

# Virtual Students' Seminar on 'Global Perspectives on English Literature'

Jointly organized by

Department of English, Durgapur Govt. College


And

Department of English, Bankura Christian College

On 2 May, 2024

(As part of MoU Activity)

## Invitation Letter of Principal, Durgapur Govt. College and Consent of Principal, Bankura Christian College



**DURGAPUR GOVERNMENT COLLEGE**  
(Accredited by NAAC with "A" Grade in 2017)  
J. N. Avenue, Durgapur, District-Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal, Pin-713214  
Website: <https://www.durgapurgovtcollege.ac.in/> E-mail: [dgpgovtcollege@gmail.com](mailto:dgpgovtcollege@gmail.com)

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**Dated: 13-04-2024**

To  
The Principal  
Bankura Christian College  
Bankura


Subject: Seeking Consent for Virtual Students' Seminar on 'Global Perspectives on English Literature on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2024, to be jointly organized by Departments of English of Durgapur Govt. College and Bankura Christian College

Sir

This is to bring to your attention that the Department of English of Durgapur Government College would like to organize a virtual Students' Seminar in collaboration with the Department of English, Bankura Christian College on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2024. Since we already share a Memorandum of Understanding with Bankura Christian College, for conducting joint academic programs and exchange of shared research interest and expertise, the Students' Seminar would provide the students of both the institutions an opportunity to team up, interact and partake in a meaningful exchange of academic ideas.

Soliciting your cooperation and looking forward to your consent in this regard at the earliest.


Thanking you



Dr. Debnath Palit  
Principal  
Durgapur Government College

**Principal**  
**Durgapur Govt. College**

7/12/24, 2:43 PM BANKURA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE Mail - Seeking Consent for Virtual Students' Seminar on 'Global Perspectives on English Lit...



BANKURA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE <principal@bankurachristiancollege.in>

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**Seeking Consent for Virtual Students' Seminar on 'Global Perspectives on English Literature on 2nd May, 2024, to be jointly organized by Departments of English of Durgapur Govt. College and Bankura Christian College**

2 messages

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**Durgapur Government College** <dgpgovtcollege@gmail.com>  
To: principal@bankurachristiancollege.in

16 April 2024 at 12:35

Dear Sir  
Please see the attachment in connection with the aforementioned subject.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Thanks and Regards**  
**Dr. Debnath Palit**  
Principal, W.B.S.E.S.  
Durgapur Government College  
Mobile No.: +91-9832-175-737

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 **Seminar.pdf**  
363K

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**BANKURA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE** <principal@bankurachristiancollege.in>  
To: Durgapur Government College <dgpgovtcollege@gmail.com>  
Cc: hodenglish@bankurachristiancollege.in

19 April 2024 at 15:36

Sir,

I hereby give my consent for the Virtual Seminar. I have already asked the Head, Department of English of Bankura Christian College to proceed further with the matter.

Thanking you,

Faithfully yours,

Fatik Baran Mandal  
Principal  
Bankura Christian College

[Quoted text hidden]

**ATTESTED**



**Principal**  
**Bankura Christian College**

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## Brochure of the Seminar



### STUDENTS' SEMINAR

ON

## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

(Virtual Mode)  
2nd May, 2024  
10 A.M. onwards

Jointly organized by  
Department of English, Durgapur  
Government College & Department of  
English, Bankura Christian College

*In Collaboration with*  
IQAC, Durgapur Government College &  
IQAC, Bankura Christian College

Kindly register for the seminar before 30th April, 2024

#### Patrons

Dr Debnath Palit Principal(WBSES) Durgapur Government College	Dr Fatik Baran Mandal Principal Bankura Christian College
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#### Convenors

Dr Somrita Dey (Mondal)	Dr Ayan Mondal
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#### Organizing Committee

Dr Anindita Chatterjee	Dr Narugopal Mukherjee
Dr Antara Mukherjee	Dr Shibajyoti Karmakar
Dr Nilanjana Chatterjee (Das)	Mr Sovan Bandyopadhyay
Smt. Sunrita Chakravarti	
Smt. Samprikta Pal	



#### Concept Note

The corpus of English literature is vast and ever burgeoning. It does not confine itself to the precincts of the English territory but takes into its ambit literatures written in the English language irrespective of the place of its production. The major reason behind the humongous magnitude of the oeuvre is the spread of the English language with the development of the British Empire between the late 16th and early 18th centuries. The colonial rule, the cross-cultural exchange, the anti-colonial and postcolonial resistance and also the growing impact of the language and literature in the settler colonies have resulted in a bulky body of literature which is truly "global" in all respects of the term. Moreover, English literature has become a site of multiple critical enquires from diverse revisionist perspectives provided by the critical theories, making researches truly interdisciplinary in nature. Keeping this in mind, the present seminar invites articles covering all possible critical insights into English literature. The papers might cover but not restrict themselves to the following subthemes:

- British Literature
- Indian Writing in English
- European Literatures in English
- American Literature
- African-American Literature
- Caribbean Literature
- Australian Literature
- Canadian Literature
- Postcolonial Literatures
- Diasporic Literatures in English
- Literature in English Translation

#### Abstract Submission Guidelines

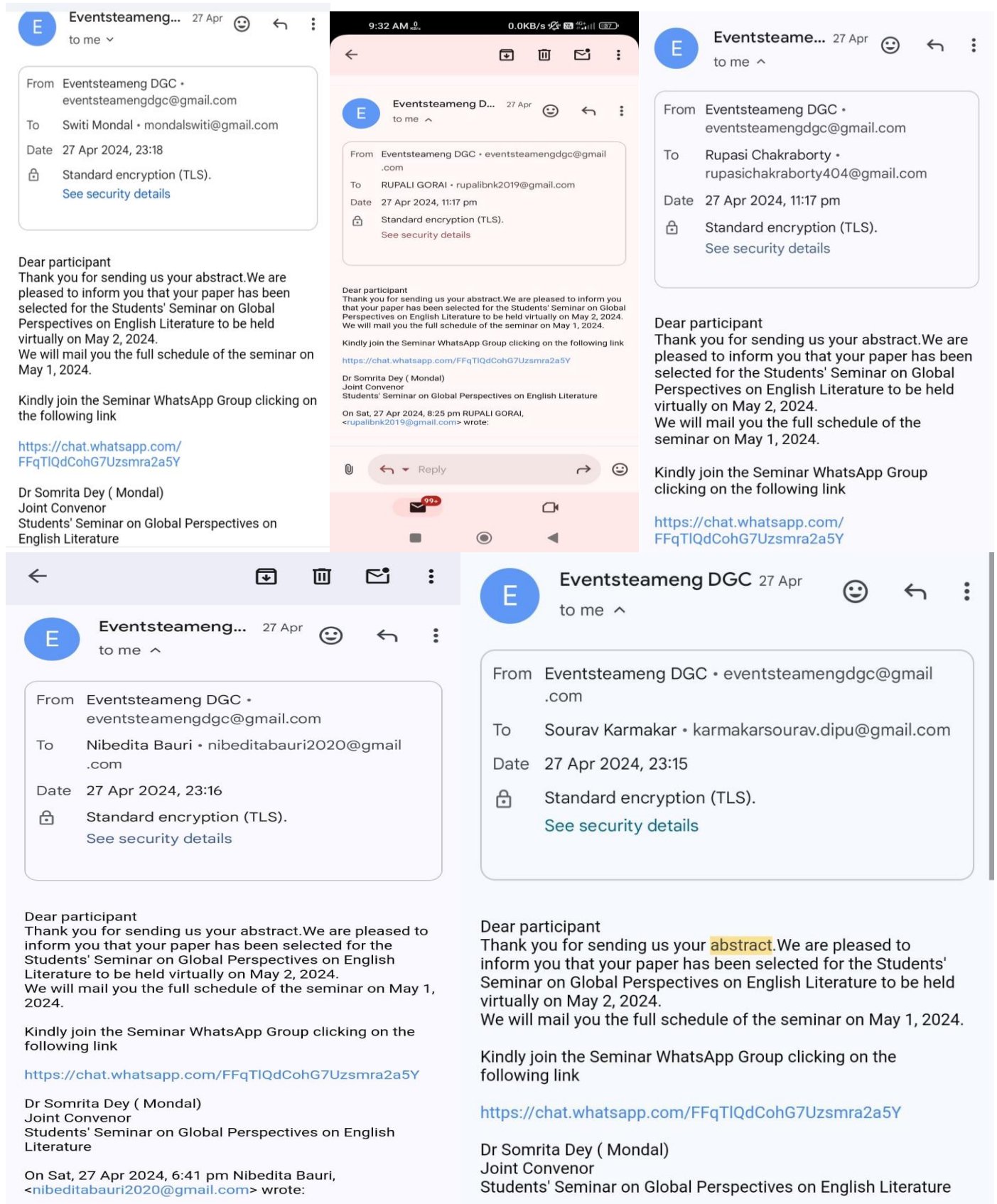
- Abstract of about 200 words may be emailed to [eventsteamengdgc@gmail.com](mailto:eventsteamengdgc@gmail.com) in MS Word format, Times New Roman Font (Font Size 12, double spaced) by 27.04.2024.
- Abstract must contain a suitable title, name, semester, course and institutional affiliation of the presenting author/s.
- Please write 'Students' Seminar: Global Perspectives in English Literature' as the subject of your mail.

ATTESTED



Principal  
Bankura Christian College

### Acceptance of abstracts (samples)



ATTESTED

*[Signature]*

Principal

Bankura Christian College

### Detailed schedule of the seminar and Abstract Booklet



# STUDENTS' SEMINAR

On

## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON ENGLISH LITERATURE

(Virtual mode)

**Joining Link:** <https://meet.google.com/pdr-ikdf-euz>

2 May, 2024

10 A.M onwards

*Jointly organized by*

Department of English, Durgapur Government College

& Department of English, Bankura Christian College

*In Collaboration with*

IQAC, Durgapur Government College

&

IQAC Bankura Christian College

### Patrons

Dr Debnath Palit  
Principal(WBSES)  
Durgapur Government College

Dr Fatik Baran Mandal  
Principal  
Bankura Christian College

### Convenors

Dr Somrita Dey (Mondal)

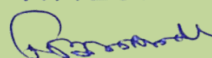
Dr Ayan Mondal

### Organizing Committee

Dr Anindita Chatterjee  
Dr Antara Mukherjee  
Dr Nilanjana Chatterjee (Das)  
Smt. Sunrita Chakravarti  
Smt. Samprikta Pal

Dr Narugopal Mukherjee  
Dr Shibajyoti Karmakar  
Mr Sovan Bandyopadhyay

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Principal  
Bankura Christian College

## Schedule

Joining Link: <https://meet.google.com/pdr-ikdf-euz>

### Inaugural Session

#### **Inauguration (10a.m – 10.30a.m)**

- ❖ Welcome Address by Dr Anindita Chatterjee, Head, Department of English, Durgapur Govt.College
- ❖ Welcome address by Dr Shibajyoti Karmakar, Head, Department of English, Bankura Christian College
- ❖ Inaugural address by Dr Debnath Palit , Principal (WBSES), Durgapur Government College
- ❖ Inaugural address by Dr Fatik Baran Mandal, Principal, Bankura Christian College
- ❖ Address by Coordinator, IQAC, Durgapur Government College, Shri Subrata Ghosh
- ❖ Address by Coordinator, IQAC, Bankura Christian College, Dr Atanu Ghosh
- ❖ Address by Secretary, Teachers' Council, Durgapur Government College, Dr Subhojit Ojha
- ❖ Address by Secretary Teachers' Council, Bankura Christian College, Dr Rajkumar Maity
- ❖ Convenor's Address

### Academic Session

#### **Session 1: (Chair-Dr Narugopal Mukherjee, Time- 10.30 AM-11.20AM)**

##### **1. Holly Jackson – The Evolved Agatha Christie Of Our Generation**

Anushka Ghosal and Soumyashree Mondal, Semester: VI, English Hons., Durgapur Government College

##### **2.Exploring the Curse of Baskerville : Superstition, rationality and suspense in Doyle's Classic**

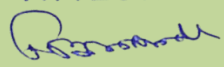
Riya Dubey, Semester: VI, English Hons., Durgapur Government College

##### **3. Unveiling the Unreliable: An Analysis of Narrative Unreliability in Agatha Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd***

Suman Patra, Semester: VI, English Hons., Bankura Christian College

##### **4. Re-examining Women in the Byomkesh Bakshi Detective Universe: A Feminist Lens**

Sourav Karmakar, Semester: VI, English Hons., Bankura Christian College

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**Session 2: (Chair: Dr Anindita Chatterjee, Time-11.20AM-12.10PM)**

**1. Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*: A Postcolonial Discourse**

Bhaswati Debnath, Semester: VI, English Hons., Durgapur Government College

**2. A Far Cry from Nature: Environmental Colonialism**

Rupali Gorai, Semester: VI, English Hons., Bankura Christian College

**4. Exploring Universality: The Global Relevance of *The God of Small Things***

Rupasi Chakraborty, Semester: VI, English Hons., Bankura Christian College

**4. Construction of Space and Identity in Indian Diasporic Writing: A Comparative Study of the Works of Amitav Ghosh and Jhumpa Lahiri.**

Tanmoy Sannigrahi, Semester: VI, English Hons., Bankura Christian College

**Session 3: (Chair: Dr Shibajyoti Karmakar, Time-12.10PM-12.50PM)**

**1. Blissful Ignorance**

Alolika Chattopadhyay, Semester: VI, English UG, Bankura Christian College

**2. Politics in *Iliad***

Jisha Choudhury, Semester VI, English Hons., Bankura Christian College

**3. The Symbolism Of Country Houses in *Pride and Prejudice***

Rikita Mitra and Moumita Das, Semester: IV, English Hons., Durgapur Government College

**Session 4: (Chair: Dr Nilanjana Chatterjee (Das), Time- 12.50PM-1.40PM)**

**1. Trauma, Resilience, and Growth: A Psychoanalytic Reading of Harry Potter's Journey**

Nibedita Bauri, Semester: VI, English Hons., Bankura Christian College

**2. Alice's Quest for Identity**

Shamayita Bandyopadhyay, Semester: VI, English Hons., Bankura Christian College

**3. The Magic Of Folklores And The Realism Of Modern Times: A Look At The Peculiar Narration In The Quintessential Marquezian Universe Of *One Hundred Years Of Solitude***

Switi Mondal, Semester: VI, English Hons., Bankura Christian College

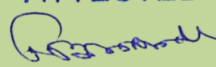
**4. The Magic Of Love And Friendship In Potter Universe**

Utsa Chatterjee and Sayan Mukherjee, Semester: VI, English Hons., Durgapur Government College

**Session 5: (Chair-Smt. Sunrita Chakravarti, Time-1.40PM-2.30PM)**

**1. Resisting economic hegemony of colonial encounter: A re-reading of Sarojini Naidu's 'In the Bazaars of Hyderabad'**

Prerana Chatterjee, Semester: II, English Hons., Durgapur Government College

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**2. Reading Natural Environment and Human Nature in Tagore's Short Stories**

Shilpi Sengupta, Semester: II, English UG, Durgapur Government College

**3. Post-Modern Broken Heaps Vis-à-vis Postwar Renovation: Reading Philip Larkin's Select Poems**

Rachana Samadder, Semester: IV, English Hons., Durgapur Government College

**4. Reprisal owing to infidelity: Psychoanalysis of the speaker of Browning's The Laboratory.**

Priyadisha Chakraborty, Semester: II, English Hons, Durgapur Government College

**Session 6: (Chair- Smt. Samprikta Pal, Time-2.30PM-3.10PM)**

**1. The 1950s Feminist Icon: Sylvia Plath**

Susmita Dey, Semester: IV, English PG, Bankura Christian College

**2. A (Trans) Family of her Own: Reading A. Revathi's *Truth About Me: A Hijra Life Story***

Kanchan Kumar Das, Semester: VI, English Hons., Durgapur Government College


**3. Contemporary approaches to "Knight in Shining Armour adventure stories" by Stephanie Garber in her book *Caraval***

Arunima Das, Semester: VI, English Hons., Durgapur Government College

**Valedictory Session (Time-3.10PM-3.30PM)**

❖ Feedback from the audience

❖ **Vote of Thanks** by Dr Somrita Dey (Mondal)

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 Principal  
 Bankura Christian College

## **ABSTRACTS**

### **Blissful Ignorance**

Alolika Chattopadhyay  
Semester: VI  
English UG  
Bankura Christian College


Catherine Mansfield's novel deals with the main theme of "Bliss," exploring how individuals seek happiness amidst the mundane pursuit of goals. In the story, Bertha Young, the protagonist, embodies youthful ignorance as she approaches life with cheerful abandon, dancing, singing, and laughing with joy "at-nothing-at-nothing, simply". Despite her youthful exuberance, she faces challenges in her role as a mother, unable to freely interact with her baby without feeling judged by the nurse.

Bertha's acceptance of societal norms, such as her restricted access to her own child, reflects a poignant ignorance of her own rights and the depth of her maternal bond. Even though she is the child's mother, her husband and others question her ability to care for her own child, undermining the natural connection between mother and baby. So once she remarked that she came to the nursery "at another wrong moment". In her marriage, Bertha is depicted as an open-minded wife, enjoying social gatherings and forming new friendships, including one with Miss Fulton, whom she develops feelings for. She accepted that she loved someone "who had something strange about them". However, upon discovering her husband's affection for Miss Fulton, Bertha's blissful ignorance is shattered, and she experiences feelings of betrayal.

Despite the harsh realities of her life, Bertha attempts to maintain a façade of happiness, reminiscent of those who face insurmountable troubles but choose to ignore them, pretending that everything is fine. The closing line, "But the pear tree was as lovely as ever and as full of flowers and as still," encapsulates the idea that ignorance can indeed provide a sense of blissful contentment, as Bertha finds solace in the beauty of nature despite the turmoil in her personal life. The last line of the story says it all "But the pear tree was as lovely as ever and as full of flowers and as still."

### **Holly Jackson – The Evolved Agatha Christie Of Our Generation**

Anushka Ghosal and Soumyashree Mondal  
Semester: VI  
English Hons.  
Durgapur Government College

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Principal  
Bankura Christian College

While delving into the realm of crime or detective fiction, the first female writer that comes to our mind is the 'Queen of Mystery,' Agatha Christie. Christie epitomizes the golden age of detective fiction with her intricate plots and iconic characters. As society evolves, contemporary authors like Holly Jackson emerge, reshaping the genre while honouring its storied past. This paper explores how Jackson, through her works, embodies Christie's legacy. Jackson has similar methods of crafting complex plots, unforgettable characters,



clever misdirection and delving into the darker sides of human nature which shows how she follows Christie's footsteps admirably. As society has changed, Jackson has embraced modern tools and themes, making her books even more captivating. She incorporates modern investigative techniques, explores the profound effects on crime on individuals and communities, delves into the mental health of her characters, and ensures diversity with characters from different ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. By mixing classic styles with contemporary themes, Jackson breathes fresh life into mystery stories, appealing to a greater and new audience while honouring Christie's legacy as the ultimate mystery writer.

**Title: Contemporary approaches to “Knight in Shining Armour adventure stories” by Stephanie Garber in her book *Caraval***

Arunima Das  
Semester: VI  
English Hons.

Durgapur Government College

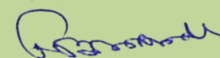
Fairy tales have got much appreciation over the ages as children's classics and bedtime stories. We see a new approach to this genre through various writers and authors of the contemporary age. This paper presents a study aiming at discovering and analysing contemporary approaches to adventure stories by Stephanie Garber in her book *Caraval*. In this novel, the two protagonists Scarlett and Donatella come out of their traditionally defined roles, who tried to change their fortunes only depending on their own selves in their times of distress. The notion of damsel in distress is bestowed and reconstructed to challenge and change the expected gender roles. This novel rejects and challenges the early ideals of the adventure stories in many ways. Although the main aim of the story is how the elder sister, Scarlett enters the game of Caraval and tackles the obstacles to find his sister, we see the label of the knight cannot be given to only one character, as we see characters helping and saving each other out at various instances. Further, ancient beliefs of a woman becoming “the saviour figure” should possess masculine qualities is strongly declined and feminine core aesthetic is highly appreciated. Though the medieval adventure stories about knights are classics in English literature studies, the modern writing provides new insights to the contemporary audience.

**Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*: A Postcolonial Discourse**

Bhaswati Debnath  
Semester: VI  
English Hons.

Durgapur Government College

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Principal

Bankura Christian College

The aim of this paper is to provide an overview of the postcolonial elements that has been deployed by Salman Rushdie in his magnum opus “Midnight's Children”. A prominent Indian born British novelist, Rushdie's novel narrates the culmination of the history of colonisation that happens at the birth of the protagonist Saleem Sinai, at the time of India's

independence from its colonisers. This postcolonial novel integrates the literary element of magic realism in an effort to unearth hidden truths. Written from a position “between two worlds”, the principal theme revolves around the intermingling that takes place between India’s history and the history of the three generations of the protagonist Saleem Sinai’s family. This amalgamation of their public and personal histories has been intentional in the context of the novelist’s attempt to highlight the issues posed by postcoloniality and the hurdles in discovering one’s authenticity. The standpoint of the novel’s narrator is central to the investigations into hybridity. The illustration of the novel’s postcolonial themes of creation, and the depictions of stories and personalities as well as historical depictions, takes place through the presence of the communal, historical and cultural hybridity in Rushdie’s “Midnight’s Children”. This paper tries to present these postcolonial literary elements that Rushdie has integrated in “Midnight’s Children”.

### **Politics in *Iliad***

Jisha Choudhury

Semester VI

English Hons.

Bankura Christian College

Homer’s epic poem, *The Iliad* provides a rich tapestry of political dynamics and themes that offer insights into the complex nature of ancient Greek society and governance. It also explores political and social dynamics within the Greek camp where various Greek leaders, such as Achilles, Odysseus and Ajax, vie for power and influence. These internal political rivalries and conflicts are often a source of tension and disruption, underscoring the complexity of managing a diverse coalition of city states and warriors.

The involvement of supernatural power into the affair of mortals are depicted here. It often aligning themselves with specific side or individual and influencing the war. This divine involvement in political matters reflects the ancient Greek belief in the interconnectedness of the mortal and divine realm.

Throughout the epic poem, the political and the personal are deeply intertwined. The personal grievances, passions and relationships of the characters often have significant political ramifications. The conflict between Achilles and Agamemnon, for instance, is rooted in a personal dispute over the spoils of war.

Political dynamics in Trojan War provides readers with a rich and nuanced understanding of the complexities of power, leadership on the Greek world.

### **A (Trans) Family of her Own: Reading A. Revathi’s *Truth About Me: A Hijra Life Story***

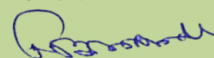
Kanchan Kumar Das

Semester: VI

English Hons.

Durgapur Government College

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Bankura Christian College

Family is a much more complex and intricate subject matter than its simple understanding of being at home with one’s loved ones. In *Family Theories*, Allen and Henderson problematize the concept of family by pointing out that family dynamics is affected by societal issues like a

family member's 'race, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, nationality, and other characteristics' (2017, 7). Moreover, family transactions might differ in the contexts of 'Black families; ... lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer (LGBTQ) families; childless families; extended families; single-adult families' (Allen and Hendersen 2017, 7). Family relationships furthermore depend on the fact that whether the aforementioned subject positions pertains to a parent or a child in the family. A family space, in ideal condition, is not merely a shelter but also an intimate space where a family member feels loved, territorialised and enjoys a certain amount of freedom of expression and acceptance. In A. Revathi's *Truth About Me: A Hijra Life Story* (2010), Revathi, suffers from a constant internal conflict, trauma, and domestic violence because of her transgender subject position as a child within her heteronormative family dynamics. As an adult, her relationship with her biological family doesn't improve much due to her affiliation to trans community. In her autobiography, she identifies herself as 'Hijra', a term commonly used in India to represent a certain individual who defies conventional gender norms (in her case, a trans woman, i.e., a feminine soul trapped inside a male body). Therefore, in Revathi's life, family dynamics is never limited to the biological concept of family and has a much broader or/and nuanced sphere to it. In this context, family assumes a unique significance, as hijras often form alternative familial structures and communal ties beyond the mainstream society.

The present study focuses on trans family space in A. Revathi's *Truth About Me: A Hijra Life Story* (2010) wherein societal discrimination, abuse, violence, and crisis within Revathi's (own) family are made visible. Moreover, it explores Revathi's broader family dynamics as a trans activist which too is not free from uncertainty and fear. For this, the study is divided into three sections. While the first section theorizes trans family dynamics, the second section questions the heteronormative family structure which rejects Revathi's positionality as a trans girl or/and woman and forces her to disappear from her Namakkal home multiple times. Moreover, the section explores Revathi's broader family in the hijra community as it examines her family transactions, rituals, mutual support systems, emotional bonding vis-a-vis uncertainties, traditional power dynamics, power struggles and tensions within the family. The third section thereby draws conclusion.

### **Trauma, Resilience, and Growth: A Psychoanalytic Reading of Harry Potter's Journey**

Nibedita Bauri


Semester: VI

English Hons.

Bankura Christian College

Introduced by the Austrian neurologist Sigmund Freud in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, psychoanalytic theory is a generic term that can be applied to a variety of literary characters. The study explores the characters' responses to harrowing situations, their mirror strategies to tackle trauma in real life. In addition, it highlights some of the common defence mechanisms practised by Rowling's key characters. Understanding Harry's personality (a teenager haunted by his past) sheds light on how one can not only manage but overcome fears with determination leaving aside the possibility of being consumed by it. Moreover, the analysis depicts the core issues of the characters as manifestations of their past experiences in life. This thesis is a study of the childhood trauma and respective stratagem, the characters take

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recourse to echoing real life circumstances. This paper aims to help readers gain insight into the inner motivations and thoughts of characters from two books of the Harry Potter series – *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* through an attentive reading using psychoanalytic critique based on Freud's theories.

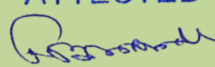
**Resisting economic hegemony of colonial encounter: A re-reading of Sarojini Naidu's  
'In the Bazaars of Hyderabad'**

Prerana Chatterjee  
Semester: II  
English Hons.  
Durgapur Government College

The paper on Sarojini Naidu's "In The Bazaars of Hyderabad" seeks to re-read the poem as a post-colonial text which not only resists the sharp inroads of colonialism on Indian cultural and commercial life but at the same time articulates the Nationalistic pride of the poet in upholding one's own rich cultural tradition. The paper would initially focus on how Naidu celebrates indigenous Indian culture through the 'bazaars' of Hyderabad, thereby resisting colonial inroads into traditional Indian life. The bustling bazaars depicted by Naidu serve as microcosms of Indian society, where local tradition and customs thrive despite external influences. Through vivid imagery and descriptive language, Naidu paints an Indian market place that resists assimilation into Western norms. The paper would then proceed to trace the chequered patterns that lie hidden within the "bazaars" imagery to assert Indian agency and autonomy. The glorification of Indian products impresses one as an appeal to the Indian people to turn their face off the foreign goods, to embrace what is their own and inculcate a sense of pride in things bearing a swadeshi stamp. Finally, the paper would conclude that the celebration of nationalism, and its philosophical undertone have deep political intention - to counter the economic hegemony of goods which were thrust upon the Indian consumers as a bait to lure them away from a greater goal of national unity, pride and resistance to colonial rule.

**Reprisal owing to infidelity: Psychoanalysis of the speaker of Browning's The  
Laboratory.**

Priyadisha Chakraborty  
Semester: II  
English Hons.  
Durgapur Government College

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Principal  
Bankura Christian College

The study aims to analyse the psychopathy of the speaker, the noblewoman as epitomised in the poem 'The Laboratory' of Robert Browning which was published in 1844. This is a comprehensive study which is based on the Sigmund Freud's theory of psychoanalysis. Freud's model of the mind has three functional aspects: the id, superego and ego. The chief objective of the study is to shed light on the psychological disorder of the female figure of the


poem to profoundly study and exhibit the villainous traits that got injected inside her by the intensity of a melancholy of her life. This study would further proceed that she is not naturally violent and vengeful rather circumstances has compelled her to structured herself as a villain. Her immense determination of murdering her rival can be taken as caused by extreme mental shock. This article would analyse the chief reason behind the antagonistic activities of a protagonist.

### **Post-Modern Broken Heaps Vis-à-vis Postwar Renovation: Reading Philp Larkin's Select Poems**

Rachana Samadder  
Semester: IV  
English Hons.  
Durgapur Government College

Postmodernism (though impossible to define), in general, foregrounds recurrent motifs of general hopelessness, broken heaps of personal and societal images, uncomfortable and disturbing compositions. It, with its elementary feature of complexity and contradiction, is considered to be a drastic departure from the ultimate hope offered by Modernism. Postmodernism is a complete contrast to the ideology of modernist utopic faith in light at the end of the tunnel. While Jameson explicates, 'the postmodern looks for breaks . . . for the telltale instant after which [the world] is no longer the same' (*Postmodernism, or, the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism* 1991, ix), it remains a fact that postmodernism also looks forward to post-war renovations and reconstruction mechanisms ("The Peculiarity of British Post-war Reconstruction?" [dreams.wordpress.com](http://dreams.wordpress.com)). Architecturally speaking, in Britain as well as in other parts of Europe, it was the time to rebuild. The architects, the planners, or/and the local authorities were engaged in either rebuilding or reconstructing buildings and streets of England. In this context, how can British poets as city dwellers-and-dreamers of the 1950s remain untouched by the post-war priorities to re-construct, to resurrect, to reproduce, to replace and most importantly to dream in order to re-create versions of what had been exploded, destroyed, damaged and fragmented?

The present study attempts a close reading of Larkin's "Church Going", "The Whitsun Weddings", "Faith Healing", "High Windows" and "The Building" to show how Larkin not only makes visible the postmodern uncertainty and hopelessness but also offers a post-war emotional, intellectual, and spiritual renovation, healing, and faith. A post-covid reader of Larkin would relate to the human urge to prioritise resurrection and healing in the face of damage and fragmentation. The study, therefore, is divided into three segments: Section I contextualizes the historical background of British architectural renovation and reconstruction of the 1950s' post-war moment. Section II situates select poems of Larkin wherein the poet narrator prioritizes dwelling, dreaming, and hoping in the nooks and corners of 1950's British cityscapes which were 'always already' under renovations or/and reconstructions. Section III draws conclusion by emphasising the need to look for healing images in Larkin which is otherwise read for its postmodern heaps of broken images. In doing so, it tries to uphold the post-covid need to heal fractured hearts and to remember 'this too shall pass.'

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### **The Symbolism Of Country Houses in *Pride and Prejudice***

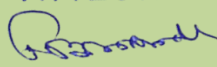
Rikita Mitra and Moumita Das  
Semester: IV  
English Hons.  
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Houses are not merely structures of bricks and stones, they are so much more. They are often symbols of social status and pride. Austen's masterpiece *Pride and Prejudice* is replete with reference to estates like Longbourn, Netherfield park, Rosings parks and Pemberly. This novel reveals that these houses are not just dwelling places with fancy names or mere backgrounds to primary action of the novel. These houses are infused with symbolic significance. They become projections of their owners' nature. They are not just reflective of class and social standing of the owners, they even manifest the essential traits and nature of those that inhabit or own them. Our paper is a humble attempt to validate the aforesaid argument with proper textual references.

### **Exploring the Curse of Baskerville : Superstition, rationality and suspense in Doyle's Classic**

Riya Dubey  
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*The Hound of Baskervilles*, focuses on a course of superstition and suspense, creating an atmosphere of mystery and eeriness. Superstition is a notion of believing in some supernatural and other-worldly things that don't have any logic or reason behind them. It may vary from religious practices to personal beliefs and experiences and bringing forward make belief stories for creating a sense of fear. In contrast, rationality delves in the logic and reasoning behind a certain problem or work. In, this work of Arthur Conan Doyle, the superstition of a blood thirsty hound creates a sense of terror and fear in the minds of readers and even the characters. During the late Victorian era there is a sense of loss and the society induces narrow minded stature. People, have a strange belief on curses and it is still present in today's society. Similarly, the unfathomed mystery of the hound has a variety of its own variations among the common people. After an analysis of the novel, the article delves into the detailed balance of superstition and rationality within the narrative, examining how they play a role in shaping the atmosphere of the novel and its characters. Thus, the article delves into the psychological impact of superstition on characters and the initial scepticism that follows it.

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## A Far Cry from Nature: Environmental Colonialism

Rupali Gorai  
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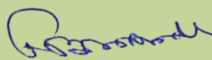
Amitav Ghosh in his 2022 novel *The Living Mountain* projects the theme of environmental colonialism and its aftermath. It is the story of the innocent people living in the lap of nature and feeding on the blessing of the Great Mountain. The story narrates how The Anthropoi came and tried to abduct Nature with their lusty hands. The tragedy happens when the people of the village also joined them and forgot their old rituals. Thus, their veneration for the mountain ultimately turned into oblivion. The book explores the natural world as human beings' ultimate shelter. It also shows how people are heading towards a fatal future unknowingly. The book is relevant in the present context. Of late people have seen the outcomes of violating the natural order, now Nature is paying them back in the forms of natural upheavals. Amitav Ghosh has already been vocal about this exploitation of the environment. Perhaps for the first time he is devoting a whole book to environmental colonialism and with this he combines the Hindu myth of the Himalayas. Writers and journalists wrote about cultural colonisation, military colonisation, financial colonisation etc. Now this environmental colonisation is a new domain and this short book of Amitav Ghosh delves into this realm and makes us aware of the reality which the academic world tends to overlook. My paper will explore the discourse surrounding the intersection of nature and culture, seeking to uncover the complexities of this ongoing debate.

## Exploring Universality: The Global Relevance of *The God of Small Things*

Rupasi Chakraborty  
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English literature has long been renowned for its ability to capture the human experience on a global scale. From the sweeping epics of Shakespeare to the intimate character studies of Jane Austen, English writers have demonstrated an uncanny knack for translating the universal truths of the human condition into timeless works of art. This global perspective has allowed English Literature to transcend geographical and cultural boundaries, resonating with readers across the world and cementing its place as a cornerstone of world literature. By embracing a global dynamic and multifaceted landscape, reflecting the rich tapestry of human experiences and perspectives from around the world.

*The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy holds a significant place in global literature due to its exploration of profound themes such as caste, politics, and social inequality in India. It offers insights into broader issues of colonialism, postcolonial identity, and the human condition, resonating with readers around the world. At its core, the novel explores the intricacies of familial relationships and the impact of societal norms on individual lives. Through the lens of the twin protagonists, Estha and Rahel, Roy delves into the complexities of love, loss, and the struggle for personal freedom. The novel's vivid imagery and rich

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symbolism offer a universal appeal, inviting readers to reflect on their own experiences and emotions. In essence while *The God of Small Things* is deeply rooted in the Indian context, its themes and storytelling transcend geographical and cultural boundaries, making it a powerful work of literature with global resonance.

### **Alice's Quest for Identity**

Shamayita Bandyopadhyay

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English Hons.

Bankura Christian College

Children often do things to escape the reality of life especially when they find themselves alone. Alice is no different. She escapes reality and falls into a rabbit hole which embodies her act of finding her true self. As soon as she enters the hole, she makes a 'wonderland' of her own i.e., she teleports herself into a dreamy world. The main idea of this novel is the quest for self-identity and for one's purpose in the world.

Her curious nature has led her into a Never-Never Land, over the edge of Reality, and into an alien world. The protagonist is a seven-year-old girl who falls into a rabbit hole chasing a White Rabbit. She then finds herself in a Wonderland where logic is not applicable and animals talk. This 7-year-old child's mind is vacillating between innocence and adolescence in her quest for identity. With Alice, we too examine and explore the world and the emotional and intellectual ability of a child.

This paper aims to discuss about Alice, the female protagonist in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* where her journey can be said to be a quest for knowledge and identity. She undergoes different emotional and physical transformations and finally attains maturity and self-confidence by encountering various creatures and experiences. Alice's intellectual growth helps her to return to reality making her more confident and self-dependent, atypical of the Victorian Ideal female.

### **Reading Natural Environment and Human Nature in Tagore's Short Stories**

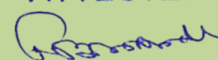
Shilpi Sengupta

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Nature in Tagore's poetry, novels and plays have been read with an emphasis on its emotional, spiritual, and intellectual influence on human characters and relationships. However, Tagore's short stories have been critiqued for their complex human

characterizations, plot constructions or/and unique themes. Depiction of natural environment has remained under-noticed in serious scholarly writings on Tagore's short stories. The present study, therefore, is an attempt to understand how Rabindranath Tagore has connected natural environment and human nature to shape his characters in the short stories. Natural environment, in Tagore's short stories, molds and determines the identity of different characters. Moreover, the study explains how he has made creative use of components of natural surroundings like rivers, ponds, the sky, and clouds, etc. in forming the mood and tone of the setting in the short stories. Tagore's short stories strategically references different seasons, weather, and natural events which the study is interested to decipher. In so doing, it explicates how different elements of natural environment impact the characters, their cultural identities and demonstrates the characters' sense of territorial and cultural belonging. It brings forth how nature forms an essential role in making the situations in the story more emotionally captivating and more intellectually touching. The present study is a modest attempt to appreciate Rabindranath Tagore's creativity, imagination, and love for nature--both in environment and human--which is visible through his short stories.

### **Re-examining Women in the Byomkesh Bakshi Detective Universe: A Feminist Lens**

Sourav Karmakar  
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Women characters in texts of detective fiction are often regarded as playing marginal and non-crucial roles in the building up of mysteries and complications in detective stories. The Byomkesh Bakshi stories and novellas are no exceptions in this regard. Even their presence in terms of numbers is rather small. But it is nevertheless true that many of them hold an abiding appeal to the readers. Quite often the reader's fascination with these women is located at the site of their interactions with a society that is structurally male-dominated. The female characters indeed exhibit various degrees and forms of their allegiance with, and opposition to, a patriarchal ideology. The women in Saradindu Bandyopadhyay's detective story-world do not represent a homogeneous victimhood. They are never represented as passive sufferers. Even as their predicaments are different, they adopt different strategies of resistance and survival. While patriarchy offers them certain ready-made identities as moulds for their social personalities to fit in, they consistently interrupt and break the stereotypical frameworks offered for their representation. Thus they often shock the "male gaze" by being different, resourceful and strategic. By employing a feminist lens, the paper offers a fresh examination of the Byomkesh Bakshi universe, revealing the multifaceted portrayals of women within it.

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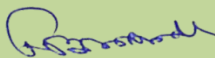
## Unveiling the Unreliable: An Analysis of Narrative Unreliability in Agatha Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*

Suman Patra  
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English Hons.  
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This research paper aims to explore a unique concept within Agatha Christie's widely famous detective fiction novel *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*. Instead of focusing solely on the plot's twist ending, this study elucidates the intriguing narrative technique employed by Christie, known as 'narrative unreliability'. By examining the character perspective, narrative structure, and the role of the unreliable narrator, this paper aims to shed light on the ways in which Christie manipulates the reader's perception, challenges traditional detective fiction conventions, and delivers a masterful work of deception and misdirection. The narrator of the entire saga is Dr James Sheppard and how shrewdly he manages to present himself under the suspension of disbelief. Readers are forced to shake off their slightest sense of suspicion regarding our selfless doctor only to get affected by the most turbulent tornado of anagnorisis. Readers get diluted by his seemingly neutral perspectives and habit of omitting certain crucial details or rather it is the fault on the part of the readers to acknowledge unanimously according to their preconceived notions that the narrator- cum-assistant of the detective cannot be any less than the detective devoid of any sort of materialistic inclination. In this intricate dance between reader and narrator, Christie's storytelling prowess emerges, intricately intertwining the perspectives of both parties. Dr. Sheppard's calculated manipulation of reader trust and the readers' willing surrender to his narrative charm converge, creating a captivating dynamic that elevates the suspense and tension of the narrative. It is within this delicate interplay that the true brilliance of *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* lies, enthralling readers and leaving an indelible mark on the landscape of detective fiction.

## The 1950s Feminist Icon: Sylvia Plath

Susmita Dey  
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A plate of rice, each grain was perhaps taken from a different plant. But they lived the same lives, underwent the same process of cleaning and packaging destined to be consumed. Every female born on this planet have undergone some such processing. These ancient practices have not been changed. Their lives seem simple but when we hear their stories through the pieces of writing, the horror, the excruciating torment and the thorns of life seem evident. One such lady is our beloved, Sylvia Plath who got married to Ted Hughes but later divorced him due to his extramarital affair. Her semi-autobiographical novel *The Bell Jar* relates the pain of her teenage years. She at first lost her father, then the miscarriages she had, led to depression. Sylvia narrates the life of Esther Greenwood in her novel where the girl is seen



to enjoy an internship as the guest editor of Ladies Day Magazine, but she does not enjoy the ultra modern life style of the city. She meets two other interns who manifest contrasting views of femininity as well as Esther's own internal conflicts: the rebellious and sexual Doreen and the wholesome and virginal Betsy. The Bell Jar offers an in-depth meditation on womanhood and presents a complex and disturbing portrait of what it meant to be female in 1950s America. Esther reflects often on the differences between men and women as well as on the different social roles they are expected to perform.

Modern writers like Kamala Das and Angela Carter have continued the struggle and brought forth the designs of the society and would continue to do so.

**The Magic Of Folklores And The Realism Of Modern Times: A Look At The Peculiar  
Narration In The Quintessential Marquezian Universe Of *One Hundred Years Of  
Solitude***

Switi Mondal

Semester: VI


English Hons.

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An invaluable pioneer of “magic realism” as a literary genre, Gabriel Garcia Marquez has, over the years, crafted a scintillating style of eerie storytelling, often deemed canonical to the field. Works dealing with magic realism are unique for smudging the lines between what is real and unreal. The author's reticence and deadpan delivery of surrealistic scenarios make anything and everything happen in the plot without a hint of impracticality. Thus, the reader is left feeling confused, then inquisitive and at last compelled to employ a willing or not so willing “suspension of disbelief” in the novels.

One intriguing reason is the peculiar storytelling, reminiscent of the way folklores and fables have been narrated throughout centuries, tinged with the complete belief of the narrator. Marquez's seminal piece *One Hundred Years of Solitude* is replete with unrealistic, folklore-like scenarios, with years of rain or unlimited breeding cattle or surreal longevity of some characters, which remove the setting far from anything palpably real. However, an element from the mundane world pulls the readers back to reality, suspending them in a limbo between the real and unreal. Interlaced with this supernatural universe is the veiled satire and critical commentary on society, which convey ideas in a parable-like fashion of imparting ethical values. The paradox of this eccentric style is that it bears the influence of age-old tales while also befitting the disorganised state of the modern times.

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## **Construction of Space and Identity in Indian Diasporic Writing: A Comparative Study of the Works of Amitav Ghosh and Jhumpa Lahiri.**

Tanmoy Sannigrahi  
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English Hons.  
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Diasporic Writing refers to the works of those authors who move to another country in search of a better livelihood. Yet, unable to get accustomed to the cultures of the new land, they yearn for their homeland. Hence, their writings are mainly marked by dislocation, alienation, longing, nostalgia, and a search for identity. Those immigrant inhabitants go through a constant struggle to adopt the new identity, whereas they still nourish a sweet nostalgic past of their homeland. In this way, they reflect upon the quest for identity in which they are hurled. But they end up being caged in a third space failing to adopt the new cultures and losing the previous one.

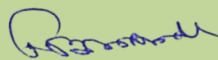
Migration builds up a multicultural identity. Diasporic writers, due to their migration, embrace it and achieve tremendous popularity because of their portrayal of issues like universal aspects of human existence. In the present-day literary field, diasporic writings possess huge importance. Especially, Indian writers like Amitav Ghosh, Salman Rushdie, Jhumpa Lahiri, Meena Alexander, Vikram Seth, etc. have taken centre stage in the globe for their prominent works in the last few decades. This article will focus on a comparative study of the famous authors, that is, Amitav Ghosh and Jhumpa Lahiri, and will try to explore how identity gets formed in the alien land and where the differences are made causing the writer to hanker after the nostalgic past.

## **The Magic Of Love And Friendship In Potter Universe**

Utsa Chatterjee and Sayan Mukherjee  
Semester: VI  
English Hons.  
Durgapur Government College

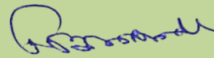
In the first book of the Potter series, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, (1997), J.K. Rowling makes use of the trope of fairy tale and creates a fabric of love and friendship through the intricate relationships of characters like Dumbledore, Snape, Ron and Hermione, McGonagall, Neville, and Harry Potter. Love appears in multiple forms in the text, including maternal devotion, unspoken affection, friendship, and selfless sacrifice.

Headmaster Albus Dumbledore, emerges as a benevolent father figure guiding and safeguarding those in his charge with constant compassion while Severus Snape on the other hand hides a deep-seated love which is difficult to comprehend on the surface. The friendship between the golden trio function as a recurrent motif in the seven novels as Rowling seeks to depict the importance of the desire for love and being loved in child psychology through the journey and growth of the boy-hero. Orphaned Harry finds the love that he had been craving for in his school at Hogwarts which eventually empowers him to overcome all challenges in his life. In Lily Potter's, sacrificial love for Harry lies the mother's selfless sacrifice which gives him the ultimate strength to combat against all forms of evils. The concept of love and

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sacrifice presented in the novel is reminiscent of the notion of empathy and affection in Christian theology. The novel brings out a moral conflict and shows how love always wins over hatred at the end. We would like to look at the interplay of good and evil in Potter's world and try to analyse how Rowling projects love as the key to the very existence of life!

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**2 MAY 2024**

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& DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, BANKURA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE**

IN COLLABORATION WITH  
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**AS PART OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN DURGAPUR GOVERNMENT  
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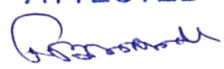
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The certificate is awarded to **Switi Mondal** of Semester VI (English Honours, Bankura Christian College) for presenting the paper titled “The Magic of Folklores and the Realism of Modern Times: A Look at the Peculiar Narration in the Quintessential Marquezian Universe of One Hundred Years of Solitude”

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