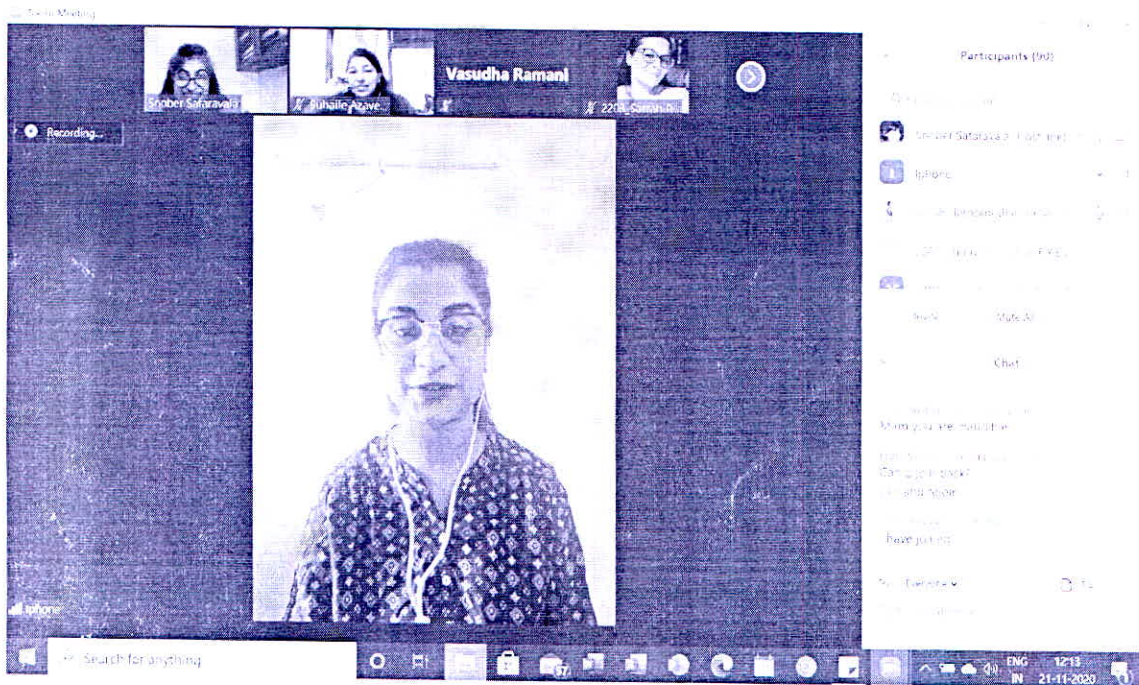


St. Mira's College for Girls, Pune
(Autonomous-Affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University)
Subject: FYBA Compulsory English A12001
Living Literature
SEMESTER: I (A12001)
Year 2020-21

1. Unit No.: 4
2. Employability/Entrepreneurship/Skill development – Article writing for the Press, Biographies, Film Reviews- Employability- Journalism
3. Activity: Guest Lecture by Sushmita Jha- alumni with Pune Times
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Magazine cover by Jaya Tripathi
Student Editors: Arman Chagla and
Ummesalema Karu



S. J. Sasaravala



Jh
Principal Incharge
St. Mira's College for Girls

Editorial

Though nothing can bring back the hour
Of splendour in the grass, of glory in the flower,
We still give next; rather find
Strength in what remains behind;
In the painful sympathy
Which having been must ever be.

William Wordsworth



Where might one even begin to sum up the absolute rollercoaster this last year has been for all of us? The COVID-19 pandemic changed the entire social landscape of the world we once knew while the home condition was entirely redefined these last few months, punctuated by our shared experiences. In the face of such universal despair, it was that absolute humanness that redeemed us; that need to find beauty and to offer kindness saved us from what is retrospectively like mental oblivion. The theme of this year's magazine was a natural choice. To showcase Human Perseverance was to acknowledge and pay homage to those in our corners, and others around the world who made this time of upheaval all that more bearable.

One of the largest changes was that of the nation-wide lockdown, followed by the construction of classes online. Acclimating to online college came with its own ups and downs; we found ourselves home-bound with face-to-face were barred behind plextel screens. The teachers we had the pleasure of once interacting with found themselves beyond the campus. The tribulations we found ourselves faced with were no doubt hard to overcome, but with the trust we had in our institution to back us up, we started the year early and with renewed fervency to create student participation spaces and an outpouring of true empathetic connections. Various clubs rose to the occasion with presentations, a short film collective, virtual writing sessions, as well as an intra-college festival, to mention a few. The Mira Press came about, with students sending in work every month on a variety of subjects. From Zoom classes to the morning to Livestream sessions in the afternoon, our days were packed to the max.

And we did not let many times we wanted to run away. We felt exhausted, yet at the same time, ambitious. The expectations got to us. The need to be constantly doing something was so strong, that taking a break felt like sinning. And when it all became too much, we confessed - in fact, we took care of ourselves. We stopped succumbing to the pressure and rose, just like the mighty phoenix. We refused to admit defeat to a monstrous reality we persevered.

To sum it up, we might confidently say to a year that felt never-ending, we claimed you. We stood up to every moment of loss by hoping. Believing and creating the reality we wished to find ourselves in this academic year. We fabricated a new social order of our very own out of the four walls of our homes, but the best part, this year, we must learn now move beyond the classroom. The winds of time blow to the east, and you are the compass. As Mikhail Bulgakov says, for some a prologue, for some an epilogue, for some a prelude to the future, all that we might extend to you is a warm wish and a little encouragement. We wish you the best. Standing on the precipice of the rest of your lives, we bar mashaan fatesh.

Student Editorial Committee

Arman Chagla and Ummeedha Karu

Article 1

Green Club

Titiksha Padir
FYBA

I love nature. Trees, hills, watching the sun rise is among my favourite pastimes. So, when Konaal ma'am announced about the Green Trek in the sanctuary, it seemed like a brilliant way to spend my Sunday morning. It was an initiative of the Green Club. A trek to Parvati along with making the hill a little more beautiful by cleaning was the perfect combination.

I signed up for it immediately, and so did many other girls. Three teachers, and we girls, met at the base of Parvati at 7 am on the decided day. Everyone was very excited. The college had collaborated with Arar Peonawala and they provided us with gloves and masks. It was sad to see how much plastic people had left there but we all started cleaning with great enthusiasm. Some of us cleaned and the others collected it. The teachers also worked with us, which was very encouraging. We started at the base and went up. By the time we reached the hilltop, we had collected many bags. The process of cleaning was fun! We clicked pictures, jumped over branches, joked, laughed. I didn't know cleaning could be so enjoyable. The teachers were also very friendly and relaxed. It was very rewarding to see the hill cleaner as we walked back down. The Arar Peonawala truck collected the bags from us and took them away for disposal.

I went for this Green Trek in my second year, and even though it was over a year ago, I still remember what a great time I had! It was a nice and fun way of contributing my part in preserving and caring for nature.

Gender Champions

Vasudha Ramani
FYBA

I'm not really sure if every college gives their students the chance to be a part of so many co-curricular activities and clubs as well as promotes social participation among the students, in order to make the inactive members of the society, apart from academic knowledge. Now that I am a part of this club, where it's all about trying to bring equality in the society for not just the women, but also for all other suppressed communities including LGBTQA+. I thank the college for giving me so much exposure in such a short span of time and letting students experience different layers of society and how it works. Ever since I have been a part of this club, I am confounded by the newsides I come up with. It gives me the confidence to raise my voice against the wrong and try to spread awareness among people. The different people who come in for the quest lectures, the knowledge that I gain from them is something that blows my mind and I feel delighted to be a part of this and the teachers encourage the students a lot. This is something that I came across for the first time and I find this initiative of our college quite different from that of other colleges.

The college is already preparing its students by giving them opportunities on various platforms where they are heard and the efforts are appreciated.

All in all, being a part of this club has encouraged me to push my boundaries of thought and also given me the confidence to write and express that which I probably wouldn't have done before. It makes me explore myself and society at the same time.

Now, I have written quite a few articles for this club and this gives me the eagerness to write more about many other themes apart from what I am a part of.

In the club, we organize different activities every month and this way we also get to interact with all the students from our college. It includes not just the FYs but we are able to listen to the views of the students studying in our MA too.

I will always be grateful for this platform and the club and especially the college because it gave me the inspiration to become the prolific explorer in whatever I do as I met such talented seniors and my classmates. It's wonderful to be here.



J. J. Sataravale
Dr. Snobey Sataravala

Principal Incharge
St. Mira's College for Girls