

IRIDESCENT: The English Creative Writing Society

Convenors: Dr. Antara Datta, Ms. Tarini Pandey and Ms. Tannu Sharma

The society conducted **Intra-College Freshers' Creative Writing** on September 11, 2019. The theme of the competition was "**Underworld'. Kashvi Chandok**" from B.A. (Hons.) English I year secured first position followed by Apoorva Tripathi from B.A. (Prog.) I year who bagged the second position.

The society also organised a **Letter Writing Campaign** in collaboration with the **Mental Health Foundation (India) for Mental Health Fiesta 2019**. In the spirit of awareness and action, it was a social support movement where students wrote affirmative letters and postcards to strangers about ideas of happiness, mental wellness, hope and resilience from individual experiences of loss, anger, heartbreaks and rejections.

Iridescent also brings out the **Annual college magazine, Janki**. It has submissions for various genres, from every department in the college. The Magazine consists of sections on poetry, fiction, non-fiction, satire and the like. It is a Trilingual magazine with Sanskrit and Hindi sections in it. It also includes a section written and compiled by the Maths Department. Iridescent is responsible for curating the English section of the magazine and compiling the whole, along with the student design team, to craft the annual magazine of JDMC.

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The society established a Virtual Book Club this academic session as well. The four-week long endeavor was initiated to encourage a habit of reading in the members and to further discussion surrounding literary trends. From April 11-May 12, 2020 the members of the society discussed pre-decided texts, both prose and poetry, virtually. The first text that was discussed with the members was Animal Farm by George Orwell. This was followed by two sessions dedicated to discussing poetry- both forms and content- through poems such as "One Art" by Elizabeth Bishop and "A Villanelle" by Agha Shahid Ali. The final text that was read and pondered upon by the members of the book club was "The Overcoat", a short story by Nikolai Gogol. The

members of the society participated in this initiative enthusiastically. The prescribed readings became the basis through which they were able to understand various forms of writing and multiple genres as well. The discussions also gave them a platform to question and debate various themes prevalent in the text and connect them to the problems present in the society today. Moreover, it helped the members to be part of a group activity in a time when social distancing has forced everyone to occupy isolated spaces.