

Epitome /ipitami/

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

Unleash the epitome of creative writers

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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,

Editorial Board

nc)
page	9

page	
<i>63</i>	(阅读乐-乐阅读) THE JOY OF READING By Ng Set Foong, College of Computing, Informatics and Media,
	UiTM Johor Branch, Pasir Gudang Campus
64	WHATSAPP: BILA TEKNOLOGI KUASAI DUNIA PEMBELAJARAN
Ur	By Noorliza Zainol ¹ , Norrina Din², Muhammad Azli Razali³, Faculty of Hotel and Tourism Management, UiTM Pulau Pinang
00	SEHARIAN MENUNGGU RAWATAN: TIGA CERITA SATU WAJAH
66	By Noorliza Zainol ¹ ,Mohd Farizan Mohd Saad@Zakaria ²
	Fakulti Pengurusan Hotel dan Pelancongan, UiTM Pulau Pinang¹, Kursus Penyediaan dan Pembuatan Makanan, Sekolah Menengah Pendidikan Khas Vokasional Merbok, Kedah²
67	GRATITUDE: A LOSING VIRTUE
U	By Nor Asni Syahriza Abu Hassan, Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch
68	OPENING DOORS TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING
	BY FOSTERING STUDENTS' INTEREST By Nuruladilah Mohamed ¹ ,Nurhafizah Ali, Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Terengganu Branch ¹
69	WHY WE SHOULD LEARN THE MALAY LANGUAGE
03	By Piermauro Catarinella, Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UITM Shah Alam
71	"PENSYARAH PEMBULUH DARAH PEMBENTUKKAN MAHASISWA BERJAYA" Dr Sheikh Ali Azzran ¹ , Dr Farrah Zuhaira Ismail, Fakulti Senibina, Perancangan dan Ukur, UiTM Shah Alam ¹
73	RAWAT DENGAN JURNAL AL-QURAN By Zareen Zulkifli, Fakulti Perladangan dan Agroteknologi, UiTM Cawangan Melaka, Kampus Jasin
74	THIS IS UNIVERSITY LIFE By Afifah Fadhlullah, Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Melaka Branch
7~	
15	THE CHAOS By Amri Muaz Azminurad, Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Shah Alam
76	THE LADY IN THE ATTIC
	By Amri Muaz Azminurad, Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Shah Alam
77	KEHILANGAN By Amri Muaz Azminurad, Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Shah Alam
70	
10	BUTIR-BUTIR CATUR By Afifah Othman, Unit Undang-Undang, Pusat Asasi UiTM Kampus Dengkil
79	LEAVING
	By Azhani Almuddin (DR.),Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Shah Alam
80	ANAK ITU By Derwina Daud, Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Cawangan Johor, Kampus Segamat
00	FINAL DESTINATION
82	By Emma Marini Abd Rahim, Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Terengganu, Dungun Campus
<i>83</i>	HARAPAN MASA HADAPAN By Emma Marini Abd Rahim, Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UITM Terengganu, Kampus Dungun
84	SAY CHEESE! By Ernie Rozaini Sulaiman (DR.), Unit Kesihatan, UiTM Selangor Branch, Puncak Perdana Campus
<u>85</u>	IN BETWEEN MATTERS By F Peter G. Frncis, Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Perak, Seri Iskandar Campus

GRATITUDE: A LOSING VIRTUE

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Would you be honest and admit that you, even once in your life, have asked for more when in fact, you already have everything? You have a home for shelter, but you wish for a castle. You have a car for transportation, but you want one for show. Material possession is one aspect of life which we fail to be grateful for. We complain too much, maybe without realising it, and we undeniably do it every day. We often compare with what others have, forgetting what we have, and oftentimes, we take for granted what is in our hands, just to get a hold at others'.

Our ingratitude is driven none other by greed. Greed is an intense feeling of wanting more and more and every time we want more and more, greed slowly creeps in us until it finally gets a hold of us, controls us and defines who we are. The thing about greed is we fail to acknowledge is it can never truly satisfy us. It is never enough. It will never be enough. However, we do have a lot to say, to justify how it is not wrong to wish and to ask for the best. And that is it, the problem is with the word 'best'. Le me ask you this, to what extend best is best?

I also believe our inability to appreciate and to be grateful will result in monstrous feelings. The people around us, especially our loved hands will be the first to suffer the consequences. "Why can't my wife be as beautiful as other people's wives"?! "Why can't my husband make as much as other people's husbands"?! "Why are you such a trouble, can't even be like children your age"! Enraged with anger and dissatisfaction, we would hurt the people around us with malicious words. Eventually, relationships are torn beyond repair. Our innocent children, would pitifully grow up believing in the unkind words we have implanted in them. Words do cut deeper than anything else in the world.

But don't be mistaken. There is a great difference between wanting for more to feed your greed and to fulfil your necessity. Let's say we only make enough for a family of three, but with time, the family is growing. Therefore, there is a need here for us to wish for more, to want a bigger car, to have more money to put food on the table so that nobody in the family would go to bed on empty stomach. To put it simply, it all depends on your nawaitu, your truthful intention for wanting more.

Each and every one of us, are bestowed upon a pair of shoes. These shoes, they are of different brands, sizes, colours and even quality. We need to be grateful because they fit us best. You can try a pair of polished, branded pink heels instead of your ripped, dull and dirty flats, but there will come a time when you realise they don't hurt your feet like the heels do. Be grateful, and you'll see what a happy life you could have, and when the time is right, you will be given even more as reward for showing your gratitude for Allah is al-Wahhab. Hasn't Allah promised us that?

67

