



Progressive Education Society's  
Modern College of Arts, Science & Commerce  
Ganeshkhind, Pune-16

# ODYSSEY

The Pink and Blue Divide: Breaking Stereotypes

**VOL. 5**



Department Of English



# VISION

“The Department of English envisions youth with love for literature, desiring to explore the world of aesthetic pleasure, kindle their spirit to understand the science of language, improve their power of expression and linguistic competency leading to successful careers in diverse fields.”

“Our mission is to inspire, motivate and encourage students to excel in their academics, be good communicators, foster employability skills on them by providing a platform to identity and nurture their inherent talent, promote their creative pursuits, build their self-esteem and make them well-rounded personalities”



# MISSION

# O B J E C T I V E S

-To create awareness about the importance of English as a global language.

-To cultivate research aptitude through a comparative study of cultures and literature.

-To acquaint students with the catalytic effect of English in opening gateways to myriad career opportunities

-To make students comprehend analyze and appreciate literary texts.

-To enhance their personality, build their confidence through training in English communication viz. social etiquette, manners, polite conversations, and formal and informal discourse, etc

# WORDS OF GRATITUDE

We owe an immense sense of gratitude to our patron Dr. G.R. Ekbote for his unconditional support and guidance to help us evolve and excel. We salute him for his perpetual encouragement in all our academic endeavors.

Students of the English Department are constantly motivated by the Head of the Department of English, Dr. Shampa Chakraborti and the enthusiastic involvement of all the teachers and staff in supporting us students in our English department activities.

Our Principal Dr. Sanjay Kharat's keen interest in the activities of the department inspires us to experiment with fresh and innovative ideas. We are indebted to him for his constant support and guidance in all our academic pursuits. We are grateful to Dr. Jyoti Gagangras, Vice Principal, Arts for her admiration and genuine interest in our student-centric activities. We also wish to express our gratitude to the Vice Principal of Commerce, Dr. Shubhangi Joshi and the Vice Principal of Science, Prof. Swati Kandharkar who have helped boost our morale and strengthen our efforts. Thank you.

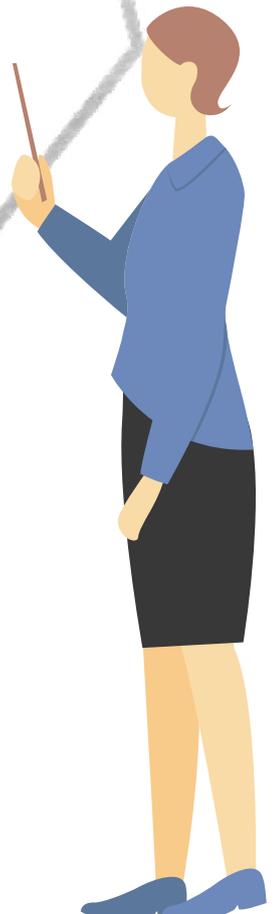
# ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr Shampa Chakraborty  
(Head, Department of English)

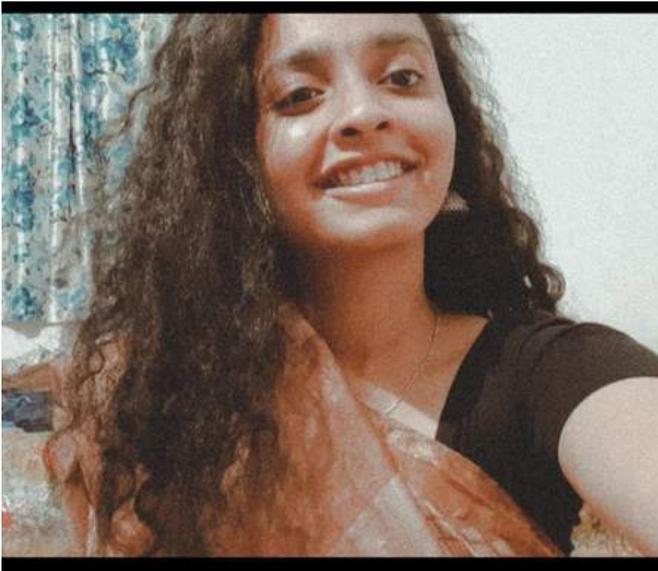
Mr Sandeep Sanap

Dr Deepanita Bhanja

Mr Jitender Kumar



# EDITORIAL COMMITTEE



## JESSIN PETER

It's okay that you are not who you thought you would be.

draw stick figures. sing off-key. write bad poems. sew ugly clothes. run slowly. flirt clumsily. play video games on easy. You do not need to be good at something to enjoy the act. Talent is overrated.

Do things you like doing.

Jessin is an incredibly talented author who has been working with the English department since her First Year. An introvert with an insatiable hunger for reading and a penchant for Literature.

She is the Lead Editor of this issue.



## ANAGHA BHANGALE

Travel. Explore. Read. Live your life to the fullest. Time's a fleeting, Respect nature because you never know when you'll be cooped up somewhere reminiscing the embedded memories. Be the best version of you FOR yourself

Make every moment count towards a life worth writing stories about for generations to come.

Extensive reader and an active writer, Anagha is an ambitious and outspoken psychology student and has been an integral part of the English department.

She is the graphic designer for the IVth and Vth volumes of Odyssey and one of the editors for this volume.

# EXTERNAL CONTRIBUTORS



**Editor**

## Anish Yande

Anish, one of our alumni is currently interning at News24 as a content writer and is an aspiring journalist. He is one of our Editors for this issue and has been working with the magazine since his first year of college.

He likes to binge-watch anything and everything on Netflix. He has the talent to find the lost bookstores in the streets of Pune.

He is passionate about the English language and is a voracious reader who is also an amateur book collector.

I believe that storytelling is one of the most effective mediums to reach out to people in the diverse yet divided world we live in.



**Graphic Designer**

## Anchal Shah

She is an upcoming talented graphic designer who has managed to help us with the magazine cover pages and layout. She is a Human Development Student at J.D Birla Institute in Kolkata. We have asked her to give us her thoughts on the theme which you can read in the contributor's section.

Give what you receive.

# EXTERNAL CONTRIBUTORS



**Illustrator**  
Pages: 4,7,13&14

## Anu Eva CJ

She is an upcoming talented graphic designer and small business owner. She is a talented artist who loves journaling. She helped us with the basic editing of the artwork on pages

For all the journaling enthusiasts out there head over to her page [@artfulness.in](https://www.instagram.com/artfulness.in) and show her the love and support! She does customise designs too. She is a wonderful person with a bright and talented mind.

“Little by little, day by day, what's meant for you will find its way.”



**Illustrator**  
Page: 15

## Vidhi Mehre

She is a student of chemical engineering in the MIT-WPU with a passion for anything ART!

She is a brilliant artist and has been chasing her passion for a long time now. She is a budding custom artist with the goal to start her own handmade jewellery small business. She is a jack of all trades with a toe dipped in the stream of baking too! She enjoys writing, journaling and reading.

While we wait and send her wishes for her dreams we can see her artwork on Instagram [@the\\_creative\\_gazette](https://www.instagram.com/the_creative_gazette) .

“I wrote a little about myself , drew a bit more and crafted all of it”

# PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS



I am pleased to see that the fifth issue of Odyssey, the in-house journal of the English Department, is being released this year.

This year's theme of the journal – The Pink and Blue Divide: Breaking Stereotypes is a celebration of the way today's youngsters live and the norms, values, and practices they share. An emphasis on clothing, popular music, sports, and vocabulary set today's youth apart from other age groups, giving them a distinct character of their own. Our youth is equally taking efforts to respect our values, cultures, traditions, and heritage, with honesty and responsibility. Youth are important because they eventually become adults and complete participants in all aspects of social life, to lead the nation as responsible citizens

The students have really expressed their ideas, experiences, and observations of their own lives quite vividly. I am so happy to see the students exhibiting their writing skills on a variety of topics and expressing themselves through poetry, thoughtful articles, and sharing first-hand experiences through Odyssey.

It is also pleasing to see that the teachers of the English Department are offering their students numerous platforms to express their thoughts and ideas through wonderful initiatives like the in-house journal, quizzes, and competitions which certainly help the students to improve their English Language skills, communication abilities and proficiency in using the language to achieve their career goals.

I congratulate the Department of English for bringing out this year's Odyssey on such a befitting topic and wish all the best for their future activities and initiatives to groom the students for the best job opportunities and overall development of their personalities.

*Dr Sanjay Kharat*  
**(Principal)**

## VICE-PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS



“Arise! Awake! And stop not until the goal is reached” is a famous quote of Swami Vivekananda. It acts as the biggest encouragement for youth in today's challenging times.

The youth use various social media platforms to share blogs on teachings and philosophies. The Youth can react and express while implementing these philosophies in their own life and can work towards the development of society and the nation at large.

The Department of English provides a platform for our students to express themselves in their own way through the medium of Odyssey.

The English Department has chosen a very significant topic for Odyssey Vol-V and its relevance spreads across societies all over the world.

This time, the topic is quite innovative, The Pink and Blue Divide: Breaking Stereotypes. This topic is inspired by the enthusiasm among youth today and their many innovative ideas.

A student of today is a parent and citizen of tomorrow. They help in maintaining peace in society. They have to show a good standard of discipline and follow the road rules and lead a fruitful, and disciplined life. A college is a place where all the virtues of a good citizen can be developed in a student.

Identifying the issues of gender disparity by students on a college campus would develop a constructive frame of mind in their lives. The students would work with each other in building a more inclusive and diverse India.

It is the discipline of its citizens which makes a country really great. And in this journey, the role of Teachers and the Department is very important. These activities keep the students away from negative thoughts and wrong things. I wish that the department is constantly encouraged to undertake good activities.

This is a consistent initiative of the Department of English. The whole Department takes a lot of efforts, I wish the Head of the Department of English, Dr Chakraborti and every member of the Department the best of luck and congratulations on this year's Odyssey.

*Dr Jyoti Gagangras*  
(Vice Principal- Arts)

# EDITOR SPEAKS



Odyssey-V is an attempt to explore the theme of The Pink and Blue Divide: Breaking Stereotypes.

There is a plethora of evidence to prove the existence of blatant gender discrimination across the globe. Girls and boys are often “straight-jacketed” into restrictive gender norms at an early age where boys are encouraged to be ‘boisterous’ and explore the outside world while girls are forced to remain indoors and be ‘subservient.’ This edition of Odyssey aims to start conversations and debates on issues such as gender disparity, gender-stereotyping and perceptions of gender and the problems surrounding it in modern society.

‘Odyssey’ has been a platform to initiate discussion on insightful topics, debate on contemporary issues, and develop thought-provoking ideas to bring about the desired change in the society of which we are an integral part. It also serves as a vast canvas

painted with colourful strokes of our students' vivid imagination! Odyssey strives to grow and evolve to perfect itself with every passing year. Needless to say, that this edition like the previous volumes is the outcome of tireless efforts and skills shown by students of the English Department in designing, writing, editing and compiling articles, poems and photographs. Their enthusiasm and energy have made the journal vibrant and insightful, replete with creativity and artistic expression.

My special compliments to our student editors Jessin, Anagha, Anish, and external contributors Anchal Shah, Anu Eva and Vidhi Mehare for spending hours concretizing their bright and youthful ideas into the desired format of our Journal.

This could not have happened without regular follow-up and arduous sessions in documenting the information by my colleagues Mr Sandeep Sanap, Dr Deepanita Bhanja, and Mr Jitender Kumar.

My sincere gratitude to our Principal, Dr Sanjay Kharat, Vice-Principals, all my colleagues, friends, and well-wishers for their encouragement as always.

*Dr Shampa Chakraborti*

**(Head of Department English)**

SR.NO

TITLE

PG.NO

## By the Students

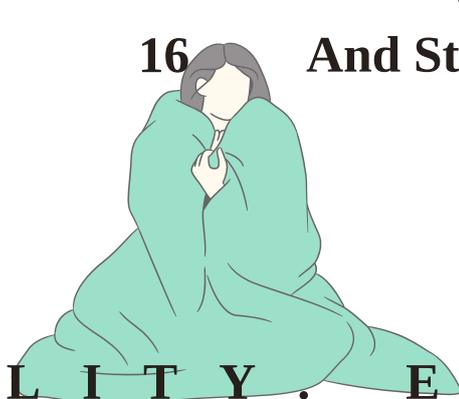
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By the students,  
for everyone

# Work, Women and Society

In the contemporary day and age, the number of working women is escalating drastically. Women are no longer regarded as mere homemakers or child bearers. They are now seen flourishing as they share the title of being the breadwinners of society along with men. For most of our known written history, men would bring home the bacon and women would be confined to the kitchens. The conventional role of women as a “housewife” and men as the “wage-earners” persisted well into the 20th Century. Many women were encouraged and wanted to work, but they ended up performing tasks closely related to traditional house chores or domestic services such as nursing, cooking, cleaning, seam stressing, etc. Women seldom shone in the spotlight when it came to employment; they stood as mere subordinates to men.

However, today the gender landscape has changed from what our mothers, grandmothers, and great grandmothers had to experience. India has come a long way in gender sensitization. In the 21st Century, women are rewriting rules as they take upon big roles and strengthen our country’s economy by working as entrepreneurs. However, as the progress in fair involvement of women in society continues, misogyny cannot be ignored, especially in the domain of workplace equality.

The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 helped with the prevention of gender discrimination in the employment domain. In addition to this, the Workplace Act, 2013 safeguarded women’s rights against sexual harassment at the workplace. Regardless, women still have to face multiple violations of their rights as they continue tackling the pedantic male gaze.

We live in a country where we worship goddesses every single day and women get harassed and abused daily. Women work their fingers to the bone but somehow, not many of them are given the recognition or seen reaching the zenith. Women are just as capable and efficient as men but, they are still looked at as incompetent and clement.

Many qualified and talented women are denied promotions since they are considered to be “home-makers” only. Companies seek employees who can devote all their time to the job without any distractions. In the eyes of the employers, women appear to be tied to their families and hence are not perceived to be ambitious or career-minded. This unfair prejudice has led competent women to get overlooked. When it comes to hourly wages, women are paid unequally as compared to men. Proficient women are not being acknowledged for their hard work even though they have the potential. There is a substantial wage gap between the genders. According to a survey published in March 2019, women earn 19% less than men. The median gross hourly salary for men in India was Rs. 242.49 while it was Rs. 196.3 for women, which means women earn Rs. 46.19 less than men. The IT sector showed a sharp pay gap of 26% in favor of men, while in the manufacturing sector, men earn 24% more than women.

Women who join the workforce have no other option than to take leaves for maternity, child care, and often taking care of other family members as well, leading to a fall in their earnings over time. Why are only women expected to make sacrifices in their work-life for their private lives?

Women are scorned and mocked for putting their careers ahead of their families. On the other hand, men are applauded and

encouraged to focus only on providing for their families and forget about their other duties. Redistribution of the responsibilities is just as important as obliterating this primitive thinking.

Women are the world's most underused resource. They are just as skilled and adept as men in every forte. Men are unjustly regarded as 'alphas' when women can be fearless leaders too. Society is inclined to think of women as soft and tender-hearted. The most sensitive women are powerful and strong. The gentlest and most tolerant women possess dexterity, adroitness, and virtuosity. Women should not be treated as an object. Society must stop turning a blind eye to their aptitude. Society must stop turning a deaf ear to their ideas. Society must stop ridiculing and disregarding their emotions. Society must stop teasing and taunting their thoughts and beliefs.

It is high time that we as a society stop being oblivious to the potential women have. Help them rise and swing for the fences. Stop treating women as an object and start treating them as an asset.

*~Ketaki Thorat*  
**(SYBA)**



*I'm a woman.*  
What's your superpower?



# -Be a Man-

"Be a man", they tell the 5-year-old boy  
 Snatching, from his hands his sister's doll toy,  
 Introducing a stereotypical gap  
 Between girls and boys.  
 Girls have to be feminine and boys have to be masculine,  
 Anyone in between is to be beaten up or killed.

"Be a man", they yell at the 12-year-old  
 who was crying over the death of his cat,  
 For masculinity doesn't come with emotions,  
 but with ego.

"Be a man!" they tell the 16-year old who just  
 had a breakup with his girl.  
 Feeling sad they say, is not allowed,  
 But anger is just fine, for you can take it out on everyone around.

"Be a man!", they yell yet again, to a 21  
 year-old wearing pink  
 And to another one who'd rather read books  
 than play sports,  
 And again to another one who decided to try on his mom's sari.  
 Be a man.

These three words have destroyed many beautiful souls,  
 Which they can not even express,  
 How what and why the society, their parents, relatives, and friends have  
 shoved it down their throats,  
 How they should look like the "Prince Charming",  
 With their perfect jobs, perfect bodies and  
 perfect everything.  
 No matter how messed up they feel,  
 No matter how much they hate it,  
 No matter how much pain they have to ignore.  
 And how pathetic it is how all of them are simply perceived to be just sexual  
 beings.

They told him to be a man.  
 A boy since he was a child was taught how not  
 to feel

And he grew up like that, suppressing his  
 feelings,

Resisting any emotion that will tear  
 down the fact that he is a man.

But before he became a man,  
 He was a human being,  
 Remember that.

*~Shreeya Panda*  
 (SYBA)

## Gender Sensitization: Need of The Hour

Human rights are a set of rights that every human should get no matter what cast, creed, gender, economic state they belong to. Human rights are important for guaranteeing that everyone is treated equally. They are necessary for a satisfactory level of living.

Human rights are divided into the categories of civil and political rights and social rights. This classification is important because it clears the concept of human rights further. They also make humans realize their self roles in various fields.

When we talk about civil and political rights, we refer to the classic rights of humans such as rights that are responsible for limiting the authorities if they affect any individual's independence. Furthermore, these rights allow humans to contribute determine the laws.

Socially constructed and cultural-based rules for men and women help us understand how unequal the power relations are between them.

Gender and its accompanying power relations are built-in all institutions of society, be it family, educational institutions, workplace beliefs, norms, etc. Gender relations do not operate in a social vacuum but are the products of the ways in which institutions are organized and reconstituted.

Gender sensitization is about changing behavior and instilling empathy into the views that we hold about our own and the other gender. It helps people in examining their personal attitudes and beliefs and questioning the truth they thought they knew.

Gender sensitization acquaints men and women with each other's existence and gives fruitful results in all organizations. Gender is determined socially. It is the societal meaning assigned to a man and a woman.

All institutions of the society exhibit gender inequality as gender is rarely given importance and is hardly understood and addressed. Gender roles are constructed according to their needs and when needs change these roles also need to change.

Gender sensitization helps generate respect for the individual. Gender identity educationists, academicians, and faculty have an influence and help mold the gender roles of students. Thus having an impact on quality of life and power distribution, along with stressing on zero tolerance on indecent behavior towards women.

*~Rachel Paulraj*  
**(SYBA)**

## **-To Teach of Their Own-**

---

Gender is like a rainbow,  
An arch of diversity, uniqueness and  
more,  
All the colours are beautiful and  
bright,  
As they shine together,  
In the big, blue sky.  
There are rules though,  
Stereotypes that make us think twice,  
Should he be wearing pink?  
Should she be laughing like that?  
Shouldn't he be wearing a suit,  
instead of an apron?  
Shouldn't she be taking care of her  
family,  
And not go to work in a corporate  
company?  
To each of their own,  
Rules shouldn't break us apart,  
All of us are equal and beautiful,  
In our own way!  
A rainbow will be incomplete,  
Even in the absence of a single  
colour!  
There will be rules; there will be  
stereotypes,  
But that shouldn't let us,  
Kill our diversity,  
And accept the need for conformity.

---

*~Vandhya Iyer*  
(SYBA)

## Society and Gender: The Root of the Problem

I believe that education or schooling is a process through which society creates the kind of individuals we wish to see in the world. Hence, it's imperative that the school curriculum lays a strong emphasis on inculcating values of equality, inclusivity, and diversity, all of which are essential for building a healthy society.

Change must begin from a young age.

In a patriarchal country like India, where stark gender roles, overt gender discrimination and devaluation of women and girls are ingrained subliminally into our lives from a young age. I feel that it is extremely important to identify and address this problem from a very young age. Boys and girls start developing their gendered identities from birth.

The upbringing at home also influences them. While egalitarian gender roles may not be present at home, the school can become a space of transformation where children, especially those hailing from disadvantaged backgrounds, could learn to question gender roles, identify areas of gendered discrimination, and work towards changing them. Change has to start from the grassroots.

In many orthodox families, in both rural and urban areas, while boys are encouraged to study and have a career, girls are taught to concentrate on household chores. Only when both boys and girls learn to question this typical gender bias at school, the situation at home would also change for the better.

The different geographical and cultural contexts I have had the opportunity to work in has taught me that gender roles and inequalities are very contextual and rooted in cultural and social practices. Thus, to have a national policy addressing gender equality is not sufficient. At a more local level, we need clear directives to understand and address specific gender norms through the schooling process.

In spite of our efforts towards providing education to a girl child, where exactly are we lacking?

For the longest time, we have been working on bringing girls to school and ensuring that they complete their schooling. We assume that schooling and academic ability will empower a girl through financial and social independence. Why then, do we still have a society where women and girls fear for their safety and well-being and are considered 'burdens' on their families? We may have been able to bring women to the forefront, but without addressing and challenging gender norms at a nascent stage of social development, we cannot hope to work towards a society where women and girls feel safe and valued.

Imperative to this process is the need to working with boys. From a young age, i.e. through schooling itself, if boys are taught to understand how an egalitarian society is beneficial for all by questioning gender norms, only then will boys learn to treat women as equals. Thus education can play a critical role in making society safer for women, and that can happen by making gender sensitization a part of the school curriculum.

*~Pranav Mane*  
**(SYBA)**

## **-He for She-**

---

**Why was I born an obstacle?  
Why is being a woman, considered as one?  
For I can learn and I am capable,  
Yet none of it matters for I am not a son.  
Men, gender inequality is your issue too,  
Although you may not agree, I'm afraid it is  
true.**

**You should have the right to express your  
emotions and be what you please,  
You should not be pulled back by stigma,  
but instead, be who you are at ease.  
Why shouldn't men and women be treated  
the same?**

**To have equal rights and equal pay, that  
should really be our aim.  
Equality is not a privilege but a human  
right,  
All genders on the spectrum should be able  
to shine bright.**

---

*~ Ananya Saraswati*  
**(FYBA)**



## **Stereotype: The Expression Suppressant**

We live in a democratic country where we have equal rights as a citizen. However, from the beginning, there have been specific rules that we are expected to follow and it differs according to genders. For example, girls should have long hair and boys should not.

We all have to follow a few rules that are against our personal choices which are not only true for girls but also for boys. We think girls have many restrictions and boys don't because boundaries for girls are expressed and for boys, these are not expressed openly.

An example of gender stereotyping is that girls are expected to be gentle and soft while boys are expected to be strong in all situations, which increases unnecessary pressure from society and they end up isolating their emotions. This creates depression and various mental issues for an individual. A few situations relevant to gender bias are is of how we identify a particular gender based on their colour choice. And why are girls not allowed to go out late at night but boys have the freedom to do the same?

We should inculcate positive values in our younger generation such as supporting and respecting each gender choices, decisions and rights. Society should be more supportive of fellow citizens irrespective of their gender. For example, A man can be a makeup artist and a woman can be a firefighter.

Therefore, the views of society towards an individual's choices should be neutral.

*~Benazir Shaikh*  
**(FYBA)**

## **-I'm Just Being 'Me'-**

---

An assigned character was told to play,  
Freedom of choice was taken away,  
Labeled for what I should be and not for what I  
wanted to be,

I kept losing myself,  
Unable to recognize the reflection in the mirror  
by the shelf.

Drowned in their expectations,  
Stuck between their complaints,  
Bewildered, struggling to find me.

But, I can't give in,  
This is not the world I want to live in,  
I don't have to live up to anyone's expectation,  
Other than mine,

Why you find it annoying?

Well, I don't owe you anything,  
Whatever or whomever I like and choose to be,

Is up to me,

So let me be!

Because I'm just being ME.

---

*~Shruti Jadhav*

**(FYBA)**

## The Pink and Blue Divide: Breaking Stereotypes

Gender discrimination is an old issue of our country and the one thing that we all need to ask ourselves is where did it start.

Gender stereotypes did not seem to happen only with the roles of men and women in society but also leads to the choices they make. For example, colours. It starts with the most basic stage choices, toys. Toys for girls are produced in pink colour and that for boys are shown in blue. Pink is stated as girly colour and no boy would prefer to wear pink or accept gifts of the same. What's wrong with choosing either pink or blue, aren't they just colours? Can't we look at them just like any other colour nature has given us and stop discriminating? This stereotype not only harmful for women but also men and leads to disturbance in mental peace.

For a girl, her toys are referred as to barbies and dolls and her room should be coloured in pink. As for a boy, his toys are supposed to be cars and trucks in bold shades. If this continues, will we ever see the return of a neutral colour?

We can observe this stereotype in many situations including birthday parties. But it is time that we break these stereotypes and let them choose what they prefer and help them explore themselves.

One of the major roles that lead to the pink and blue divide is that of the advertisements. The sale of various products for girls are shown with pink backgrounds and for boys, they are shown in blue. Social media has become a permanent platform for changing mindsets.

Making changes in these kinds of advertisements might just be the first step towards breaking the 'PINK and BLUE STEREOTYPE'.

Small steps like accepting that these are just colours and treating them just like any other asset we have will lead to breaking stereotypes.

Accepting that choices differ from person to person and respecting them rather than forcing our choices on others is very important.

It shouldn't matter if a boy likes pink, we should avoid changing him and accept that it is his choice. These small steps will lead to a massive change in the thinking process of society and will break all the stereotypes that are happening on a gender basis. This will be the first step to stop or to break the stereotypes of pink and blue.

After all, "Small steps lead to big success."

*~Mrunmai Kulkarni*  
**(FYBA)**



## **-I Like Blue-**

---

He can like the colour  
pink, wear dresses and a ring.

She can play with cars,  
and not worry about  
her scars.

Let them be who they wish to be,  
it doesn't matter is what you expect them to  
be.

Don't cry like a girl,"  
you say

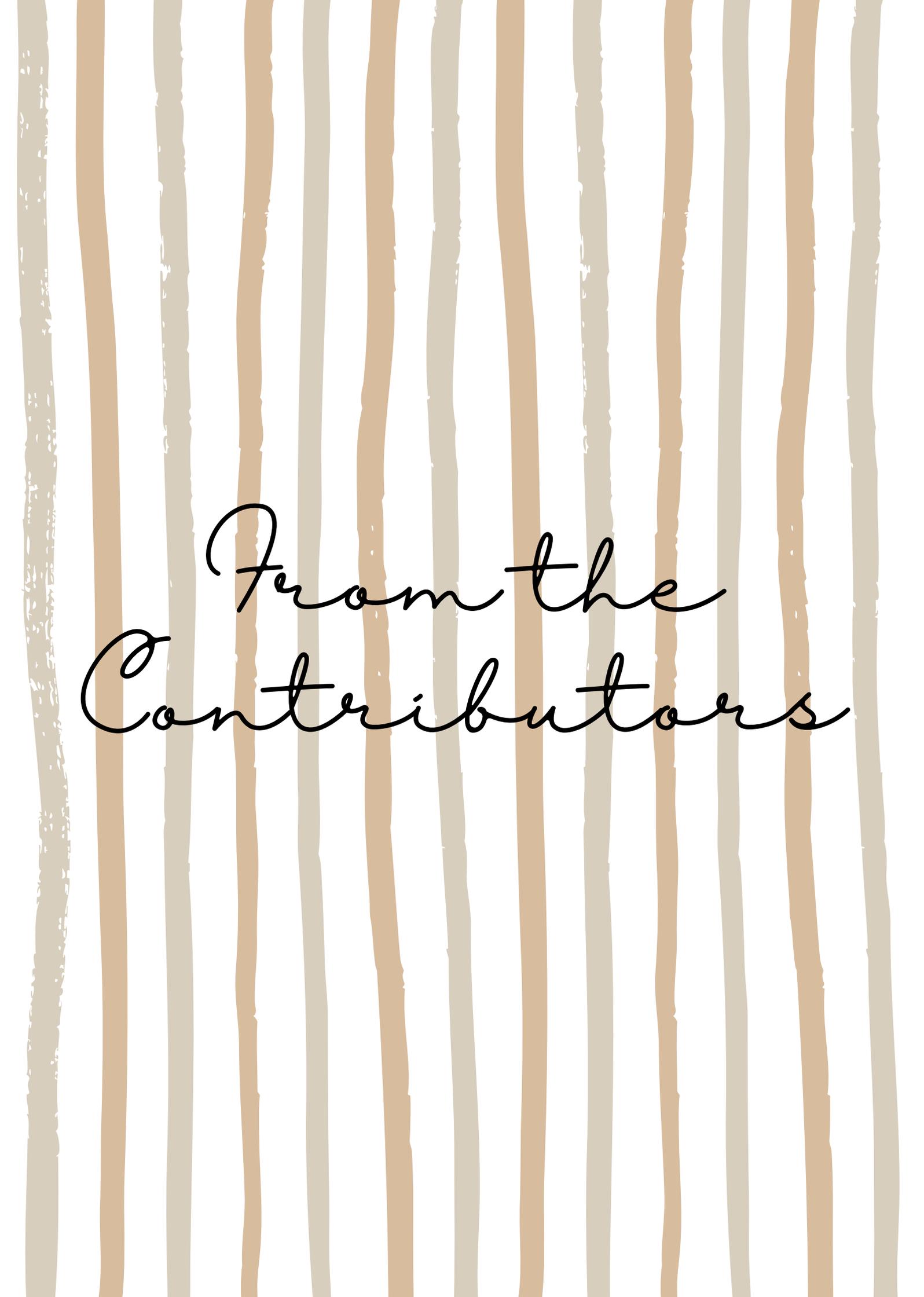
but does gender really  
matter at the end of the day!

Boys can cry and be shy,  
girls can like blue

Come on,  
together we can end all taboo!

---

*~Shreeya Panda~*  
**(SYBA)**



From the  
Contributors

## The Deal with Pronouns-Beyond the Binary

If you're someone active on social media, you might've noticed a rise in the addition of pronouns in the biographies of individual profiles. This was so widely adopted that Instagram recently dropped an in-built feature to add your pronouns to your bios! This might be new, a little confusing and could seem a little extra to some. Let me tell you why it isn't.

Let's take a quick look at grade one grammar that we all learned. What are pronouns? Personal pronouns are the words used in place of specific people, places, or things. Pronouns like "me, myself, and I" are how people talk about themselves, and pronouns like "you, she, he, and they" are some pronouns that people use to talk about others.

A person's pronouns are the third-person singular pronouns that they would like others to use for them. Personal pronouns are used to convey a person's gender identity and may not necessarily align with the sex a person was assigned at birth.

The most common third-person singular pronouns are "she/her/hers" and "he/him/his." Using the pronouns that a person goes by is a way of respecting that person's gender identity -- or a person's emotional and psychological sense of their own gender. Pronouns are deeply connected to our identity. And our preferred pronouns, those we choose to have others use when referring to us, contain meaning, struggle, and connotation for people who feel different than what societal norms would label them.

For example, just because someone identifies as male, doesn't automatically mean they want to use he/him/his as pronouns. They may more closely identify with she/her/hers, or they/them/theirs, or something else.

Since trans people and the entire spectrum of non-binary individuals have to constantly undergo misgendering, they started displaying their pronouns in their bios to make social media a safer space for themselves.

Unfortunately, it led to massive bullying on the usage of the same. When cisgender people share their pronouns whether it be in an online bio, on a name tag, or shared face to face during introductions it helps to normalize the act of sharing one's pronouns in all settings not just LGBTQ+ ones. This helps us not only normalize sharing and asking about pronouns, but it also helps to normalize the larger trans community and its umbrella communities.

Everyone should be able to feel comfortable with their pronouns and have their pronouns respected by others.

*Anchal Shah*

(Graphic Designer at Impact Engine)

(Human Development Student at J.D Birla Institute, Kolkata)

## Decoding Gender Stereotypes

There is an increasing perception that today, terms such as feminism, gender parity, gender neutralism etc., are cliched or worn out. However, it is also important to understand that with growing awareness, education and movements such as MeToo and Time's Up where an increasingly large number of women are coming out with their stories of abuse and mistreatment, the problem of the gender divide and inequality still persists and continues to exacerbate.

Steps are being taken to address the issue, and laws are becoming stringent, yet there seems to be a growing problem in addressing issues of abuse and mistreatment. There is only so much that can be done with the existing generation. Perhaps, if efforts can be made towards rechanneling the focus of efforts towards the young, we may achieve solutions regarding this persisting gap.

Yet, with the ever-broadening marketing techniques and branding options, industries and trends are rooting for this divide even more so. A wide range of baby clothing and toys are blatantly compartmentalized based on gender stereotypes that date back to medieval times.

Additionally, the internet is offering great alternatives to monster trucks and dolls which is not making this easy. Interestingly, this paradigm shift is a thing of the 21st century was ironically almost non-existent 50 years ago.

This dangerous predicament gambles on the idea of feeding a pre-determined notion into the minds of children who are not allowed a chance to choose for themselves what they like or enjoy or stand for. This is very likely to have an impact on their thought process, skill sets and even career aspirations growing up.

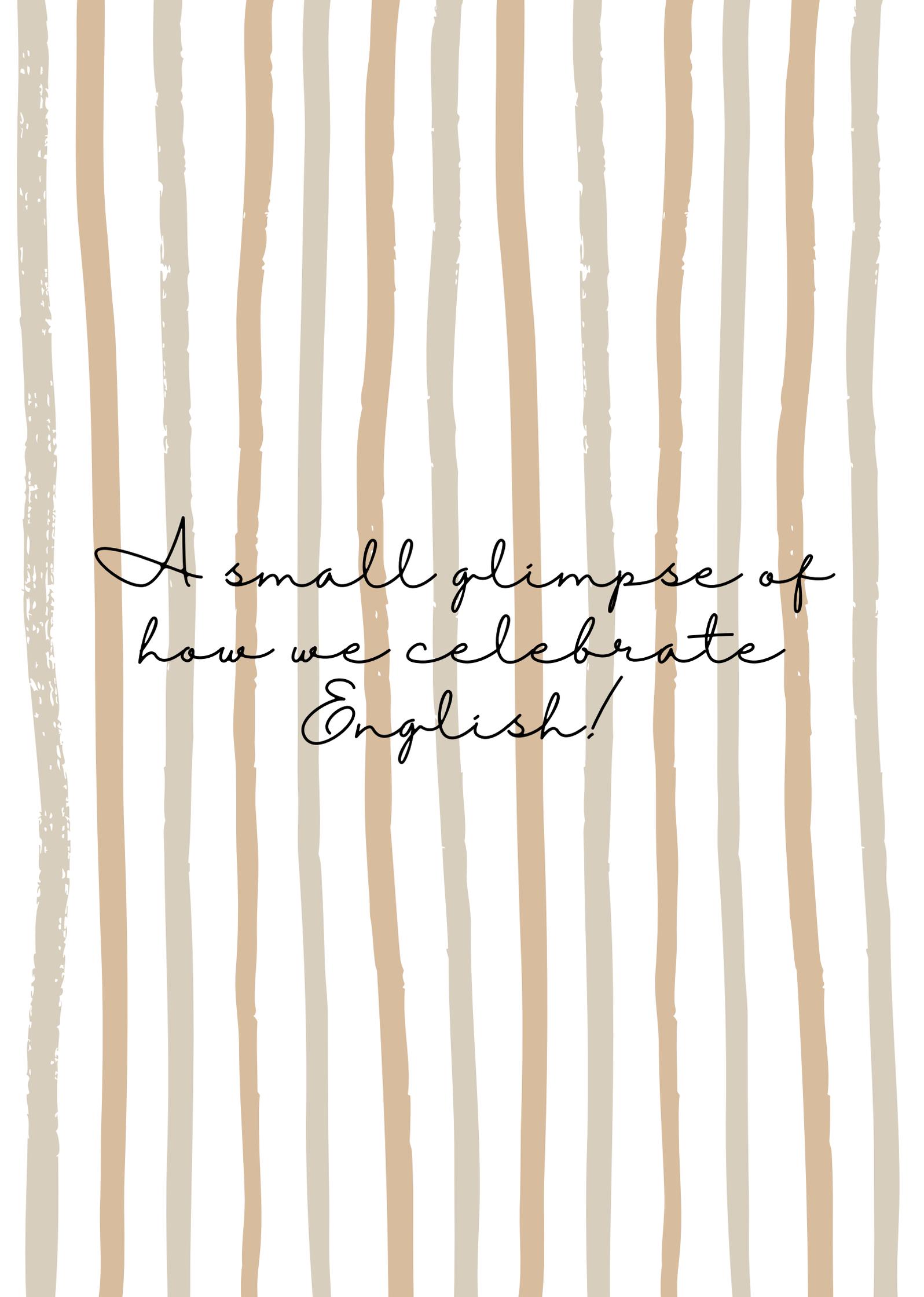
What starts as a harmless blue t-shirt can well contribute to the persisting problem we face today. Problematic slogans like “Make ‘em drool early” v/s “Lock up your daughters” on baby clothing aggravates the issue in hand. Children are left with little to no understanding of the growing awareness of the LGBTQIA+ community with the blue and pink divide.

Women continue to voice their opinions and deal with the lack of parity. Those in the fields of science, entertainment etc., prefer using gender-neutral names to avoid being a commodity of bias.

A revolution within industries that market to the young symbolises a new hope. This could be just a small start in addressing the divide that can only be eradicated through continuous awareness and education.

*Anu Eva C. J*

(Small Business owner [@artfulness.in](https://www.artfulness.in))



A small glimpse of  
how we celebrate  
English!

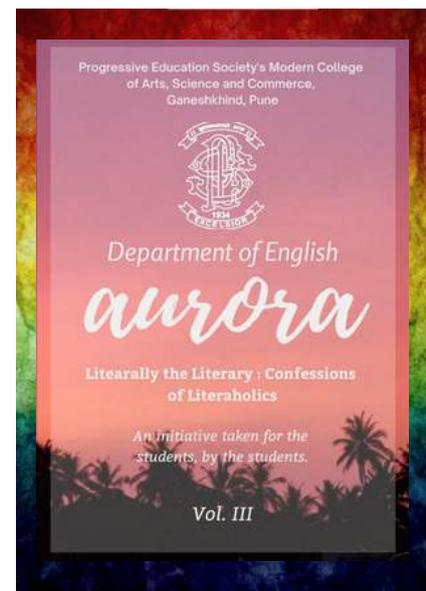
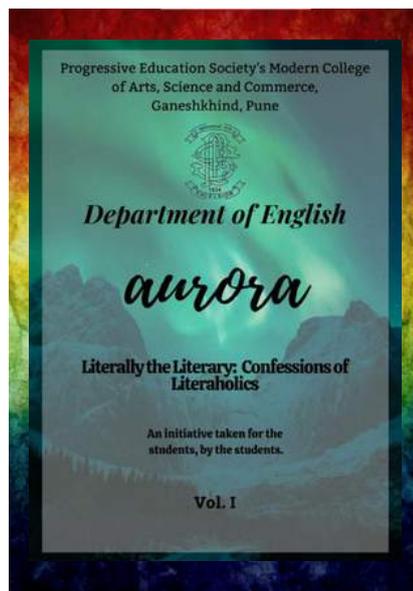
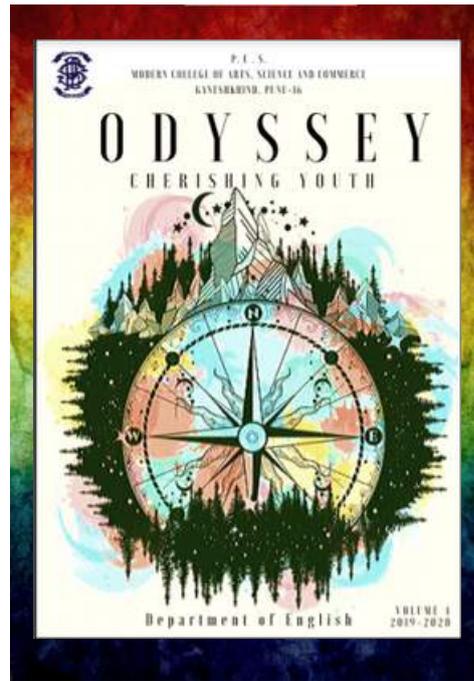
# Odyssey and Aurora

The department's initiatives have allowed the students to express their imagination, experiences, and create worlds with words.

This has led to various creative competitions and publishing magazines such as the In-House journal 'Odyssey' and 'Aurora'.

-The In-house journal is an effort to document the outpouring of thoughts and feelings of the young lot on issues close to their hearts.

-Aurora is a brainchild of the English department. It is a platform where creativity flows unbarred.



“If life were predictable it would cease to be life, and be without flavour.”

~ELEANOR  
ROOSEVELT

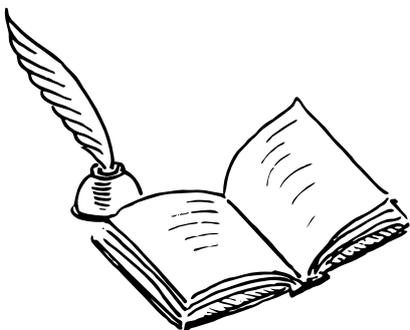
# Writers' Unboxed, Spellathon and Caption Contest

Spellathon and Caption Contest are a few of the many exciting events held during the vibrant week of Vividha.

- Spellathon involves testing the spelling and pronunciation skills of the students and help equip them with visual, audio, and phonetic skills.
- Caption Contest aims at exposing students to the media-driven age of riveting and appealing ways of writing captions for photographs.



- **Writers' Unboxed - A Creative Writing Competition;** the department's initiative to encourage creativity, imagination and expressions.



“ Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier. ~Mother Teresa ”

# Film Shows

The English Department is focused on promoting art forms in all their various methods of expression. Through film shows, the Department promotes the importance of narrative forms and structures in the media we love the most.

In 2019, a comedy film, Mr Bean's Holiday was shown, proving to be a fun treat for students.

It was one among many others, from those in the curriculum.



*"Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn."*

GONE WITH THE WIND  
(1939)

# Certificate Courses



**Certificate Course in French Language - Learning a foreign Language ensures a boost to the careers of our young minds. The department has started this course in the Academic Year of 2020-2021.**

**The Department of English also conducts a three months Certificate Course in Spoken English.**

**In 2019, 58 students from Arts and Commerce faculty registered for the course. The course is focused on imparting skills in the English language through Listening, Speaking, Writing and Reading.**



# Pune International Literary Festival



Students of the Department enjoyed and volunteered for an illuminating 7th Pune International Literary Festival organized on 20-22nd September 2019.

The festival also held a memorable exhibition on the novels of the paranormal author Daphne du Maurier.

The social theme was centered around the global crisis Save Our Earth- Climate Change. Students learned the skills of crisis management, social media interactions and effective communication.



“But luxury has never appealed to me. I like simple things, books, being alone, or with somebody who understands.”

*Daphne Du Maurier*

# International Festival of Spiritual India



**There comes a time when our inner self speaks to us in ways beyond our comprehension and its our decision whether we act on it or stay ignorant.**

**The International Festival of Spiritual India strives towards changing one's perspective to see this world with a new spark and a new light.**

**Spirituality is inspiring when we do things out of our own comfort zone and accordingly, the students of the English**

**Department undertook tasks and worked under the festival director, Dr Manjiri Prabhu. This involvement in extra-circular activities apart from academics has helped the students explore new qualities in themselves and enhance their preexisting ones.**

**“ Make your own Bible. Select and collect all the words and sentences that in all your readings have been to you like the blast of a trumpet.**

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

# Lit-Carnation

*(Literary Carnival of imagination)*



**LitCarnation has become the highlight of activities focused on literature by the English Department. Through the years, LitCarnation has expanded to include novel concepts such as Cosplay and Audio-Visual games.**

**The organizers come up with fun-filled and innovative ideas, during the day-long festival to draw the students of Modern College towards the wonders of literature and art. The event is open for all students, from schools and colleges in Pune.**

# Extravaganz'z'a

*(The Extra 'Z' for the zing, zeal and zest!)*



**In 2019, the very first Extravaganzza was held on the grand stage of Modern College, Ganeshkhind. Expanding on the concept of Cosplay, students included short acts and dances forming an entertaining journey.**

**This event symbolized the beautiful journey of art and literature through these acts.**

**It has been one of the most exciting and innovative pedagogical tool adopted by the English Department in exposing students to the world of literary characters and forms.**

The background consists of vertical stripes in two shades of brown and tan, alternating from left to right. The stripes are of varying widths and have a slightly textured, hand-painted appearance.

*It's Fun Time!*

# Find the Lit-treasures

EPIC

POET

ESSAY

LORE

BOOK

TEXT

RESEARCH

SCRIPTURE

LIBRARY

FICTION

LETTER

AUTHOR

GENRE

PROSE

DRAMA

NOVEL

G	C	N	J	L	A	K	P	O	R	B	Y	Z	J
E	I	I	O	U	O	R	O	E	A	F	Z	S	S
N	P	Y	T	V	O	R	T	O	A	H	R	A	Q
R	E	H	R	S	E	T	E	N	B	T	E	X	T
E	O	B	E	A	E	L	U	A	R	E	T	G	O
R	W	G	U	L	R	W	H	S	E	N	O	R	A
X	P	Q	K	Q	J	B	X	G	S	O	Q	W	T
R	Z	Z	A	O	Y	L	I	Q	E	I	Q	D	H
V	Y	A	E	S	S	A	Y	L	A	T	Q	I	W
B	T	N	H	T	K	K	K	H	R	C	P	D	N
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H	W	E	L	P	O	R	L	R	H	F	M	W	W
L	O	A	M	A	R	D	Y	H	F	C	Q	P	T
P	E	R	U	T	P	I	R	C	S	X	M	L	M

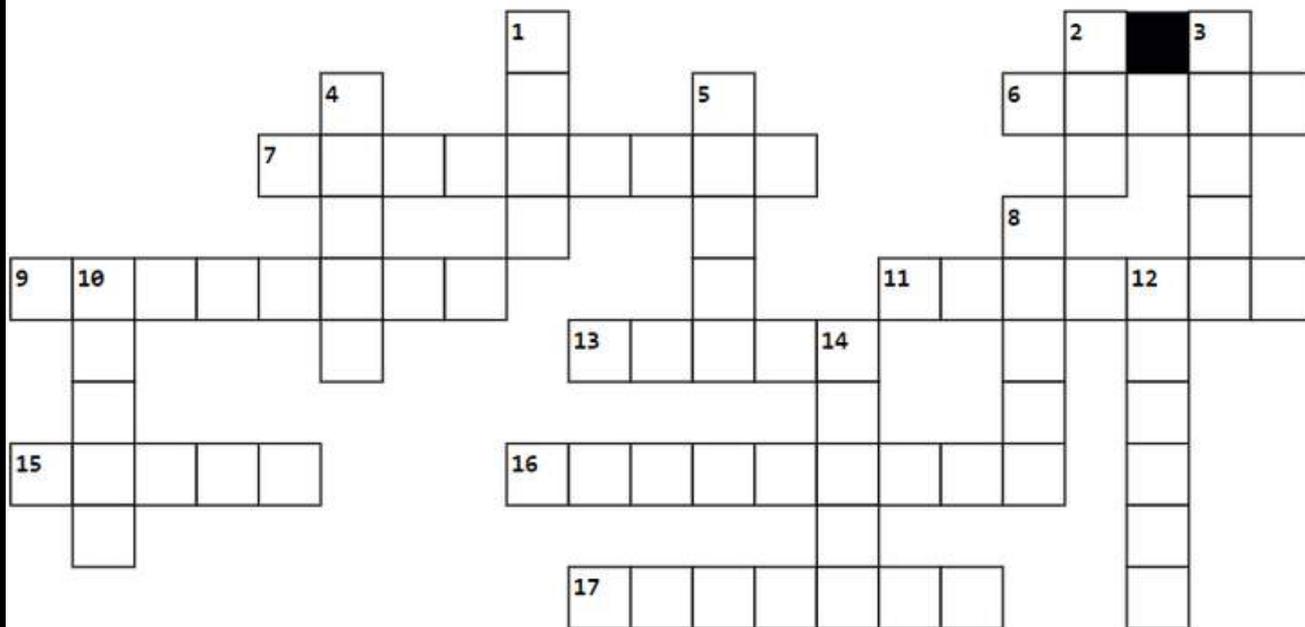
# At Crossroads

## ACROSS

- 6 . Mrs.Dalloway  
 7. Earned a Pulitzer prize in 1953  
 9. The Mousetrap  
 11. Anna Karenina  
 13. The Bell Jar  
 15. Authored 'The Spirit Of Solitude' and 'Ode To The West Wind'  
 16. Robert Harrison Blake, the Cthulhu mythos  
 17. Knitted the Gandhian philosophy in his plots and themes

## DOWN

1. 7 Khoon Maaf, Junoon  
 2. Charles Dicken's pen name  
 3. Socrates's student  
 4. Received Nobel prize for literature in 1923  
 5. Franz -----  
 8. 'April is the cruelest month'  
 10. The blind poet from Greece  
 12. Was honoured by knighthood in 1915 by King George V  
 14. Fictional county of Wessex



Let us get you some  
recommendations  
and answers!

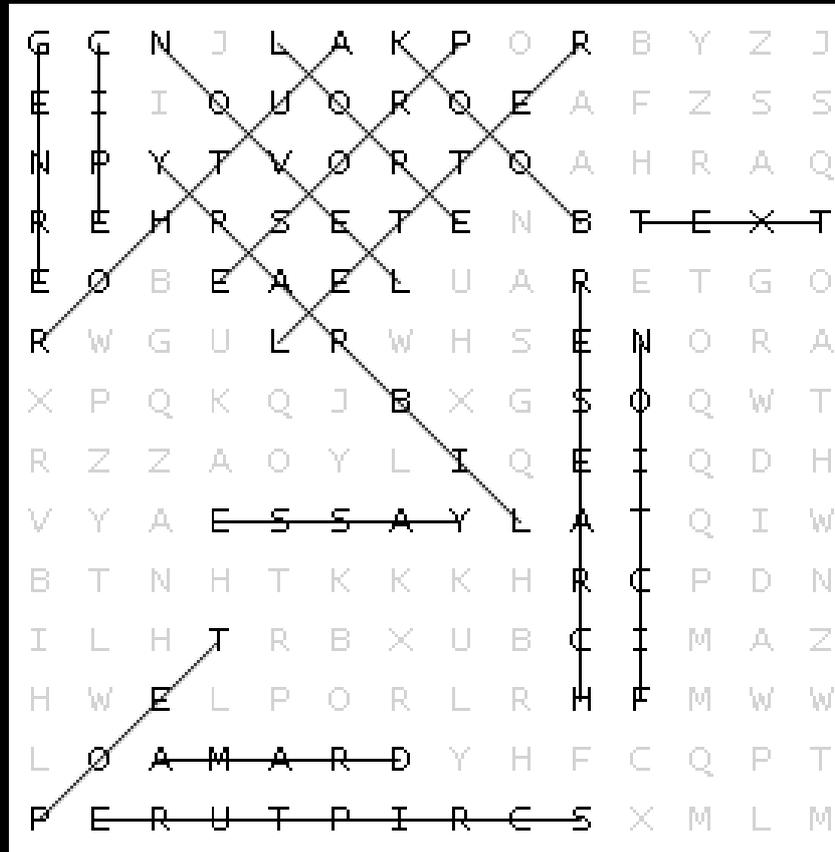
# It's Movie Time!

- Whale Rider (2002)
- Suffragette (2015)
- Maiden (2019)
- 8th Grade (2018)
- Red Moon: Menstruation, Culture and the
- Politics of Gender (2010)
- Seahorse: The Dad Who Gave Birth (2019)
- The First Wives Club (1996)
- Hidden Figures (2016)
- Moana (2016)
- A-League of Their Own (1992)
- Roma (2018)
- Billy Elliot (2000)
- The Mask You Live In (2015)
- Gift (2018)
- On the Basis of Sex (2018)

# Read A Little!

- Of Women and Salt – Gabriela Garcia
- The Mercies – Kiran Millwood Hargrave
- The Awakening – Kate Chopin
- Breasts and Eggs - Mieko Kawakami
- The Handmaids Tale - Margaret Atwood
- A Thousand Ships – Natalie Haynes
- Salt Snow – Julia Armfield
- The Doll Factory – Elizabeth Macneal
- The Bluest Eyes – Toni Morrison
- The Golden Notebooks – Doris Lessing
- Think Like a Breadwinner - Jennifer Barrett
- Pandora’s Jar – Natalie Haynes
- The Moment of Lift – Melinda Gates
- A Room of One’s Own – Virginia Woolf
- We Should All Be Feminists – Chimamanda Ngozi
- Its Not About the Burqa – Mariam Khan

# Your Answers!



## Across

6. Woolf, Mrs. Dalloway
7. Hemingway, earned a Pulitzer prize in 1953
9. Christie, The Mousetrap
11. Tolstoy, Anna Karenina
13. Plath, The Bell Jar
- 15 Percy, authored "The Spirit Of Solitude" and "Ode To The West Wind"
16. Lovecraft, Robert Harrison Blake, the Cthulhu mythos
17. Narayan, knitted the Gandhian philosophy in his plots and themes

## Down

1. Bond, 7 Khoon Maaf, Junoon
2. Boz, Charles Dicken's pen name
3. Plato, Socrates' student
4. Yeats, received Nobel prize for literature in 1923
5. Kafka, Franz
8. Eliot, 'April is the cruelest month'
10. Homer, The blind poet from Greece
12. Tagore, was honoured by a knighthood in 1915 by King George V
14. Hardy, Fictional county of Wessex

## -And Still I Rise-

---

You may write me down in history  
 With your bitter, twisted lies,  
 You may trod me in the very dirt  
 But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?  
 Why are you beset with gloom?  
 'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells  
 Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,  
 With the certainty of tides,  
 Just like hopes springing high,  
 Still, I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?  
 Bowed head and lowered eyes?  
 Shoulders falling down like teardrops,  
 Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?  
 Don't you take it awful hard  
 'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines  
 Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,  
 You may cut me with your eyes,  
 You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
 But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?  
 Does it come as a surprise?  
 That I dance like I've got diamonds  
 At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame  
                                   I rise  
 Up from a past, that's rooted in pain  
                                   I rise  
 I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
 Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
                                   I rise  
 Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear  
                                   I rise  
 Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,  
 I am the dream and the hope of the slave.  
                                   I rise  
                                   I rise  
                                   I rise.

---

*-Maya Angelou-*

And now the end is near  
So I face the final curtain  
My friend, I'll say it clear  
I'll state my case of which I'm  
certain

I've lived a life that's full  
I've travelled each and every  
highway  
And more, much more than this  
I did it my way

~Paul Anka



We'd love to hear what you think about the magazine and our recommendations along with your ideas for the next issue!

Drop us a text on Instagram:  
[@department\\_of\\_english](#)

OR

Email Us: [engdept.mordern16@gmail.com](mailto:engdept.mordern16@gmail.com)

# RESPECT THE HUSTLE!

"There is no power for change  
than a community discovering  
what it cares about."  
~Margaret J Wheatley

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← FROM

FREEDOM  
↳ OF CHOICE!

"MORE THAN EVER, I AM  
AWARE OF THE NEED TO  
SUPPORT AND CELEBRATE  
EACH OTHER. I LIKE TO  
BELIEVE I AM PART OF A  
GLOBAL SUPPORT GROUP  
NETWORK OF 3.4 BILLION.  
IMAGINE: IF YOU CAN  
FALL BACK ON THE 3.5  
BILLION SISTERS, AND  
THE MANY GOOD MEN  
WHO ARE WITH US, WHAT  
COULD WE POSSIBLY NOT  
ACHIEVE?"  
~ NICOLE KIDMAN

MY BODY,  
MY CHOICE!

