

Volume 1 Issue 4



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The views, opinions, and technical recommendations expressed by the contributors are entirely their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, the Faculty or the University.

eISSN 3009 - 0075

Published by:

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APB KEDAH: THE EPITOME

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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!



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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

月亮之上 Above the Moon

Loh Siaw San

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kampus Samarahan

每年有一个现象,那就是农历七月十五还未 过,商家已经迫不及待挂起灯笼,摆卖起八月十五 庆中秋的月饼。

中秋节,在我的非华裔学生口中,是"Pesta Kuih Bulan"或者"Pesta Tanglung"。前者翻译成中文变成了"月饼节",后者则是"灯笼节"。虽说灯笼节容易和元宵节混淆,但无阻学生提灯笼的兴致。其实中秋佳节,除了吃(月饼)和玩(灯笼),月亮才是主角呢!

中秋夜里的月亮圆又圆,是赏月欢聚的好时节。 在这月亮之上,还有许多传说和故事。许多人的童 年都听过妈妈或老师口中的嫦娥奔月。小时候的我 曾经纳闷这嫦娥到底是好人还是坏人。有人说她偷 吃长生不老药后飞升广寒宫,落了个"碧海青天夜夜 心"的下场。也有人说嫦娥是被蓬蒙所逼,才会吃下 后羿的不死药。如果说嫦娥是神仙姐姐,那我宁愿 相信第二个版本的凄美。 月亮之上,除了嫦娥,还住了只玉兔。普及版的玉兔是玉帝对嫦娥的惩罚,是嫦娥的化身。浪漫版的是后羿为了和嫦娥在一起,变成了玉兔守在她身边。如果你以为只有嫦娥的中秋传说,那显然低估了古人的想象力。于是,就出现了神话版本的传说。

三位神仙化身为三个可怜的老人,向狐狸、猴子及兔子乞食。狐狸及猴子都拿出了食物接济老人,只有兔子两手空空,不知如何是好。最后兔子决定牺牲自己,跃入烈火中。神仙们十分感动,于是将兔子送到了广寒宫成了玉兔。后来,玉兔就在广寒宫里和嫦娥相伴,并捣制长生不老药。

除了嫦娥和玉兔,月亮之上还有位一直在砍树的吴刚。据说广寒宫前的桂树随砍随合,日复一日,吴刚伐桂的成仙愿望仍未达成。从嫦娥奔月、玉兔捣药,到吴刚伐桂,一个中秋节,不同主角,多个版本,承载了古人对月亮的想象,也是人们对星空的美好祝愿。

如今,在月亮之上,你能看到什么呢?





