



The **Epitome** */i'pitəmi/*

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

Capturing Life Lessons and Moments

Volume 1
Issue 4

2024



Copyright Page

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eISSN 3009 – 0075

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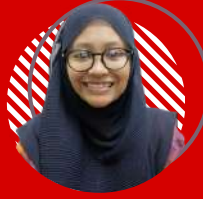


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Synopsis



The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Kedah is thrilled to announce the release of the fourth edition of its e-magazine, *The Epitome*. This publication represents our steady dedication to cultivating creativity in language and literature.

The primary objective of *THE EPITOME* is to offer a platform for writers, educators, scholars, poets, and researchers can come together to exchange their ideas, discoveries, expertise, and narratives. Our special focus revolves around an array of creative writing genres, encompassing playwriting, short stories, songs, speeches, memoirs, literary journalism, humour writing, lyric essays, innovative essays, and personal essays, with a goal to embrace diverse linguistic expressions, with content available in four languages: English, Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin, and Arabic.





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Preface

Mr. Azlan Abdul Rahman
Head of Faculty
Academy of Language Studies
UiTM Kedah Branch

Welcome to the fourth issue of *Epitome*, where creativity and imagination shine brightly. Within these pages, you will discover a rich tapestry of voices and visions—each piece a celebration of the limitless potential of words.

This issue of *Epitome* is more than a mere publication; it is a tribute to the art of storytelling in all its forms. Whether you are captivated by evocative poetry, enthralled by engaging short stories, or intrigued by insightful essays, we aim to present something that resonates with every reader.

We are passionate about the transformative power of literature, and we hope that this collection will inspire, challenge, and delight you. As you explore these pages, may you uncover new perspectives and experiences that enrich your own creative journey.

Thank you for embarking on this literary adventure with us.

Happy reading!





Editor InChief

Dear gentle readers,

Let me welcome you to our fourth edition of e-magazine, where we explore the beauty of life's journey. Our theme, "Capturing Life Lessons and Moments," encourages you to pause, reflect, and celebrate the wisdom that arises from everyday experiences.

Life is a mosaic of moments, each with the potential to teach us something profound, inspire change, or remind us of the surrounding beauty. Within these pages, we have unfolded stories, reflections, and insights that illuminate the lessons woven into the fabric of our lives. From the quiet wisdom found in fleeting moments to the power of life-changing events, this edition pays tribute to the learning that occurs beyond the classroom, in the heart of our daily lives.

Our contributors have poured their hearts into capturing these moments, sharing personal stories that resonate with authenticity and depth. You will find essays exploring the significance of small acts of kindness, articles reflecting on the lessons learned from adversity, and creative pieces celebrating the joy found in simple leisure. Each piece serves as a reminder that life's greatest lessons often emerge from the most unexpected places.

As you flip through this edition, we hope you find inspiration in the shared stories and perhaps discover a mirror to your own experiences. May these pages encourage you to appreciate the moments that shape you, learn from the challenges that test you, and embrace the wisdom that life offers at every step of your journey.

Thank you for joining us in exploring life's lessons and moments. We invite you to take your time, savour each piece, and maybe even gain a new perspective on the experiences that have shaped your own life.

Happy reading!

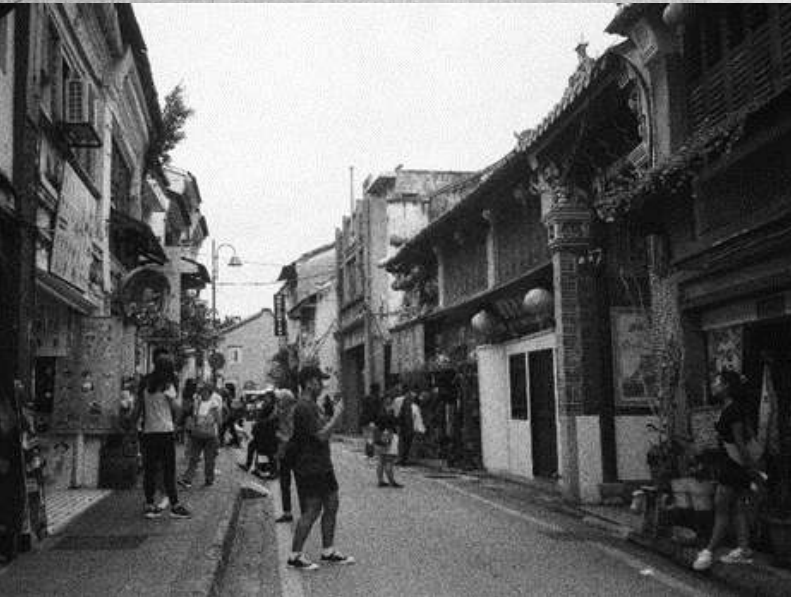
Warm regards,

Razanawati Nordin
Editor-in-Chief
THE EPITOME



Georgetown in Black and White

Wan Ainaa Atiqah Mohd Ismadi
College of Creative Arts, UiTM Selangor, Shah Alam



Shot in black and white with Ricoh S-30 autofocus point-and-shoot camera / 35mm film / 1989 Japan.

This year marked a significant milestone for me as I finally had the opportunity to fulfil one of my long-held aspirations: travelling alone. The idea came to me unexpectedly during an afternoon car ride with my husband. The precise origins of this desire remain a mystery, but my determination to turn it into reality was unwavering. Impatient and stubborn by nature, I knew that I had to seize this chance within the confines of the present year.

One fateful night, while I found myself fluttering between sleep and wakefulness, I mindlessly scrolled through my Instagram feed. It was during this late-night tryst with technology that an advertisement for the Georgetown Literary Festival (GTLF) 2023 caught my attention. To attend GTLF had always been an unfulfilled aspiration of mine, an opportunity that had previously eluded me. I recognised this moment as the perfect occasion to embark on my solo adventure, especially since I was on leave from my regular commitments. Without hesitation, I swiftly secured a hotel reservation and procured train tickets that very same night. A few days later, my journey commenced.

Though I ought to clarify that I had ventured on solo trips before, they had primarily been for work-related purposes. When it came to leisure travel, I habitually accompanied my family, husband, or a group of friends. Hence, this particular voyage possessed a distinct quality: it was an intentional choice, a decision that stemmed solely from my own desires. From the depths of my soul, I believed it to be one of the most profound resolutions I had ever made. Now, I am starting to grasp the indispensable nature of personal time.



Accompanying me throughout my expedition was a vintage 1989 Ricoh S-30 film camera, a cherished relic lent to me by a friend, equipped with black and white film. As I strolled along the path extending from my lodging to the event premises, I diligently captured anything that struck me as captivating or intriguing. Although I cannot claim expertise in the realm of photography, I discovered a curious transformation within myself triggered by the presence of the camera. Suddenly, my senses heightened, attuned to the nuances of my environment. I became more attuned to hidden corners and intricate particulars. My gaze discerned fresh perspectives on people, places, and spaces. No longer was I burdened by haste; instead, I luxuriated in the unhurried passage of time, savouring each step, relishing every culinary delight, and immersing myself in the written word. While travelling alongside my family and friends, my focus would invariably centre on their needs and experiences. Yet, in solitude, I directed my attention inwards and outwards simultaneously, absorbing the kaleidoscope of the external world before me.

Through this transformative experience, I became acutely aware of how privileged I am to enjoy such a venture. While some may dismiss it as a routine weekend getaway—a well-deserved respite for a mother and wife—I recognised its profound impact on personal growth. Stepping outside the confines of our familiar routines and habits can rekindle the flames of confidence and bravery, which we may have presumed to be lost forever. Through the lens of black and white, I discovered a vivacity concealed within the world, a vibrant spectrum of colours awaiting revelation.





The
Epitome
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eISSN 3009-0075



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