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# *The* **Epitome** */I'pitəmi/*

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

*Unleash the epitome of creative writers*

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Pn. Razanawati Nordin, Chief Editor,  
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Email address: [razanawati@uitm.edu.my](mailto:razanawati@uitm.edu.my)  
Contact No: 044562421

Copy Editor: Ms. Alia Nabella Fateha Zolkifli

Graphic Designer: Mr. Mohd Hamidi Adha Mohd Amin

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## SYNOPSIS

The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kedah branch is proud to present the first issue of its e-magazine, The Epitome, as our focus to highlight our commitment to contribute to the areas of creative writing.

THE EPITOME aims to provide a platform for writers, educators, academicians, poet, and researchers to share their ideas, findings, knowledge, and experience, particularly on various creative writing genres - personal essays, poetry, short stories, songs, movie scripts, plays, and innovative projects in four different languages ( English, Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin, and Arabic).

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear readers,

It is with great pleasure and immense pride that we, the Academy of Language Studies at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kedah branch, extend our warmest welcome to all writers and readers to honor all 127 artistic masterpieces. This is indeed a tremendous achievement to commemorate our debut.

We are privileged to offer the platform for the writers to show their talents in creative writing in this magazine, which serves as a testament to our commitment to the area of personal essays, poetry, short stories, songs, movie scripts, plays, and innovative projects. Their invaluable contributions and unwavering commitment to academic excellence have played a vital role in shaping this magazine.

Thank you.

Best regards,

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## THE WAY OF LIFE

### Haslina Hassan

Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Shah Alam  
haslina2310@uitm.edu.my

I can still remember when I was back in school and when I heard my teacher told me about nature, I would imagine the greenery of a forest, the cooling air of waterfall or the calming air at the beach. I used to believe that it stops there. Now that I have lived for three decades fully surrounded by the high-rise buildings of the city, I find myself consumed with the thoughts of this becoming more natural, or nature-like, and the “nature” I used to imagine when I was that little girl disappears. Though this is my current view on nature, however, I never feel like it has ever been positive. I always feel like I am in a rush seeing how all these metal death traps surrounding me being erected one by one and this particularly affected me back in the end of 2021.

I am not sure how many of us would still remember the event that happened back in 2021. We had just been granted freedom to travel after two years being cooped up at home due to the pandemic when we were faced with one of the biggest floods in history. I have only been staying in Shah Alam for not more than three months by then. I went out the morning of 18th December to celebrate the birthday of a dear friend in KL along with a few of my closest friends. It had been raining for quite some time that morning, but I never could envision anything of it. By the time I reached Elite wanting to exit to Ebor later that night, the traffic was horrendous. I was rerouted multiple times. Luckily, my siblings are all in Selangor, so I had options since I was locked out of Shah Alam.

I stayed at my sister’s place in Cheras since my parents and elder brother had also come to her place for a visit from Johor at the very same day. As this happened in Shah Alam, we had been trying to reach my uncle who lives in Seksyen 19, but it was to no avail. The following day, my aunt sent a message in our extended family WhatsApp group of what happened to her and family. Her house was flooded and only the roof was to be seen, but they managed to escape to

her daughter’s place in KL before the situation escalated. A few days later once the flood subsided, she went back to her place. It was devastating. The flood had caused severe damage to her home, leaving most of their belongings rendered useless. I can still see the horrific scene of the living room and smell the nasty remnants of the mud. Though we did not see it happening again last year, but now even with the teensiest rain, my aunt started packing and went to her daughter’s place. We might be lucky that all our family members got out of the situation unscathed, but that was not what happened to many other flood victims that year.

Even now, in the middle of KL, whenever it rains, flash floods continue to happen as if it is something natural, as if it is the way of life. Malaysians are now numb to scenes of flooding, and this got me thinking, are we going to continue living like this? Living in fear every end of the year, praying and hoping that we would never be the flood victims? I used to feel blessed whenever it rained, but now whenever I feel like posting #blessed whenever it rains, it feels wrong when I know there are hundreds and thousands of people who might be living in fear due to the rain.

Commodities

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By Liz Lee



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The image still remains blurry as work crews continue to assess the damage to the building. (The Straits Times)

Clippings of newspaper articles surrounding the massive flood in 2021



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