

English Literary Society. Annual Report 2023-24

Date - 6th. July' 2023

Time - 2.30 - 3.30 pm

Venue - Room 9

Charges - N/A

SIMON'S PRIDE

ELS x SSRI

The event was a vibrant collaboration between SSRI and ELS, where members from both clubs discussed the text, "Simon and The Homosapien Agenda." authored by Becky Albertalli The event

had an attendance of 12 members. The moderators were Secretaries Shubhaangi Trivedi (SSRI) and Eeshita Saxena (ELS). The forms, event attendance and photos were taken by them.

The coming-of-age story focuses on its titular protagonist Simon Spier, a closeted, gay, high school-aged boy who is forced to come out after a blackmailer discovers Simon's e-mails written to another closeted classmate with whom he has fallen in love.

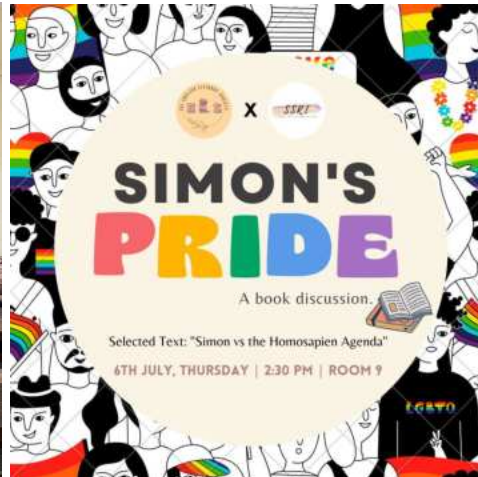
The discussion ranged from queerphobia to queerbaiting to gay bestie trope. The participants were opinionated and were sensitive as well as informed about the topic. An entire discussion was held on the sense or lack of it behind queer people 'coming out' and why is it considered important and does that not reinforce heteronormativity. The members went home with a smile on their faces. The topic also gave rise to personal testimonies of the participants and their experiences of being queer in India. The event created a safe space for such discussions to take place.

Feedback -

"ELS and SSRI always bring the wow factor to their events."

"Well this is my favourite book and I am so happy to see pride month being celebrated in college in some capacity. I love how Sophia is always a safe space for LGBTQIA+ discussions and how welcoming people are to them. I liked the way the moderators conducted the event. They were very composed and drove the discussion forward."

Photos -



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ON THE SAME PAGE

Date: 13th August, 2023
 Time: 4:00 pm
 Venue: Google Meet
 Charges: N/A
 ELS event

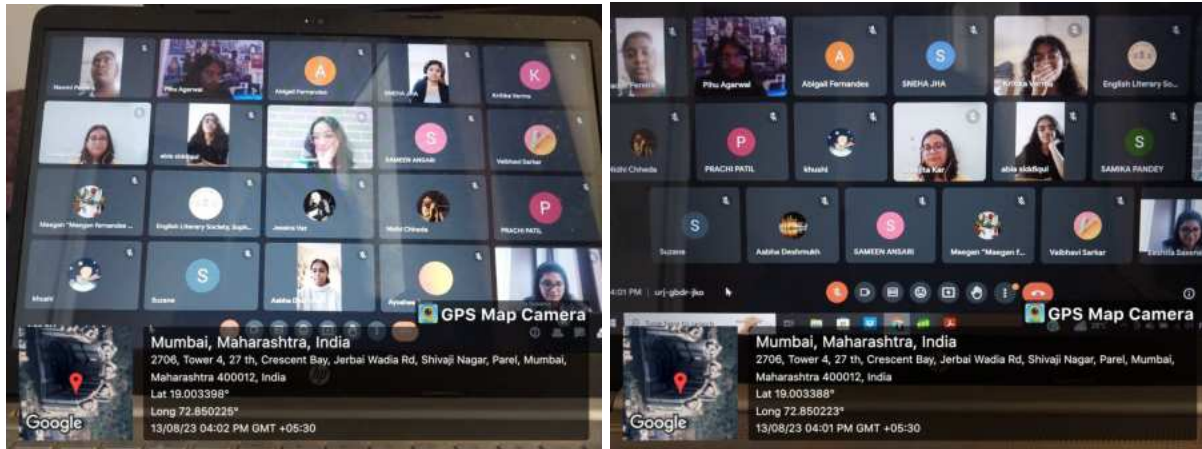
From Malala to Percy Jackson to They Both Die At The End, the members of ELS truly have a wonderful, and quite unique, variety of books that symbolize peace to them. 'On The Same Page' was an event held for peace fortnight and hosted by our Junior Executive, Sreejita Kar. Participants were asked to bring with them a book that brings a sense of serenity to them. This event was held through a google meet and was attended by 26 members. Everyone took turns in talking about their book and why it brought them peace in their own ways. Discussions picked up and flowed throughout the event. While wrapping up the event, participants exchanged their respective to-be-read lists, in keeping with the spirit of peace for the fortnight.

Students Feedback

Please host more such online ECC events for club members in the future if possible because from what I've noticed in comparison with an offline event is that some shy, introverted girls feel nervous to get up on a stage and talk but from the comfort of their own homes and behind the safety of their laptop screen everyone actually has the courage to talk... And I'm more than happy to listen. ~ Ayoshee Bose
 Sreejita is an incredible host, loads of love to her. The entire ELS team brought so much joy to

me today... This event was so entirely wholesome. I can't wait for future events!! Also, so, so, soooo glad this was online, and after class hours, so I could be there... It just made my day. Love you so much, team ELS. ~ Samika Pandey

Photographs of the Event



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MONOLOGUE CIRCLE

Date- 28 August, 2023
 Time- 2:30 pm
 Venue- AV Hall
 Charge- N/A

SCEDA x ELS

All spirits were kept alive and entertained throughout the beautiful event put together by the hardworking executives of ELS and SCEDA. With our very own ELS' Junior ex-Executive, Anoushka Mahanty and SCEDA's Junior Executive, Naitri Kale as the hosts of the event, brilliant characters were brought to life in front of us. The event worked to help people show their skills of acting, gain confidence and enunciate their love for characters. The audience was mesmerized with the depictions of the tragedy of being a woman, a hopeless romantic. Popular icons like Veeru from Sholay, Gangubai were quoted as the audience laughed in awe. As we saw enigmatic performances, recitations that tugged at our heartstrings and dialogues which would bring tears to our eyes From heartbreaking to hilarious the event encompassed it all. Raw but poetic dialogues moved the audiences through a whirlwind of emotions as we saw performances of exquisite range. From the deep and tragic truths of being a woman to the Shakespearean

classics, excellent words were spoken, deepest emotions were felt and the audience was rolled in goosebumps. The theatrical performance of Shakespeare left everyone slack jawed. The success of the event left all organizers beaming. Both the clubs successfully garnered huge appreciation of the event through their respective Instagram handles and showcased special scripts on the ELS blog. The event was attended by 40+ enthusiasts. At the end the club secretaries summed up the event as the audience left fueled with great energy and new characters to explore for the next time.

Student feedback - The event was attended by members of SCEDA as well as ELS and many non members. People enjoyed the mind blowing performances and fueled everyone with great enthusiasm, the incredible quality of performances. Overall the event was well received by the audience as well as the participants.

Event photos -



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PUBLISHING 101

Date - 13th. sept' 2023
Time - 4-6pm
Venue - Online
Charges - N/A

TIME: 2.30 pm onwards
VENUE: AV Hall
FEES: NA
IN HER SHOES...
ELS x RCSCW

‘In HER Shoes...’ was a collaboration event organized by the English Literary Society (ELS) and the Rotaract Club of Sophia College (RCSCW). To provide an experience filled with fun and learning, the two clubs aimed to craft a helpful workshop for all writing enthusiasts of the college. To provide a contemporary and fresh perspective on current matters of concern, the session aimed at providing an introductory session for guidance in crafting a strong and vibrant female protagonist. The workshop was led by a special and experienced guest - Ms. Riva Razdan. She is a published and renowned author based in Mumbai. She wrote "The Nani Diaries" which has been published by HarperCollins.

ELS executives Sneha Jha and Abia Siddiqui helped in the organization of the event. Sneha worked on social media and Abia moderated the event, keeping the crowd engaged and enthusiastic. The workshop received wide reception and enthusiasm from all streams and years, with over 40 participants.

The workshop was an exciting and interactive experience for the audience. The participants crafted their very own protagonist during the workshop itself! They established the basic components of her personality, including her strengths, weaknesses and characteristics. Before the audience started on their journey, they were provided an insight into well known such protagonists. Excerpts from two books- "Circe" by Madelyn Miller and "Rules of Civility" by Amor

Towes was provided to participants to understand the inner world of a female character. The audience then embarked on their journey with the various stepping stones and tips provided by the author. After that, they were encouraged to read out their masterpieces, which they did so with enthusiasm and even received helpful guidance and evaluation from the author.

To provide a memorable experience, two stalls were also set up at the venue. A DIY bookmark making and quilling stall and another featuring the work of Riva Razdan - ‘The Nani Diaries’.

Student Feedback

It was a really fun and amazing event! I enjoyed a lot. Looking forward to have more events like these.

It was very fun! Would like to see more writers called in to share their experiences.

Pictures from the event

Following are some of the pictures taken during the course of the event.



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HOLIDAYS WITH ELS

Date- 20 November, 2023

Time- 5 November- 15 November, 2023

Venue- ELS Blog

Charge- NA

English Literary Society

"Holidays with ELS" was a submissions based event conducted by the English Literary Society in the month of November. The theme of the event was "holidays, nostalgia and homecoming" owing to the fact that it was held during the semester end break when many students had gone back to their home. The idea behind the event was to tap into the holiday spirits and let the members of the club explore their creativity. The members were given ten days to send in their entries in the form of poetry, short stories or an essay based on the theme. This event was one of many activities undertaken by ELS in the holidays to keep the society interactive and active. The team for the event included Senior Executives Abha Deshmukh, Abia Siddiqui and Sneha Jha. Prior to the event, a WhatsApp PR message was sent to the members group with all the

kickstarted the screening with a lively introduction. Following the introduction, the excited viewers settled in for the screening of selected scenes from the 1982 sci-fi film 'E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial'. The aim was for a thrilling movie viewing for the audience to enjoy an evening of riveting narratives and fascinating film moments, while highlighting the science fiction narratives. The event was successful in being an immersive and stirring experience to spark up their interest in the genre of science-fiction. With the viewing of a classic that many viewers remembered fondly, the screening opened up a discussion of the captivating hold the genre has had on media, both literary and film. Intensely animated and charmingly delightful, the discussion gave everyone space to reflect on the structures of science fiction and how they work. A comprehensive and fun powerpoint presentation won the participants hearts with its guide and prompts of some of the popular tropes that science fiction utilises. The discussion of Jurassic Park being a hit with the audience. It outlined the tropes and pointed out classic examples and usage in media and with the audience chiming in with their own examples, it was an enthralling discussion. Highly enjoyable and vigored, the event saw the audience of 25 greatly appreciate the event. They left with a long list of recommendations they were eager to check out and a refreshing talk that left them wondrous. On social media, the instagram reel suggesting the club's favourite sci-fi movies, series and books was also rated highly.

Student Feedback -

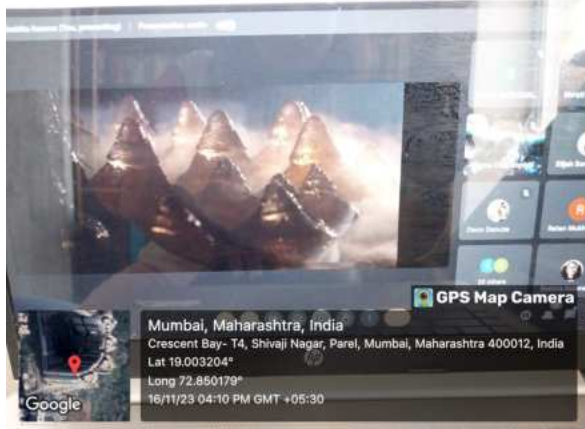
“It was really great! The interactive prompts were fun and thoughtful, it reignited my memories of childhood wonder around aliens, mermaids and fairies :)”

“I loved how everyone was so active in the discussion and I got to add a lot of movies and series on my watchlist.”

“Got to learn about many new things and loved hearing opinions of other people regarding time travel, aliens and stuff”

“omg I absolutely loved all the recs, especially sense8! haven't heard many people talk about it as often”

Event photos -



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Literature of State

Date: 11th December, 2023
Time: 2:30 pm
Venue: Room 9
Charges: N/A

English literary society

An overview of the author and the setting in which "The Handmaid's Tale" was written opened the event. Participants were then given the opportunity to express their early opinions and feelings regarding the book.

'Literature of State' was an event held in collaboration between the International Relations Club and the English Literary Society. The topic of discussion was the book 'handmaid's tale'.

Students gathered around in room 10 and had an avid discussion on topics ranging from the characters to the dystopian world and hidden meanings behind the eloquently written text.



Photos -



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GIFT A TALE

Date - 8 January, 2024
 Time - 2:30 pm onwards
 Venue - Room 11
 Charges - N/A

English Literary Society

Inspired by the Christmas season of gift giving, and the spirit of secret Santa, ELS organized it's very own 'Gift a Tale', an on-the-spot rendition of the same! The event sought to bring all the book lovers together by inculcating the idea of secret santa. Participants were asked to bring any book they held close to their hearts, and wrap it up for an element of surprise. All the members wrote down their names on pieces of paper and gifted the book to the people they picked up from the chits. There were a total of 9 participants. All of them were very excited to see what chance and fate do to bring them closer to the new books they will get to read. Some participants found their fellow book lovers and received the books they had in their wishlists, whereas other embarked on a journey to discover new and unexpected genres.

It was a fun and memorable experience. The event was handled and hosted by Senior Executive Abia Siddiqui and Junior Executive Nakiyah Jawadwala. The photos and videos were taken by Senior Executive Jessica Vaz. The participants were eager to share their previous

experiences and love for their favorite genres and other funny anecdotes and were excited to find out about the books they had received and read about them!

Participants feedback

Everyone was so friendly, I enjoyed it a lot!
It was a fun event, where I got a nice book.

Pictures from the event



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A MOSAIC FOR LITERATURE

Date/Time- 29 January 2024 to 5th February 2024

Venue- Online

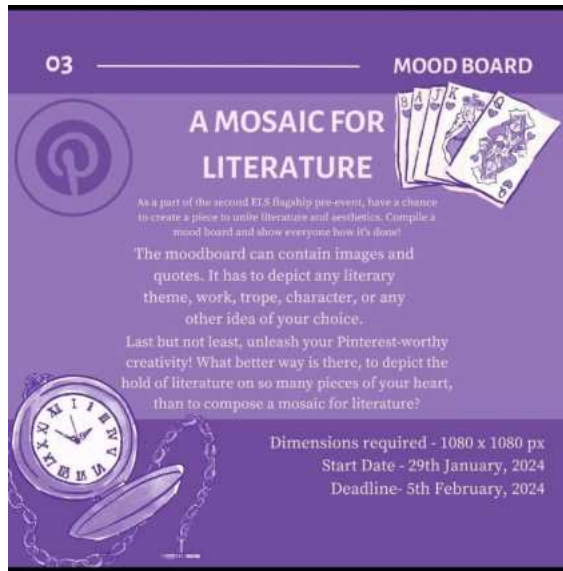
Charge- NA

English Literary Society

One of the multitude of pre-events leading to ELS’ flagship event, A Mosaic for Literature was

an event where members made moodboards showing some of their most liked literary themes, quotes and images. Students used their creative flair to join literature and their aesthetics. This event aimed to make people discover their ingenuity through creating unique mood boards. It also succeeded in making people more interested in the upcoming open mic and creating more engagement. Some of the most artistic entries included the moodboards showcasing murder mystery, call me by your name, Sherlock Holmes, illumination and The Silent Patient. The team for the event included Senior Executive Abia Siddiqui and Junior Executive Pihu Agarwal. A whatsapp message inviting participants was forwarded to all students in the college and received great response. Attractive stories also helped create more participation. The best 5 mood boards were featured in a reel made by the ELS Team.

Picture -



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BOOK FAIR

Date: 9th February, 2024
 Time: 9 am - 3:30 pm
 Venue: Canteen Extension
 Charges: N/A

As a part of the ELS Flagship, ELS's first Book Fair was organized on the 9th of February. It was organized with the aim of providing the students and the staff of the college with an opportunity to browse and buy their favorite books, at a reasonable cost. However, the all round fair, also

included other stalls as well, catering to the various fancies and desires of the customers. The ELS Team had invited various stalls to the Fair, to display and sell their products. The book-selling stalls include - the Sister Library, Seagull Books, Penguin Random House, the Purple Pencil Project and Nyogi Books. Other stalls invited were, Accessoriesbysakina (handmade jewellery, accessories and tote bags), Browniesbae (baked goods) and the Sister Library opportunity shop (thrifted fashion items). Apart from these, a sponsor stall was also set up, on the behalf of Shweta Paints and Ruchira Gupta. The various stalls garnered a lot of attention and appreciation from the customers, who were only too happy to browse through a wide variety of products and purchase them as well.

ELS Members and volunteers were present on the scene throughout, to assist at the stalls and provide the customers a fun and memorable experience.

Student Feedback

Absolutely loved it! Bought so many books today.

Huge variety of stalls, had fun browsing and buying.

Lovely books were there! Had a lot of fun.

Pictures from the event



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I KICK AND I FLY

Date - 13th. Feb' 2024
 Time - 4 - 5 PM
 Venue - Online
 Charges - N/A

ELS X SSRI

The event was an one hour-long event held online on Google Meet. Over 70+ people attended the event. Secretary Eeshita Saxena (ELS) and Secretary Shubhangi Mishra (SSRI) were

FLAGSHIP - OPEN MIC “WONDERLAND”

Date - 12th February, 2024

Time - 2 PM onwards

Venue - A. V. Hall

Charges - N/A

The ELS Flagship ‘Open Mic’ was inspired by the theme of ‘Wonderland’ and was held on 12th February 2024. With a total of 23 participants, it was a fun and inspiring event, as the talented and creative participants came forth with touching, heartfelt pieces, that spoke to the audiences’ very souls.

The Open Mic was organized with full pomp and show, with many pre-events, including the ELS Book Fair, Through the Looking Glass and a Mosaic for Literature. The participants were given a time limit of 2.5 minutes, exceeding which will result in negative marking. They were marked based on Language, Expression, Performance, Clarity of thought, and Engagement. The languages permitted were Hindi and/or English. The winners were, in first place - Anoushka Mahantay, the Second - Fia Thottan, and the third - Aditi Gupta. All of them received goodie bags from the sponsors.

The Open Mic was sponsored by Shweta Paints - an art entrepreneur, Bokeh Art Co., Mystique Madness and Ruchira Gupta, an Emmy award-winning documentarian. To ensure a smooth and impartial judging process, two well-known personalities in the field were invited. One of them was Prakruti Minar, the founder of Purple Pencil Project and the other was Sahil Kumar, a spoken word artist and writer. More than willing to answer all the queries of the audience, they also took time apart to share their experience and wisdom with the audience.

The entire ELS team was actively involved in the organization of the event. It was hosted by Junior Executives Nakiyah Jawadwala and Sreejita Kar. Instagram Posts highlighting the Sponsors and Judges as well as multiple reels to generate excitement for the event were shared. The event was a fun and memorable memory, with a celebration of poetry and spoken word.

Student Feedback

Absolutely loved it! Would definitely love to participate again in the future.

Had such a fun time. Ngl, was really scared to go on the stage. But it turned out great!

Great work by the team. Lovely judges.

Pictures from the Event

ELS Podcast - Beyond The Bookshelf

Date- Year long

Venue- ELS Podcast (Spotify)

Charge- NA

Podcast of ELS or English Literary society of Sophia College (Autonomous), Mumbai. A perfect confluence of literature, love and, laughter and cater to all bibliophiles and non-bibliophiles of the college. Each episode explored fascinating topics, captivating stories, and insights from friends and experts. So whether one's an avid reader or a curious newcomer they enjoyed the magic of ELS podcast. Met with 4 authors and poets - Ruchira Gupta, Mehak Goyal, Aparna Verma, and Annika Sharma.

Names of episodes -

The one where they took a walk down memory lane
The one where they go from script to screen
The one where they fail to make round rotis
The one where they fangirl over diasporic queens
The one where they reconnect
The one where they kick and fly
The one about the desi spark and chai
The one where they discuss all things queer

Photos -

