

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

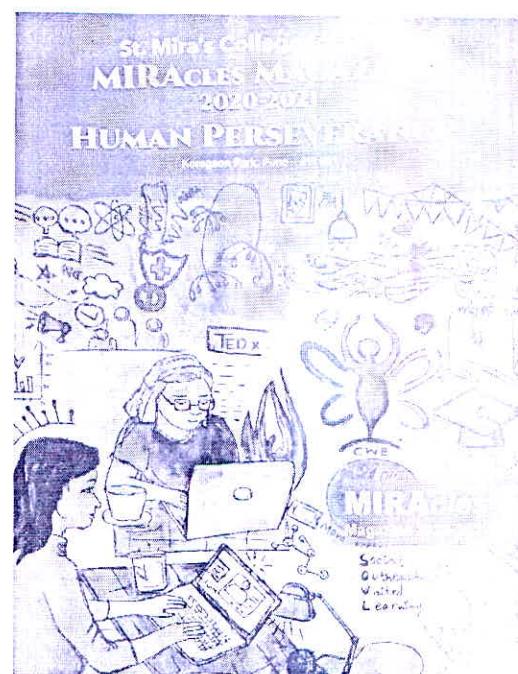
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Magazine cover by Jaya Tripathi
Student Editors: Arman Chagla and
Ummesalema Karu



J. J. Jataravalli



Principal Incharge
St. Mira's College for Girls

Editorial

Though nothing can bring back the hour
of splendour in the grass, or glory in the flower,
We will grieve not, rather find
Strength in what remains behind;
In the primal 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 former conditions 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 in retrospect feels like moral 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 introduction of digital learning to online college came with its own ups and downs; we found ourselves home-bound, with face-to-face interactions on a 15-by-15 inch screen. The teachers we'd had the pleasure of once interacting with were now seen through a screen. Through all of this, we were blessed to have the support of our principal Dr. Gushan Gowar, whose words have instilled us to keep the concept of a vibrant college life alive 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, we started the year early and with renewed purpose. Unleashed were we then! The anticipation of a new beginning you brought with it a renewed fervency to create; student participation spiked and an outpouring of creative talent, culminating in 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 working in groups every month on a variety of subjects. From Zoom Classes in the morning to Livestream sessions in the afternoon, our days were packed to the max.

But we'll not lie; many times we wanted to run away. We felt exhausted, yet at the same time subsumed ourselves for not being productive. The responsibilities got to us. The need to be constantly doing something was so strong, that taking a break felt like torture. And when it all became too much, we collapsed. In fact, we abandoned ourselves, we took a break, we regressed and used that crushing helplessness as fuel. We took care of ourselves, we stopped succumbing to the pressure and rose, just like the mighty phoenix, overruled to ascend defeat to a monolithic reality, perseverance.

Reaching up to you, we might confidently say to a year that felt meaningless, we claimed you. We bowed up to every morning, we rose up by hoping, believing and creating the reality we wished to find ourselves in this academic year. We started a new world order of our very own out of the face-walk of our houses, but the lessons we may learn now, will go beyond the classroom. The winds of transformation are cast, after a long day's reckoning. This note is, as Michael Bublé always says, for some a prelude, for some an epilogue, and it is the compilation of a year's worth of memories, of highs and lows, and an end to three glorious years in St. Mira's, rather than the beginning of all that we might expect to see is a new wish and a little encouragement. We, your Mira Press, stand on the precipice of the best of your lives, as far as we can tell.

Student Editorial Committee
Arman Chagla and Ummerali Alvi Kard

Article i

Green Club

Titiksha Padir
TYBA

I love nature. Trees, hills, watching the sunrise is among my favourite pastimes. So, when Komalma'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 it 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 Adar Pounawala 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 Adar Pounawala 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 and societies. I am a part of the club and I am the president of the club. I am a member of the club, apart from academic knowledge. Now that I am a part of the club, life is all about trying to be a role model in the society for not just the women, but also for all other suppressed communities including LGBTOAs. 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 confrmed by the novelties I come 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 guest 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 their 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. Sataravala

Dr. Snobey Sataravala

JI

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