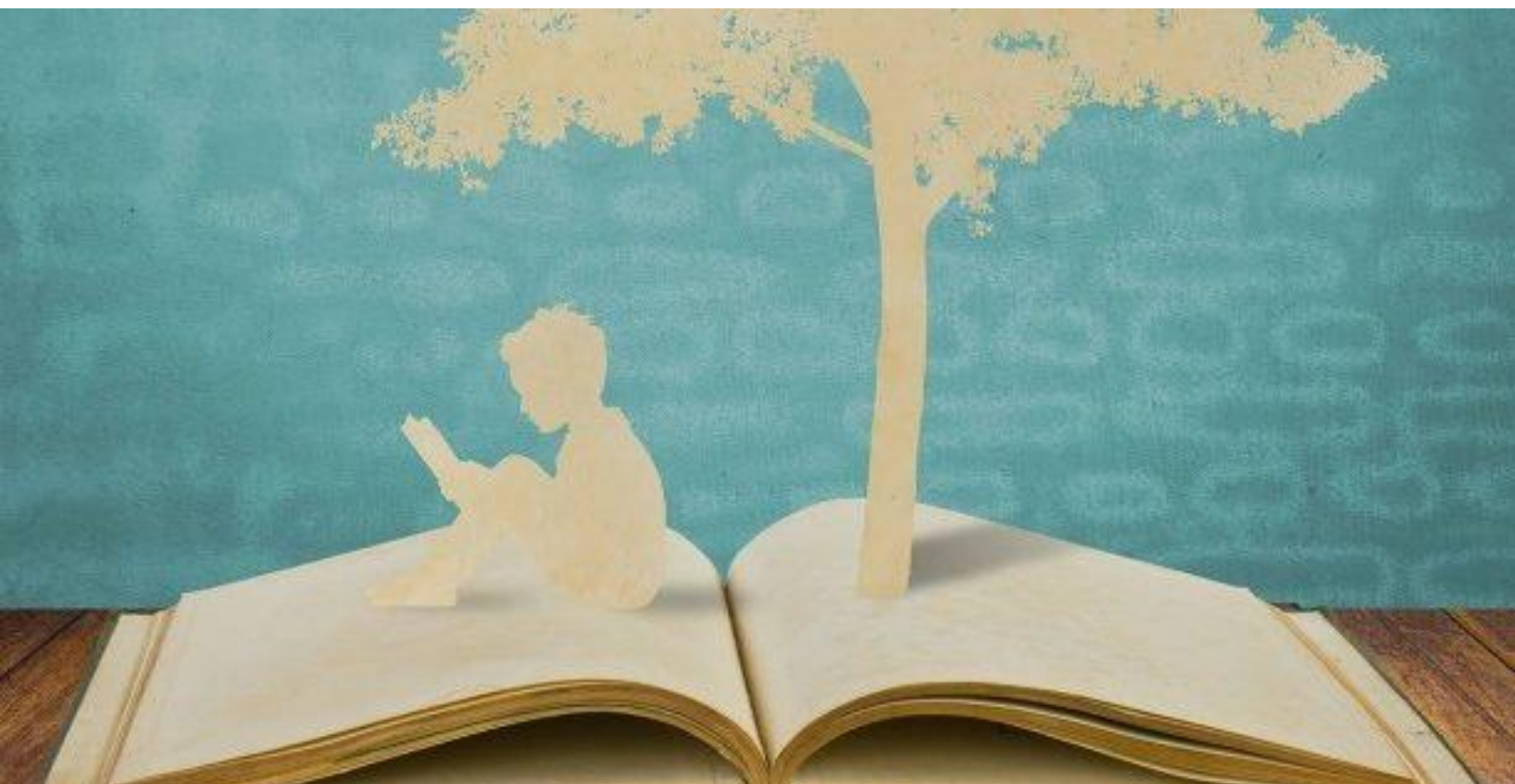




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Compendium of Book Reviews

Dr Vineeth K.M



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(ISBN 978-93-5493-255-7)

Dr Vineeth KM

Editor-in-Chief

Assistant Professor of Commerce

Convener, Research Committee



Government College Tripunithura

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MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

“A word after a word after a word is power,” said Margret Atwood. In these hard times, words can hold immense power over us, as healing force and enriching our lives. That is why the innovative response by the Research Committee of the Government College, Tripunithura to the direction to observe Reading Week by the Directorate of Collegiate Education becomes extremely interesting.

I hope this initiative will attract more and more students to the culture of reading and that too reading with a critical eye and an appreciative mind. While congratulating the Research Committee, I would like to remind them that this is the beginning of a huge responsibility, which they can take up with poise.

All the best for future initiatives and congratulations once again for bringing out the Compendium of Book Reviews, selected from entries that were submitted for the literary contest for students across different campuses.

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Dr. Sameera Rajan
Principal-in-Charge

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are delighted to present this Edited Book as an outcome of the Book Review Contest [BRC 2021] organised by the Research Committee, Government College, Tripunithura. We acknowledge the earnest support of all reviewers, participants, volunteers and fellow members of the organising committee.

We place on record our gratitude to *Dr. Sameera Rajan* (Principal-in-Charge) for the formal sanction and support. We thank *Dr Rajesh M* (Sacred Heart College, Thevara) for being the serving in the review panel as External Expert.

We appreciate the contributions from research scholars and students in the contest via 46 Book Reviews. 36 reviews after preliminary screening are presented as part of this edited book.

We acknowledge the support of fellow members of Research Committee and Student Research Forum which in fact remain the pillars of support for more and more initiatives in promoting research culture.

We solicit your support and patronage in our future endeavors.

Dr. Vineeth. K. M.
Convener, Research Committee

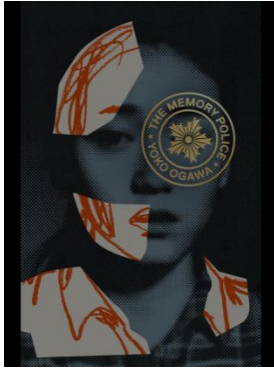
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Book Review**Yoko Ogawa's 'The Memory Police'****Abhijith P (BRC 002)**

Research Scholar

Maharaja's College Ernakulam 682011

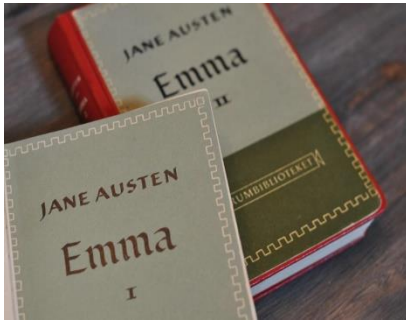
Yoko Ogawa's 'The Memory Police' reinvents the dystopian genre, a vivid sketch of a society that undergoes periodic memory loss. Nominated for the International Booker prize this year, 'The Memory Police' rides high in its translation by Stephen Snyder.

When you say dystopian, it's neither the world of Mad Max or barren earth where machines battle humans for world supremacy, but rather a tiny nameless island, where people struggle to live, stripped off their memories in an unnamed island. A place where every object loses its significance, waking up to a morning where we do not recognize something we used yesterday night. (Yes, Bernard Lowe saying *This doesn't look like anything to me in Westworld is what comes to the mind*) The question is, how do we deal with that loss? How do you make sense of a world like that, where gradually you become a lost memory? This slow-paced work of fiction addresses a primary question about who we are. A vessel of flesh and bones or an animated cocktail of memories that we have built up since our beginning here? Everyone in this island forgets objects that were valuable to them once; a music box, a gem and even birds, which the protagonist in these lines beautifully describes: *Because once it had been sucked beneath the surface of that bottomless swamp, it left no trace at all, no ripple, no fleck of the foam.*

It isn't good news for the people who remember things either; they are to be taken away; by the memory police. Any suspicious activity or keeping valued objects that are forgotten makes you a state enemy. A dystopia means there should be a force that controls and keep things 'in check'.

An angry bunch of people in green uniforms can seize control of anything when they label you as a threat. Here, we see a magical realist portrayal of a 'shared amnesia', which echoes the works by Marquez where oppressive regimes thrive by the force of political slumber. If we could identify a theme, it would be how the islanders are dealing with their losses. The concise prose is the noteworthy aspect of this translation, and no words become excess where Snyder conveys what has happened, almost in a light hearted way. The workings of the police are enshrouded in mystery, where they gradually succeed. The story also goes into a meta mode since we also deal with the main character, a novelist, describing another level, quite parallel to the outside world.

Memories make us human, good or bad, it makes us go forward or stumble, so when someone removes it, you are just a void, a gaping hole that exists. Contrary to the tropes of famous works of science fiction, the reader isn't in for a narration that answers everything, which one has to agree, makes the narration charming. The characters aren't given any names, but the author describes them as an eternal present, making us and them experience the sensation of a slow choke, drawn to the life they are leading, existing with the fear of forgetting. Do you come to terms in this world? If you remember, probably not.

Book Review**“EMMA” - Jane Austen****Arsha A S (BRC 003)**

Government College for Women

Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

We modern's like to think of ourselves as ever so savvy, ever so smart about what's true and what isn't, about how to best talk and act and think.

We like to view earlier generations as well, old fashioned, not as knowledgeable as we are, not as alert to life. After all, they didn't have the benefits of scientific breakthroughs, or ever read a self-help book, or even worn comfortable clothes or known the need to be physically fit or to eat correctly.

Happy or grieving

In the early 19th century, women going into childbirth knew that, because of any number of factors, it could be fatal about one in every 200 mothers died giving birth in England during that time whereas, today it's about one in 10,000.

The mother and everyone else had strong hopes that the outcome of labor would be a happy event .but they also recognized that it could result in death and grieving.

Also, of course, the early 1800s in England were a time with regard for reticence and reserve Today, we moderns-with our let-it-all-hang-out attitudes and our tendency to over-share -are likely to call these ever -so-taciturn people repressed.

But let's set aside the judgments, let's just say that it was a different cultural milieu with different ways of expressing ideas and feelings.

And let's just take a look at Jane Austen's Emma.

“The superior hopes”

Emma is nothing if not a novel knee-deep in what would become known a couple of decades later as the Victorian era. Emma has been read and enjoyed for more than 200 years. I read it at the beginning of the 2020s and found it fresh, delightful, and wonderfully alert to the way human beings feel and think and act.

Emma spends most of the novel trying to arrange the lives of the people around her, which is to say, she spends most of the novel trying to manipulate usually blow up in her face.

Her problem is that she is very adept at reading the way people think and talk—well, she thinks she is throughout the novel, Emma is too quick to jump to conclusions, too ready to take thin threads of gossip and weave them into a tapestry of how she would like things to be.

Austen adds that it's easy enough to misunderstand the actions and words of another person. However, feelings are not as likely to be misconstrued if you are willing to feel them.

What she means, I think is that trying to understand the actions and words of others and trying to control the others based on those actions and words is a distraction. It's a distraction from being a bit calmer, a bit more accepting of what's going on, and ultimately a bit more respectful.

Emma is a young woman who during the novel turns 21. She is the richest woman in her town which gives her a lot of clout and a lot that cushions her from the battering that life can give.

In essence, she is about to become an adult and, finds adulthood a scary prospect.

Harriet Smith is the somewhat spacy young woman whose life Emma does the most to manipulate, aiming to find her a gentleman husband. At one point, Harriet suggests that Emma is so charming she will soon be married herself.

Emma further explains that, unlike most other women, she doesn't feel the economic need to wed although she adds, oh, a concerned Harriet says, Emma will end up an old maid like the over-talkative busy body Miss Bates.

It certainly seems that Emma is protesting a bit too much.

In part, Mr. Knightley, a close family friend in his late 30s, doesn't like what Emma is trying to do with Harriet Smith, partly because Emma blocked a marriage between Harriet and his friend Mr. Martin, a farm owner but not a gentleman.

Emma is a novel that can be viewed as a story for women, but I disagree guys know that it's like to fear becoming an adult and to fear slowing down to feel feelings.

Emma woodhouse is the principal character of the novel around which the whole plot resolves. When in pride and prejudice, Elizabeth suffers from prejudice, Emma suffers from vanity. she takes interest in match-making which is evident from the very beginning but ends up taking the resolution of not continuing it further as the matchmaker in her creates the maximum problem of the plot. Her character goes through a great deal of improvement in the careful guidance of Mr. George Knightley whom she justly rewards in the end. The beautiful language which is particular of Austin makes the reading experience quite enjoyable.

Moreover, through the fixed characters in her novel, "Emma", Jane Austin treats various themes: Attachment, love and marriage, and thwarted love. the writer also uses them as a medium for criticizing her society in general and the other societies in particular.

Social class is a very important theme in the book, as it is in all of Jane Austen's works. Regency England was a very hierarchical society with clear boundaries between the respective classes. and it's clear from reading Emma that Jane Austen firmly believed in maintaining those boundaries. Emma is the culmination of Austen's ability to make great art about the most everyday material. she can create this amazing classical comedy with characters who live in our imagination. As p d James pointed out, it even has an embedded mystery plot.

Major conflict Emma struggles to shed her vanity and her fear of confronting her feelings, both of which cause her to misunderstand those around her and to meddle harmfully in the lives of others, rising action Emma realizes that she was wrong to think she could make a match between Mr. all the events happen in a chronological order thus creating a linear structure. it is from here onwards that Emma faces reality. The plot then attempts to resolve the entanglements that her misguided efforts have caused.

Conclusions

Emma woodhouse is the first Austen heroine with no financial concerns, which she declares to the naive miss smith, is the reason that she has no inducement to marry. This is a great departure from Austen's other novels, in which the quest for marriage and financial security are two of several themes in the stories.

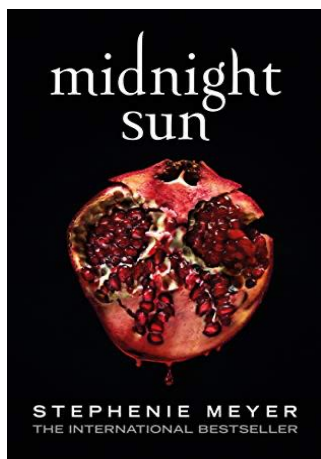
Notably, too Emma utterly fails to understand Harriet Smith and Robert Martin's budding affection for each other, she interprets the prospective match solely in terms of financial settlements and social ambition. only after Harriet Smith reveals her interest in Knightley does Emma realize her feelings for him. Although never outright stated as such may be postulated that

the reason for Emma's inability to fall in love with another man is that she has been unconsciously in love with Mr. Knightley for years. While Emma differs strikingly from Austen's other heroines in these two respects, she resembles Elizabeth Bennet and Annie Elliot among others in another way she is an intelligent young woman with too little to do and no ability to change her location or everyday routine.

Though her family is loving and her economic circumstances comfortable, her everyday life is dull indeed and she has few companions of her age when the novel begins. Emma's determined and inept matchmaking may represent a muted protest against the narrow scope of a wealthy woman's life, especially that of a woman who is single and childless.

The plot structure of the novel is regulated in part by division into 3 volumes: in volume 1 Emma deceives herself about Mr. Elton and that deception reaches its climax in his declaration in the carriage; volume two shows her deceiving herself about Frank Churchill and getting over it in a much less climactic fashion. Volume three continues her self-deception about people but reaches its major climax on the ultimate revelation about herself and George Knightley.

Many other developing facts are involved, but in a brief outline, these are the three rising and falling stages of action in the novel. Only the last one, however, is final for Emma throughout is more and more self-deceived though at the same time she is also moving towards self-knowledge which will let her come to terms with herself and her situation.

Book Review

Title: Midnight Sun

Author: Stephenie Meyer

Published on: 4 August 2020

Genre: Romance/Fantasy

Anula Menon (BRC 004)

St. Teresa's College (Autonomous)

Ernakulam, Kerala 682011

About the book:

Midnight Sun is the long-awaited companion novel of Twilight, which is the first book of The Twilight Saga. This successful series has also been made in to movies and has gained a wide fan base. The two books have the same plot, however Twilight is narrated by Bella Swan, whereas Midnight Sun is narrated by Edward Cullen.

Synopsis:

“I was a predator. She was my prey. There was nothing else in the whole world but that truth.”

Life takes a turn in the monotonous school life of Edward Cullen, a 104 year old vampire stuck in a 17 year old's body, when he meets Bella Swan. After having refrained from killing humans due to his righteousness, suddenly he finds himself thirsty for Bella's blood. As he battles to overcome the monster inside him, he falls in love with Bella. His frozen heart beats again, overcome with affection, yet his thirst for her blood never leaves him. Will their unlikely love story turn into a nightmare or will they be able to love each other, regardless of their differences?

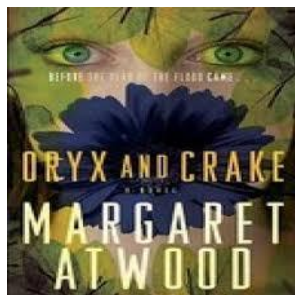
My opinion:

As a Twihard (Twilight fan), reading this book takes us back to the time when Twilight had been published. Even though the plot is the same, there are certain differences that give greater depth to the characters. For example, In Twilight, Bella is a self-deprecating girl, and her narrative focuses on Edward. She belittles herself and finds Edward exceptional and more interesting than she is. She wonders why someone so perfect like him would love her. However, in Midnight Sun, we understand Bella's selfless attitude and her natural tendency to make others around her comfortable. We realise why Edward fell in love with Bella. We also understand Edward's struggles, thoughts, dilemmas and his imperfections.

The best part about this book is that we get to know how Edward can read everyone's mind. We realise how stressful it is to constantly hear thoughts of everyone around you. We also get his personal views on other characters. His frustration at not being able to read Bella's mind is also justified, when we read his perspective. We also learn more about the Cullen family and their loving relationship with each other.

I would surely recommend this book to Twilight fans, even though they already know the plot line. It is wonderful, how the same story in another person's perspective brings a new aspect of the Twilight world and its characters.

To a newcomer in the Twilight world, this book is good and is an amazing start into the supernatural world of vampires. It is written well, but Bella's perspective maybe more relatable since she's a human. Also, the rest of the books in this series are written from Bella's perspective, so to continue the series, you would have to read Twilight as well (to understand her train of thought).

Book Review

Book: *Oryx and Crake*

Author: **Margaret Atwood**

Silpa T H (BRC 005)

Student, MA English

Vimala College (Autonomous)

Thrissur, Kerala

The different phase of lock-down has established a throne of silence and isolation in the life of the people, living amidst the panic of a pandemic. In these times, If someone is looking for a thought provoking piece of writing I would like to recommend Margaret Atwood's *Oryx and Crake*. This novel is a part of Atwood's *Maddaddam* trilogy, which comes under the category of speculative fiction. The novel mainly talks about the futuristic world, in which the character Snowman, who is the last surviving person on earth after a plague. Snowman recollects his past, which unfolds the love triangle between Snowman, his friend Crake and a lady, Oryx.

Crake appears to be the villain of the novel, as his inventions led to the ending of human species on the futuristic space discussed in the novel. When one reads this novel from Crake's point of view, he appears to be a character adhering to the tragic hero concept of Aristotle. Crake's greed is his hamartia or tragic flaw which had paved the ways for his own end. But his flaw has created a dystopian world in all its sense. Margaret Atwood has used her strong vocabulary to enrich her narrative space of *Oryx and Crake*. So this would be a delightful reading experience for readers who have clear idea about Atwood's writing style and *Maddaddam* trilogy.

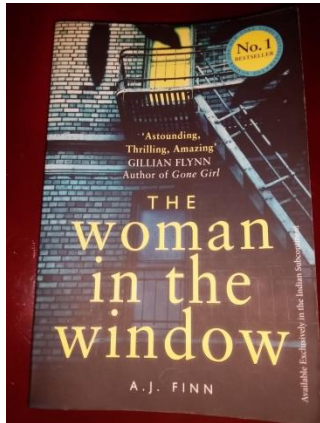
Atwood is a writer, who frequently deals with the themes which are relevant to our current scenario. This novel was published in 2003 but it has much to talk about our current pandemic times. Why I strongly suggest this book to readers are; this novel can reflect the fear of each

human being living in a pandemic affected society. There are a number of works in English literature like, Shakespeare's tragedies, which have pandemic as the backdrop of its narrative. But *Oryx and Crake* literally talks about the inner conflicts within humans, when they have to encounter an invisible foe in their lives.

We, humans always tried to live in a better society with complete peace, development which can be similar to the concept of utopian society. But what we can see in the present situation is just to opposite to our dreams and hopes. As Robert Friedrich said, "A fictional dystopia is better than a fake utopia." If the present situation continues, dystopia is our nearest future which will be covered with "The weariness, the fever, and the fret" as stated by John Keats in his poem "Ode to a Nightingale". That is what the novel *Oryx and Crake* tries to address to its readers.

The present scenario will make us ponder around the reason, which made us the victims of a virus. That inner query of our mind will get an answer after reading this novel, and it is of course, the greed of humans. Even after making so much of scientific advancement, we are going behind the goal of satisfying our materialistic needs by forgetting and destroying flora and fauna around us. This anthropocentric thought of humans will mark their own destruction as depicted in the novel as "Homo Sapiens, Sapiens was once so ingenious with language, and not only with language. Ingenious in every direction at once."

Atwood has said in one of her interview that, "I'm not a prophet". "Let's get rid of that idea right now. Prophecies are really about now. In science fiction, its always about now. What else could it be about? There is no future. There are many possibilities, but we do not know Which one we are going to have." But, after comparing the novel with current situation of world, I feel like she is really prophet to certain extent and this narrative will remain one of the best novels that I have read in my life.

Book Review**“The Woman in the Window” by A J Finn****Liyana Fathima Niaz (BRC 006)**

Student, BBA

Govt. Brennen College, Thalassery

Kannur, Kerala

The Woman in the Window, is a crime thriller novel penned beautifully by A.J.Finn. He received a lot of praise for this story. Finn has written for numerous publications, including the Los Angeles Times, the Washington Post, and the Times Literary Supplement. Finn’s debut novel, The Woman in the Window, has been sold worldwide and is in development as a major motion picture of Fox. The story is in the form of a diary of the heroine.

The story is about Anna Fox. She was a child psychologist. Her family was picture-perfect, consisting of her daughter Olivia, her husband Ed, and her. But it didn’t last long, one day they met with an accident and her family was shattered. Even after ten months she doesn’t accept that they are dead, and says to whoever asking about her family that they are separated and her daughter is with her husband. After the death of her husband and her daughter she became an Agoraphobic patient who is too terrified to step outside her home. From then her lifeline to the real world is her window, where she sits day after day, watching her neighbours and talk with her daughter. One day a family named Russell’s move in the neighbourhood and Anna is instantly drawn to them. The Russell family consisted of a teenage boy Ethan, the father Alistair Russell, and the mother Jane Russell. From then on she started observing the Russell’s but was not able to see Jane Russell in detail. After some days Ethan came to her house with a gift from his mother

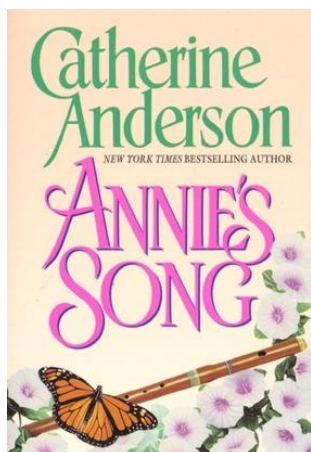
Jane Russell and Ethan was liked by Anna as he was a well behaved child. It was on Halloween that Anna first met the lady by which the story comes to a twist. The lady carried Anna to the room, because Anna was panic stricken by going outside her house to scare the kids who were throwing eggs to her window. The lady said that she was going next door, and Anna asked her weather she was Jane Russell and the lady accepted it. Anna like to take photograph and Jane told her the view of sunset, and Anna took the picture of it in her phone. One evening, a frenzied scream rip across the silence from Russell's house. Anna calls Russell's house and Alistair assures her that there was no scream and when Ethan answers Ethan sounded like he was afraid. Some days later when Anna was watching the Russell's from the window she saw something 9no one was supposed to see. She saw Jane being stabbed using a letter opener. Anna panics and calls the emergency line and gets out of her house to help Jane but collapses in the park between her house and the Russell's.

This is where the story comes to another twist. When she opens her eyes after the collapse a detective asks about why she called the emergency line and when she told about the incident, no one believes her. When Russell's are called to her house, she asks Alistair to call Jane. But when Jane comes to her house, she is not the person whom Anna met. Detective says that she must have imagined it, because the medicine taken by Anna can cause hallucination. Even when she repeatedly says that Jane is killed, nobody believes her. It is when she too starts to think that she may be imagining. But, when she was checking her phone she sees the picture of sunset taken by her as per Jane, whom she assumed was Jane, recommendation and it showed the reflection of Jane in the glass. It is when Anna finds that all that happened was real. She calls Ethan to her house, But he only comes after half past ten because his parents has restricted him from going to Anna's house.

Ethan says the real story to Anna. The person she met as Jane is Katie (Katherine). Katie is Ethan's biological mother and the Russell's are his adopted parents. He adds that Katie was stalking them in Boston and that was the reason they shifted to New York. And Katie was asking permission from Russell's to talk with Ethan and Russell's are afraid that Katie may take Ethan from them. And that is when Jane Russell stab Katie using a letter opener. After hearing Anna tries to call the police and Ethan says that he will first tell the Russell's about it and then they would go to the police.

And this is where the real twist happens while taking a nap Anna hears Olivia saying something that Ethan before said. And that is when she sees Ethan in her house standing with the letter opener. It turns out that Ethan was the one who killed Katie and he is suffering from personality disorder. He tries to kill Anna and she runs from him and reaches the terrace. At last for self protection she pushes Ethan from the terrace and calls the detectives. After six weeks Anna tries to step outside her house to start living her life. This is where the story ends.

The Woman in the Window by A.J.Finn is full of suspense and surprises. It is one of those rare books that are irresistible. I really loved this book. It is a story of fiction even though it felt realistic.

Book Review**ANNIE'S SONG by Catherine Anderson****Sheetal Shaji (BRC 007)**

Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kerala

Author introduction

Catherine Anderson (born 22 December 1948 in Grants Pass, Oregon, USA), is an American best-selling writer of historical and contemporary romance novels since 1988.

Book review

The town "idiot girl", that was who she was to all who knew of Annie Trimble. Bullied and left to her own demons, the child in the body of a young woman lived in a world of her own making. One she filled with the colours of happiness, far away from the ugliness of the people around her.

Alex Montgomery is horrified to learn that his little brother raped a young woman who didn't even know what it was to be one. When he discovers that she carried his brother's child, Alex offers to marry her in order to secure the future of his family's heir.

Annie is hastily married off to the wealthy Alex and sent off to a strange home by her father. His only request to his son-in-law being to use a firm hand and the gift of a whip to keep his new wife in control.

It is quite easy to slip into the simple mind of the young woman who struggles to find happiness in a strange new place. Our heart aches for her as we slowly recognise the signs of her being a far cry from being the town lunatic, to the realisation that her life of pain could have easily been avoided had her parents paid more attention. Annie was dumb, she was hearing impaired and spent her entire life trying to speak with little to no aid, only for people to misconstrue her

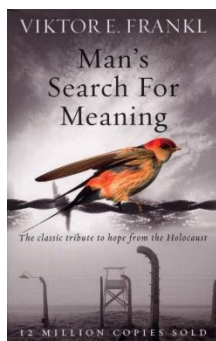
behaviour to be signs of madness. A misdiagnosis during her childhood and her family's negligence refused her the right to live a normal life.

We find ourselves rooting for Alex as he takes on the task of training her to speak and understand the reality of her pregnancy. We stand with Annie as she finally comes to realise how she came to be pregnant and who the father of her child really is.

Catherine Anderson weaves a fantastic tale that illuminates the lives of several women who lived in a time when men reflected dictated a level of fear and control. The innocent Annie warms the hearts of the young girls we once were, and evokes the empathy of the women engraved deep within our souls.

The beautiful characterisations along with the maturity exhibited by the principal characters makes the book all the more interesting.

Annie's song is a soulful rendering that flows from the mind of a young woman, who, like several of us dreams of joy and love. And as we come to the end of this book, we find ourselves spinning and rejoicing in the magic of her inspiring song.

Book Review**Man's Search for Meaning by Viktor Frankl****Milan Varghese (BRC 008)**

Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kerala

Viktor E. Frankl was a professor in Neurology and Psychiatry at the University of Vienna Medical School. His writings have been called "the most important contributions in the field of Psychotherapy since the days of Freud, Adler, and Jung". The book *Man's Search for Meaning*, is the story of his struggle for survival at Auschwitz and other Nazi concentration camps. The book speaks of the experiences of the prisoners in the camps had from their perspectives and goes through the condition they lived in. The book tackles existential questions about one's meaning in life and introduces the reader to the concept of Logotherapy (part two of the book), an invention of Victor E. Frankel himself, which focuses on finding the meaning in an individual's life.

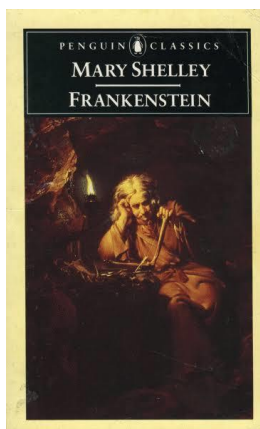
He said, "Life is not primarily a quest for pleasure, as Freud believed, or a quest for power, as Alfred Adler thought, but a quest for meaning". According to logotherapy, we can discover this meaning in life in three different ways: 1) By creating a work or doing a deed, 2) by experiencing something or encountering someone; 3) and by the attitude, we take toward unavoidable suffering. Regarding Suffering, he said, "You cannot control what happens to you in life but you can always control what you will feel and do about what happens to you" "The forces beyond your control can take away everything you possess except for one thing, your freedom to choose how you will respond to the situation."

"Ultimately, man should not ask what the meaning of his life is, but rather he must recognize that it is he who is asked. In a word, each man is questioned by life; and he can only answer to life by answering for his own life; to life, he can only respond by being responsible."

The life we have is like watching a movie, we cannot ask the meaning of the whole movie in the middle. But it has to be patiently experienced patiently; giving it the best we have got at the moment. "Live as if you were living for the second time and had acted as wrongly the first time as you are about to act now."

"Man is both the one who invented the gas chambers in Auschwitz and also the one who entered the gas chambers upright, with the lord's prayer or the Shema Yisrael on his lips." You are the one who decides how you react to the situations life throws at you.

The book is filled with interesting key points to the question of finding meaning in one's life. It helps us empathize with different phases the prisoners went through during the Nazi period and also introduces us to logotherapy. This is one of the books everyone should read, as it will give you new insights into one's understanding of life

Book Review**Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus's by Mary Shelley****Ann Mary Joju (BRC 010)**

Student, MA English

Vimala College (Autonomous)

Thrissur, Kerala

Book: 'Frankenstein or Modern Prometheus' (1818)

Author: Mary Shelley

Being born amidst books, being a young lady who loved the isolation of graveyard, who was fascinated by galvanism, depressed by her love and the demise of her beloved child, Mary Wollstonecraft or Mary Shelley wrote 'Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus' as a mixture of her true emotions. Initially published as a gothic novel in 1818, nobody realized Mary's greater power of imagination and literary talents until her father William Godwin republished it under her name later. Her words carry a rebellious power which transcends the binaries based on gender. Discarding all the differences of sex, this novel portrays a bunch of male characters with meticulous observations. Victor Frankenstein and the Monster created by him poignantly depict the extremes of scientific innovations. The Monster says, "I ought to be thy Adam, but I am rather the fallen angel."

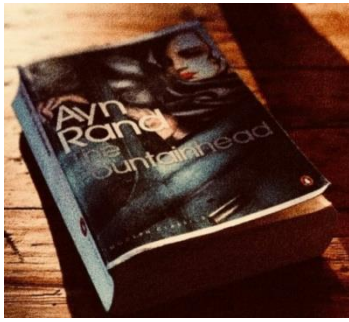
The plot revolves around the drastic result of Victor's scientific creation when the creation turns against the creator. Perfectly packed with multiple plot lines, foreshadowing and flashback techniques, Mary exemplifies her love for literature. Her mastery over language can be very well seen in the careful and spontaneous usage of diction. Many hideous figures appeared in the

Hollywood horror movies can be found their traces of origin from Mary's imaginary monster created by Victor. The eerie mood of the novel transfers more focus on the seriousness of its thread.

It discusses about the importance of being a human and how to remain human. Mary had tried a unique style which makes the reader sympathise with the lonely existence of the monster. A large section of the novel goes from the perspective of the monster. From the reading experience, it can never be categorised as a horror novel but more as a sentimental novel which contains a strange feeling while reading.

Claiming an initial position in the list of science fiction, 'Frankenstein' stands as an all-time success in the legacy of English literature. Wonder, terror, death, decay, mystery and elements of romances strictly grabs the plot tension. Inspired by Milton's 'Paradise Lost' and Samuel Taylor Coleridge's 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner', Mary gave more power to her monster while spilling the justifying points to the crimes done by him in the story rather than supporting the creator. She was firm in redefining the norms and codes for perfection as she had granted a true identity to the hideous face as he says, "I do know that for the sympathy of one living being, I would make peace with all. I have love in me the likes of which you can scarcely imagine and rage the likes of which you would not believe. If I cannot satisfy the one, I will indulge the other."

This novel would definitely haunt a person days and days after reading it. The everlasting dominance of her writing style would lead a reader to a much broader realm of literature and to the ecstatic experience of catharsis. The classic value of the story makes it eternal with magic.

Book Review**The fountainhead by Ayn Rand****Ardra Subhash (BRC 013)**

Sri C Achuthamenon Government College

Kuttanellur, Thrissur, Kerala

If physical slavery is repulsive, how much more repulsive is the concept of servility of the spirit? “The fountainhead”; a hymn glorifying the man’s “I” ,is a captivating revolutionary novel in which Rand comes up with a contest:the individual against the collective,the first hander against the second-hands,the EGOTISTS against ALTURISTS.

Ayn Rand , One of the most prolific Russian American author who had a deep impact on people of any generation , across the globe, chiefly with only two books ; Fountain head and Atlas shrugged. And both are magnum opus.

Fountainhead was Ayn Rand's first ambitious philosophical fiction of plus 900 pages. The book deals with two things; Individualism and Collectivism.

Coming across the protagonist, Howard Roark was so intriguing ,as he was sculpted as an embodiment of uninfluenced ego who cannot be tempt, threaten and make live by the RULES .Neither your commands nor your entreaties would work on him and never would he compromise his self though a tempest is about to engulf him ,thus becoming totally impervious to the soceity.On the contrary, Peter Keating, who never adheres to the self, is a sheer public canvas who was used by innumerable brushes making him SELF-LESS!

The hardest thing to explain is the glaringly evident which everybody has decided not to see.

The core of the story is Howard’s career struggle to stand by his own morals and standards and to work by only them. Amidst all this, Howard had a twisted love affair with a beautiful woman who threatened to destroy him every step of the way.

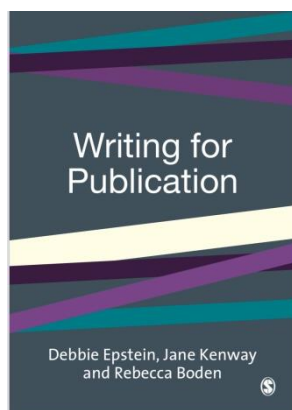
The Fountainhead by Ayn Rand serves as a fantastic introduction to Author's inane philosophy – Objectivism .Extremely gripping and never trite, The Fountainhead is a heady mixture of Ayn Rand's simplistic psychological and philosophical insights.

Man is ought to produce whatever he wants on Earth either by himself independently or by being a parasite clinging to the minds of others. While the creator produces, the parasite loots or recreates with the aim of conquering the men as well as the minds.However , the SYSTEM do subjugate the mass by worshiping conformity over one's own independence and integrity. In the name of collectivism, power has got the nerve to ram down their ideologies through the thoughts of mass thereby making it easier to cut their necks in a single stab.Nonetheless she despises the policy of UNITE AND RULE!

Rand's notions on supremacy of self-reliance, the false comfort of altruism, the exaltation of a gritty and decidedly male competence, the sublimeness of pure laissez-faire capitalism makes the novel way more pensive. Indeed ,The picture of an aloof and ethereal individual struggling to pursue his dream and right to happiness, throw spotlight on an ever haunting question; Do you even have a self to be selfish?

Moved by all this, I was incredulously flabbergasted by this triumphant epic of man's spirit where Rand corroborates that the man's ego is the fountainhead of human progress. And it is rather appreciable that her uncanny ability to weave words into beautiful mosaic gives way more life to this SAGA. Hence ,this novel would undoubtedly make you reflect, rethink, redesign and reconstruct your persona.

No matter what age you are reading this book , it will leave a deep impact in you, stirring your conscience. Ayn Rand's story-telling skills and style of writing are undoubtedly distinguished.

Book Review**Writing for Publication By Debbie Epstein, Jane Kenway and Rebecca Boden****SK Jaber (BRC 014)**

Ravenshaw University

West Bangal

- 1) Title of book: **Writing for Publication**
- 2) Author of the book: **Debbie Epstein, Jane Kenway, and Rebecca Boden**
- 3) Country: **London**
- 4) Language: **English**
- 5) Cost of book: **\$ 44.42 (US Doller)**
- 6) Genre: **Reference book**
- 7) Name of publisher: **SAGE Publications Ltd**
- 8) Edition and year of copyright: **2005**
- 9) No. of pages: **126**
- 10) **About the authors:**

Debbie Epstein: She is a Professor in the School of Social Sciences at Cardiff University, UK. She is a South African by birth and completed her education in history. Then she worked as a research assistant under Jeremy Bentham for short time. Afterward, she taught children in several schools for seventeen years. Finally, she returned to university and started Ph. D at the age of forty.

Jane Kenway: She is a Professor of Education at Monash University, Australia, and focused on developing the field of global cultural studies in education. She was a school teacher and outrageous hedonist before she became an academic. But since becoming an academic she has

also become a workaholic, which has done wonders for her social life, because, fortunately, all her friends are similarly inclined. Nonetheless, she is interested in helping next-generation academics to be differently pleased concerning their work and their lives.

Rebecca Boden: She is a Professor of Accounting at the University of the West of England. She was graduated in history and politics and completed her Ph.D. in politics. At first, she joined the University of the West of England as a contract researcher but due to the shrinkage of academic job opportunities, she had to join civil service as a tax inspector. Afterward, she established as herself an accountant in the world of business schools.

11) Introduction: The book's name, *Writing for Publication* deals with many generic issues around academic writing and publication in refereed journal articles, books, book chapters, and associated common issues like authorship and rewards, including intellectual property rights. The authors structure this book as a compendium for a wide range of people from academics to management and from experienced researchers to beginners. Likewise, it assists them with handling complex and in some cases stupefying procedures associated with getting their exploration distributed in an assortment of organizations. This book has articulated many difficult facets of research that scholars face and thus, lose their interest in academic writing. The authors have presented these critical issues in more generalized and simplifying ways which people find very easy to understand. Like others, the authors also put enormous importance on writing practices and their ancillary activities. The very significant issue of writing for the target audience with focussed motives has been expressed in a practical and easily understandable language. A wide range of publication options are presented and several very helpful tips outline potential pitfalls that would limit publication success.

12) Chapter Summary:

The book started by mentioning the benefits of book reading and how useful it is for a research student who has yet to write for publication, academicians who need to acquire writing and publication skills, and more experienced academicians. It also explains that people write and publish their research because of two reasons as it is a fundamental requirement of being an academician and also has an institutional pressure for publication.

Authors address several generic issues of reading and writing, and also give the prescription to overcome the situation. They suggest a few tips about good reading such as regularity in reading and make it a habit, read actively, read widely, follow their style, and take notes where ever

required. Along with reading, the authors also give some suggestions to mitigate writing problems. Like, overcome psychological barriers generating faith in oneself; needs to start writing steadily to formulate the researcher's ideas and shapes the research; prepare a structure plan to develop writing skill and complete the work in time; build a format of writing to support the argument, which may consist of empirical data collected from archives or fieldwork; develop one's distinct style of writing; think about their readers and create an aura for the audiences; input their best effort and skill as it is open to a global audience and have every chance to be peer-reviewed in case of the subjective idea it needs to maintain power and authority relationship; multiple authors are more appreciated.

Authors target the different issues of publication and formulate the strategy. One needs to put the paper in many conferences for feedback and incorporate the suggestion, followed by communicating the writing at least six months before for timely publication. A steady flow of work should be built up along with having varieties in the selection of co-authors. One should be aware of the expectations of readers. In the case of multiple authorships, it is better to have clear, early, and explicit agreements with co-authors and fellow researchers. Special care must be taken in language and the reader's attention during title selection. Avoid copyright problems, as it is a moral right and legal protection against plagiarism of an author.

This book provides the details of how to write an article and get them published in refereed academic journals. As teaching is always secondary in academic promotion and also has internal pressure and competition for publication; the authors have suggested the seven stages from start to end, through a flow diagram for smooth publication. The stages are gathering ideas, doing research and writing, attending conferences and seminars for feedback, targeting a journal, preparing the paper for submission, waiting for the review process, prepare for acceptance or rejection, and the technicalities of proofs and copyright.

This book is also devoted to giving an overview of publishing research monographs and edited collections. As book publication is a joint venture between author and publisher, three things need to be kept in mind about publishers, proposals, and contacts. The authors mention two border stages and several connected sub-stages for publication. Firstly, writing for and editing collections includes developing the concept, engaging the authors, writing the proposal, organizing authors, editing the chapters, pulling it all together and delivery and deliverance; and

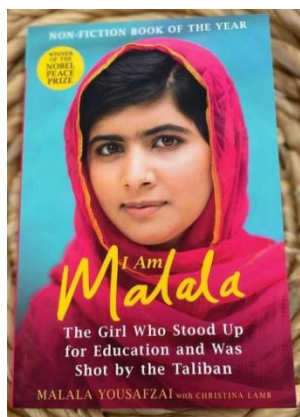
ensuring final touch up by taking special care for looking good, readers' comments, copy editing, covering yourself, page proofs, indexes, selling it and personal marketing of the book.

Finally, the authors discuss publishing textbooks and research books. Textbooks are mainly used by undergraduate students and this type of book secures the highest volume of sales. Dictionaries, encyclopaedias, reference books, and annotated bibliographies are commonly used by teachers and kept in the library useful for a postgraduate student. Authors also emphasize the digitization of scholarship and mention the changing nature of publishing, the proper meaning of scholarly practices, present issues and concerns related to books, and record the responses in the academic and policy community such as international information technology companies, economists, librarians, lawyers and vice-chancellors, the Association of Research Libraries and the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC). Along with the academic publication author also advocate professional and non-academic writing because of more impact on society and can be used both for practice and academics parallelly.

13) Remarks:

This is an excellent piece of work for anyone irrespective of discipline and experience for venturing into publishing. I found the book very easy to follow and engaging. The authors have liberally used words i. e. 'handy hints' or 'style guru' which we rarely find in any other academic writing, thus in doing so this book has brought a whole new way to make people understand research languages by casual day to day verbal chatting languages, especially able to create a deep impression on young minds. The beginning section of this book has chapters entitled 'The business of writing', 'The business of publishing' which may sound very quirky to people who are well accomplished with the Traditional-orthodoxical ways of writing. Choosing the word 'Business' against the writing notion is somehow asking for more practical approaches to the issues of writing and publishing. Alongside this casual face-to-face conversation type attitude of these authors, many genuine tips for start writing a good piece of work have been given, aspirants need to be an active reader, who read widely and make it a habit rather than a mere 'completion by vocabulary'. Writing is something that must come into the researcher's mind naturally not by any hurry or any calculative preparedness, it is an expression of people's thought. They have perceived writing as an 'architecture', provoking the research aspirants to 'play' with the audience. It is apparent that academic writers have never dared to use such casual words, but keep these inside their mind, these authors have unshackled these rituals and

orthodoxy and urge for changing conventional writing. So, I firmly believe and recommend this piece of artwork for everyone willing to put forward their step into the publishing house for their work.

Book Review**I AM MALALA' BY MALALA YOUSAFZAI AND CHRISTINA LAMB****Irfana N (BRC 015)**

Payyannur College, Payyannur
Kannur, Kerala

When I was a child, I was fascinated by hearing the story of a young girl who escaped being shot in the head. Later learning more about her changed that curiosity into respect and reverences. Yes! It was Malala Yousafzai who exposed to the world, “One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world.”

Born on July 12, 1997 in Mingora, Pakistan, now she is known to the whole world for her brave deeds. Life was a fight for Malala who witnessed her father’s political ideas and struggles from her young age.

Through her autobiography, we witness the political anarchy and social challenges caused by the Taliban attack in Pakistan. They demands female doctor to examine women, on the other hand, they ban girl’s education. This paradox shocks us with Malala.

For us who are blessed with education and all other facilities, the life of a society that is denied all these seems like a myth. The fall of a place that was once peaceful, the insecurity of people, poverty and fear all these will haunt the reader. This reading will be a new experience for us who have never experienced war or such issues.

Under the guise of religion, Taliban has spread terrorism and atrocities. It is shocking that how many innocents had lost their life in their journey against Taliban. Taliban used the shoulders of common man to spread their ideas in the society. The terrorists would fall if they shook their

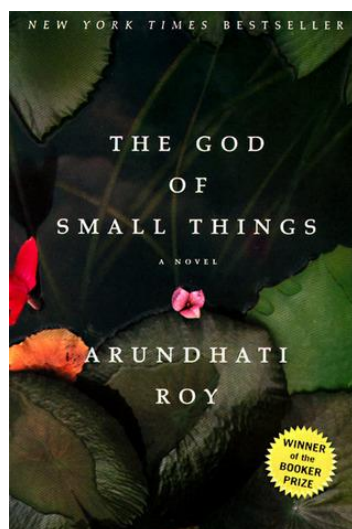
shoulder, but they were so trapped in a way that they could not even breath. Many schools were destroyed and they unleashed violence. All these turned Malala into an educational activist who was an ordinary school student. Initially she begins her movements under the pseudonym ‘Gul makai’. Later she publicizes her activities. This opened her the way to many awards and recognitions.

While education is luxury and business in developed countries, developing and underdeveloped countries still have to go so far to give humanitarian consideration to education. Only those who have experienced gender discrimination in getting education will understand its pain. Especially for someone like Malala who is addicted to acquiring knowledge.

It is astonishing that a girl gave more importance to education than her life in a country where girls education is not even considered as secondary need. Malala did not once have the support of the society, but the support of her family especially her father was a great blessing in her path. We can understand how much contribution she had given to this world from the praise of foreign doctor as the Mother Teresa of Pakistan.

Even the bullets that pierced her skull could not repel her from fighting for education. This incredible rebirth took her from the Swat Valley to the United Nations forum and Nobel winner. Malala, the brave girl who gave hope to the whole world, is the youngest person recipient of Nobel price. Still she continue her activities from her residence in Birmingham.

The autobiography ‘I am Malala’, is a successful attempt to capture the brave life experiences of Malala Yousafzai along with the history of Pakistan and the beauty of Swat. It is also the story of the struggle for girls education. Malala through her story give us an insight that one day our true struggles will be reveal to the world. She will remain as a heroine as long as the men exist. She had finished her autobiography with the co-writer Christina Lamb.

Book Review**The God of Small Things - Arundhati Roy****Ria Theresa Mathew (BRC017)**

B.A. (Hons.) English - Semester IV

The English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU),

Hyderabad, Telengana.

Perhaps it's true that things can change in a day. That a few dozen hours can affect the outcome of whole lifetimes. And that when they do, those few dozen hours, like the salvaged remains of a burned house — the charred clock, the singed photograph, the scorched furniture — must be resurrected from the ruins and examined. Preserved. Accounted for.

Twenty five years, the Booker Prize (among several other accolades) and numerous translations later, Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things* continues to captivate readers around the world. With taboos regarding India's oppressive caste system and freedom of sexuality barely beginning to fade, its themes remain relevant as ever. While people have begun speaking up about marital violence and child sexual abuse, the stigma around these continues to linger, further weighed down by unfair familial responsibilities and mindsets that refuse to budge. Roy's first book is one that has several stories to tell, with each reread leading to newer and nuanced insights, and each commemoration prompting a reread.

Oscillating between the past the present, *The God of Small Things* revolves around

members of the Ipe family — fraternal twins Estha and Rahel, their mother Ammu, grandmother Mammachi, grand aunt Baby Kochamma, and Uncle Chacko, whose British wife Margaret and daughter Sophie Mol come to visit. Velutha, who was once an Untouchable, is a carpenter and handyman at the family's pickle factory — he is the man the twins love by day and their mother loves by night. Without giving too much away, their story begins where everything starts to fall apart: at a funeral.

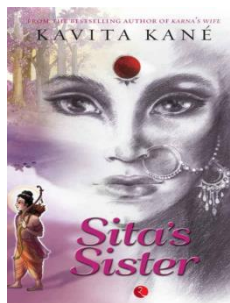
The novel has no blurb, and this adds to the suspense the story itself contains much of. One is simultaneously aware yet not aware of what is happening at each given point in time — it takes just a bit more reading (until you finally get to the end) for things to fall in place. It is also a convoluted, melancholy tale of longing and loss — each of the characters pine for a life that might have been, but keep each other from achieving it. Mammachi looks down on her children for their failed marriages while being the victim of one herself. Baby Kochamma loses the love of her life, and has nothing left to do but watch mindless tv soaps. Ammu and Velutha's affair is a short yet passionate one, whose consequences wreak havoc on the family. The twins are separated from each other and their mother. Devoid of the safety their relationship once guaranteed, their separate coping mechanisms enable them to fend for themselves without knowing how — over the span of 23 years, Estha grows silent, carrying forward the silence of his past, while Rahel drifts between schools in India and jobs in America. Nevertheless, the novel ends with them back where it all began, hopefully inseparable this time around.

Set in the village of Ayemenam in Kerala, *The God of Small Things* is littered with the vernacular and the political, and is a tale of social obligation gone very wrong. The new “upper” caste of Paraya-turned-Christians (whose untouchability remains sadly unshakeable), and rising Communists (along with referenced Naxalites) are a threat to the Ipe family, who fall from their age-old glory of being educated, Anglicised Syrian-Christians who own Paradise Pickles. The lush foliage and abundance of the past give way to crumbling buildings and untouched pickle vats over the course of the story. Though not explicitly mentioned, this is a result of the country's Green Revolution project in the 60s. Little things like this, in addition to numerous colloquial phrases, escape newer generations and foreign readers. While Roy's descriptions are hauntingly vivid, they are sometimes overpowering in their precision and makes one wonder if *everything* has to be so full of meaning. All of these, combined with one too many metaphors and

manufactured mental images, make it a dense read which narrowly escapes becoming too messy.

Roy's portrayal of children, especially of their innocence, fear, and confusion about the world and its grownups, is exceptional. Estha and Rahel, *mon* and *mol* (son/daughter) to all the adults, think a dizzying number of things like all seven-year-olds. What sets them apart is the unique oneness they seem to encompass. Their thoughts run ahead, and are sometimes hard to decipher amongst the capitalised Significant Words, several things smushingtogether and written in reverse ("ni esrever") with no warning, and the Malayalam accented Ingleesh they hear around them. Oddly reminiscent of the prose style of Rushdie and Marquez, the book has a beguilingly dreamlike quality that keeps one slightly confused but hooked from the very first page.

The God of Small Things is a simple enough story with complex themes at heart, and is agonisingly (yet beautifully) stretched out over the course of 340 pages. It draws one in with its alluring language and multi-layered characters, and is nowhere near, as Ammu and the twins put it, a 'viable die-able age'.

Book Review**Sita's Sister by Kavita Kane****Archana T (BRC 018)**

Student, MA English

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Thrissur, Kerala

The legendary Indian epic *Ramayana* though written several thousand years ago by the sage Valmiki is still one of the greatest literary masterpieces, that has being revised in myriads of ways even in this twenty-first century. Kavita Kane an Indian writer who is well-known in the genre of mythological fiction has marvelously retold *Ramayana* by recounting the epic tale from the perspective of Urmila in *Sita's Sister*. When Valmiki's *Ramayana* idolized Rama, the human god for his perseverance of dharma, Kane took a challenging attempt and gave voice to the long marginalized female characters. The artistic portrayal of Urmila on the cover page has mesmerizingly caught her 'tapasvi' nature, one who had to patiently and passionately wait for her beloved ones return for a long fourteen years.

This mythological fiction has very meticulously gave due attention especially to the psychological turmoil faced by the female characters which remain untold for years, without losing the hold on the central plot line, which in turn reverberates the talent of Kane. The book moves heartrendingly from the delightful childhood days of the four sisters of Mithila, festivities of their marriage with the four brothers of Ayodhya, the psychological hardships they had to endure due to the adverse circumstances and the final restoration of peaceful days. Even though Sita is always privileged over Urmila since their childhood, they still remained as soul-sisters. The tension that arouses when the sisters became sister-in-laws and the turbulent homely atmosphere at Ayodhya due to constant friction among the mothers is resolved by the beloved Mila of Lakshman.

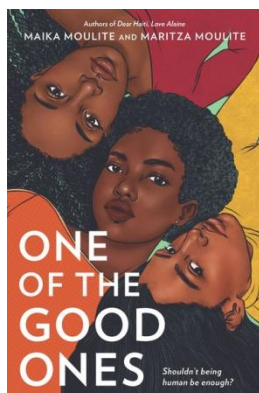
“We make mistakes ... let’s just learn from them and not keep searching for justifications. Life is too short to have regrets. And too long to endure the tribulations”.

Urmila is a truly inspirational character who advises philosophies of life lucidly. It’s a universal truth that as humans we are prone to make mistakes and we have to learn the lessons from them rather than finding justifications which is a waste of time. It sounds similar to Alexander Pope saying, “To err is human; to forgive divine”. We do not have the power to change anything but ourselves. Believe in ourselves, listen to what your heart says, otherwise others might take advantage over your insecurities and instigate evil desires in you.

“The mind is the deity, the body a temple to accommodate the mind...each see world differently not because of the gender but because of the mind”. This gender neutralizing statement settles the age old duality between body and mind.

Urmila is an active feminist representative who questions the injustices meted out against the women folk and the reader will truly felt allegiance to her because she stood fiercely as the only spokesperson. At the royal meeting at Chitrakoot when Ram never regresses from the earlier vow to his father, Urmila strongly argues why justice is not given to the fellow mothers and wives. Even at the time of abandonment she tried to rejuvenate herself from the forsaken loneliness by studiously mastering the Vedas and became tapasvi. We do have to learn from Urmila how she spent that time of hardship and isolation with her optimistic mindset. She gave strength and solace to the needy with her powerful words that instill hope.

Kane being faithful to the story line of the epic *Ramayana* skilful incorporated several other aspects that were silenced for years. She delved deep into the character of Urmila who withstand all the adversities with the strength of her mind. Even while lime lighting Urmila, Kane hadn’t subdued the other characters into the margins. Kaikeyi had sent Ram on an exile to save his life that would be in danger if his coronation happens. Initially we might felt that how stone hearted women Kaikeyi is, but later all our perceptions do change. It is a fact of life, there is no single truth. We need to be patient enough to understand what made them do so. We have something to learn from every individual. The mythical tale of *Ramayana* in itself has so many lessons for universal mankind. Possibly Kane is able to entertain and enlighten the readers of all age group equally with her simple yet sensible language. So do read and enjoy who Kane’s revision of Urmila is, definitely it will be a delightful endeavor.

Book Review**One of the Good Ones by Maika Moulite and Maritza Moulite****Lakshmi K (BRC 019)**

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One of the Good Ones is an emotionally charged, intensely gripping and brilliantly written book by Maika Moulite and Maritza Moulite, co-authors of *Dear Haiti, Love Elaine*. At a time when Black Lives Matter protests and the horrors of racial prejudice and police brutality are still dominating our media headlines, the novel explores with shocking candor the reality of societal and systemic racism that lives on today, decades after the abolishment of slavery and segregation. It also provides painfully honest discussions on respectability politics, police brutality, multigenerational trauma, religious homophobia and strained sibling relationships. In other words, it is a book that hits a little too close to home.

Written over three timelines, the novel provides glimpses of America's everlasting struggle for racial equality through the eyes of different generations of the same family – the black sisters in modern-day America witnessing police brutality, their grandfather losing his own father to a lynching in a sundown town in the 1950s, their great-grandmother fleeing a racist mob and dealing with segregation in Depression-era America. In the present day, the youngest sister Happi has her elder sister taken away from her in an unlawful arrest at a protest, and subsequently the family must come to terms with the heartbreak and grief of losing their smart, talented, straight-As daughter. While dealing with the loss and guilt, a troubling thought occurs to Happi – why is their sister martyred just because she was a model student and a perfect

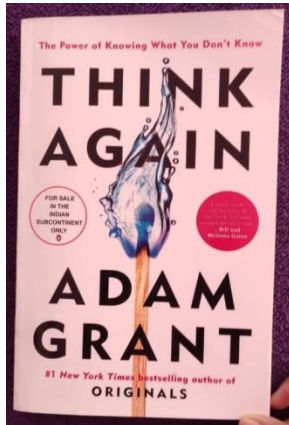
daughter? Why does the media and the public only mourn lost black lives when the victim meets certain social standards, rather than giving the due respect to each victim of hate-fueled violence? The novel gives a poignant portrayal of the devastation caused by police brutality and apathy towards black communities, but it also brings up the disturbing question of why some lives are considered more valuable or respectable than others; do we care about people of color only when the victim in question is ‘one of the good ones’? There are no easy answers.

Through the eyes of children in different eras growing up in a country where they feel unsafe just because of the color of their skin, the novel gives readers a harrowing look at the cruelty and lasting trauma of prejudice. Happi and her remaining sister go on a road trip with their friends across the historic Route 66 to fulfil their dead sister’s dream, commemorating painful black history at places like hanging bridges and rest areas mentioned in the ancient *Negro Motorist Green Book* that once guided their ancestors to safe havens. Even for readers who are not familiar with black history, this is an eye-opening and compelling read, as the diverse central cast of readers unpack their own emotional baggage and grow as individuals over the course of the story. Happi’s struggle to come to terms with her sister’s death and overcome her isolation from her family will also no doubt strike a chord with young adult readers in its surprisingly realistic and sympathetic portrayal of teenage angst and insecurity. But this novel is not just part history lesson, part coming-of-age. It is also a mystery thriller, in a surprising turn of events. Without giving too much away, it is sufficient to say that there is a perfect amount of suspense and action along with the heart-wrenching portrayal of familial relationships and social issues. The different narratives intersect in the most unpredictable manner, with the various puzzle pieces forming a complete picture only at the very end.

Overall, the novel does a brilliant job of weaving together past and present, with some much-needed and timely social commentary. It depicts the joys and pains of growing up and facing reality, of losing and finding family connections, of discovering and accepting your heritage and ancestry. It also talks frankly about guilt, grief, trauma and healing; about the monsters that haunt us long after they’ve overstayed their welcome. From the dialogue to the character development, everything about the novel is lifelike – almost painfully so. It both celebrates black history and serves as a warning that things have not completely changed; after all, we still need to actively uproot the deeply entrenched hatred and prejudice our societies hold towards people of different colors and sexualities. The novel’s most important argument is that

there can be no justification for hate crimes, regardless of who the victim is, regardless of whether the victim was ‘one of the good ones’. Just being a human is enough to be worthy of respect, love and life. And in light of the surge in bigotry and hate-fueled violence over this past year, this is definitely a necessary reminder to many. But it also sheds light on the hopeful activism of youth that has the potential to break barriers and change the world for the better, one step at a time.

One of the Good Ones is a novel we need in 2021, to remind us of all we love and cherish, but also to remind us of all that needs to change. It is a must-read for those interested in a beautifully written story about the power of sisterhood, the resilience of black communities, and the strength of family. Most importantly, it blends different genres and timelines to give us a stark, no-filter look at the reality of the world we live in – but with a lot of love, humor and mystery thrown in between.

Book Review**The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know-THINK AGAIN by Adam Grant****Namitha Mohan (BRC 020)**

Student, MCom

NSS Hindu College Changanassery

Kottayam, Kerala

The last month I was reading an interesting book named The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know-THINK AGAIN Written by Adam Grant. I was buy that book from flipkart during the lockdown period. It's really right book for everyone.

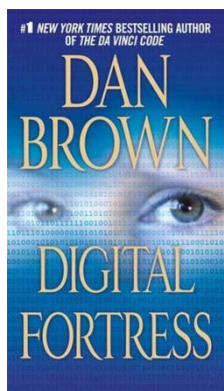
Adam Grant is an American psychologist and author who is currently a professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania specializing in organizational psychology. He believes that keeping an open mind is a teachable skill. And no one could teach this hugely valuable skill better than he does in this wonderful read. The striking insights of this brilliant book are guaranteed to make you rethink your options and your most important decisions.

Think Again delves into the territory of cognitive errors, biases, prejudices, and mental blind spots. It explores our failure to change our ideas once we have established them. No matter the knowledge and experience individuals possess, they can't avoid logical errors in their thinking process. These include unfounded opinions, external influences, assumptions, and other subjective perceptions. Our natural tendency to rely on these distracting cognitive resources leads us to poor decision-making, inflexibility, inability to hear others and be heard, and closed-minded attitudes as well.

Grant utilizes the mindset system offered by Phil Tedlock to describe our inclinations when we converse with others or have an internal dialog. Every time we think or talk, we tend to fall into the role of one of these characters: a preacher, prosecutor, or politician. Preachers are only interested in pushing their own ideas. They impose their beliefs on others in an attempt to protect or popularize them. Prosecutors are eager to win every argument. They will relentlessly lash out at anyone whose opinions don't align with their own. Politicians, in contrast, want to be people pleasers. They long for approval but don't necessarily see the point in finding objective truth. When you take on any of these roles, you deny the importance of finding the truth through engaging with others. What you are really interested in is attacking dissenting views, defending your opinion, making peace, or simply winning an argument. Grant suggests one more role that may help us to realize our cognitive potential. Scientists live to comprehend the limits of their knowledge, and we can learn from them to improve our thinking process. Being a scientist means conducting experiments, testing hypotheses, abandoning old beliefs, and embracing new truths. Grant insists that having a change of heart isn't a weakness. On the contrary, it validates your intellectual development. The book divided into four parts. Each Part contains different stories about topic.

I think everyone must be read this book. This book make you motivate, inspires, Lead and behave in a good manner. My rating for the text is 5 out of 5. This book is suitable for all type of age group. The messages of the book can be applied in our day to day life. The story of the book is connected with our life. The psychology and the behavioural aspect of human can be understood from this book. I really love that book.

This is the right book for right now. Yes, learning requires focus. But learning and relearning requires much more. They require choosing courage over comfort. Adam grant weaves together research and storytelling to help us build the intellectual and emotional muscle we need to stay curious enough about the world to actually change it.

Book Review**Digital Fortress by Dan Brown****PS Krishnakumar (BRC 021)**

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“Everything is possible, the impossible just takes longer”. It seems the feat of becoming one of the most influential writers of the thriller genre was a mere possibility for, then 34 year old Daniel Gerhard Brown back in 1998, while penning his first novel, Digital Fortress. The book published by St Martin’s Press, is a fast paced Techno-Thriller debut of the celebrated American author.

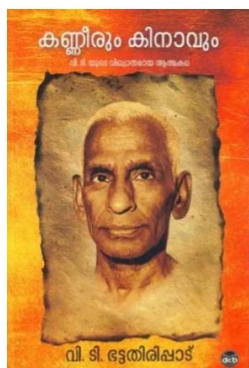
This thriller extravaganza unravels with Susan Fletcher, NSA’s (National Security Agency) head cryptographer as its lead character. The story begins, when Susan is summoned by Commander Trevor Strathmore, when the agency’s code breaking, super computer, TRANSLTR, stumbles upon a world shattering novel code –Digital Fortress. Intrusion of private life of the public is a double edged sword. Case in point, the seemingly unbreakable Digital Fortress is written by Ensei Tankado, a former employee of the agency who became discontented with NSA’s disregard to the public’s privacy. If the TRANSLATR is not revealed to the people, Tankado intends to auction off, the code through his website and release it for free if he dies, through his partner ‘North Dakota’, ultimately placing NSA in a really tough and compromising spot. Strathmore then reveals to Susan that a heart attack, in fact, had already taken the life of Ensei Tankado. The death is kept secret, to avoid North Dakota from uploading the code and birthing a threat to national security. Strathmore has also secretly sent Susan’s fiancée, David Becker, to

Seville. His mission is to recover Tankado's ring which is suspected to have the code to unlock digital fortress. This mission is an integral side narrative to the story, which eventually tie in to the main events. The novel then progresses by placing the lovable couple- Susan and David in between hell-storm of dangers, looming around them.

The novel explores mainly the theme of electronic government surveillance and violation of civil liberties. It further discusses, the ethical implications of such surveillance, in its full depth. The novel necessarily predates the internet boom of the 21st century, yet manages to come out as a highly imaginative prophecy. The novel belongs to Brown's 'Pre-Langdon Era'. Dan Brown's Langdon Era includes the bestsellers like 'Demons & Angels', 'The Da Vinci Code', and 'Inferno' etc. All the aforementioned novels got Live-Action movie adaptations starring, Tom Hanks in the lead role of Robert Langdon and did well at the box office. Brown novels are often fast paced 24 hour treasure hunts with recurring themes of cryptography, art, religion and conspiracy theories. Digital fortress, thus, is an inevitable testimony of the writer's humble beginnings. But unlike his later works, Digital Fortress has an element of slow burn, cleverly concealed in the story's fast pace. At times, it also feasts the reader with strong social commentary with the help of few pages with dripping reality and sharp detail. In one chapter of novel, we are introduced to a prostitute in the streets of Seville. In not more than two pages, the author dives deep in to the psyche of a middle-aged sex worker giving the readers a genuine and considerate picture of the life of the prostitutes.

However, the writer's debut is not without flaws. Criticism can be drawn to the incorrect portrayal of NSA, one of the top intelligence agencies in the world. While considering the time of the publishing, the technology discussed felt like intentionally misleading. The story takes sharp turns and tries to feed huge twists to the reader wherever possible. In some occasions, these surprises felt like forced and lacked proper punch. Focused characterization of some side characters appeared to be unnecessary and totally overbearing to the smooth flow the story. While some of the other worthy side characters were completely deprived of such focus. For example look no further than the motivations of the main antagonist of the story, who is only revealed very late in story. While remaining as a serious power punch to the ideas and assumptions of the reader, the big reveal lacks a decent and elaborate insight in to the mind of the 'Big bad' of the story.

Digital fortress is a thoroughly enjoyable read to thrill seeking booklovers. Indisputably, a heart pumping mystery thriller, Digital Fortress, is also one of the best techno novels which stands out due to its pace, originality, and twists.

Book Review**Kanneerum Kinavum - V.T. Bhattathiripad****Anjana Vijayan (BRC 022)**

St. Joseph College of Teacher Training for Women, Ernakulam

Kunjunimash's opinion that, if you grow up with reading, you will grow the crop & if you grow up without reading, you will lose makes perfect sense. Good reading is essential for good growth. But in this day & age, when everything is commercialized, it's difficult to find books that are worth reading. Nowadays, we have countless books by various publishers. As a proverb, the serpent is good for the old, some old books stole my heart. Among these books, one of my favorite books is "Kanneerum Kinavum" (Tears & Dreams) by Shri. V. T. Bhattathiripad.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, superstitions & superstitious practices were rampant in the Namboothiri community of Kerala. A women's life in the Namboothiri community was really miserable due to rituals such as child marriage, widowhood, & the right of only the eldest son of the Namboothiris to marry from their own community. V. T was a social reformer who enthusiastically wrote, thought & acted against them. His thought provoking autobiography was named as Kanneerum Kinavum.

V. T had a dream about a prosperous life. In order to achieve that benefit for the community, he wrote stories, essays & plays. That was his aim & it achieved its goal. However he achieved those goals, he had to go through a lot of pain in his life. All these sufferings are depicted in his autobiography. Therefore, the name "Kanneerum Kinavum" for his autobiography is very meaningful.

He was born in 1896 in Mezhatthur as the son of Thuppan Bhattathiri & Sridevi. As a child, V. T was educated only to recite the Vedas. The sad truth is that even in his youth, he couldn't even

read Malayalam. This realization shocked him. As a result, he learns the alphabet from a younger girl of lower caste & delights when he first reads the alphabet, "manmaark kuda". Later he learned English from a foreign officer at Shornur railway station (i.e) how Veldurthi Thazhath Raman Bhattathiripad transformed to V T Bhattathiripad as a well known writer.

In connection with Gandhi's National movement, he served the people for a long time as a Congress leader. Later, he joined the Yogakshema Sabha with the desire to reform the community with time. Under the pressure of extremists & activists, V.T was forced to write a play named "Adukalayil ninn arangathek" (From kitchen to the stage). It was a turning point in the history of Malayalam drama.

"Kanneerum Kinavum" is one of the most important autobiographies in Malayalam. He studied the Vedic mantras to become a priest. V. T writes in his autobiography about being a community reformer as "when I became a Namboothiri, I was shocked by the trumpet blast that rose from the plentiful particles of the twentieth century. The mouth is full of Vedic mantras & many illusions that are not digested in the mind". Like this he told each & everything honestly in his autobiography - "Kanneerum Kinavum".

Book Review**The Girl on The Train by Emily Blunt****Fathima Naushad (BRC 023)**

Government Brenne College, Thalassery

Kannur, Kerala

Let's award the most unreliable narration of my life, shall we? Here goes to 'The Girl on the Train' by Paula Hawkins. It is no wonder that this particular book was made into a movie. Surely, cinematic adaptations don't always come too close to the perfection of its book but when even the storyline is as such, chances of a bad movie are slim. A grip of anxiety that doesn't let go of you till the very end, each passing chapter leaving you with more questions than the earlier, a juggle of timelines and narrators with the perfect balance; these might be phrases adequate enough to summarize what one feels while reading the book.

The story has a 'woman' on the train but is named "The Girl on the Train" credits to which could perhaps be given to Paula Hawkins' earlier book, a success as good as this one, "Gone Girl". "One for sorrow, two for joy, three for a girl. I'm stuck on three. I just can't get any further."- this is Rachel. She has her own share of past trauma and is now an alcoholic divorcee that takes the same train to and from work every day. With her pre-mixed gin and tonic cans for company, she sees the lives of the people living near the rail track which, to her eyes, is perfect. Jason and Jess, as named by her, originally Scott and Megan, is the perfectly-in-love couple and Rachel's favourite of all families. When a day's headline shows Megan in it, Rachel can no longer stay

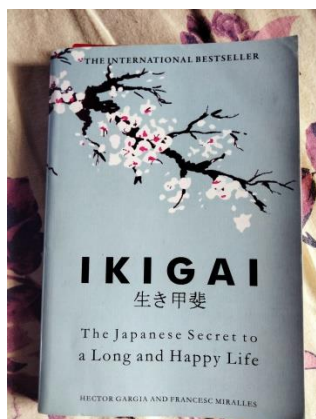
just a girl on the train and has to extend her help, knowing that Scott would never hurt Megan. Their house-- number 15 --being close to her old house-- number 23 --where her ex-husband Tom and his wife Anna lived now provides several collisions with her past and present, none of them pleasant.

The story is said from three people's points of view. Rachel's and Anna's from almost the same or consecutive timelines and Megan's from the past. Each narrator has their own personal milieu. An unforgettable past, present and future respectively. Each person a character in the other's, having their own set of problems. It almost feels like the writing style too is different per narrator but it isn't and that doesn't affect the flow at all. No dilemma as to who the narrator or what the timeline is. All as distinct as can be.

The story has five protagonists (or antagonist, depending on who's narrating), not one of them likeable. Yes, everyone has their own reasons for that and their very own sane versions but Hawkins didn't seem to have even bothered. I am not suggesting that there is the necessity for likable characters in such a story but the reader never gets to empathize within the premise. The story forever moves on an unsteady path and the feeling is such that it does not cause us to give out even a tiny sympathetic wince when any one of the characters get hurt in any way. The author has compelled us to have our fair share of hate for each one of them and that perhaps might be of help to the light-hearted. In other words, she has made every character as human as possible.

The tension is high throughout the book. Hawkins never lets it slip. You almost dread turning every page but still can't wait to do so. But if you are a person who likes to go beyond a story trying to connect the dots while reading (like me) it may or may not turn out to be predictable. I could figure out what the missing piece was way before the story got there but don't let that dishearten you, she still has a treat in the end.

Hawkins has assembled all the facts in front of the reader's naked eye and finally connected them to reveal the only obvious conclusion that was kept hidden all the while. This is not the easiest trick to pull off which she has indeed pulled off, just not before everybody. Despite the slight predictability, the writing is so on point and enthralling that it still doesn't bore you. As the readers' rule goes - never end a book midway, like it or not, make it to the end or give up your reader's badge.

Book Review**IKIGAI by Hector Gracia and Frances Miralles****Mahima Susan Varghese (BRC 024)**

Kuriakose Gregorious College Pampady
Kottayam, Kerala

The people of Japan believe that everyone has an ikigai – a reason to jump out of bed each morning. It gives a reason for being, encompassing joy, a sense of purpose and meaning and a feeling of well-being. The word ikigai derives from iki meaning life and kai meaning the realisation of hopes and expectations. And according to the residents of the Japanese island of Okinawa – the world's longest living people – finding it, is the key to a longer and more fulfilled life.

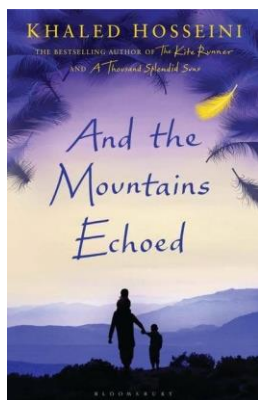
This was the book I recently completed reading. It was one of the most inspiring and interesting books I came across in my life. Happiness is a butterfly we all want to catch, but it seems to be fleeing everyone's grasp. We all want to extend the fleeting sense of contentment we get, sometimes in between the crisis that hit us at the quarter life, mid-life and life in general. But how? Well, Ikigai seems to have the answer! Ikigai is a Japanese concept which translates to "the reason to jump out of bed each morning". The book offers tools to make life fulfilling, long and happy which the two authors Hector Garcia and Frances Miralles learned when they spent time with the Japanese centenarians. So the modern day catchwords like 'feeling spent', 'exhausted', 'burnt out' can be moved away for a 'life of purpose'.

It is said, "Life isn't just a coincidence. Everything's for a purpose. Happiness follows throughout, finding your Ikigai. Ten rules of ikigai is brought out by the authors, which are

briefly discussed throughout the chapters. The first one saying , ‘Stay active; don’t retire ’. 99% of the centenarians of Okinawa still remain alive an active, believing that still chasing their passion and not retiring from it, would be the best possible way to live long. ‘Taking it slow’ being the second rule , was their next secret of success. ‘Not filling their stomach’ , ‘Getting surrounded by good friends’ and ‘Keep Smiling’ are their next motive of following their ikigai. It gives us the appetite for life that makes us eager to greet each new day . One can find and cultivate their own ikigai -their purpose of life , grow it slowly , until one day it bears original fruit . The greatest secret of ikigai , ultimately, has to be the acceptance of oneself .

‘Getting in shape for your next birthday ’ awakens us , out from each wrecked day of life . It is a process of self-reflection ,that makes us realise our motive of life . ‘Reconnect with nature ’ and ‘Thanks Giving ’ are the next rules to be followed through. It is said , “Each one go to the nature to be soothed and healed and to have our senses put in order” . It mainly portrays the fact that ‘Acknowledging the good that you already have in your life is the foundation for all the abundance ’. The concluding rules denoted are ‘Living the moment ’ and ‘Following one’s ikigai’ . As Justin Young quotes , ‘Live in the moment. Let go of the past and do not worry about the future ’.

LIVE LIFE WITH SOME SENSE OF PURPOSE. – IKIGAI

Book Review**And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini****Jumana Fathima (BRC 025)**

Sree Kerala Varma College, Thrissur, Kerala

And the Mountains Echoed (2013) is a historical fiction by Afghan-American author Khaled Hosseini, published by Riverhead Books priced Rs.500. Hosseini has authored two bestselling novels: *The Kite Runner* (2003) and *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (2007). His books are an eye-opener to Afghan life and culture which the world usually describes in a nutshell as bombs and weapons. They allow readers to have a picture of Afghanistan other than the pre-conceived vision of terrorism. *And the Mountains Echoed* varies from his first two books as it intentionally neglects focus on the life of one or two characters. Instead, he brings about numerous characters and the story is told from the POV of these characters.

And the Mountains Echoed (2013) has nine sections and takes a form of nine short stories narrated by different characters. The story revolves round the relationship between ten-year old Abdullah and his three-year old sister Pari and their father's decision to send Pari to a wealthy, childless couple in Kabul; a significant event that strings the various narratives together across 402 pages. Continuously depicting familial themes in his previous novels, he chooses to tell a story on the rapport between siblings. Besides Abdullah and Pari, Hosseini introduces two other sibling relationships—that of the children's stepmother Parwana and her disabled twin sister Masooma; and another one between an Afghan-American doctor Idris and his cousin Timur, who are migrants during the Soviet invasion. Apart from capturing different kinds of relationships between people, he is also successful in portraying war-time Afghanistan.

The story begins in 1952 when Saboor, a poor farmer from the village of Shadbagh, decides to send his daughter to the couple in Kabul, Mr and Mrs Wahdati for whom his brother-in-law Nabi works. Abdullah adores Pari for he was not only a brother but also a father and a mother to Pari following their mother's death giving birth to her. He assists her in collecting various feathers as she is fond of them, he even sells the only pair of shoes he owned for a peacock feather to gift Pari. He insists on following Pari and their father when they depart for Kabul, despite his father's scolding. At last, father reluctantly allows him to accompany on a condition that he would shed no tears. Their father is a great storyteller. He tells them a story of another poor farmer who had to let go off one of his children to a giant living across the mountain. The father is very sad at first but later discovers that the child is living in luxury at a distant safe spot. Abdullah doesn't comprehend the significance of the story then but later on reaching Kabul and seeing the arrangements, he realizes what is happening. Abdullah pleads to Mrs.Wahdati but she assures that it would be for the best. When the kids are separated as arranged, both of them wails and fights back but in vain. Neither Saboor nor Abdullah is to visit Pari hereafter.

The following chapter details the circumstances that lead to this event. The children's stepmother Parwana grows up as a less favoured child with her delightful sister Masooma. Realising that Masooma and Saboor, whom Parwana secretly loved, may marry, she pushes Masooma from a branch of tree by accident and also by intention. It was an act of jealousy and she soon regrets it. Masooma becomes disabled and Parwana deals with her for a long while until when Masooma herself requests to assist her to end it all and wed Saboor, who was by then a single parent battling to raise both kids. Parwana deserts her sister in a far-off place on a cold night. Their elder brother Nabi who works for Mr.Sulaiman Wahdati, becomes infatuated with his wife Nila Wahdati. It is after her visit to Shahbagh with Nabi that she reveals about her inability to have children and the arrangement to bring Pari to Kabul is made.

Ensuing chapter depicts the life of Sulaiman Wahdati. He suffers a stroke, prompting Nila alongside Pari to leave for France. Nabi shoulders the responsibility of taking care of Mr.Wahdati. On finding numerous portraits of him drawn by Mr.Wahdati before the stroke, he becomes unnerved and thinks of leaving him but decides otherwise. He serves him for around 50 years during which they develop a deep bond. Later, Mr.Wahdati's health deteriorates further and Nabi helps him commit assisted suicide.

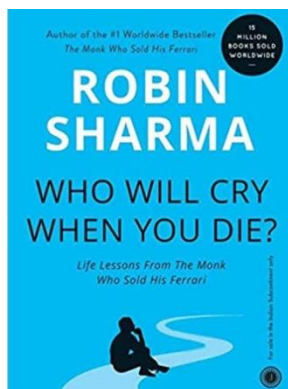
Wahdati's neighbours, move to the US with their children during the Soviet invasion. Cousins Idris and Timur return to Afghanistan to reclaim their family's property. Timur makes a great show of charity while Idris forms a bond with Rosh, an Afghan girl who suffers a horrific injury. He promises Rosh to find her better treatment but fails at it. Several years later, Idris comes across Rosh signing copies of her bestselling memoir, which she dedicates to her adoptive mother and Timur, who paid for her surgery.

Nila Wahdati, now living in France is unhappy and says that Pari is her 'punishment'. She takes up a number of lovers. She is a renowned poet of the town. She eventually commits suicide after which Pari starts to suspect that she is not Nila's biological daughter. She plans a trip to Afghanistan but cancels it as she gets busy with life; however, she becomes a widow at the age of 48. When she is 63, she receives a phone call from Mr. Markos, a Greek aid official living in Wahdati's residence. The call is about a letter, Nabi, the caretaker has given him while alive. The letter discloses the arrangement her father made with the Wahdati. The events stun her but also helps her find the key to the void she has been feeling all her life.

Later chapters centre around Adel, the son of a landlord and furthermore discusses Markos's life. Gholam with his father Iqbal, Saboor's and Parwana's son, are fighting for their land presently resided by Adel's family. Adel's cunning father bribes the judge and the judge proclaims that the documents have been burned, so they fail to prove that the land belongs to them. This incident proves to Adel that his father is indeed a war criminal and that they have seized land from poor people. Markos Varvaris is one among those foreign medicos who serve people hit by war. He is a plastic surgeon from Greece. His life is also portrayed vividly in the book. Here too, we witness a sibling-like relationship between Thalia, daughter of Markos's mother's friend and him.

At the end of the novel, we get the details of Abdullah who left Afghanistan for the US. Pari reunites with Abdullah in California after around 50 years of being apart. Since Abdullah is suffering from Alzheimer's disease, he fails to recognize Pari. Abdullah's daughter, also named Pari, finds the box of feathers and gifts it to Pari, although she doesn't remember the significance of the feathers, she is touched that Abdullah has kept her in mind all these years. Abdullah who is in fact a parent to Pari was aching to find her. He names his own daughter 'Pari' to mark her presence throughout his life. We find Pari, his daughter, saying that he has created an apparent picture of his sister through words that she even befriended Pari in her imagination as a child.

Hosseini's tales are said to move even the rock-hearted. He gives a vivid picture of each setting and is also brilliant in stirring up the complex emotions. *And the Mountains Echoed* (2013) has a bitter sweet ending. We are glad that the siblings reunite yet we are sad that Abdullah can't recognize Pari. It is a devastatingly simple story. At times, some sections seem to stand out, forcing the reader to go back and forth between pages to comprehend the many undercurrents, but as a whole, they finally end up together, like many different rivers flowing into the same ocean and the effect this creates is unsettling and moving right from the opening scene to the end. The plight of Abdullah and Pari, practically living apart yet tied together permanently by the tender brotherly care he took of her as a child is what holds the novel together. "You want a story and I will tell you one", Hosseini begins abruptly and shoots straight into our hearts. The beginning of the novel has its ending as well. In the tale Saboor tells the kids, the child taken by the giant has always worn a bell around his neck. In old age, the father in the story has forgotten the boy, but still sometimes thinks he hears the sound of bell, and doesn't understand what it is. Pari, has felt this bell ringing all her life and Abdullah hears it when he is suffering from Alzheimer's disease as he faintly remembers that he has a sister named Pari whom he dearly loves. Altogether, the novel is a journey through traumas and cruel tricks of life.

Book Review**WHO WILL CRY WHEN YOU DIE by ROBIN SHARMA****Rinu Joseph (BRC 026)**

Pavanatma College, Murickassery

Idukki, Kerala

Who will attend our funeral? Who will speak? Who will cry? Who will still be loving you? The book WHO WILL CRY WHEN YOU DIE? Is a very valuable book that I have read and its messages are illuminating in this current situations .Because the worst venomous virus disturbs, hardens, darkens, spoils and destroys our precious life. Quarantine is maintaining the guarantee of our life. Each and every corner of the world mourns. The world is moving from calamity to insanity and this is a reality!!

Robin Sharma is a Canadian writer. He was born in India. This book is taken from his own series ‘The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari’. The book has 101 solutions to live a happy life.

Hidden Treasures

The entire book is just about those small changes that we can apply to our lives to bring the happiness that we always longed to bring or see. Collection of these thoughts makes his book unique and inspiring. This book reminds me about the importance of counting my blessings daily and having the wisdom to honour life’s simplest pleasures no matter, how busy my life becomes. The books opened my inner eyes and lead me to beautiful insights.

When I got immerse into the book, I found out highly valuable pearls from the depths. They were many in many in number, of which some I would like to exhibit here.

Son, when you were born, you cried while the world rejoiced. Live your life in such a way that when you die the world cries when you rejoice”. What a beautiful thought....This urges us to live

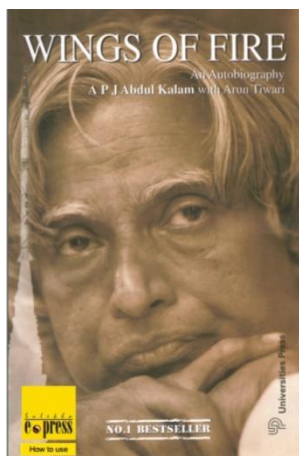
a life filled with love towards others. Thus we can create our face in the canvas of this world. We are here in this world not to make a living, but to enable the world to live more happily with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement.

“Pain is a teacher and failure is the high way to success.” Yes. Pain and turmoils are good teachers to survive. It made me to understand that even if I have failed more than others, it is a very good chance to realize that I am living more completely than others. We should take risks in our life because life is not on the side of faint hearted. The more risk we take, the more rewards we will receive. Always remain in search of opportunities and stop spending our days searching for security. Swap security for opportunity.

Greatest pleasures are always the simplest ones.

By analyzing this book I came to a conclusion that this book is a perfect and complete guide for leading a happy life. The brightness of positivity must enter our life. We should stop thinking about the things that we wish never happened to us. The book spread the joy and positivity to lead a healthy life. One of the key messages of this book is that we should all worry less and live more.

The tragedy of life is not death, but what we let die inside .We don't only die when we stop breathing, we also die when we stop thinking and imagining new ideas. When we have no ideas and aims, we are dying inside. The book aims to help readers to live life to the fullest. If we live sothere will be someone to shed tears on our immobile, calm body.

Book Review**Wings of Fire Authors - A P J Abdul Kalam and Arun Tiwari****Aswathy K Vibin (BRC 027)**

Carmel College, Mala

Thrissur, Kerala

If you want to shine like a sun, first burn like a sun -A P J Abdul Kalam

Wings of fire : an autobiography with Arun Tiwari is an autobiography of former Indian president A P J Abdul Kalam. A man with pure heart. This story makes out the journey of a young dreamer from humble roots of Rameswaram to become a prominent scientist by profession and who played a key role in flourishing the India's missile program. Arun Tiwari became famous as an author with his book wings of fire, which he co-authored with A P J Abdul Kalam. He has written several books and co-authored five books with A P J Abdul Kalam. He contributed to the design of missiles, Akash and Trishul and he is the first Indian who designed a titanium bottle to power missiles. He received the Defence Technology Spin Off Award for developing the Kalam Raju Stent.

The book starts with, "This story is an account, I hope, not just of my personal triumphs and tribulations but of the success and setbacks of the science establishment in modern India, struggling to establish itself in the technological forefront. It is the story of national aspiration and co-operative endeavour". This description is perfectly fit for the autobiography of the missile man of India. The story of a young nation with dreams. For the outlanders the fantasy of this land are beyond its scope and resources. But its dreamers, with their utter determination and hardwork overcome all the barriers and fulfill the collective dream. The dream call India.

Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam was born to a middle class Tamil family in the village of Rameswaram. He lived with his parents and four brothers and one sister. In the book author tells about the role of family, relatives, friends and society contributes to one's life. The chapters give a vivid elucidation of our country during 1930s – 1950s. "The high priest of Rameswaram temple, Pakshi Lakshmana Sastry was a very close friend of my father's. On the most vivid memories of my early childhood is of two men each in his traditional attire, discussing spiritual matters". This words shows everyone lives in harmony and religious discrimination was unknown at that time.

Kalam then takes us through his school and college life, the different teachers and professors who shaped him. Followed by the first job interview and job experience. He was wanted to be an officer in air force, however he couldn't clear the interview. He met Swami Sivananda after his failure. His words to Kalam were inspiring. "Accept your destiny and go ahead with your life. You are not destined to become an Air Force pilot. What you are destined to become is not revealed now but it is predetermined. Forget this failure, as it was essential to lead you to your destined path. Search, instead, for the true purpose of your existence. Become one with yourself, my son! Surrender yourself to the wish of God".

Then Kalam started his career in Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) and was involved in the design of a hovercraft. Later he moved to Indian Space Research which was the brain child of Vikram Sarabhai. In 1963, Kalam went to NASA facility in Maryland (USA) as part of a training program on sounding rocket launching techniques. He narrates each of his projects in great details. He remembers his team mates, personal difficulties, achievements each and everything based on projects.

Kalam faced so many failures during launching the satellite called SLV but he proved that anything can be achieved by keep trying because when you become failure then you go one step closer to success. He does not sugarcoat his failure and describes his raw emotions as he felt them. For A P J his work was larger than life. It can be seen from the poem which he wrote after the triumphant launch of Agni. The book covers a lot of off the record informations and technical details about India's satellite and missile programs such as SLV-3, Prithivi, Thiruvul, Akash and Nag.

Kalam is a poet and a huge fan of poems. As this book subdue many of his won poems and his favourite ones too.

After the launch of Agni he wrote

“Do not look at Agni

As an entity directed upward

To deter the ominous

Or exhibit your might

It is fire

In the heart of an Indian

Do not even give it

In the form of a missile

As it clings to the

Burning pride of this nation

And this is bright.”

The book recounts some brilliant minds who worked behind Indian space research such as Vikram Sarabhai and Dr Brahm Prakash and their handouts towards ISRO.

He recollects many anecdotes and stories from childhood, his time at school and College. The time when he lost his father and how he felt when conferred with many awards like the Padma Bhushan have been written in much detail.

At the end of the book when he describes about him in two quotes

“My worthiness is all my doubt –

His merit- all my fear

Contrasting which my quality

Does however – appear”

“I am a well in this great land

Looking at its millions of boys and girls

To draw from me

The inexhaustible divinity

And spread his grace everywhere

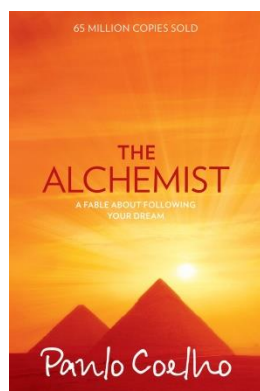
As does the water drawn from a well.”

His journey started with a very humble background and twist and turns of life made me inspired. This book is a treasure of wisdom. The book came to me at the end of my teen age. It influenced me in many of the difficult situations of my life.

“There were setbacks, disappointments, and distractions, but my father’s inspiring words anchored me in those periods of nebulous drift. ‘He who knows others is learned, but the wise one is the one who knows himself.’ Learning without wisdom is of no use.” At the time of troubles the words like this are very effective to our mind.

Wings of fire is a outstanding tale of a ordinary person with exceptional talents. The books recites expedition of a far sighted leader whose actions are far louder than his words. He concludes the book by an advice to the younger generation not to get demotivated and lead a positive life.

“Failure is not the end of the life, and we should not feel dejected for the same”

Book Review**The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho****Sreelakshmi K S (BRC 029)**2nd BA Functional English

Carmel College, Mala

Thrissur, Kerala

The Alchemist, the most famous novel of the world-renowned Brazilian writer Paulo Coelho, originally published in 1988 in Portuguese, is still being discussed by literary critics and enthusiasts all around the world. A fictitious work of art which showcases the adventures confronted during a quest, embedded with the element of fantasy. As mentioned in the cover; which shows a spectacular view of the sunrise between the pyramids; it is a 'fable about following your dream'. This novel, which also falls into the category of motivational books, has been published in 67 languages and became an international bestseller, printing 6.5 crore copies altogether.

The chief protagonist of the novel is Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who lives in the south of Spain. Though educated he remains a shepherd as he desires to travel around the world and explore a sundry of unknown places. Inspired by a recurring dream which is interpreted by a gypsy woman; a fortune teller; as a prophecy, that he will discover a treasure at the Egyptian pyramids, he sets sail for Egypt. He meets an old king named Melchizedek, who advises him to sell his sheep to make money for his much anticipated journey. As he arrives in Africa, he is robbed of this money by a man who promised to take him to the pyramids and has to work for a crystal merchant to earn enough money to reach the pyramids. On the way to pyramids, he meets an English man who came chasing his luck to find an alchemist and continues his journey with

him. He then meets Fatima, an Arabian girl with whom he falls in love and proposes marriage. She agrees to do so after completing his journey and then he encounters an alchemist who teaches him to realize his true self. Finally, when he begins digging close to the pyramids, he is robbed again. But he learns from the leader of the thieving gang quite accidentally that the treasure he sought was in the ruined church, where he had his dream, all along.

“The secret of life, though, is to fall seven times and get up eight times”. Despite all the obstacles he endured, Santiago did not give into failure. Failures are not to be frightened of.

The journey Santiago embarks upon, mirrors life. The varied characters that he met during the journey changes his perspective of life. Be it the gypsy woman, the old king, the Arabic girl Fatima, the English man in pursuit of his luck or the alchemist. They inspire the readers by sharing each of their unique experiences in life. *The Alchemist* tells us how when a person who leads a common life sets of for his dream goal, life turns miraculous.

Throughout the novel, there is one quote that struck out to me the most: “And, when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you achieve it.” There is nothing more reassuring than knowing that you are supported. Having this backbone of assurance can really motivate one to achieve their goals.

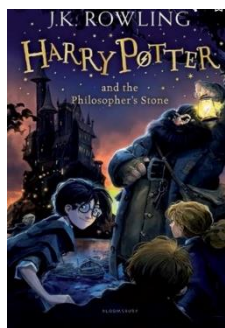
“It’s the simplest things in life that are the most extraordinary”. An alchemist can turn any metal into gold. Similarly simple people like us can turn into extraordinary beings. Decide what you want to do in your life, find good in everything and work hard to make your dreams come true. Keep learning from the world around you, make learning a habit. March forward with head held high; failures are stepping stone to success. Stop not till the goal is reached. The treasure you search for all around is found in yourself. You only realize that the treasure is within you, when you rearrange your thoughts and attitudes and polish them.

The Alchemist draws us into it with its wonderful description of the visuals. It is as if I played an old VHS tape in my head. It is ironically a treasure. Reading it induced me into a state of euphoria. It emphasizes how much a dream can impact our lives. “It’s the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting”. There is a Santiago in each of us. The part of us that yearns to achieve a dream. Coelho has written it so beautifully that it embossed an everlasting image in my mind.

The novel is a must read. Seeming like an Arabian tale with a biblical style of narration, it can be recommended for both children and adults alike. People of any age can decipher the novel

according to their own intellect and this is the specialty of the novel. Coelho dreamt immensely of becoming a writer and through immeasurable hard work he achieved the same. Hence no one is better than him to present such a motivational story to the world.

Definitely a worthy read.

Book Review**The Harry Potter series by JK Rowling****Lakshmi Priya R (BRC 030)**

2ns Semester MCom

Government College, Tripunithura

Ernakulam, Kerala 682301

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The Harry Potter series written by British writer J.K. Rowling had since its emergence occupied a unique position in the minds of readers. Though many similar works had come following its lines, The Harry Potter series had not lost its elegance. Joanne Rowling, born on 31 July 1965, in Yate, United Kingdom, known by her pen name J.K. Rowling is a British author, philanthropist, television producer and screen writer. She is most popular for her Harry Potter series which has won numerous recognitions and sold more than 500 million copies becoming one among the best selling book series in history. She is also an author of crime fiction under the pen name Robert Galbraith. The original 7 books were adapted into 8 film series by Warner Bros pictures, the third highest grossing film series of all time as of February 2020.

ABOUT THE NOVEL

The novel through its seven series describes the life of a young and cheerful orphan boy Harry James Potter, whose parents lost their lives in an attempt to save their baby Harry from the clutches of Lord Voldemort, the antagonist of the story, who had been chasing for his life since then in order to transform himself into the supreme power of the Dark Forces. Harry had been leading a sad life with his relatives, the Dursley's bearing insult and punishment. Harry Potter was a wizard with a magical scar on his forehead who is believed to have been born with magical powers but he came to know about it only when he turned eleven and that's when the story originally begins.

He was surprisingly taken away from the Dursley's by getting admission into the prestigious institution, Hogwart's school of Witchcraft and Wizardry, a fictional place known only to wizards which is known to exist to real world in parallel, with the efforts of Professor Dumbledore and few of his supporters. Hogwarts forms the central place where rest of the story evolves. Professor Dumbledore, the head of the institution is the most powerful and motivating person in the novel who was very affectionate and passionate about Harry as he knew by a prophecy that it is through none other than but Harry can the evil of Voldemort could be put to an end. Professor Snape is another remarkable personality in the novel who apparently seemed to be the most cruel character in the novel mistaken as a spy of Lord Voldemort but as the story reaches to its fag end, after the death of Snape by the antagonist himself, did the readers come to know of the real kind hearted Snape who risked his life to save the life of Harry Potter.

The novel mentions Harry's friends notable among them are Ron Weasley a fun loving boy, Hermione Granger, a smart studious and intelligent girl, Ginny Weasley, Harry's girlfriend, the giant Hagrid, the caretaker of the school and Draco Malfoy, his rival. Their pleasant and heartening school life had really amused the readers and all of them have at some point of time in their lives wished they could have been in Hogwart's, so is the magnificence of the story portrayed throughout the novel.

The story basically revolves around how as children, Harry Potter along with the help of his friends and teachers defeated the most powerful and heinous figure ever existing in Dark magic Lord Voldemort through consistent and deliberate planning and perseverance. Each part of the novel describes how Harry Potter overcame his limitations by learning new strategies and tactics to counter an enormously powerful force ultimately leading to the death of the antagonist. The story ultimately ends in an optimistic note- Good over Evil.

GENRE, THEME AND IMPACT

This work is similar to British boarding school genre like Rudyard Kipling's *Stalky & co*, Enid Blyton's *St.Clare's and Naughtiest Girl Series* and Thomas Hughes' *Tom Brown's School days* and other novels of British public school life. Christian imagery is explicitly visible throughout the story and there are themes of power, abuse of power, violence and hatred, love, prejudice and so on.

Many genres come to the novel, including fantasy, drama, mystery, thriller, adventure, horror and romance. It is a British school story with numerous themes cultural meanings and references.

It is inspired from British magical community and European Folklore incorporating objects and wildlife such as magic wands, magic plants and potions, spells, flying broomsticks, philosopher's stone, besides others things being invented by Rowling herself.

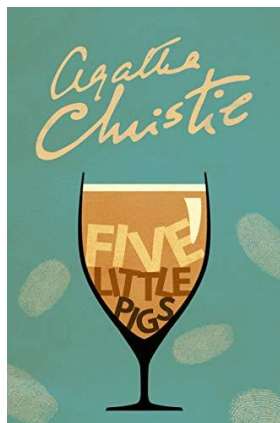
The characters in the story are in one way or the other people we see in our lives as well as there are instances of prejudice and racism prevalent by calling non wizarding communities as Mud bloods or Muggles and Hermione Granger be subjected to such insults being a Mudblood by her fellow student Draco Malfoy. The word Muggle had finally landed up in Oxford English Dictionary to refer to the non wizarding community.

AWARDS and RECOGNITIONS

The Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone was awarded with platinum award from Whitaker Gold and Platinum Book Awards(2001), Nestle Smarties Book Prizes(1997-99), Scottish Art Council Awards, Whitbread children's Book of the year award(1999), .It won Carnegie medal(1997), among others. Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban was nominated for the Hugo award for the best novel and in 2001, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire won the said award. Numerous listings were made in notable books, editors' choice and list of American Library Association, The New York Times, Chicago Public Library and Publishers' Weekly. In 2003, it was included in the top 24 of the Big Read survey of the best loved novels of the U.K. In 2012, the opening ceremony of the 2012 Summer Olympics featured Lord Voldemort as UK's cultural icons. In November 2019, BBC listed Harry Potter on the list of top 100 influential novels.

CONTROVERSIES

Numerous religious fundamentalists have criticised the book as they claimed it promotes witchcraft and black magic and used actual spells and curses, was anti-family and featured violence. Many critics have criticised the book for promoting political agendas and using nefarious means to attain goals and the Harry Potter series had landed up in American Library Associations' Top 10 Banned Book list in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2019.

Book Review**Five Little Pigs by Agatha Christie****Pavithra Praveen Nair (BRC 031)**

I BA English

Mar Ivanios College

Trivandrum Kerala

“One does not employ merely the muscles. I do not need to bend and measure the footprints and pick up the cigarette ends and examine the bent blades of grass. It is enough for me to sit back in my chair and think.”

Hercule Poirot, Five Little Pigs.

A toast to Agatha Christie and Hercule Poirot fans out there.

Here is a book review on “Five Little Pigs”, another Hercule Poirot Mystery by Queen of Crime Agatha Christie.

Reason for this recommendation: "Five Little Pigs" is a crime novel and is a beginner-friendly novel. During this lockdown, many would have planned to develop the quality of reading and this book is a very good beginner-friendly book.

Both Middle grade and adults enjoy this book.

Genre: The genre of this book is Murder Mystery/ Crime Novel.

Summary: "Five Little Pigs " is yet another thriller from the Hercule Poirot series written by Agatha Christie. This time Poirot uses his " little grey cells " to investigate a murder that happened 16 years ago. Caroline Crale is convicted of poisoning her husband .Carla Lemarchant believes that her mother the accused murderer Caroline Crale did not murder her father Amyas

Crale. Then who is the actual criminal? (to find out you will have to read the book) There are 5 suspects and Poirot is sure that one of them is the murderer.

Experience: In-person I thoroughly enjoyed my read. It was not an unputdownable book, but throughout the reading, I was surprised by the breathtaking twists and an unpredictable climax.

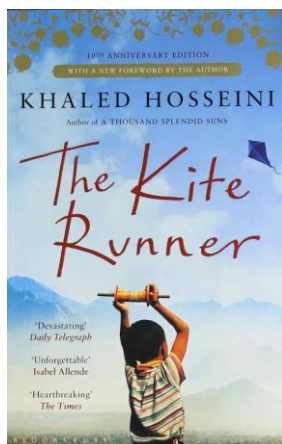
Commentary on the writing style: The writing style of Agatha Christie is one in itself. It is easy to read and comprehend. Unlike the other books (ones that I have read), Agatha Christie has put an extra effort for the character development in Five Little Pigs. The presence of the character Caroline Crale, who was executed 16 years ago, was felt and this reminded me of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar.

Character Development: There are seven prominent characters in this novel. The development of each character is extraordinary. It has been well-crafted. Something that a reader will really enjoy is the difference in perception of each suspect about Caroline Crale. As usual, Poirot never fails to impress. Poirot with negligible hints finds out the truth. His quality of "reading between the lines" was highly used in this investigation. Overall, the attitude of different characters keeps the reader enthralled in the book.

Conclusion and Rating:

I highly recommend this book to all the book lovers out there. I am sure you will thoroughly enjoy this thriller novel. 4.5 out of 5 is the highest rate given for this book.

Happy Reading.

Book Review**The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini****Rafah V Rafeeq (BRC 032)**

Carmel College Mala

Thrissur, Kerala

The Kite Runner is one of the most beloved books of the modern age. It was the debut novel of Afghan-American novelist Khaled Hosseini and he has done a remarkable job in capturing the emotions of the characters even though the story is set a thousand miles away from the reader. The novel tells the life of two boys Amir and Hassan based in Afghanistan. Amir is the son of a wealthy and respected merchant and Hassan is the son of his family's servant. The two boys have grown up together in Afghanistan but an incident after the local kite-fighting tournament changes their life forever. The story also gives us a backdrop of the history of Afghanistan over the last thirty years.

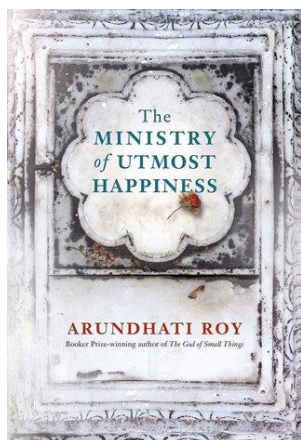
Amir and Hassan are childhood friends who have both grown up together. Hassan is loyal towards his friendship with Amir, but Amir on the other hand does not consider him as a friend due to the social class difference between them. He sees Hassan rather as a person with who he could spend time when no one else is around. He's even ashamed to call Hassan his friend but all these things change after an incident in the kite-fighting tournament in which Amir's inaction would change their relationship forever.

The story dwells upon the life of Amir and his father, who are two distinctive individuals. Amir's father is a person who has his own set of ideals, and would be willing to risk his life to stand up for what is right but Amir on the other hand lacks this quality. This difference in dynamics of

their personalities creates rifts in their relationship but that does not stop Amir from wanting to be loved and adored by his father. The story emphasizes this father-son relationship. Due to the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan, Amir and his father are forced to flee to America. Life in America and their encounters with other people, customs and double standards of the society all comes to play a role in the book.

There are several plot holes in the book which the author writes off as coincidence and the book is quite abrasive as it comes as highly emotional, but that is also what makes the book special in the reader's heart. Even though the main protagonist of the story Amir is quite self-centered in nature at the beginning of the novel as readers we could see visible growth in his character as the story progress. There are several sexual harassment and racial discrimination in the book, so the book is recommended to an eighteen plus audience. Hosseini uses vivid imagery while describing the scenes and the language used is lucid. The story does contain some Farsi terms but the author does make sure the reader understands it.

The book is a perfect read to whoever wants to experience a roller coaster of emotions while reading. The story introduces us to new traditions and customs, and how Afghanistan could have been if the political turmoil's didn't happen. The author successfully makes the reader understand what it is like to have guilt throbbing in your heart. Mistakes are inevitable for humans to make, but our further actions on how to condemn things in the past also play a major role. Hosseini has put so much heart and soul into the book and it is inevitable for the reader to understand it.

Book Review**"The Ministry of Utmost Happiness" - Arundhati Roy****Diya Jose (BRC 034)**

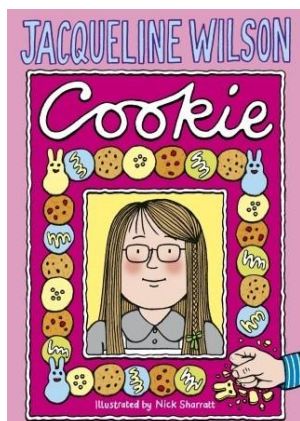
Research Scholar

St. Teresa's College (Autonomous)

Ernakulam, Kerala 682011

The book *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* which has given me the most mixed feelings ever. This is Arundhati Roy's second novel that came twenty years after the success of *The God of Small Things*. It's a very political novel that deals a lot with the repercussions of the partitioning in India, which was when India was divided into two separate nations, Pakistan and the Republic of India. I was quite surprised with the opening of this book, which actually starts out with the story of an intersex character called Anjum. It follows her story throughout the first kind of quarter. It follows her from childhood to adulthood through to her going to live in a graveyard and starting up a strange kind of guesthouse along with a whole group of friends. I really got attracted to the character. Anjum who is living as a transgender in society has subjected to various kind of body shaming's and public accusations for baseless allegations. This novel has a whole sea of characters whom we can connect in one way or the other in our lives. It's a really sprawling book. We never really stick with one character for too long, the characters lights do intersect and cross over each other in the midst of their lives. There is not really one singular plotline that holds it altogether. It was trying to relate all small things and small events in the characters' lives to the bigger picture. So in this case the bigger picture is the history of India. The books focus is also a lot on the violent conflict in Kashmir which is in the

northernmost part of the Indian Subcontinent. I really learned a lot from this book. I felt that people who don't really have the background knowledge will find it very difficult to crack the nutshell. Because it's quite specialist subject. The writing is really wonderful which I fell in love with in *The God of Small Things*. I love her sprawling description and the way she uses metaphors to connect one thing with the other in a very poignant manner. I don't think there was plotline. I don't think there was a specific story. I think that's the real beauty of this book. It's the most beautiful way of describing a book. Its kind of representation of the inside of Roy's mind and how she feels overwhelmed with the wide spectrum of issues that are in India, all of its complicated past and how it's possible to move forward from that. If I had to say what this book is all about in one word, I would say it's about borders where something stops being one thing and starts being another.

Book Review**COOKIE BY JACQUELINE WILSON****Densha Davis (BRC 035)**

Carmel College Mala

Thrissur, Kerala

Have you ever thought of how, a girl who is rich by status but poor by looks, teased by the super-confident and snooty girls in her school and her father's hurtful criticism, will fulfil her wishes?

Jacqueline Wilson, one of prolific writer who was born in Bath in 1945 and spent her childhood in Kingston-on-Thames, where she still lives today as a full-time writer. She has written many books for children, and her sensitive understanding of modern children, the way they live and the problems they encounter, together with her sense of humour, have made her an extremely popular author, particularly with the nine to eleven year age range. Her novels have been notable for featuring controversial themes such as adoption and divorce without alienating her large readership. . In 2005, Jacqueline Wilson became Children's Laureate, and in 2007, became a DBE. Between 2000 and 2010 she was the most borrowed author from public libraries in the UK.

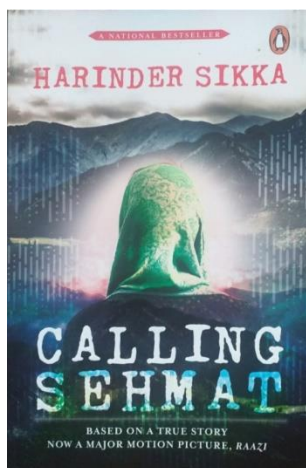
Cookie was her one of the bestselling book. The book was published in October 2008 by Doubleday and illustrated, as are most of her books, by Nick Sharratt. The book was released on 9 October 2008. The book tells about how a girl named Beauty and her mother Dilly survived with their mopoly strict father and how beauty had overcome her inferior complex within her when her snooty, confident girls teasing her for her ridiculous name, Beauty.

Beauty is the only daughter of the couple Gerry and Dilly. Beauty is a smart young, quiet girl who enjoys art and a children's show called 'The Rabbit Hutch and nicknamed as Ugly. Her father, Gerry who is constructs happy homes and planning to make their fortune high. He is a person of angry but he loves the two girls the most than his two ex-wives and sons (Gerry junior, Mark, Ryan). Both the family lives in different Happy homes and Beauty with her parents lives in deluxe Happy homes that make us to know that they are rich. Beauty studies in Lady Mary mountebank and doesn't have a proper friend. She likes Rhona, one of her classmate, who doesn't tease her, to be her best friend but she is afraid of Skye, who always bullies her and officially declares Rhona as her best friend. The story changes when Gerry asked beauty to invite her friends to celebrate her birthday. As she is afraid of her father to tell the truth that she don't even have a best friend, she calls everyone to the posh party held in Birthday Bonanza musical, a big theatre. Gerry held the party there because he doesn't want children wandering here and there in his happy home. Her mother, dilly made cookies in order to make others call Beauty as cookie, instead of Ugly. But Gerry felt it as unwanted and thumbled them around, as he is unaware of dilly's talent in cookie making. When Rhona give Beauty a real rabbit as the birthday gift she wondered and felt so happy. This hurt Gerry's ego as he gave her a doll of big rabbit almost bigger than her as he don't want a pet in his home. After the posh celebration when they were back they found the rabbit gifted by Rhona has dead, maybe eaten by any fox when Gerry opened the hutch and went to the party. This made Beauty and her mother sickens. They leave the house forever. Dilly drove the car forward she doesn't have a shelter, and in the end they stopped at auntie Arvil, Gerry's ex-wife. But there too they don't spend for a long time as the house belongs to Gerry. The next day they left the place and went to beach Rabbit clove. That was their life changing place. There they met Mike, an old fashioned artist with a beard and the owner of lily's cottage where beauty and her mother stayed for the rest. There both beauty and her mother found their talents that were hidden in the past. Dilly's cookies became famous and Dilly supplied cookies for all guest houses on Primrose terrace for weeks and they got enquires from several hotels. And Beauty joined seahaven primary school where no one called her ugly. Moreover she made a club (UNCs) of people with unique names. Their (mom and Beauty) life changing moment was when they were asked to set up a cookie stall at seahaven carnival and they got a call from a kid's program for Beauty to exhibit her talents. In that show Beauty met

her favourite characters Sam and Lilly from the show Rabbit hutch. And they gave a baby rabbit as a gift that make both mom and beauty happy.

The book was very interesting and one feels curious while turning through each pages. The character of Beauty's father was well portrayed. He obviously felt a certain amount of love and affection for his daughter and wife, and wasn't only a villain. However, he was capable of some truly awful things. It was nice to see a character in a younger child's book rendered in many different shades of grey. The best thing about this book is that it is not just Beauty that grows as a character, her mother grows too. The tight bonding of Beauty and her mother have been portrayed as realistic as one will once like to have a mom like her and the support she gave to Beauty was amazing. She adores her and does her best to keep Beauty happy despite all the tension and shouting. It feels that this is something of a rarity in children's literature.

Even though it was a children's book, it reflect on the importance of being independent. The fluent style of writing was very easy to read and in same time it portraits on the domestic abuse and essentiality of self-esteem. In whole, the book held a sprinkle of the magic that used to make one re-read her again and again, without the age bar.

Book Review**Calling Sehmat by Harinder Sikka****Kavya Balan (BRC 036)**

NSS Hindu College Changanassery

Kottayam, Kerala

“ Inspired by real events, Calling Sehmat ”, in the author's words, “is an espionage thriller that brings to life the story of Sehmat, an unsung heroine of war.” Being transformed from an ordinary Kashmiri girl into a deadly spy, Sehmat explicitly reflects solemn commitment towards her nation. Harinder Sikka, with his debut literary piece, make the readers aware of the brewing tension between India and Pakistan in the year 1971 and evokes undying patriotic flames to a great extent. It is a story beyond borders.

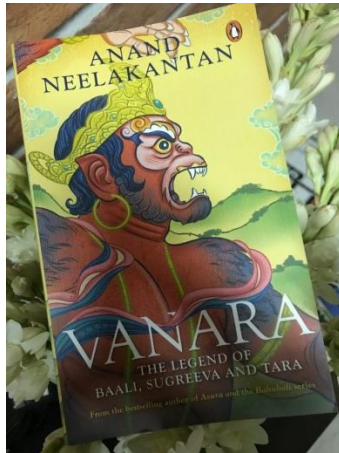
It is not simply fiction but a fictionalized true story that depicts diverse dimensions of love and life as well. I haven't read a book like this before which is both heart-breaking and heart-fulfilling at the same time. The emotional dilemmas and moral insecurities that Sehmat survived made me even once to imagine myself in her state ; I literally cried that moment. How could I manage such kind of intricacies? To be more peculiar, the novel revolves around the life of Sehmat Khan before and after marriage and her mission to become a spy for her mother country. The author makes the narration subtle and effective by employing flashback.

In the initial chapters, Sikka attempts to draw a pen-picture of an innocent college-going girl who aspires a life of flying colours. The warmth of love she bestows upon her relationships, the familial bond she displays, her humble nature all-together makes her the real Sehmat Khan. The

plot takes a turn in the phase where she gets married to Captain Iqbal Sayeed, son of a well-connected Pakistani General and knowingly enter into a life of risks each moment. She was very well aware of the fact that even a minute mistake from her side would have greater impacts. She survives there to complete her mission. Iqbal loved her deeply and gave her all the space she needed. Even though she feels guilty for deceiving him but she filled heart with the very thought of her nation; her country comes first rather than her own life.

Though the novel has some faults and follies in the diction and narration here and there but seems negligible over the whole effect it gives. Despite all the pros and cons, this literary work becomes admirable as it gives a different reading experience. It is written in a simple language too. It helps to look on life with a wider perspective, not to know but to understand.

“If you falter, remember Sehmat and her sacrifice. Not once did she flinch at the danger and risks to her life.”

Book Review**Vanara: The Legend of Baali, Sugreeva and Tara by Anand Neelakantan**

Amrutha P Anil (BRC 038)

NSS Hindu College Changanassery

Kottayam, Kerala

Really great work, Shakespearean in its tragic depth and epic in its sweep, romance at its peak.

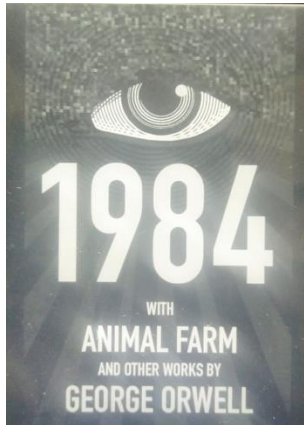
Vaanara is a mythological fiction that doesn't talk much about the central characters of Ramayana. The story is all about the life of Baali, Sugreeva and Taara.

Anand Neelakandan is acclaimed for his Bahubali trilogy, the prequel to S.S Rajamouli's movie of the same name. After Asura and Ajaya series, he is back with another tale of vanquished from our great Indian epic Ramayana that is Vanara: the legend of Baali, Sugreeva and Taara. This work takes us into the heart of what is possibly the world's first love triangle

Baali and Sugreeva of the Vana Nara tribe (jungle people) are the orphan sons of Rishi Gautama. The Vana Nara tribe was considered as the slaves and they are in the middle of Asuras and Devas. But Baali, the protagonist of the story was not ready to end up his life like a slave. With his brother Sugreeva, he built a country of his own people and Kishkinda became the capital of his country. In Kishkinda, all people were treated equally without any discrimination based on caste, creed or color. But in the name of Taara, physician Sushenas's daughter, fate struck them. Taara became the cause of the fraternal war between Baali and Sugreeva. This can be said as the world's first love triangle. Vanara is the story of love, lust and betrayal. Shakespearean in its tragic depth and epic in its sweep. Vanara gives voice to the greatest warrior in the Ramayana-

Baali. In the book *Vanara* we can see a change in all the mythical characters of the great epic of Ramayana. The characters in the story represents the people from a marginalized society, who is dare to talk against the high class Devas. They always consider themselves submissive to the Devas. The vanaras are the slaves of both Asura and Deva tribes. The story points out lots of situation that supports the statement. The childhood of Baali and Sugreeva were miserable. In Valmiki Ramayana, the role of vanaras are to help Rama in search of Sita. In Valmiki Ramayana Baali Is placed as a villanous character. Vanaras appear in Ramayana when Hanuman meet Lord Ram. Lord Ram kills Baali and gave the kingdom to Sugreeva. But in the book *Vanara*, Anand Neelakandan deconstructs the original story and recreate Baali as an undefeated hero.

Anand Neelakandan is deconstructing the story of Baali in Valmiki Ramayana and recreate the story in his book *vanara:the legend of Baali, Sugreevan and Taara*. After reading Ramayana and the book *vanara*, we feel a sort of confusion that Is Baali a villainous character or not?. I would definitely recommend this novel to everyone, it's a bit lengthy but a good page turner.

Book Review**'1984' by George Orwell****Chris Thomas (BRC 039)**

BSc Geology

Sree Narayan College, Sivagiri

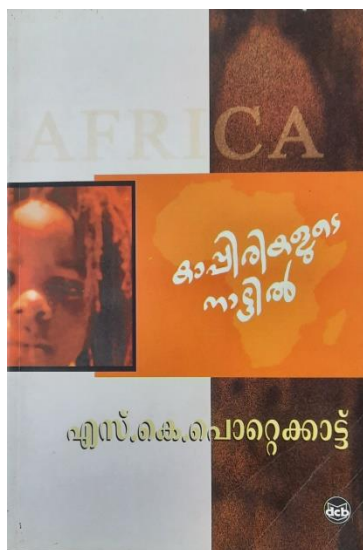
Varkala, Kerala

George Orwell born Eric Arthur Blair was an English novelist, essayist, and journalist. Undoubtedly his most famous work is 1984. A novel that warns us of the potential for all governments to become totalitarian. This novel was published in 1948 while the world was in the midst of The Cold War. In this alternate timeline, World War 3 breaks out among the superpowers. The entire western world with Britain merges into a superstate Oceania to meet their adversaries. After revolutions break out in the home countries new ideologies take over in the states. “Ingsoc” in Oceania, “Neo-bolshevism” in Eurasia (USSR and Europe), and “Obliteration of Self” in Eastasia(China).

It is in this grim reality that we meet our protagonist, Winston Smith. He is an employee at the Ministry of Truth, his job being to correct any conflicting information to the Party’s propaganda. This shows the extent to which The Party has manipulated the people. In this world history can be rewritten with the stroke of a bureaucratic pen and everyone is under the eyes of The Party. The majority of the population (the proles) is kept illiterate and, in poverty, while the members are always scrutinized, silencing the dissenters. This work predicts what can happen when nationalistic fanaticism trumps reason. This is especially true in the current age where nationalism is given higher priority to reason.

Though in most works justice prevails, it is not so in this work. The protagonist is not a hero. Ultimately he dies like any man. This is the reality most people under totalitarianism experience. It takes a group of people to make a lasting change. But it is not all doom and gloom. The protagonist finds freedom in the little things especially in the intimacy with Julia (the love interest). This is what we crave, a piece of happiness in the small things we do.

We as people have the right to individualism and freedom in the pursuit of happiness. This is our right and we will have it.

Book Review**Kappirikalute Nattil by S.K.Pottekkatt****Lakshmi Priya KS (BRC 040)**

II MCom

Maharaja's College (Autonomous)

Ernakulam, Kerala 682011

Kappirikalute Nattil is a travelogue written by S.K.Pottekkatt which was first published in 1998 by D C books. This book narrates the experiences of the 1949 East African tour made by the writer. S.K.Pottekkatt is a famous Malayalam novelist, short story writer and traveller. His first voyage was in 1949. He has visited and written about the societal and cultural life of Europe, Africa, America, South Asia and East Asia. Europpilode, Paathirasoorayante nattil and Simhabhoomi are some of the travelogues written by the author. He won Kerala Sahitya Academy award(1962) for Oru therivinte katha, Sahitya Academy award(1973) and Jnanapith(1980) for Oru deshathinte katha.

Kappirikalute nattil starts with an introduction about the various historical, social and geographical factors which played a prominent role in shaping the African life. This book narrates experiences of the author in Africa when it was still under colonial rule. It describes how native Africans were treated as a second class citizen in their homeland. Descriptions about how native Africans were not permitted to venture outside after 8 pm and the harsh punishment given to them explain their plight and hardships.

Author has given an avid description of the architectural styles and city structure of Africa in his accounts. He has given a detailed account about the transportation facilities in South Rhodesia and Blantyre. The train journey through Rhodesia is filled with rich imagery.

Along with sharing the experiences and narrations about the African cities, author has described the nature of British and Portuguese officers who were ruling Africa those days. Author explains the rampant corruption and mismanagement that plagued Africa in 1940s. The attitude of the officers to amass as much wealth as possible and lack of commitments to develop African societies are well explained.

S.K.Pottekkatt has given a detailed description of Victoria waterfalls and accompanying landscape. Brief account about the historical background of the waterfalls and its cultural significance to the locals make the description complete. Rich imagery and ornamental words are used to explain the magnificence of the waterfalls.

Author gives a vivid narration about the life of Indians in Africa. He explains the cultural and economic differences among north Indians and south Indians living in Africa. The lingering fear of being ousted from Africa harboured in minds of Indians is explained evidently. The tactics of divide and rule adopted by colonialists to prolong their rule by making drifts between Indians residing in Africa and native Africans reflect the political set up of Africa in 1940s.

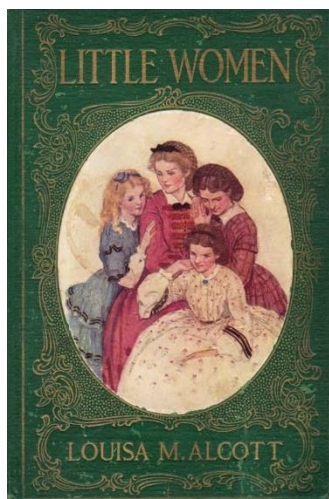
Author has described about various customs, believes and superstitions of numerous African tribes. He has given some real life accounts to paint a clear African picture in reader's mind. He recounts that each tribe and each locality had their own language and cultural practices. Experiences of the author in learning Swahili language and how it helped him throughout the journey is mentioned.

This book gives a glimpse into the real life of people living in Africa. It depicts how different kinds of people with different motives and cultures make up a single society with multiple layers. Saurajulu Naidu, a South Indian porter living in South Rhodesia depicts the life of Indians who have spent a long part of their life in Africa with no real hopes of returning to motherland. Whereas, the Gujarati merchant in East Africa is a classic example of a trader who wishes to make profit from the ignorance of native Africans.

Author has used lucid language with rich imagery to narrate his experiences and African life. Comparing Africans dancing around fire to shadow puppets and the sound of Victoria waterfalls

to Lion's roar are examples of excellent simile. Author has quoted several Swahili and Chinianja words to explain the simplicity and beauty of ethnic languages.

Compared to other travelogue books Kappirikalute nattil portrays the rural Africa(Beira, Rhodesia and Nyasaland) in simple words, with amazing details. Compared to other S.K.Pottekkatt travelogues Kappirikalute nattil is a short yet in-depth narration of the places and life of Africa. Author has taken effort in portraying cultural, social and economic life of different classes in African society.

Book Review**Little Women by Louisa M Alcott****Mary Santra (BRC 041)**

Bharata Mata College Thrikkakara
Ernakulam, Kerala

Louisa May Alcott's 'Little Women', is the best classic novel I ever read. It is a story of four sisters who have diverse personalities and strong minds. This novel is founded on the essence of feminism. The four sisters – Meg March, Jo March, Beth March and Amy March, their lovely mother 'Marmee', their neighbor boy Laurie are the main characters of this novel.

This is a story about the dreams of four strong women and how their destiny was different from their dreams. Four of them had dreams that reflect their personality. Meg- the oldest sister, her dream was to become super rich, so she wouldn't have to do all chores and own a big house with lots of good people. She had great talent in acting. Jo- the boyish girl wants to become a famous writer. She was very disappointed at the fact that she's a woman, because that was the reason why she can't fight for her nation with her father. Most of the time she read books to her father's sister, the rich, ill-tempered Aunt March, who didn't like Jo's unladylike behavior. Jo was trying so hard to put up with her aunt in the hope that, she would choose Jo to be the companion of her, when she goes to Europe. Beth- the sweetest among the March sisters loves music very much. Her dream was to live her life with her family forever. Amy, the youngest want to go to Paris and become the greatest painter in the world. The story goes on with their little happy moments like their club small clubs, dramas written by Jo and played by March sisters, silly fights and so

on. Laurie, the rich, neighbor boy befriended with the March sisters, after him meeting Jo at a party. His dream was to write an opera. Marmee was the strong pillar for girls who guided them, who taught them to share whatever they had with needy and she was the source of solace and succor at the times of sorrow.

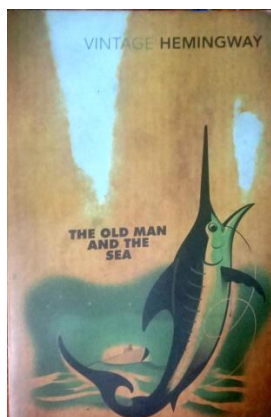
The five of them – March sisters and Laurie became close friends, but Jo and Laurie shared a special bond. She called him Teddy. As everything was going well, one day Mr. March- father of March sisters became ill and Marmee went to take care of her husband with John , the mentor of Laurie. At the same time Beth was contracted with scarlet fever. She got it from the ‘Hummels’ the poor family where she went to give supplies. As Meg and Jo was contracted with this disease earlier they stayed at home and looked after Beth in the absence of their Marmee but Amy was sent to Aunt March, so she wouldn’t get infected from Beth. Marmee joined them after some days. They took care of Beth and her health became better, but she didn’t become strong as earlier. Within a short span of time their father also abled to join with them and they all became happy. Then Meg fell in love in with John and they got married. John wasn’t rich, but Meg realized that love can even blossom in a small cottage when you’re with the right person. Aunt March chose Amy over Jo to accompany her to Europe because she was pleased by the lady like manners of Amy. This disappointed Jo but she didn’t show it because she wanted her sister to be happy. After Amy’s departure, Jo spent her time with Laurie and Beth. Jo felt that Laurie wanted her to be more than a friend from the way he behaved. But Jo didn’t pay much attention to that. Beth was still weak and unhappy. Jo assumed that Beth had feelings for Laurie, so she decided to move to New York as a Governor in a family. She thought that it would make Laurie to forget her and become closer to Beth.

In New York, she met a German professor -Friedrich Bhaer who was her boarding mate. He was an old and not much handsome man but a man with a distinct personality. They became friend and Jo took German lesson from him. She wrote sensational stories to Newspaper to meet both ends at her home until Amy got married to a rich man. But she had to return to her home, because Beth was too ill. When she reached home, she took Beth to beach. Beth told her she could feel that she would die soon, that’s the matter that bothered her. She asked Jo to give strength to the family when she dies. Some days after she reached home, Laurie came to see her and confessed his feelings for her, but she refuses and said she wouldn’t marry anyone. This broke his heart and he left to Europe with his grandfather. In spite, of the care given by Jo and

Marmee, Beth became weak day by day. Beth insisted that they shouldn't tell anything about her to Amy, so she can enjoy her trip. At last Beth passes away. Jo felt so lonely without her favorite sister and her Teddy. Meanwhile Amy met Laurie in France. He consoled her in the grief about Beth. Amy who believed that marriage was an economic proposition and she would marry a rich man, was dating a rich man called Fred. But she found Laurie as her love of life and they got married and came back to their home by giving up her artistic hopes. Jo became very happy for Amy and Laurie, but she felt so lonely. While the whole family was having dinner Mr. Bhaer showed up. He said to them that he came to Massachusetts for some business. Everyone loved that man very much. Then he became a regular visitor to March family. Eventually Jo and Friedrich fell in love and got married. They started a school in the mansion inherited to Jo from Aunt March after her death.

This is a beautiful novel. While I was reading this novel, I experienced almost all kinds of emotions. I believe that this novel is suitable for any age group. Because for everyone will get some reflections that's suits them. After reading this, I wished if I had a friend like Laurie- so we will able to be ourselves with each other, we will be able to put up with our idiosyncrasies, and just be best friends.

I personally didn't like the ending because I thought it was better if the Jo ended up as a spinster, like the first ending planned by L.M. Alcott, but she had to change it due to the pressure from the publisher. I think this is one of those books that should be read by every woman. I believe that every woman who like to be independent will be get inspired to take her own path instead of the path society choose for them after reading this book.

Book Review**The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway****Rithin Chandralal (BRC 042)**

2ns Semester MBA General

Institute of Management in Kerala (IMK)

Kariavattom Campus, University of Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Dedicated to Charles Scribner and to Max Perkins, *The Old Man and the Sea* written by Ernest Hemingway was first published in 1952. Recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1953 and subsequently the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954, *The Old Man and the Sea* is often regarded as the literary culmination of Ernest Hemingway. The short novel stands out as the finest example of the author's iceberg theory of writing which inspired generations of future writers.

The novel wastes no time for pleasantries and bluntly moves to introduce the protagonist, an old man whose name is revealed as Santiago. Santiago is a fisherman who fishes alone in the Gulf Stream along the coast of Cuba. The novel reveals he has seen lucky days and has had great catches during his life but unfortunately old age has dampened his prospects and it is stated that he has had an unlucky streak for eighty four days without a single catch. He is now referred to as 'salao', which is the worst form of unlucky, by his fellow fishermen and acquaintances.

Manolin, a young boy whom Santiago has taught how to fish, is his only friend and consolation and they casually talk regarding the old man's unlucky streak to American baseball. Manolin, motivates the old man in spite of everyone considering him a salao, and he readies the old man's skiff and fishing gear for his next trip far off the Gulf Stream. Santiago is confident that his unlucky streak is coming to an end.

Nearly half a day into the sea, Santiago encounters a big fish which he assumes to be a marlin. However, he is unable to haul it in due to its sheer size and strength and for fear he may damage the skiff. Santiago holds the line with his ageing body for days before killing the marlin with his harpoon. On the course of the ordeal, Santiago develops respect and brotherly feelings towards the marlin. Perhaps, he considers the marlin to be a worthy rival. Santiago, still unable to haul the marlin inside, ties it on the side of the skiff. However, blood from the marlin attracted sharks and the remaining part of the novel describes the ordeal Santiago has to undergo protecting his catch from hungry sharks that eventually have their way. By the time the skiff reaches back to the harbour, only the head and bones of the big marlin remains and a weary and heartbroken Santiago leaves it along with the skiff and walks away. The fishermen in the harbour were literally amazed at the sheer size of the marlin and feels pangs of sympathy and regret for making fun of Santiago. Manolin checks on the old man who was sleeping in his shack and seeing the old man's hands, he starts crying and goes out to buy coffee for him. After waking up, Manolin tells Santiago that they were searching for him with the help of Coast Guard and planes. The old man asks Manolin to give the head of the marlin to Pedrico, who looks after the skiff. The conversation highlights the loyalty of Manolin who is confident that Santiago's luck has changed and they should go to fish together from now on. The novel ends with the old man having a familiar dream about a distant coast in Africa where he saw lions.

The author vividly describes the coast, the sea and along with it the emotions of the protagonist. Hemingway's words paint a realistic picture of the elements of nature on the minds of readers. The novel reads like a biography and it is relatable to Hemingway's life in the sense that the author shares a lot of similarities with the protagonist. Hemingway himself is at the tag end of his adventurous life constantly battling alcoholism and depression. The author wishes to go on one last adventure through the protagonist and he still hopes for luck to change around with his life. The consistent dreams the protagonist has about the coast of Africa and lions are a reminiscence of the author's own time spent in Africa. The novel written in classic iceberg theory is sure to send the reader on a roller coaster of emotions of which the ones that make the most mark are the ones cleverly omitted by the author. *The Old Man and the Sea* is indeed a classic which will inspire generations to come.

Book Review**Balyakalasakhi, vaikom Muhammad Basheer****Fathima S (BRC 043)**

Government College for Women

Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

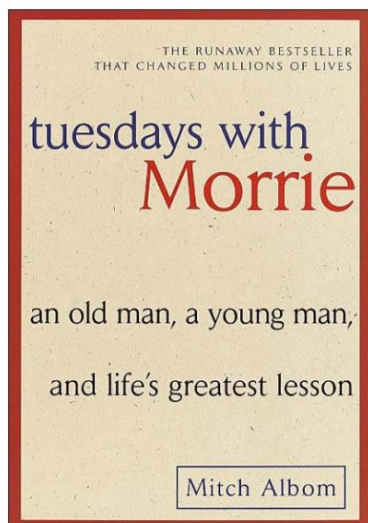
Lovestories have a prodigious power to stay in the heart of readers without fading irrespective of the time. If the author too has done the work utilising much of his talents, a story or a novel or whatever it is, it will be a sparkle of life forever. Fortunately the Malayalam literary field is blessed with such an author; Sree Vaikom Muhammed Basheer. Balyakaalasakhi is a romantic tragedy novel written in Malayalam language, by Vaikom Muhammed Basheer, published in 1944. Balyakaalasakhi is one of the prominent works of him. The meaning of the title “Balyakaalasakhi” is childhood companion.

Balyakaalasakhi is not just a romantic novel, it unveils the earlier village lifestyles, their illiteracy, superstitions and also he criticizes the judgement system of society prevailing now and then.

Sree Vaikom Muhammed Basheer starts the novel from the childhood days of 'suhra' and 'majeed', the central characters of the novel. Their childhood events are portrayed very attractively. Along with taking us to the wondrous world of 'Suhra' and 'Majeed', the author has succeeded in averting our sight into the ailments people are afraid of all the times; it's nothing but poverty. The author reveals the distinction between the financially backward classes and the rich ones. Through evidencing certain circumstances, Sree Basheer drew our attention to the importance of education. In the novel, Majeed's family is the richest one in the village. But when

the story goes on, the same Majeed is washing utensils in an anonymous hotel alley in a huge town. At this moment, the author taught us that the luxuries you have in life aren't everlasting, no matter you are in a pathetic condition or the job you do maybe the worst of many; however you have to face your life situations with courage and confidence. Whatever be the plight, just go on, don't give up ever. This notion is also expressed in the situation when Majeed hears the death news of his beloved Suhra, holding his composure and emotions, Majeed carries on his work. The novel lacks the presence of a villain, actually their life is the villain exactly. Life was an acrobatics for them, Suhra and Majeed face rough and hard experiments of life, but in between all these chaos, the plinth of their eternal love was strong enough to make them optimistic. Here, the author says that love is a connection of souls, it's not a materialistic thing. After Majeed comes back to home bringing a halt to his travels and journeys, he hears that Suhra got married, but he doesn't hate her and says that "life is full of selfishness". It is another truth about life that the author taught us. At last they are declined by the life to live together; cruel fate tears them apart.

Critics comment that "Balyakaalasakhi" shows resemblance to real life of the author, which brings much beauty to the novel. The dignity of the novel can't be confined to love and tragedy alone, it holds a lot of real life values and facts. The narrative style of the author is amazing. He has added every essential element of storytelling. The author is an adept in using the figure of speeches, it is evident in most of the lines. The content of the novel is just 75 pages, but even after 77 years it was published, it is an evergreen novel that can fit in every heart.

Book Review**Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom****Hannah Leon (BRC 045)**3rd BA Philosophy

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Tuesdays with Morrie, as the name suggests isn't just another normal story book. It is a classroom with the subject taught of what is the meaning of life? It's more of a collection of emotions. The story revolves around Mitch, the author of the book and his favourite professor, Morrie. At some point, the story may sound like a philosophy class. It is book with life's greatest lessons.

The story begins with the graduation day of Mitch, the day he gives goodbye to his favourite professor with a hug and then he says one word "I'll meet you soon". But even after sixteen years that day never came. Mitch got busy with his life and was always aspired to become a musician. He laid in night clubs for years and years only to realize that his dream was too far fetched. He had an uncle, who suffered from pancreatic cancer and witnessing him die in the perspective of Mitch, pulled his life a lot differently after that. He gave up his dreams, got back to his school, mastered in journalism and went out to become a famous sports journalist. Then after that he was no more looking back for him. He became too famous, featured in radio and TV

shows. Brought a huge bungalow, costly cars and then he was so centered. But there was something missing, the feel of being complete. And that is how the story begins.

One lazy evening as Mitch was watching the TV, he was stuned for a while. He witnessed someone on a very famous show, Night line with Ted Koppel, a very famous interviewer. He was talking to an old man, Morrie it was. That was the moment of realization for Mitch. It brought back all the beautiful memories that he had with Morrie. And looking at Morrie on a wheelchair, he had sad. Apparently, Morrie had come down and has been living like this for the past few years, after he was affected by a neurological disorder. He has been featured in the local magazine as the philosophical father as he has been teaching a lot about life to people in a locality. That is how he stumbled on this very famous show 'Night line'. While Ted was interviewing Morrie about all the philosophies he had been following. There was something that Morrie said that moved Mitch a lot. So many people walk around with meaningless life. They seem half-asleep even when they're busy doing things they think are important. This is because they're chasing the wrong things. The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something new that gives you purpose meaning. That was the moment of epiphany for Mitch, he wanted to go and hug his professor right then and there. But there was something that held him back, the regret of not visiting his favorite professor all these years. The next day Mitch was standing in front of Morrie's house in his car. And wondering whether to enter or not. And then Morrie witnessed Mitch standing there. He came to him, hugged him, kissed him and said, "O' God my dear old friend, welcome." It was a beautiful Tuesday morning. Mitch and Morrie had a very brief conversation. Mitch became totally sentimental about his life. And started sharing that he hasn't been that happy eventhough he has been successful. That is when Morrie addresses this beautiful lines: "Dying is the only thing to be sad over, living unhappily is something else." And with that the first lessoning of Morrie's class begins. That day when Mitch was about to leave Morrie, he had made up a smile for one thing, he is going to meet Morrie every single Tuesday and feel complete about himself. Because Morrie brought him happiness. All those beautiful thoughts, his sparkling eyes in philosophy toward life. And even being positive when you've been ridden by such a life threatening disease. This what moved Mitch a lot.