

CALICUT UNIVERSITY

FOURTH SEMESTER

FOUR YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME(CU-FYUGP)

equipping with excellence

BA ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE HONOURS

MAJOR(4TH SEMESTER)

JOURNEY THROUGH THE WORLD OF POETRY

COURSE CODE-ENG4CJ203

PREPARED BY

SOUDHABI AT

PG DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

CPA COLLEGE OF GLOBAL STUDIES PUTHANATHANI

CALICUT UNIVERSITY FOUR - YEAR UNDER GRADUATE PROGRAMME (CU-FYUGP)**BA ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE HONOURS****MAJOR**

Programme	BA ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE HONOURS				
Course Code	ENG4CJ203				
Course Title	JOURNEY THROUGH THE WORLD OF POETRY				
Type of Course	MAJOR				
Semester	4				
Academic Level	200-299				
Course Details	Credit	Lecture per week	Tutorial per week	Practical per week	Total Hours
	4	4	-	-	60
Pre-requisites	Basic understanding of Language and Literature				
Course Summary	This course aims to deepen learners understanding and appreciation of poetry as a literary form. Through close reading, analysis, and discussion of various poetic works, students will explore the multifaceted dimensions of poetry, including its aesthetic, emotional, and intellectual elements. The course will cover a range of poetic styles, genres, cultures, trends and themes, enabling students with the tools to critically engage with poetry and to articulate their interpretations effectively.				

Course Outcomes (CO):

CO	CO Statement	Cognitive Level*	Knowledge Category#	Evaluation Tools used
CO 1	Appreciate and interpret various poetic devices and genres, effectively evaluating their use and effect on the poem's meaning and aesthetic appeal.	An,E	F	Annotations/ Presentations/ Quizzes
CO 2	Ability to distinguish, analyse and apply new trends and methods of poetry effectively communicating their interpretations through written and oral presentations.	An,Ap	C	Interpretation, presentations (oral and written)
CO 3	Inculcate a critical mindset, questioning assumptions considering perspectives based on gender, race, ethnicity, region, environment, nation, etc., and cultivate cultural sensitivity and understanding through evaluation of socio-historical context in which literary texts are created and consumed.	E	P	Group Discussion/Debate/ appraisal and Review/ Essays/ Presentations
CO 4	Gain insights into the craft of poetry and develop a poetic sensibility through their creative skills.	C	M	Projects and Term Papers
* - Remember (R), Understand (U), Apply (Ap), Analyse (An), Evaluate (E), Create (C) # - Factual Knowledge(F) Conceptual Knowledge (C) Procedural Knowledge (P). Metacognitive Knowledge (M)				

Detailed Syllabus:

Module	Unit	Content	Hrs (60)	Marks (70)
I	CLASSICS		8	17
	1	Indian Kalidasa – Meghaduta (Horace Hayman Wilson trans.) Lines 1-28	3	
	2	Latin Dante: La Vita Nuova	3	
	3	Persian Rumi: Grasses	2	
		Suggested Activities: 1. Analyse a classic text (e.g., Oedipus Rex) and identify the elements and style of classical poetry. 2. Appreciate classical poetry based on the poetic images used and learn the techniques and devices used. 3. Discussion on three different cultural context evolved through your text.		
II	GENRES IN POETRY		12	18
	5	Sonnet William Shakespeare: Sonnet 60 “Like as the waves make towards the pebbled shore”.	2	
	6	Haiku Basho: i) The Old Pond ii) O Tranquility iii) How Brief is this Life	2	
	7	Ode John Keats: Ode on a Grecian Urn	3	
	8	Ballad Edgar Allan Poe: Annabel Lee	3	
	9	Elegy Oscar Wilde: Requiescat	2	
		Suggested Activities: 1. Discussion about the different types of poems and the unique characteristics of each genre. 2. Reading of poems belonging to various genres can be encouraged and through the introduction of the poets and the period, the socio-political context can be discussed. 3. Identify various poetic movements through given texts and prepare an assignment on each.		

III	ACROSS CULTURES		14	17
	10	USA: Wallace Stevens: Anecdote of the Jar	3	
	11	Chile: Gabriela Mistral: Give Me Your Hand	3	
	12	Senegal: Leopold Sedar Senghor: Prayer to Masks	3	
	13	Palestine Mahmoud Darwish: Identity Card	3	
	14	India: Arundhati Subramaniam: To The Welsh Critic Who Doesn't Find Me Identifiably Indian	2	
		Suggested Activities: 1. Class discussion on the characteristics of poetry across the world. 2. Research project: Choose a poet from a nation other than the ones mentioned in the syllabus and analyse the cultural elements in it. 3. Discuss how far the poetry of a land is rooted in its culture.		
IV	TRENDS AND THEMES		14	18
	15	Concrete poetry: e e cummings-I carry within my heart	3	
	16	Eco poetry: Earle Birney: Bushed	3	
	17	Feminism: Warsan Shire-Backwards	2	
	18	Marginalized: Sukirtharani: Portrait of my village	3	
	19	Queer: Kai Cheng Thom: What the Queer Community Should Have Told Us	3	

		Suggested Activities: 1. Class/Group discussion on the various trends and themes of poetry. 2. In addition to the essential and suggested topics, various other trends and themes can also be discussed and presentations can be done based on it. 3. Visual Representation of the prescribed poems in the syllabus. 4. Based on the theme of the poems, performances can be done in the form of dance or skit. 5. Identify the genre of various poems not prescribed in the syllabus by analyzing the elements of poetry. 6. Quiz can be conducted based on poetry.		
V		Open-Ended	12	

MODULE 1-CLASSICS: WHERE POETRY BEGAN

1. KALIDASA-MEGHADUTA(HORACE HAYMAN WILSON TRANS) LINES 1-28

About the Author – Kalidas

- Kalidasa is one of the greatest Sanskrit poets and dramatists of ancient India.
- He is often called the “Shakespeare of Sanskrit literature.”
- He is believed to have lived around the 4th–5th century CE.
- Most scholars associate him with the reign of King Vikramaditya.
- Plays:
- *Abhijnana Shakuntalam*
- *Vikramorvashiyam*
- *Malavikagnimitram*
- Epics & Poems:
- *Meghadūta*
- *Raghuvamsha*
- *Kumarasambhava*
- Known for beautiful imagery, lyrical language, and deep emotional expression.
- Master of nature description and romantic emotions
- Love, nature, duty, separation, and human emotions.
- His works often combine emotional depth with aesthetic beauty.
- *Meghadūta* is the first great lyric poem (Kāvya) in Sanskrit. It established the messenger poem (Sandesh Kavya) tradition.

About the Work

The poem opens with a Yaksha, a semi-divine being and attendant of Kubera, the god of wealth.

- He has been banished from his home for neglecting his duties.
- The Yaksha's fault is negligence caused by excessive love for his wife.
- As punishment, Kubera exiles him for one year.
- The Yaksha lives on Ramagiri Hill (near present-day Amarkantak).
- The place is rich in natural beauty—trees, rivers, flowers, and clouds.
- Separated from his wife, the Yaksha suffers intense emotional pain.
- His loneliness makes him sensitive to nature around him.
- At the beginning of the rainy season, a rain cloud appears over Ramagiri.
- The Yaksha sees the cloud as majestic, dark, and full of life.
- The sight of the cloud revives his memories of home and his beloved.
- His grief deepens, but hope also arises.
- Kalidasa treats the cloud as a living being, capable of feeling and understanding.
- This is a classic example of personification.
- The Yaksha imagines the cloud as a possible messenger to his wife.
- He believes nature can help express human emotions.
- The dominant emotion is Vipralambha Śṛṅgāra (love in separation).
- The opening lines set a melancholic yet beautiful tone.
- Love, separation, exile, and hope are introduced.
- Nature becomes a bridge between separated lovers.

2.DANTE ALIGHIERI:LA VITA NUOVA, SONNET 1

About the Author – Dante Alighieri

- Dante Alighieri was born in Florence, Italy, in 1265.
- He belonged to a noble but not wealthy family.
- Beatrice Portinari was Dante's lifelong inspiration.
- She symbolizes divine and ideal love in his works
- Major Works
 - *La Vita Nuova*
 - *The Divine Comedy (Inferno, Purgatorio, Paradiso)*
 - *De Monarchia*
- Dante is known as the Father of Italian literature.
- He wrote in Italian (Tuscan dialect) instead of Latin.
- Blends love, philosophy, religion, and symbolism.
- Focus on spiritual journey and salvation.
- Dante influenced later European literature deeply.
- His portrayal of love as divine and transformative is highly significant.

About the Work

- *La Vita Nuova* (“The New Life”) is a combination of prose and poetry.
- Sonnet 1 introduces Dante’s spiritual and emotional love for Beatrice.
- Dante addresses all lovers and asks them to listen to his experience.
- He presents love as a powerful and noble force.
- Love is personified as a living being.
- Love appears to Dante in a vision or dream.
- Beatrice is shown as pure, divine, and heavenly.
- She represents ideal love, not physical desire.
- Love holds Beatrice in its arms, symbolizing that Love controls Dante’s life.
- Beatrice is the source of Dante’s new spiritual awakening.
- Dante’s heart symbolizes his inner self and emotions.
- Love feeds Beatrice with Dante’s heart, showing complete devotion and sacrifice.
- Dante feels awe, fear, and respect toward Love.
- Love is portrayed as powerful and commanding.
- The sonnet reflects Dante’s inner change caused by love.
- Love leads him towards moral and spiritual growth.
- Love is not earthly; it guides Dante towards God and purity.
- Beatrice acts as a spiritual guide.
- The tone is serious, reverent, and mystical.
- Rich use of symbolism and personification.

3.RUMI:GRASSES

About the Author – Jalāl ad-Dīn Rumi

- Rumi was born in 1207 in present-day Afghanistan.
 - He later settled in Konya (Turkey).
 - Rumi was a Sufi mystic, poet, and Islamic scholar.
 - He wrote mainly in Persian.
 - *Masnavi* (spiritual epic)
 - *Divan-e-Shams-e-Tabrizi*
 - Numerous lyrical poems and ghazals
 - Divine love
 - Spiritual awakening
 - Unity of the soul with God
 - Letting go of ego
 - Rumi believed love is the path to God.
 - He emphasized inner experience over external rituals.
 - Rich in symbols from nature (flowers, grass, birds).
 - Simple imagery with deep spiritual meaning.
 - Rumi is one of the most widely read poets in the world.
- His works transcend religion and culture.

About the Work

- The poem uses grasses as the main symbol.
- Grasses represent life, renewal, humility, and spiritual growth.
- Rumi presents nature as a source of divine wisdom.
- By observing grasses, humans can learn about patience and surrender.
- Grasses grow again even after being cut.
- This suggests rebirth, resilience, and continuity of life.
- Grass grows low to the ground.
- It symbolizes humility, a key spiritual value in Sufi philosophy.
- Human beings, like grass, are temporary and fragile.
- Yet, they are part of a larger divine cycle.
- The poem urges humans to let go of ego and pride.
- True wisdom comes from submission to divine will.
- The grass grows not for itself but as part of nature.
- This reflects Rumi's belief in unity between the soul and God.
- The poem encourages inner awakening.
- Spiritual growth happens quietly, just like grass growing unseen.
- Calm, reflective, and meditative.
- Emphasizes peace and acceptance.
- The poem highlights spiritual humility, renewal, and divine love.
- Nature becomes a metaphor for spiritual truth.

MODULE II-GENRES OF VERSE:CHARTING THE WORLD OF POETRY

4.WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE:SONNET 60

About the Author – William Shakespeare

- Born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, England.
- Son of John Shakespeare, a glove maker.
- Shakespeare is known as the greatest playwright and poet in English literature.
- Often called the "Bard of Avon."
- Plays: *Hamlet, Macbeth, King Lear, Othello, Romeo and Juliet*
- Poetry: *154 Sonnets, Venus and Adonis*
- Shakespeare's sonnets deal with love, time, beauty, mortality, and art.
- Sonnet 60 belongs to the time sonnets.
- Rich use of imagery, metaphor, and personification.
- Master of iambic pentameter.
- Human emotions, passage of time, power, love, and death.
- Deep psychological insight.
- Died in 1616.
- His works remain timeless and universally relevant.

About the Text

- The sonnet begins by comparing time to ocean waves.
- Each wave replaces the previous one, just as moments replace one another.
- Time moves continuously and unstoppable.
- Human life progresses toward inevitable aging and death.
- Life moves from birth to maturity to decline.
- Each stage is controlled by time.
- Time destroys beauty, youth, and strength.
- It acts as a cruel and merciless force.
- Time is given human qualities.
- It “transfixes” and “delves,” suggesting violence and power.
- Time ruins natural beauty and human perfection.
- Everything that is beautiful is temporary.
- The tone is serious, reflective, and pessimistic.
- Shakespeare meditates on the harsh reality of time.
- In the final couplet, there is a shift.
- Poetry has the power to defy time.
- Though time destroys all, the poet’s verse preserves beauty.
- Art becomes a form of immortality
- The sonnet explores time, mortality, and the power of poetry.
- Time may win physically, but poetry wins spiritually.

5. EDGAR ALLAN POE: ANNABEL LEE

About the Author – Edgar Allan Poe

- Edgar Allan Poe was born in 1809 in Boston, USA.
- He had a troubled childhood and lost his parents early.
- Poe was a poet, short-story writer, and critic.
- He is a master of gothic and dark romantic literature.
- Poems: *Annabel Lee*, *The Raven*, *To Helen*
- Short stories: *The Tell-Tale Heart*, *The Fall of the House of Usher*
- Death of beautiful women
- Love and loss
- Madness and mystery
- Supernatural elements
- Musical language and strong rhythm
- Use of repetition and symbolism
- Dark, emotional tone
- Poe’s poetry reflects his personal tragedies.
- *Annabel Lee* is often linked to the death of his wife Virginia Poe.
- Poe died in 1849 under mysterious circumstances.

- He is considered a pioneer of modern short stories and detective fiction

About the Work

The poem begins in a “kingdom by the sea.”

- This gives a fairy-tale, dream-like atmosphere
- The speaker and Annabel Lee loved each other deeply and purely.
- Their love was stronger than ordinary human love
- They loved each other from childhood.
- Their love is portrayed as innocent, spiritual, and eternal
- The angels in heaven became jealous of their perfect love.
- This jealousy leads to tragedy
- Death of Annabel Lee
- Annabel Lee dies because of a cold wind from the sea.
- Her death is described as unnatural and cruel
- Even death cannot separate the lovers.
- The speaker believes their souls are forever united.
- The speaker mourns deeply.
- He lies beside Annabel Lee’s tomb by the sea.
- The moon and stars remind him of Annabel Lee.
- Nature reflects his love and sorrow
- The tone is sad, melancholic, and romantic.
- The poem expresses undying love and loss.
- Central Themes
- Love stronger than death
- Death and loss
- Eternal love
- Memory and mourning

6. JOHN KEATS: ODE ON A GRECIAN URN

About the Author – John Keats

- John Keats was born in 1795 in London, England.
- He belonged to the second generation of Romantic poets.
- Keats is known for his sensuous imagery and love of beauty.
- He believed in “art for art’s sake.”
- Odes: *Ode to a Nightingale*, *Ode on Melancholy*, *Ode to Autumn*
- Narrative poems: *Endymion*, *The Eve of St Agnes*
- Beauty and art
- Nature and imagination
- Life, death, and time.
- Rich sensory imagery
- Musical language
- Deep philosophical ideas

- Keats suffered from illness and poverty. He died of tuberculosis at the age of 25.
- Though unrecognized during his life, Keats became one of the greatest English poets.
- His poetry continues to influence literature and art.

About the Work

Ode on a Grecian Urn is a Romantic poem written by John Keats in 1819.

- The poem addresses an ancient Greek urn decorated with pictures of people, nature, and rituals.
- Keats calls the urn a “still unravish’d bride of quietness” and a “foster-child of silence and slow time.”
- The urn silently tells stories of the past through its carvings.
- The urn shows scenes like lovers, musicians, trees, and religious sacrifice.
- These scenes are frozen in time and will never change or decay.
- The lovers on the urn will never age or lose their passion.
- Though they can never kiss, their love remains forever young and ideal.
- Keats says “Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard are sweeter.”
- Music carved on the urn is imagined, making it more perfect than real music
- Nature That Never Fades
- The trees on the urn will never shed their leaves.
- Spring on the urn is eternal, unlike real life where seasons change
- One scene shows people going to a sacrifice.
- The town they leave behind will remain forever empty and silent.
- Contrast Between Art and Life
- Real life involves pain, aging, and death.
- Art remains unchanging and permanent, offering comfort to human beings.
- The urn symbolizes immortality through art.
- Human life is temporary, but art preserves beauty forever.
- Famous Ending Line
- The urn speaks the final message:
- “Beauty is truth, truth beauty.”
- Keats suggests that beauty itself is a form of truth, and that is enough for human understanding
- Central Themes
- Beauty and truth
- Art vs. life
- Time and eternity
- Imagination and reality
- The poem celebrates art’s power to defeat time.
- Keats shows that while human life is short, art gives lasting meaning and beauty.

7.OSCAR WILDE: REQUIESCAT

About the Author

- Oscar Wilde (1854–1900) was an Irish writer, poet, and dramatist.
- He is known for his wit, aesthetic philosophy, and rich language.
- Wilde believed in “Art for Art’s sake”, emphasizing beauty over moral teaching.
- His famous works include *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and several poems.
- *Requiescat* reflects Wilde’s personal grief after the death of his sister Isola Wilde, who died at a young age.
- The poem shows a tender, emotional side of Wilde, different from his usual wit and satire.

About the Work

- *Requiescat* is a Latin word meaning “May he/she rest” or “Rest in peace.”
- The title suggests that the poem is an elegy (a poem of mourning).
- The poet describes the deceased as someone beautiful, gentle, and innocent.
- The person lies peacefully in the grave, untouched by pain or sorrow.
- Wilde compares death to sleep, suggesting calmness and rest.
- Nature seems to share the poet’s grief, creating a soft, quiet atmosphere.
- Wilde expresses deep personal sorrow and emotional loss.
- He wishes that the dead soul may find peace away from the sufferings of the world.
- Death is presented not as cruel, but as a release from worldly pain.
- The poet accepts death with resignation and love, rather than anger.
- Wilde speaks directly to the departed soul.
- He asks the person to rest quietly, free from the troubles of life.
- The tone is soft, loving, and prayer-like.
- The poet finds comfort in the belief that the soul is now at peace.
- Death and Rest – Death is shown as peaceful sleep.
- Love and Loss – The poem expresses deep emotional attachment.
- Innocence – The deceased is portrayed as pure and untouched by evil.
- Acceptance of Death – Wilde accepts death calmly.
- Imagery – Gentle images of sleep, rest, and silence.
- Metaphor – Death compared to sleep.
- Tone – Quiet, mournful, and tender.
- Elegiac Style – The poem follows the traditional form of an elegy.
- *Requiescat* is a short but deeply emotional elegy.
- It shows Oscar Wilde’s personal grief and emotional depth.
- The poem conveys the idea that death brings peace to the innocent soul.
- It remains one of Wilde’s most touching poem.

8, HAIKU: BASHO

About the Author

- Matsuo Bashō (1644–1694) was a famous Japanese poet.
- He is regarded as the greatest master of haiku poetry.
- Bashō helped transform haiku from a light poetic form into a serious art form.
- His poetry is deeply influenced by Zen Buddhism.
- Bashō's poems focus on nature, silence, simplicity, and the moment.
- He believed that poetry should express deep meaning using very few words.
- His haiku often reflects the ideas of impermanence and tranquility

About the Work

The Old Pond

- The haiku opens with the image of an old, silent pond, symbolizing stillness and eternity.
- The silence suggests peace, meditation, and calmness.
- Suddenly, a frog jumps into the pond, breaking the silence.
- The sound of the splash represents a brief moment of action or life.
- After the splash, silence returns, emphasizing calm once again.
- The poem shows how a small moment can disturb tranquility, but only briefly.
- It reflects the Zen idea of mindfulness, being aware of the present moment.
- The haiku suggests that life is short and fleeting, like the sound of the splash.
- Nature continues peacefully, reminding us of the impermanence of life.
- The poem encourages readers to observe and appreciate simple moments.

OH, TRANQUILITY

- The haiku begins with the exclamation "Oh, tranquility!", expressing a deep sense of peace and stillness.
- The setting is a quiet natural place, suggesting calmness and meditation.
- The cicada's cry suddenly breaks the silence.
- The sound is described as so intense that it seems to penetrate the rock.
- This shows the power of sound even in a silent environment.
- Despite the sharp cry, the feeling of tranquility is not destroyed.
- The moment highlights the contrast between silence and sound.

- The haiku reflects the Zen Buddhist idea that sound and silence coexist.
- It suggests that true peace includes all experiences, even disturbance.
- The poem shows how a brief natural sound can deepen awareness.
- The cicada symbolizes the shortness of life, as its sound is momentary.
- Nature is shown as simple, powerful, and meaningful.

HOW BRIEF IS THIS LIFE

- The haiku begins with the line “How brief is this life”, directly stating the theme of shortness of human life.
- Bashō compares life to dewdrops on a leaf.
- Dewdrops are tiny, delicate, and temporary.
- They disappear quickly when the sun rises.
- This image symbolizes how human life is short-lived and fragile.
- The poem reflects the Zen Buddhist idea of impermanence.
- Bashō suggests that nothing in the world lasts forever.
- Life exists only for a moment, like dew.
- The haiku encourages readers to accept the reality of change and death.
- There is no sadness or fear; the tone is calm and reflective.
- The poem invites us to value the present moment.
- Nature is used as a teacher, showing truths about life.

MODULE III-ACROSS CULTURES:AN INTRODUCTION TO THE POETIC VOICES OF THE WORLD

9.WALLACE STEVENS:ANECDOTE OF THE JAR

About the Author

- Wallace Stevens (1879–1955) was an important American modernist poet.
- He is known for his philosophical and abstract poetry.
- Stevens often explored the relationship between reality and imagination.
- His poems examine how the human mind shapes the world.
- He worked as an insurance executive, writing poetry alongside his career.
- Major works include *Harmonium*, *Ideas of Order*, and *The Auroras of Autumn*.
- Stevens believed that art and imagination give meaning to reality.

About the Work

- The poem was published in 1919 in Stevens’ collection *Harmonium*.
- It is a short symbolic poem.

- The poem contrasts nature and human-made art.
- The “jar” is a central symbol.
- The poet places a jar on a hill in Tennessee.
- The jar is described as round and gray, simple and artificial.
- Once placed, the jar organizes the wilderness around it.
- Nature begins to surround and respond to the jar.
- The wild landscape seems to lose its natural disorder.
- The jar represents human art, culture, and imagination.
- The wilderness represents raw, uncontrolled nature.
- Though the jar dominates nature, it is lifeless and sterile.
- Unlike nature, the jar does not grow or change.
- The poem suggests that human art imposes order on nature.
- However, this order also limits and controls natural freedom.
- The jar “takes dominion everywhere,” showing human power.
- Yet the jar lacks natural vitality, unlike the wilderness.
- Themes of the Poem
- Art vs. Nature
- Order vs. Chaos
- Imagination vs. Reality
- Human Control over Nature
- Symbolism – The jar symbolizes art and human civilization.
- Imagery – Simple, clear images of the jar and wilderness.
- Irony – The jar dominates nature but remains lifeless.
- Free Verse – No regular rhyme or meter.
- “*Anecdote of the Jar*” explores how human imagination shapes reality.
- Stevens suggests that art can organize and give meaning to the world.
- At the same time, art can overshadow and suppress nature.
- The poem raises questions about the power and limitations of human creativity.

10.GABRIELA MISTRAL:GIVE ME YOUR HAND

About the Author: Gabriela Mistral (1889–1957)

- Gabriela Mistral was the pen name of Lucila Godoy Alcayaga, a Chilean poet, teacher, and diplomat.
- She is one of the most important literary figures of Latin American poetry.
- In 1945, she became the first Latin American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.
- Her poetry often focuses on love, motherhood, children, nature, pain, and compassion.
- Mistral worked as an educator and cultural ambassador in many countries.
- Her writing is simple in language but deeply emotional and symbolic.

About the Work

- The poem celebrates human connection, love, unity, and companionship.
- It expresses the idea that life becomes meaningful when people walk together, support each other, and share joy.
- The speaker invites another person to give their hand, symbolizing trust, love, and mutual support.
- Holding hands represents togetherness and emotional bonding rather than physical touch alone.
- The speaker suggests walking together, which symbolizes the shared journey of life.
- There is a sense of innocence and purity, similar to children playing or dancing together.
- The act of dancing in nature reflects harmony with the world and joyful coexistence.
- The poem emphasizes equality—no one leads or follows; both move together.
- Love in the poem is gentle and nurturing, not possessive or selfish.
- The simple language reflects the simplicity of true human relationships.
- Tone: Tender, affectionate, and warm
- Mood: Peaceful, hopeful, and joyful
- Symbolism:
 - *Hand* → trust, unity, companionship
 - *Walking/Dancing* → shared life journey
- Imagery: Natural and childlike images that create calmness
- Style: Simple, lyrical, and emotionally rich
- True happiness lies in walking hand in hand with others, sharing life's path with love and understanding.
- Human connection is essential for emotional fulfillment.

11. LEOPOLD SEDAR SENGHOR: PRAYER TO MASKS

About the Author: Léopold Sédar Senghor (1906–2001)

- Léopold Sédar Senghor was a Senegalese poet, philosopher, and statesman.
- He was one of the founders of the Négritude Movement, which celebrated African culture, identity, and heritage.
- Senghor became the first President of Senegal in 1960.
- He wrote mainly in French, blending African oral traditions with European literary forms.
- His poetry reflects themes of African spirituality, colonial oppression, cultural pride, and humanism.
- Senghor believed in a harmonious blending of African and European cultures.

About the Work

- The poem is a prayer addressed to traditional African masks, which represent ancestors, spirits, and divine powers.
- Masks in African culture symbolize wisdom, protection, and spiritual strength.

- The poem expresses Senghor's concern about the loss of African values due to colonialism.
- African identity and heritage
- Spiritual strength and ancestral guidance
- Resistance to colonial domination
- Cultural pride and revival
- The speaker begins by addressing the African masks as sacred and powerful beings.
- He praises the masks for their beauty, strength, and spiritual significance.
- The masks are seen as guardians of African tradition and ancestral wisdom.
- Senghor contrasts the purity of African culture with the destructive influence of Western colonialism.
- He laments that Africa has been humiliated and weakened by slavery and colonization.
- The poet asks the masks to protect Africa and help preserve its identity.
- He prays for peace, harmony, and renewal for the African people.
- Senghor does not reject Europe entirely; instead, he seeks a balance between African emotion and European reason.
- The poem ends with hope for a future where Africa regains dignity, unity, and spiritual strength.
- Tone: Reverent, passionate, and solemn
- Mood: Spiritual, reflective, and hopeful
- Symbolism:
 - *Masks* → ancestors, African tradition, spiritual power
- Prayer form: Gives the poem a sacred and ceremonial quality
- Imagery: Strong visual images drawn from African rituals and nature
- Free verse: Reflects oral African poetic traditions
- African culture is rich, spiritual, and dignified.
- True progress comes from respecting one's roots while engaging with the modern world.
- The ancestors play a vital role in guiding future generations.

12.MAHMOOD DARWISH:IDENTITY CARD

About the Author: Mahmoud Darwish (1941–2008)

- Mahmoud Darwish was a Palestinian poet and writer, widely regarded as the national poet of Palestine.
- He was born in al-Birwa, Palestine, and experienced exile, displacement, and occupation, which deeply influenced his poetry.
- Darwish's works express themes of identity, homeland, resistance, loss, and freedom.
- He wrote in Arabic, blending lyrical beauty with political resistance.
- His poetry gave voice to the collective suffering and aspirations of the Palestinian people.
- Darwish served as an editor and cultural activist and became an international symbol of literary resistance.

About the Work

- The poem is written as a direct address to an Israeli official during an identity check.
- It reflects the experience of Palestinians who are forced to prove their identity under occupation.
- The repeated command “Write down!” gives the poem a defiant and assertive tone.
- Identity and self-assertion
- Resistance against oppression
- Loss of homeland and displacement
- Pride in roots and ancestry
- The speaker demands the official to record his identity, asserting his existence and dignity.
- He declares his Arab identity proudly, refusing to be erased or humiliated.
- The poet describes his large family, symbolizing fertility, continuity, and rootedness.
- He speaks of his hard labor, showing that he earns his living honestly despite poverty.
- The speaker emphasizes that his ancestors were peasants, deeply connected to the land.
- He states that his house and village have been taken away, reflecting displacement.
- Despite suffering, the speaker insists on his right to live with dignity.
- The final warning suggests that oppression may provoke resistance if basic human needs are denied.

Tone and Mood

- Tone: Defiant, proud, and assertive
- Mood: Tense, angry, and resolute
- Repetition: “*Write down!*” reinforces resistance and self-assertion.
- Free verse: Reflects spontaneous, emotional protest.
- Simple language: Makes the poem direct and powerful.
- Symbolism:
 - *Identity card* → control, surveillance, denial of humanity
- Identity cannot be erased by documents or occupation.
- The poem affirms the right to dignity, homeland, and self-respect.
- It is a powerful voice against injustice and colonial domination.

13. ARUNDHATHI SUBRAMANIAM: TO THE WELSH CRITIC WHO DOESN'T FIND ME IDENTIFIABLY INDIAN

About the Author: Arundhathi Subramaniam

- Arundhathi Subramaniam is a contemporary Indian poet, writer, and critic.
- She writes mainly in English and is known for her urban, modern, reflective voice.
- Her poetry explores themes of identity, culture, spirituality, gender, and modern Indian life.
- She often questions fixed ideas of “Indianness” imposed by outsiders.
- Subramaniam has received several literary awards and is respected for blending tradition with modern sensibility.

About the Work

- The poem is addressed to a Welsh critic who feels the poet's work is not "Indian enough."
- It responds to Western stereotypes about how Indian writers should sound or write.
- The poem is both ironic and assertive, defending the poet's personal and cultural identity.
- Identity and self-definition
- Cultural stereotypes and expectations
- Plurality of Indian experience
- Resistance to external judgment
- The speaker reacts to the critic's claim that her poetry lacks "identifiable Indianness."
- She challenges the idea that Indianness must fit a fixed image—exotic, traditional, or mystical.
- The poet suggests that India is diverse, complex, and constantly changing.
- She implies that living in modern India means negotiating multiple influences—local and global.
- The poem mocks the critic's narrow expectations with wit and irony.
- Subramaniam asserts that identity is lived and felt, not performed to satisfy outsiders.
- The speaker refuses to become a cultural spokesperson or stereotype.
- The poem celebrates individual freedom in expressing one's cultural identity.
- Tone: Ironical, confident, assertive
- Mood: Reflective yet challenging
- Direct address: Makes the poem conversational and confrontational.
- Irony and sarcasm: Used to question colonial and Western assumptions.
- Free verse: Reflects freedom of thought and expression.
- Contemporary language: Mirrors modern Indian reality.
- There is no single definition of being Indian.
- Cultural identity cannot be judged by outsiders or reduced to stereotypes.
- Authenticity lies in honest self-expression, not in fulfilling expectations.

MODULE IV- TRENDS AND THEMES

14.EE CUMMINGS-I CARRY WITHIN MY HEART

About the Author: E.E. Cummings (1894–1962)

- Edward Estlin Cummings was an American poet, painter, essayist, and playwright.
- He is famous for modernist poetry, using unconventional syntax, punctuation, and typography.
- Cummings often explored themes of love, nature, individuality, and the human spirit.
- His poems are known for their emotional intensity, lyrical beauty, and experimental style.
- He celebrated personal freedom, joy, and intimacy in human relationships.

About the Work

- This is a love poem written as an intimate expression of deep emotional connection.

- The speaker expresses profound love and unity, showing that love transcends physical presence.
 - It is famous for its simple yet powerful language and its theme of eternal love.
 - Love and unity – the heart of the beloved is always with the speaker.
 - Interconnectedness – true love creates an inseparable bond.
 - Spiritual and eternal love – love transcends time, space, and death.
 - Individual and universal experience – love is personal yet universal.
1. “i carry your heart with me(i carry it in my heart)”
 - The speaker expresses that the beloved’s heart is always within him, symbolizing deep intimacy.
 2. “i am never without it(anywhere i go you go, my dear; and whatever is done by only me is your doing, my darling)”
 - Love permeates every action and thought, showing total emotional union.
 3. “i fear no fate(for you are my fate, my sweet)”
 - The beloved gives courage and meaning; love diminishes fear.
 4. “i want no world(for beautiful you are my world, my true)”
 - The speaker’s world revolves around the beloved, emphasizing centrality of love.
 5. “and it’s you are whatever a moon has always meant and whatever a sun will always sing is you”
 - The beloved embodies all universal symbols of beauty and light, making love cosmic.
 - “i carry your heart(i carry it in my heart)”
Repetition reinforces eternal, unbreakable bond.
- Tone: Tender, intimate, sincere
 - Mood: Romantic, uplifting, serene
 - Repetition: Emphasizes the depth of love.
 - Parentheses: Reflects intimacy, inner thoughts, and whispered affection.
 - Metaphor: Heart symbolizes love and emotional union.
 - Free verse and lack of capitalization: Reflects natural, spontaneous expression.
 - Hyperbolic imagery: Suggests love as universal and eternal.
 - True love is eternal, inseparable, and transcendent.
 - Love is both personal and universal, giving courage and meaning to life.
 - Emotional and spiritual unity with the beloved is more powerful than any external circumstance.

15. EARLE BIRNEY:BUSHED

Earle Birney (1904–1995)

- Earle Birney was a Canadian poet and novelist, considered one of Canada’s major 20th-century literary figures.
- He was born in Calgary, Alberta and was also a university professor and environmentalist.

- Birney's works often explore nature, the Canadian wilderness, human struggle, and psychological tension.
- He wrote in modernist style, using vivid imagery and experimental techniques.
- His poetry combines realism with emotional intensity, often focusing on human survival and alienation.

About the Work

- The poem describes the experience of a lumberjack or trapper lost in the Canadian wilderness.
 - "Bushed" is a Canadian term meaning exhausted, lost, or overwhelmed in the bush.
 - The poem portrays physical exhaustion, fear, and psychological tension in nature.
 - Birney highlights the raw power of the wilderness and the vulnerability of humans.
 - Man vs. nature – human fragility in the face of wilderness.
 - Isolation and survival – the physical and mental strain of being lost.
 - Fear, anxiety, and uncertainty – psychological impact of extreme conditions.
 - Connection to the natural world – vivid descriptions of the forest environment.
1. The speaker is lost in the wilderness, overwhelmed by fatigue and darkness.
 2. The forest is portrayed as dense, indifferent, and threatening, reflecting both external and internal struggle.
 3. Physical exhaustion is emphasized – the speaker is "bushed", unable to continue easily.
 4. There is a constant tension between hope and despair, as the speaker seeks safety.
 5. Birney uses vivid imagery of trees, snow, and cold to create a sense of danger and isolation.
 6. The poem captures mental disorientation, showing how extreme conditions affect perception and thought.
 7. Despite fear and exhaustion, there is resilience—the human spirit continues to struggle for survival.
- Tone: Tense, anxious, and reflective
 - Mood: Uneasy, foreboding, and suspenseful
 - Imagery: Strong visual images of the forest and wilderness create vivid realism.
 - Alliteration and assonance: Enhance rhythm and sense of movement or struggle.
 - Free verse: Reflects the irregularity of the natural environment and human stress.
 - Symbolism: The bush symbolizes nature's indifference and life's challenges.
 - Personification: Nature is sometimes portrayed as oppressive or overwhelming.
 - Humans are fragile and vulnerable when confronted with the immense power of nature.
 - Survival requires resilience, courage, and adaptation.
 - Nature is beautiful yet indifferent, demanding respect and awareness from humans.

16. WARSAN SHIRE: BACKWARDS

About the Author: Warsan Shire (b. 1988)

- Warsan Shire is a British-Somali poet, writer, and educator.
- She was born in Kenya and grew up in London in a Somali diaspora community.

- Shire writes primarily about migration, displacement, identity, gender, and trauma.
- Her poetry is intensely personal yet universal, often blending raw emotion with lyrical imagery.
- She gained international recognition when her work was featured in Beyoncé’s visual album *Lemonade*.
- Shire’s style is lyrical, free verse, and narrative, often portraying pain, survival, and resilience.

About the Work

- *Backwards*” explores the experience of loss, displacement, and personal disorientation.
 - The poem reflects the emotional state of living in a world that feels reversed, alien, or unjust.
 - It can also be interpreted as a commentary on migration, exile, and the challenges of adapting to new realities.
 - Displacement and migration – feeling out of place in a new world.
 - Loss and grief – mourning personal, cultural, or familial separation.
 - Identity and memory – struggling to reconcile past and present.
 - Alienation and confusion – life feels “backwards” when uprooted.
1. The poem begins by describing life as reversed or inverted, reflecting emotional and psychological turmoil.
 2. The speaker feels out of control, as if normal order and expectations no longer apply.
 3. There is a strong sense of loss and longing, whether for home, family, or self.
 4. Warsan Shire uses vivid, sometimes violent imagery to convey trauma and alienation.
 5. The poem may address the immigrant experience, highlighting how uprooting affects identity and belonging.
 6. The repetition of “backwards” reinforces disorientation, struggle, and helplessness.
 7. Despite the bleak imagery, there is an undercurrent of resilience, showing the human capacity to endure hardship.
- Tone: Intense, reflective, and lamenting
 - Mood: Confused, melancholic, and haunting
 - Repetition: The word “backwards” emphasizes the sense of inversion and disruption.
 - Imagery: Vivid and often painful, conveying emotional and physical dislocation.
 - Free verse: Mirrors the chaotic, unsettled nature of the speaker’s life.
 - Symbolism: “Backwards” symbolizes loss, displacement, and life turned upside down.
 - Personal narrative style: Makes the poem intimate and relatable.
 - Life can feel disoriented and reversed during displacement, exile, or trauma.
 - The poem highlights the emotional struggles of migrants and those uprooted from home.
 - It emphasizes the human capacity to endure, survive, and retain identity despite chaos.

17. SUKIRTHARANI: PORTRAIT OF MY VILLAGE

About the Author: Sukirtharani

- Sukirtharani is a contemporary Tamil poet and writer from India.
- She writes mainly in Tamil, highlighting social issues, caste oppression, and rural life.
- Her poetry often gives voice to the marginalized, especially women and Dalits.
- Sukirtharani is known for her vivid imagery, emotional intensity, and social realism.
- Her works focus on identity, tradition, social injustice, and the natural environment of villages.

About the Work

- The poem describes the poet's village in vivid detail.
 - It reflects the physical landscape, lifestyle, and struggles of villagers.
 - It is both celebratory and critical, portraying the beauty of rural life alongside social and economic hardships.
 - Rural life and nature – the village as a symbol of tradition and community.
 - Poverty and hardship – struggles of villagers in daily life.
 - Identity and roots – connection to the land and cultural heritage.
 - Social critique – subtle observations of inequality and marginalization.
1. The poet paints a vivid picture of the village, describing its fields, houses, rivers, and natural environment.
 2. She captures the rhythms of daily life, such as farming, festivals, and communal activities.
 3. The poem also portrays social realities, including poverty, caste-based oppression, and labor.
 4. Villagers are depicted with humanity and dignity, highlighting resilience in the face of hardship.
 5. Nature is closely intertwined with life in the village, symbolizing continuity, sustenance, and beauty.
 6. The poet's tone shifts between nostalgia, admiration, and critique, showing love for the village yet awareness of its problems.
 7. Through her portrayal, Sukirtharani emphasizes the importance of remembering one's roots and valuing rural life.
- Tone: Reflective, affectionate, and observant
 - Mood: Nostalgic, contemplative, and sometimes somber
 - Imagery: Rich visual and sensory descriptions of village life.
 - Symbolism: The village symbolizes identity, tradition, and social reality.
 - Contrast: Between natural beauty and social hardships, highlighting inequality.
 - Simple language: Makes the poem accessible yet emotionally powerful.
 - The poem celebrates the beauty and simplicity of village life.
 - It also acknowledges the struggles and social inequalities present in rural communities.
 - It emphasizes the importance of cultural roots, community, and human resilience

18.KAI CHENG THOM: WHAT THE QUEER COMMUNITY SHOULD HAVE TOLD US

About the Author: Kai Cheng Thom (b. 1987)

- Kai Cheng Thom is a Canadian poet, writer, performer, and activist.
- She is of Chinese heritage and based in Canada.
- Thom's writing focuses on queer identity, gender, community, trauma, healing, and justice.
- She is known for her honest, compassionate, and critical voice within queer and activist spaces.
- Her work often challenges idealized notions of community, emphasizing accountability and care.
- She has written poetry, essays, and children's literature, gaining recognition for blending personal experience with social critique.

About the Work

- The poem addresses young or newly-out queer people.
- It responds to the romanticized idea that the queer community is always safe, loving, and united.
- The speaker reflects on unspoken truths about pain, conflict, and harm within marginalized communities themselves.
- Truth vs. idealization of community
- Queer identity and belonging
- Internal conflict and harm
- Healing, accountability, and resilience
- The poem begins by listing what the queer community "should have told" its members earlier.
- The speaker reveals that queer spaces are not free from cruelty, exclusion, or power struggles.
- It acknowledges that people who are oppressed can still hurt one another.
- The poem speaks about emotional wounds, betrayal, and disappointment within the community.
- Thom critiques the idea that shared identity automatically creates kindness or solidarity.
- At the same time, the poem does not reject the community; instead, it calls for honesty and responsibility.
- The speaker emphasizes the importance of self-worth, boundaries, and healing.
- The poem ultimately encourages growth, compassion, and more ethical ways of caring for one another.
- Tone: Honest, reflective, gently critical
- Mood: Sober, emotional, and hopeful
- Direct address: Creates intimacy and guidance.
- Repetition: Reinforces lessons that were left unspoken.
- Free verse: Reflects emotional openness and realism.
- Confessional style: Blends personal pain with collective experience
- No community is perfect, even one built on shared oppression.
- Real belonging requires truth, accountability, and care, not idealization.

- Healing comes from acknowledging harm while still believing in connection and change.

