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# The Epitome /iˈpitəmi/

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

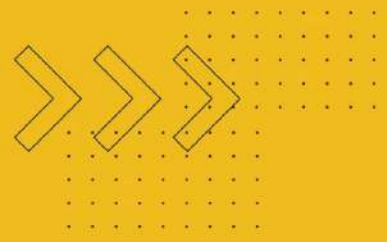
Unleash the epitome  
of creative writers

Volume 2 Issue 6

2026

*The*  
**Epitome**  
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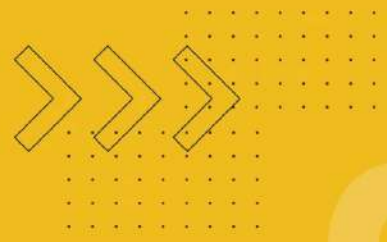
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# Synopsis

The Academy of Language Studies at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) is thrilled to unveil the vibrant sixth edition of its e-magazine, The Epitome. This publication celebrates our passionate commitment and unwavering dedication to the art and craft of language and literature.

THE EPITOME emerges as a dynamic platform for a community of writers, educators, scholars, poets, and researchers, all eager to share their unique perspectives, breakthroughs, wisdom, and tales. This edition showcases a mix of creative writing genres, from the dramatic twists of Playwriting to the introspective depths of Personal Essays, including Short Stories, Songs, Speeches, Memoirs, Literary Journalism, Humorous Writing, Lyric Essays, and Innovative Essays. With a rich tapestry of voices, presenting and embracing works in English, Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin, and Arabic, each adding its own uniqueness to the realm of language and literature.

Synopsis



*The*  
**Epitome**  
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# Preface

**Puan Robekhah Harun**  
Acting Head of Faculty  
Academy of Language Studies  
UiTM Kedah Branch

Welcome to Epitome, the 6<sup>th</sup> Issue. Epitome is the platform where writers transformed moments into meaning and emotions into language, offering readers a mirror in which they may recognize parts of themselves. The theme for this publication is Stories That Stay - A timeless collection of powerful narratives – memories, questions, friendships, losses, and life-altering choices.

Stories That Stay is a quiet yet powerful reminder that the most enduring narratives are often born from moments of reflection rather than spectacle. The stories collected within this bulletin encourages readers to pause, to listen, and to engage with experiences that linger long after the final page is turned.

The writers have approached their work with sincerity and depth, transforming personal moments into shared understanding. In doing so, they remind us that stories do not end on the page; they continue within the reader, shaping thought, emotion, and perspective.

I extend our heartfelt congratulations to the editorial team and all the contributors for bringing Stories That Stay to life. Your dedication, creativity, and thoughtful curation have resulted in a body of work that resonates with sincerity and depth. May this publication serve not as an endpoint, but as a beginning. Continue to write, to publish, and to trust in the power of your voices. The world needs stories like these – stories that stay.

May Epitome serve as both recognition and encouragement for writers to continue to write with honesty, to publish with purpose, and to trust that your words matter. In a world that often moves too quickly, your willingness to slow down and tell stories that endure is invaluable.





# Editor's note

Assalamualaikum and warmest greetings,

Dear gentle readers,

Alhamdulillah, by the grace of Allah SWT, we are delighted to present the 6th issue of our e-magazine, centered on the theme "Stories That Stay." These are not just stories – they are living reminiscences, deepest questions, treasured friendships, deep losses, and life-changing choices that remain with us long after the moment has passed.

Every narrative in this issue carries a spark – a reminder that our journeys are written with wisdom, by the One who knows us best. Some stories teach, some heal, and others strengthen us when we feel we cannot go on. May these pages offer you reflection, comfort, and renewed strength, Insha-Allah.

As the Chief Editor, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the contributors who poured their hearts into their writing, and to you – our beloved readers – for your continuous support. May Allah bless your path as you read, reflect, and grow through these timeless stories.

Happy reading, and may your heart find what it needs.

**With love and gratitude,**  
**Hajah Razanawati Nordin**  
Chief Editor



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# *Kereta Hijau* **BAPAK**

**Mohd Nur Fitri Mohd Salim**

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**Tayar kereta yang berputar seperti membawa aku terbang. Aku paksakan kaki memijak pedal minyak, namun diri terus terapung. Sayap halimunan tumbuh mengangkat aku angkara kenangan. Kenangan ini seakan-akan anti graviti. Kenangan ini jahat memerah air mata setitis demi setitis. Tanpa sedar cermin matakku sudah kabur. Leher bajuku sudah basah. "Ke mana tujuan kita hari ini, pak?"**

Mari kubawa.

Ke mana saja pun boleh, asal bapak kekaldisini, di persimpangan terpercil antara minda dan hati. Sejujurnya aku belum bersedia menerimamu sebagai cebisan memori. Ayuh aku sertakan lagu-lagu tema untuk kita nikmati.

Dari radio ke kaset, kaset ke CD.  
Dari Air Supply ke Tom Jones, Tom Jones ke P. Ramlee.

Sementara itu boleh bapak sebutkan kembali? Ayat-ayat magis penenang hati. Aku mahu dengar berulang kembali. Sambil mengingati aroma sebatang rokok dan senaskhah The Star di pagi hari.

Ingat lagi aku bertanya, "Pak, kalau tukar ekzos boleh lagi laju kan?" Bapak sambut dengan senyuman, mata terus memandang ke jalan. Tetap melayan si anak yang cuba memulakan perbualan. Oh, kalaulah bapak tahu, senyuman itu sudah berdekad lama kekal di hati. Begitu juga ketawa kecil yang meneman, setiap seloroh setiap gurauan. Semua sketsa usaha mengukir senyuman.

Senyumanmu, pak.



Kini aku tahu bahawa dahulu itu tatkala berdua; setiap sesi kita ke bengkel,

setiap kali enjin mati, setiap kejadian ditundalori,

setiap aksesori yang cuba diganti, setiap bunyi ketukan besi,

setiap usaha kita agar kereta tampak ranggi – adalah taman permainan ciptaan Tuhan untuk aku, adalah tanda kasih Tuhan padaku, adalah bekalan Tuhan untuk aku mengingatimu.

Kereta hijau itu jugalah saksi kita menuju destinasi wajib. Tempat kita berbincang soal dunia dari kaca mata tua dan muda. Tempat kita meluahkan resah gembira. Tempat teh tarik dan teh o ais bersua muka. Kadang kala tose dan roti canai turut bersama. Betapa itu pentas kasih sayang kita, pak. Betapa sayang itu sebegitu mahal tak perlu diucapkan. Cukup sekadar di mamak kita bertemu, cerita yang sama diulang tak jemu.

Di situ juga bapak kerap bicara,  
"Jangan risulah, boleh punya".

Empat kata sebegitu indah. Sebegitu mudah memadam gundah. Silap mata ini sangat aku rindui. Menjadi ungkapan penguat hati, pembina jati diri, peringatan bahawa aku seorang lelaki, dan seorang lelaki harus kuat untuk terus memberi.

Jadi di mana lagi harus aku mencari kata penenang, kiranya sekali lagi berjuang dan tetap kecundang?

Pak, pelukan terakhir kita di Putrajaya, selamanya akan aku sesalkan kerana tak lama. Itu yang terakhir bapak bernyawa. Selepas jasad bapak disimpan, aku terus mengumpul kenangan. Hilang arah tuju, jiwa rasa buntu. Rakaman video kita bersama aku ulang satu per satu.

Kereta hijau itu sebegitu usang. Pada mataku banyak yang kurang. Maafkan aku kerana tak cukup mengerti. Betapa ia simbol seorang bapa memberi. Khilaf ini saban hari aku sesali, kerana aku tahu betapa ia saksi memori. Mungkin kerana dunia semakin mudah. Makan minum semakin mewah. Hidup dah tak sebegitu susah. Lalu seperti manusia-manusia lainnya aku terlupa, bukti usaha seorang bapa.

**Dikala diri memujuk hati – ternyata Tuhan Maha Mengasihi, kerana di suatu sudut yang sepi, seakan masa terhenti, tersadai sebuah kereta hijau yang memanggil aku bangkit kembali.**



#### **Biodata of author(s)**

Mohd Nur Fitri Mohd Salim ialah seorang pensyarah kanan di Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Negeri Sembilan yang bergiat aktif dalam penulisan akademik dan kreatif. Sementara penulisan akademiknya banyak tertumpu dalam bidang teknologi pendidikan serta pengajaran dan pembelajaran bahasa, karya kreatifnya merangkumi puisi, cerpen, dan non-fiksi kreatif. Beliau mendapat inspirasi daripada pengalaman peribadinya, persekitarannya serta keinginannya untuk berhubung dengan pembaca. Beliau percaya bahawa penulisan kreatif adalah medium yang berupaya untuk mendidik, menyentuh jiwa, dan mencetuskan perubahan.



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