

## **The English Literary Society Club Report 2020-21**

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The English Literary Society is a club dedicated to celebrating English as a language, and as a medium that has led to the production of countless literary works. At ELS, members can engage in activities that help them further explore their love for literature. The club holds activities like book club discussions, poetry writing sessions, and other competitions that let the members showcase their creativity and their flair for writing. Apart from these, owing to the online nature of this year, the club adapted to an online platform to create more content than ever. The sole purpose was to engage the members, a little something to look forward to amidst the stillness.

The theme chosen by ELS for this year was, 'Tell your Stories' with the purpose of making the club an inclusive space for everyone who wanted to simply share a part of themselves through words. The year started with an exciting event, "In the Mood for Dark Academia!" that gave participants a chance to use the literary aesthetic of Dark Academia to create their versions of a DA Moodboard.

Our next event, a book club discussion, the core of our club's activities was organized in the memory of Oscar Wilde's highly acclaimed and adapted work, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. The event went on for half a month during which club members shared memes and favorite quotes surrounding the book. The event was concluded on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with an enlightening debate over the book and the author.

Moving away from the theme of dark academia, the club organized its very first Q/A Instagram live with a children's author and publisher, Miss Richa Jha. Head of the *Yolk Publishing House*, she shared her insight of the behind-the-scenes of publishing and writing a book in the contemporary genre. The one-hour long meet concluded on a light note of playing literary hot takes with Miss Jha. This marked as one of the major events in the club's standing last year.

With the world living vicariously through social media, the club hosted many other activities to continually renew the sense of community that was lost since March of last year. When society was hibernating, the art galloped and spilled. To capture the angst fuelled by the dearth of places to express, the club organized its very first fanfiction writing event in November. The members were given several popular series prompts like *Harry Potter*,

Hunger Games etc., among which they could pick one character and recreate a storyline/scene.

There was a moving away from the discussions on classical and British literature in our next poetry discussion event. The introduction of Richard Siken's "Litany in which certain things are crossed out" was received graciously by the members, most of whom were not acquainted with the writer before. It resonated with one of our club's objectives last year of being more inclusive in the kind of works we explore and share.

The spirit to share and express was growing stronger by the day with no visible end to the lockdowns and stillness. In light of this, the club organized its prime year-end flagship event, LitScape, under the cultural banner of Mizaaj. With the entire event divided into the elimination and the main round, the members had a gala time dressing up as their favorite characters and creating literary pieces based on them. We invited an Instagram writer and full-time economist, Miss Yashika Doshi to preside over the event.

Things started looking bright in the new year but with the colleges still closed, life dragging by through zoom lectures and missed deadlines, the club activities were a fresh respite to not only the members but also the organizers themselves. The world is still rooted in the March of last year but the words, they flow and live.