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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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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




TABLE OF CONTENTS

no.
page

- 01 EPITOME: THE POWER OF WORDS**
By Dr. Nur Syazwanie Mansor (Chief Editor 1)
- 02 KISAH HANTU TERLOCHE: PERATURAN DI RIMBA SEMAI**
By Sharina Saad, Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch
- 04 THE ALPHABET SOUP OF STEREOCHEMISTRY**
By Ibtisam Abdul Wahab, Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM Selangor Branch, Puncak Alam Campus
- 08 APLIKASI PENDEKATAN “MINI-BRICKS” DAN STEM DALAM MENARIK MINAT GENERASI MUDA KE ARAH BIDANG KEJURUTERAAN**
By Norizzati Ibrahim, College of Engineering, School of Civil Engineering, UiTM Campus Pasir Gudang, Johor
- 09 EVERYONE NEEDS A SUPERHERO**
By Razanawati Nordin¹, Marzlin Marzuki², Izza Syahida Abdul Karim, Academy of Language Studies, Faculty of Accountancy, College of Creative Arts, UiTM Kedah Branch
- 12 THE NEW IDEA OF COMMERCIAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF GULA APONG LANGKAU OUTLET**
By Siti Hamidah Abdul Hamid, Jabatan Bangunan, Kolej Pengajian Alam Bina UiTM Cawangan Sarawak, Kampus Samarahan 1
- 14 DOING AND SAYING SOMETHING THAT YOU DID NOT MEAN TO ...**
By Professor Dr Angeline Ranjethamoney Vijayarajoo, Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Negeri Sembilan Branch, Seremban Campus
- 15 A LITTLE BUDDY WHO IS THE LIFE TEACHER**
By Nur Asyrani Che Ismail, Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Shah Alam
- 16 GO BACK TO AFRICA!**
By Norliza Che Mustafa, Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Shah Alam
- 17 MEMOIR TERAKHIR**
By Mohamad Rahizam Abdul Rahim, Faculty of Sports Science & Recreation, UiTM Shah Alam
- 19 12 WONDERFUL YEARS OF #THEMISSANDKIDS**
By Wan Nurul Basirah Wan Mohamad Noor, Faculty of Accountancy, UiTM Kelantan Branch
- 21 友達 (FRIEND)**
By Adam Zafry Zaharin, Kolej Mara Kuala Nerang
- 23 PAK PANDEH**
By Afina Nazira Afnizul, Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Cawangan Selangor
- 25 THE DARK VOID**
By Arrominy Haji Arabi, Faculty of Business and Management, UiTM Sarawak Branch
- 27 CINDY**
By Dzeelfa Zainal Abidin, Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan
- 28 THE REVENGE CHIMERA**
By Fatihah Hashim, Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Shah Alam

THE DARK VOID

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A group of six friends entered an abandoned building to do some research about the building's past. The group was led by Simon, and the other members were Paul, Ali, Ahmad, Raju and Morgan. After a few hours of researching around the building, Ali realised that he could not get out of the building as he wanted to get more tools from their van. Paul and Raju started panicking when they knew that they could not exit from the building. The group leader, Simon, assured the panicked members to calm down and asked them to help one another in finding a way out. Simon suggested that they should go their separate ways in two groups, each group consisting of three members to enable them to quickly find their way out.

The first group was led by Simon with Paul and Ahmad and the second group was led by Ali with Raju and Morgan. After the division of groups, both leaders checked the building blueprints only to find that there was no other exit unless they reached the highest level of the building that would be the rooftop. Then, Ali got an idea and urged the other members to call the emergency services but too bad all their cell phones did not have any signals. Simon suggested that they find a long rope so that they could use the rope to climb down from the rooftop of the building which is four-storey high. Unfortunately, both groups failed to find a rope that is long enough for them to use. Suddenly, Raju informed everyone that while searching for a rope, he found a suspicious room locked from the outside. After minutes of discussion whether they should force open the suspicious room, they finally come to a decision to do it to check if there was anything that they could use in order to get out from the building. The room was situated on the second floor of the building. After breaking into the room, everyone barged inside and furiously searched for a rope. Whilst in the midst of searching for a rope, Simon noticed a weird looking wall covered with a wide yellow cloth. There were mysterious wordings written on the cloth. They looked at each other and out of the blue, Raju

and Morgan hit hard against the weird wall and accidentally ripped off half of the wide yellow clothing. They were shocked to find what was hidden behind the wide yellow cloth. There was a big dark black hole and suddenly their bodies were sucked into the dark void. As soon as they could control themselves in the void, they heard a whisper saying that they only have two hours to get out of there or something bad is going to happen. The six members gathered closely together, shivering, crying their hearts out. The voice was so scary and Simon shouted asking ways to get out from the void.

Slowly the void changed into a place that they had never seen before. The place looked like a large deserted island and they heard the whisper again for the second time telling them to start looking for their way out of the island. They quickly made their way along the island until they finally came to a stop where in front of them stood a door with two locks. But they could not find any keys to open the locks. They decided to search for the keys separately and meet again at the door in ten minutes regardless with or without the keys. While searching, they could hear a third whisper saying that a first wave had come and the island got covered with mist. Still with no keys, they gathered again near the door when suddenly Morgan spotted a shining reflection and they immediately rushed to the spot. Luckily, they had brought along their torchlights and some tools as their shields. Upon reaching the spot, they were overwhelmed to find out that the shining reflections were the two sets of keys that they had been searching for. The mist disappeared slowly and they heard a fourth whisper saying that a second wave had just begun and the land spot where they found the two sets of keys slowly sank deeper and deeper. Ali managed to grab the keys and they quickly ran back to the door to get out from the dark void. While struggling to unlock the door, they heard a fifth whisper telling them that a third wave was about to attack and out of the blue, they were surrounded by ugly creatures. They

ran as fast as they could from the creatures but Paul and Raju both fell and got caught by the creatures. The others could not stop to help because there were many more creatures chasing after them. They shouted for Paul and Raju but tragically they had already passed. The others could not do anything to help Paul and Raju except to run for their lives from the creatures. At last, they found the door again and Ali started to pick on the key locks. The creatures were gaining after them not very far away. And for the last time, another whisper said that the fourth wave was about to start and everything around them started to float upwards and thunder began to rumble. Storm and lightning flashed here and there and they held on tightly to one another so as not to be blown away. Ali tried hard to pick the second lock, then the door immediately opened and they finally escaped from the dark void and out of the building. They were just in time before the end of the two-hour. All that had happened remains a mystery.



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