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MARA

# *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,

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## 5 YEARS

### Syairah Fakhruddin

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For the past 5 years,  
I have met children who thirst for knowledge,  
Children with so much potential  
but they were deprived of education  
due to being underprivileged and marginalised.

For the past 5 years,  
I have met mothers, single mothers specifically  
Carrying their children, bare-handed, holding them tight,  
Bags filled with old clothes, and a diaper or two  
begging people to free them from their miserable life.

For the past 5 years,  
I have met fathers. Hardworking fathers,  
Their hands black, their skin wilted,  
Working day and night,  
to provide, to sustain, to give life to their families  
But it is never enough.

For the past 5 years,  
I have met the homeless, yes, the homeless  
No proper shelter, no clean food, no happy family  
Cast out by society due to their past  
As though humans are “angels” who never sin.

For the past 5 years,  
I have met the asylum-seekers, the refugees, the stateless,  
Those who fled their country due to war,  
A war that had torn their country apart,  
A war that killed their family, that damaged their dignity  
But due to hope, they turned into shields and armour  
With a dream that one day they'll return home  
Reunite with their loved ones.

For the past 5 years,  
I have met people, endless groups of people  
Whose voices are unheard of, whose lives are uncared for.  
Whose stories and characters were only fictionalised  
But changes rarely seen in the real world

And for the past 5 years...I have dreamt of a new world.  
Where the rich and poor come together,  
Where status is insignificant,  
Where voices are heard, treatments are equal, hopes are revived,  
...and dreams are met.

For the past 5 years, these are what I've seen, heard, and felt.  
LIFE



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