Created between 1797 and 1799 and
currently housed in the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art,
Kansas City, Missouri, US.





Le Rêve (meaning The Dream) is a 1932 oil on canvas painting by Pablo Picasso, then 50 years old, portraying his mistress Marie-Thérèse Walter, who was in her early twenties. It is said to have been painted in one afternoon, on 24 January 1932



The Starry Night is an oil on canvas painting by Dutch Post-Impressionist painter Vincent van Gogh. It was painted in June 1889.

The Persistence of Memory (In Catalan:
La persistència de la memòria) is a
1931 painting by artist Salvador Dalí
and one of the most recognizable
works of Surrealism. The painting has
been in the collection of The Museum
of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York
City.





Dream of The Bed, painted in the year of 1940 by Frida Kahlo, she expresses her feeling and interception of death.

"Looking at the stars always makes me dream. Why, I ask myself, shouldn't the shining dots of the sky be accessible as the black dots on the map of France?"

~ Van Gogh



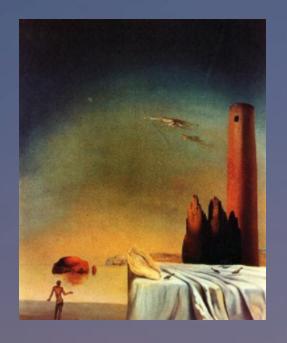
The Nightmare is a 1781 oil painting by Anglo-Swiss artist Henry Fuseli; currently located at Detroit Institute of Arts, Michigan.

Dante's Dream (full title Dante's Dream at the Time of the Death of Beatrice) is a painting from 1871 by the English Pre-Raphaelite painter Dante Gabriel Rossetti.





A Eunuch's Dream an 1874 painting by Jean Lecomte du Nouÿ, inspired by Charles Montesquieu's Persian Letters (published in 1721) is housed in The Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio.



Le rêve approche (The Dream Approaches) painted by Salvador Dalí from 1932-33, now hangs in the Perls Gallery, New York.

Trust is an oil on canvas painting by Netanel Morhan.





Night Attack is another painting by Natenel Morhan.

"Sometimes, the best dreams are best left dreams." ~ Atticus

"Maktub"

Book Review: The Alchemist

"When you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it."

Paulo Coelho's book, "The Alchemist", revolves around a young boy Santiago who is a shepherd in the fields of Andalusia, Spain.

He is a simple boy who spends his days tending to his sheep. When the time comes, taking them to the village where he would shear them and sell their wool.

He is also infatuated by a merchant's daughter to whom he, one day, imagined proposing.

The boy has dreams that ignite a fire within him to travel in search of a treasure that has been revealed to him in his recurring dreams. He travels to Egypt where he encounters people of different walks of life and learns from them. In his travels, one of the most notable people that he meets is the Alchemist, from whom he learns more about the Soul of the World and who encourages him to not give up on his dreams.

Is the journey fruitful? Does the boy find the treasure of his dreams? Is his destiny fulfilled?

'The Alchemist' is a wonderful, dreamy and awe-inspiring book whose themes on finding one's destiny or purpose in life spark an interest in the reader to look within themselves and listen to their hearts.

The tumultuous schedule of our days has led to a detachment from the wonders around us. Simple things hold great value. The book also teaches us that it is okay to be unsure of oneself as long as you keep growing and progressing. It focuses on the hunt for an individual's dreams and how it feels once you achieve them.

The story itself is full of optimism and touches on topics of spirituality, hope, fate and love. The boy is a vessel for self-discovery and through him, the reader is taught the same themes. The storytelling is simple yet profound and the wordings are unembellished which make it a fantastic book for all ages.

That being said, the book idealises things to be done a certain way. The protagonist is seen relying too much on the universe and luck. The harsh reality is that this isn't what happens in the world we live in. Santiago was just blessed enough to have a world of his own that didn't throw as many challenges at him as we face.

Parts of the story do not sit right with me, such as the boy not facing many personal difficulties and trials in his journey and travels and quite easily, coming upon his destiny.

The lack of emotions from the characters, which makes it almost as though we're not reading about human struggles and dreams but rather of a parallel world where the universe bestows mild challenges in the name of "testing".

If one is inspired to follow his dreams after reading this book, my dull advice would be to remember that we've only read a work of fiction and the real world possesses many more challenges and trials and good omens are hard to come by.

Despite these cons, the book is nothing short of marvellous and quite deserving of a read and its position as an international bestseller.

The book describes itself as "a magical fable about following your dream" and it delivers on this description. It weaves fantastical literature and realism giving the book its stellar reputation.

In the end, the author's message is plain and simple, the treasure we all so desperately seek is not something that is around us or something that we must embark on a journey for. It's what is within us that is the greatest treasure of all. The power of connecting with oneself and listening to your heart is what grants us peace and happiness above any worldly treasure.



My name is Sakshi. I'm an avid reader and writer. I am a pianist. Delicacies like cakes and cookies are my forte, I mean I love baking. I also have a flair for the arts!

"I'm still dreaming."

Movie Review: Inception

The relationship between movies and dreams has always been, to borrow a term from psychoanalysis — overdetermined.

The film Inception (2010) captured the imagination of many spectators as one of the best science fiction and fantasy movies to be produced that year. It was produced and directed by Christopher Nolan who also wrote the script of the movie. The writer is known for mastering deeply layered narratives that hook audiences and reel them in slowly. The development of this script and the storyline were Nolan's original ideas back in 2001, nine-year before the movie was released when he wrote an eight-page script on dream stealing.

"Dreams feel real while we're in them. It's only when we wake up that we realize something was actually strange."

This work was inspired by the concept of dream incubation and lucid dreaming which bore this mystery envisioning a world where technology has been developed to allow entrance into the human mind by means of dream invasion. Inception is based on the basic inspiration that a single idea in an individual's mind can be either the most valuable asset or the most dangerous weapon.

Inception is the story of Leonardo DiCaprio as Dom Cobb, a thief of the mind called an extractor who enters the dreams of high powered individuals and steals their secrets via an architect. The architect is responsible for building the world of the dreamer, convincing them their surroundings are real. Dom is assisted by his friend and colleague Arthur who is Joseph Gordon-Levitt, the voice of reason in Dom's life. We're brought into the main part of the story in the middle of extraction, in the mind of sleeping energy company CEO Saito (Ken Watanabe). Cobb assembles a team, and here the movie relies on the well-established procedures of all heist movies. We meet the people he will need to work with: his longtime associate; Eames (Tom Hardy), a master at deception; Yusuf (Dileep Rao), a master chemist. A new addition to the team, Ariadne (Ellen Page), a brilliant young architect who is a prodigy at creating spaces. Cobb also goes to touch base with his father-in-law Miles (Michael Caine).

What seems to be a routine extraction turns into what the entire film ends up being; a question of what is what, when, and who is aware. Much of the groundwork is laid early on, though true to fashion, Nolan makes sure we're not aware of it.

"I'm asking you to take a leap of faith."

Dom and Arthur are at an architect-built compound, attempting to lead Saito's subconscious through the process of tipping his hand and leading them to his greatest secrets. Cobb's assignment is the "inception" (or birth, or wellspring) of a new idea in the mind of another young billionaire, Robert Fischer Jr. (Cillian Murphy), heir to his

father's empire. Saito wants him to initiate ideas that will lead to the surrender of his rival's corporation. Cobb needs Ariadne to create a deceptive maze-space in Fischer's dreams so that new thoughts can slip in unperceived.

Why is it so difficult to explain the plot in depth? Firstly, I don't want to spoil it for you.

Secondly, the film layers dream on top of dreams to the point where a unique keepsake called a "totem" is required to inform a character as to whether or not he/she is still dreaming. Cobb tutors Ariadne on the world of dream infiltration, the art of controlling dreams and navigating them. Nolan uses this as a device for tutoring us as well. And also as the occasion for some of the movie's astonishing special effects, which seemed senseless in the trailer but now fit right in. The most impressive to me takes place (or seems to) in Paris, where the city rolls back on itself like a roll of linoleum tile.

"If you're going to perform inception, you need imagination."

Protecting Fischer are any number of gun-wielding bodyguards, who work like the mental equivalent of antibodies; they seem alternatively real and figurative, but whichever they are, they lead to a great many gunfights, chase scenes and explosions, which is the way movies depict conflict these days. So skilled is Nolan that he got me involved in one of his chases when I thought I was relatively immune to scenes that have become so standard. That was because I cared about who was chasing and being chased.

During this event, we're introduced to the mysterious Mal (Marion Cotillard) – whose appearance disturbs Arthur. Mal and Dom have a relationship, the details of which we're not immediately aware. All we know is Dom can't trust her.

Nolan helps us with an emotional thread. Very soon the dream is compromised, Saito aware that they are in his subconscious mind and Mal holding Arthur at gunpoint. Here we learn some rules-

If you die in the dream, you simply wake up, but being injured does not have the same result, however. Dom kills (wakes) an injured Arthur, and we're introduced to the other side of the dream. Cobb is asleep, as is Saito; both hooked intravenously to the machine that makes extractions possible. Cotillard beautifully embodies the wife in an idealized way. Whether we are seeing Cobb's memories or his dreams is difficult to say--even, literally, in the last shot. But she makes Mal function as an emotional magnet, and the love between the two provides an emotional constant in Cobb's world, which is otherwise ceaselessly shifting.

It is here, through a series of events I won't ruin, that we learn about the concept of dreams within dreams.

Inception features one of the best fight scenes of all time. Take a moment to consider that: in the entire history of cinema, of every fight scene that has ever taken place, the one in this movie is among the best. Watching a fight without gravity is incredible.

"And I will lead them on a merry chase."

The movie in general received outstanding applause as an innovative and smart story and many critics gave it positive reviews. Rotten tomatoes for instance gave this movie an average score of 8/10 based on over two hundred and fifty reviews and reported that up to 87% of critics gave this movie a positive preview.

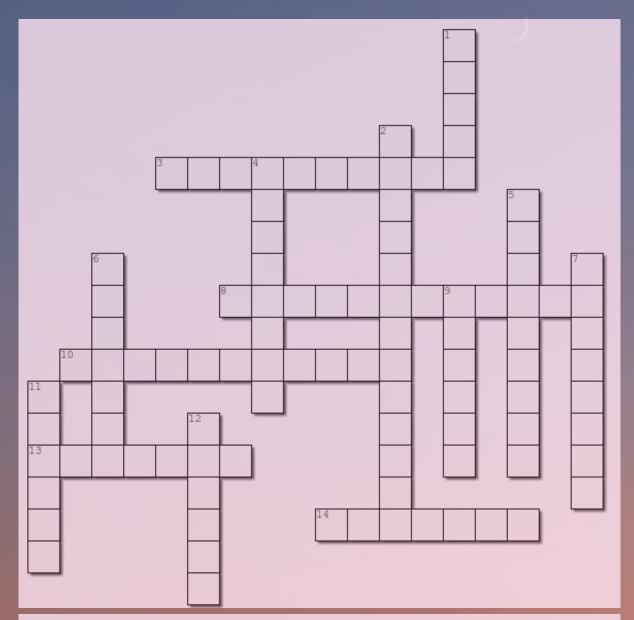
Specifically praised in this movie is the producer/ director/writer, Mr Nolan received many positive notices and compliments even from the best critics.

You've never seen anything like Inception, and you'll want to see it again and again.



Hello, I am Kaurobi Paul. I am known for my sense of humor and hooded eyes I believe in verbalizing emotions. Stargazing and baggy clothes are my kind of things.

Crossword



Across

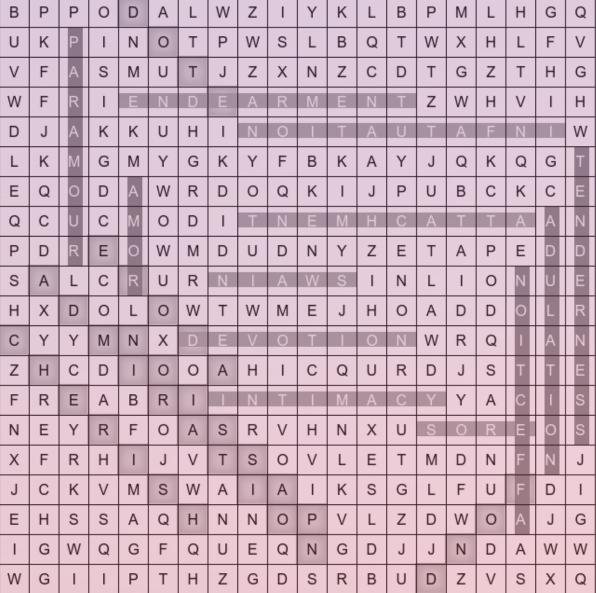
- **3.** an imaginary place of delicate beauty or magical charm
- **8.** protective talisman that is used to protect people from nightmares
- 10. ability of the mind to be creative
- 13. having existence
- 14. an idea with no basis in reality

Down

- 1. the ability to think clearly
- **2.** an experience involving the apparent perception of something not present
- **4.** series of pleasant thoughts that distract one's attention from the present
- 5. frightening or unpleasant dream
- **6.** a conception or image created by the imagination and having no objective reality
- 7. prediction of what will happen in the future
- **9.** condition of great mental concentration or abstraction
- 11. illusion
- **12.** an imagined place or state of things in which everything is perfect

Clues Unfound

AISHITERU



ADMIRATION

AFFECTION CHERISH

ENDEARMENT INFATUATION

INFATUATION PASSION

ADORE

AMOR DEVOTION

EROS INTIMACY

SWAIN

ADULATION

ATTACHMENT

DOTE

FOND

PARAMOUR TENDERNESS

"In dreams we enter a world that's entirely our own.

Let them swim in the deepest ocean or glide over the highest cloud."

~ J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban