

QUIVER

JUNE EDITION

FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

Dear Readers,

As monsoon ushers in a new academic year, we at Quiver are narrating the tales of our summer trips. From the sandy beaches of Maldives to the misty hills of Sikkim, we have covered almost every geographical terrain. We hope that the travelogues transport you to far off lands like it did for us. This June we celebrate the 152nd birthday of one of England's prolific poets- William Butler Yeats. We have included five of his poems which showcase his unique poetic style. We have also featured certain important Literary Milestones that took place in the month of June. So that's all for June! We hope you enjoy this edition

Harshita Lalwani and Amala Reddie
Head Editors



TRAVEL DIARIES

PARIS - THE CITY WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE

Paris – la ville d’amour et le rêve de tout le monde.

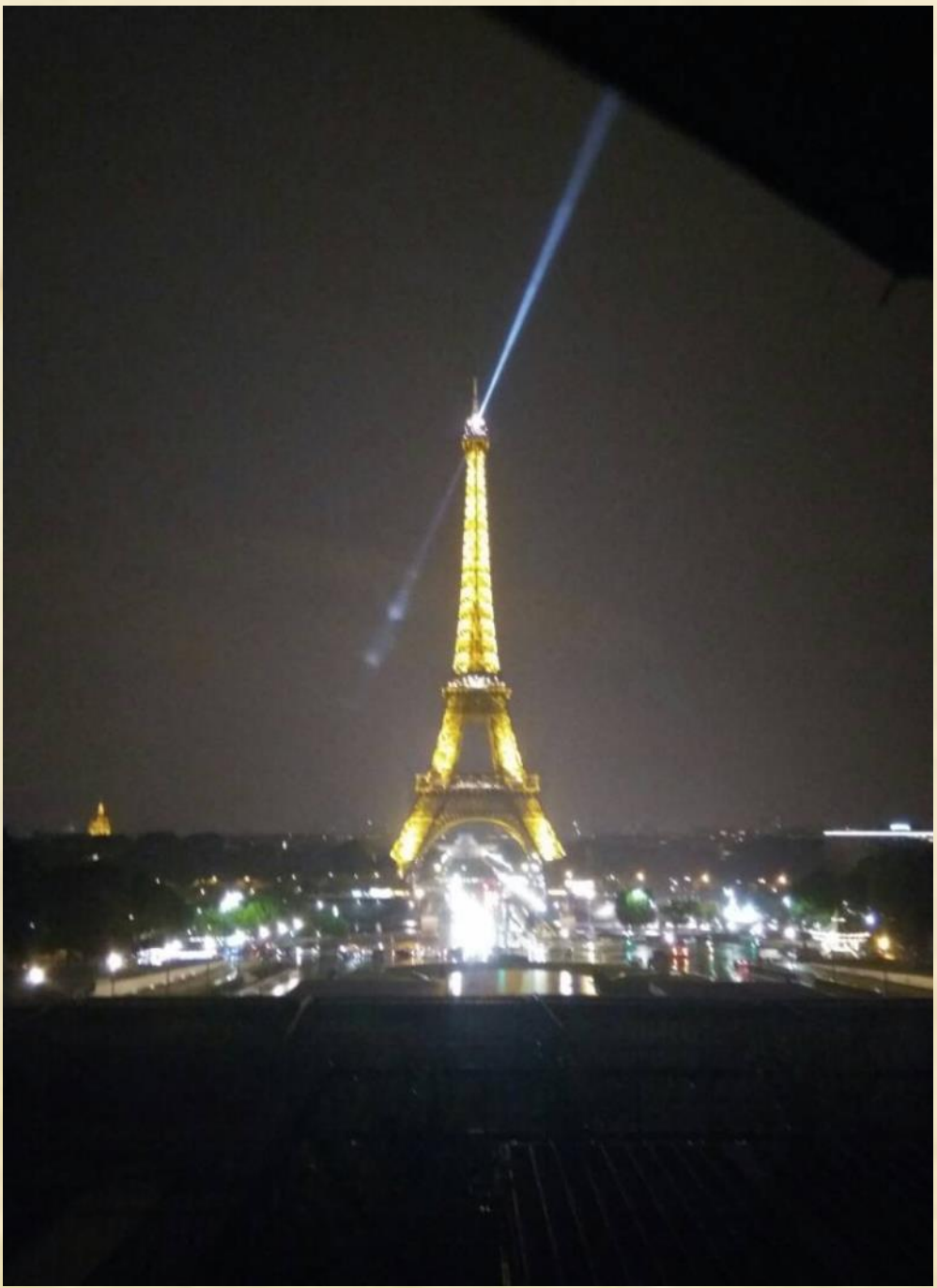
Paris – the city of love and every person’s dream.

This summer, I was lucky enough to visit this grand city and see it with my own eyes. The minute you enter Paris, it seems like you’re in a dream. You’ve read about it in books, seen it in films. But the fact that you actually ARE in Paris is just too unreal. My trip to this dream city still feels like a figment of my imagination.

World famous places like Centre Pompidou, Notre Dame, Champs Elysées, Louvre museum and Arc de Triomphe were right in front of my eyes. There was also the boat ride (bateaux mouches) on the river Seine, the bridges and the typical Parisian architecture. Things you’ve only heard of like the Parisian street artists, the street lamps, the subway system and the roadside bistros became a part of my reality. Not to forget, the one thing that everyone waits for; the one thing people from all over the world visit Paris for-The Eiffel Tower. Part of Paris’s skyline since 1889; the Eiffel Tower is a wonder during the day. But at night, it is absolutely magnificent. The brightly lit up Eiffel Tower with its glittering lights is a must-see sight when you visit the city of love. Moreover, climbing it and seeing Paris from the top of the world- One of the best experiences one could ever have!

Paris. It cannot be emphasized enough how beautiful this city is. One must go to Paris in order to experience its true beauty. As Audrey Hepburn rightly said, “Paris is always a good idea.”

Sarvika Tuli



SIKKIM

Having heard a lot about “*The Only Brother of the North-Eastern region*” of India, I was excited to board the plane in the wee hours of dawn and be whooshed off to Sikkim. The travel was long and tedious, but definitely worth it.

Sikkim proved itself to be the “*Switzerland of India*” with its environmental consciousness and vast biodiversity. Being the least populous and second smallest state in India, Sikkim was a very different experience- it was peaceful and cozy unlike the busy, bustling and happening cities I usually frequent. This was also enhanced by its multi-ethnicity and multilingualism.

My first day was an excitement of its own when I ran into my best friend at the resort- she prepped us well regarding what to wear, buy and expect. Each day was a trial of its own- waking up unreasonably early, donning woolens and enduring a long drive through high mountains and deep valleys. We had to withstand a winter, unlike anything I was used to. Regardless, it was pleasant as Sikkim marked my first snow among other things. We were also blessed with the view of the sun's first rays kissing the contours of the grand *Kanchenjunga*— the third highest mountain in the world.

The landscape was breathtaking (literally and figuratively), especially those of *Yumthang* Valley and *Gurudongmar* Lake escorted by snow-capped mountains and fluffy animals. We also drove past the Rivers in Love- "*Triveni*," the confluence of Rivers *Teesta* and *Rangit* - highlighted by their two distinct colours. Then there was the *Rumtek* Monastery rich with streams and a pleasant climate.

Each outing left me shivering to the bone with purple fingers and a very Rudolphian nose when posing for pictures and answering to fellow tourist's whims.

We spent barely 15-20 minutes at the destinations themselves due to altitude-induced nausea. However, the travel was made more memorable as we spent it in teasing banter with the driver.

Sikkim is a world of its own with its harsh cold, rocky roads, lack of people save for a few places, and odd timings for the sunrise and sunset.

Leaving was hard. Sikkim provided a tranquility which was a very welcome way to unwind from the exams. I wasn't ready to exchange it for the scorching heat and noisy streets of Pune.

It's a place I hold dear, having stirred something within me—I had left with a cloud of gloom and returned with a skip in my step and renewed vigour. It's a tiny little world removed from public haunt and urban problems. One would feel enveloped in a blanket of calmness, safety and tranquility there - I know I did!

Sukanya Garg



INS HAMLA

Travelling is therapeutic. We never know what a place or people could unravel.

To celebrate the end of our second academic year, my peers and I decided to go on a mini vacation to get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. And oh what a vacation we had!

Thanks to a friend, we were able to experience the three most blissful days of our lives.

We arrived at *INS Hamla* on the 22nd of April. *INS Hamla* is a navy catering training establishment located in Malad West. It was all white and blue as far as the eyes could see. I could see the twinkle in everyone's eyes and the excitement rushing through everyone matched the roar of the waves even before we saw the sea. But as soon as we witnessed the dark night, which made the skyline invisible, amalgamating with the majestic yet assuasive sound of the waves, we knew we were in for something really special.

On our first night, despite being extremely tired, we were all awake the entire night to take in all that this exhilarating place had to offer. We witnessed every changing colour of the sky and every shade of blue sent through us varying pangs of emotions. When morning finally came, some went to sleep while others did what everyone was dying to do—to get into the water! With no guardians around, we played as much as we wanted in the sea. Soaking each other wet, helping each other to balance and stay afloat, drenching everyone in mud, having every kind of food imaginable, lying down on the beach and listening to each other and going on solitary walks had been one of my most savoured experiences.

It might have been the best and the worst trip for some, but it was in every way the most memorable journey for me. I would like to conclude by quoting one of my peers who said: “Here’s to the nights that turned into mornings with friends that turned into family.”

Shreya Dutta



AN ODE TO KEATS

John Keats is one of the finest, most celebrated poets in the world of English Literature. He is remembered for his marvellous odes and poems during the Romantic period. Keats is also one of my favourite poets and when I travelled to London this summer, I knew as an English Literature student, I had to visit the Keats Museum.

I knew that the Keats Museum was in Hampstead Heath and I simply had to go there. So, one bright Saturday afternoon, I left with my father not knowing how or if we'll ever find the museum! But we need not have worried, for the moment we got out of the tube station, we saw a sign for the Keats Grove. It was a short walk that led us to this beautiful, quaint English house with a lush garden. We walked inside and I felt a wave of emotion as I realised I was in the house of the poet whom I had learnt about and admired so much!

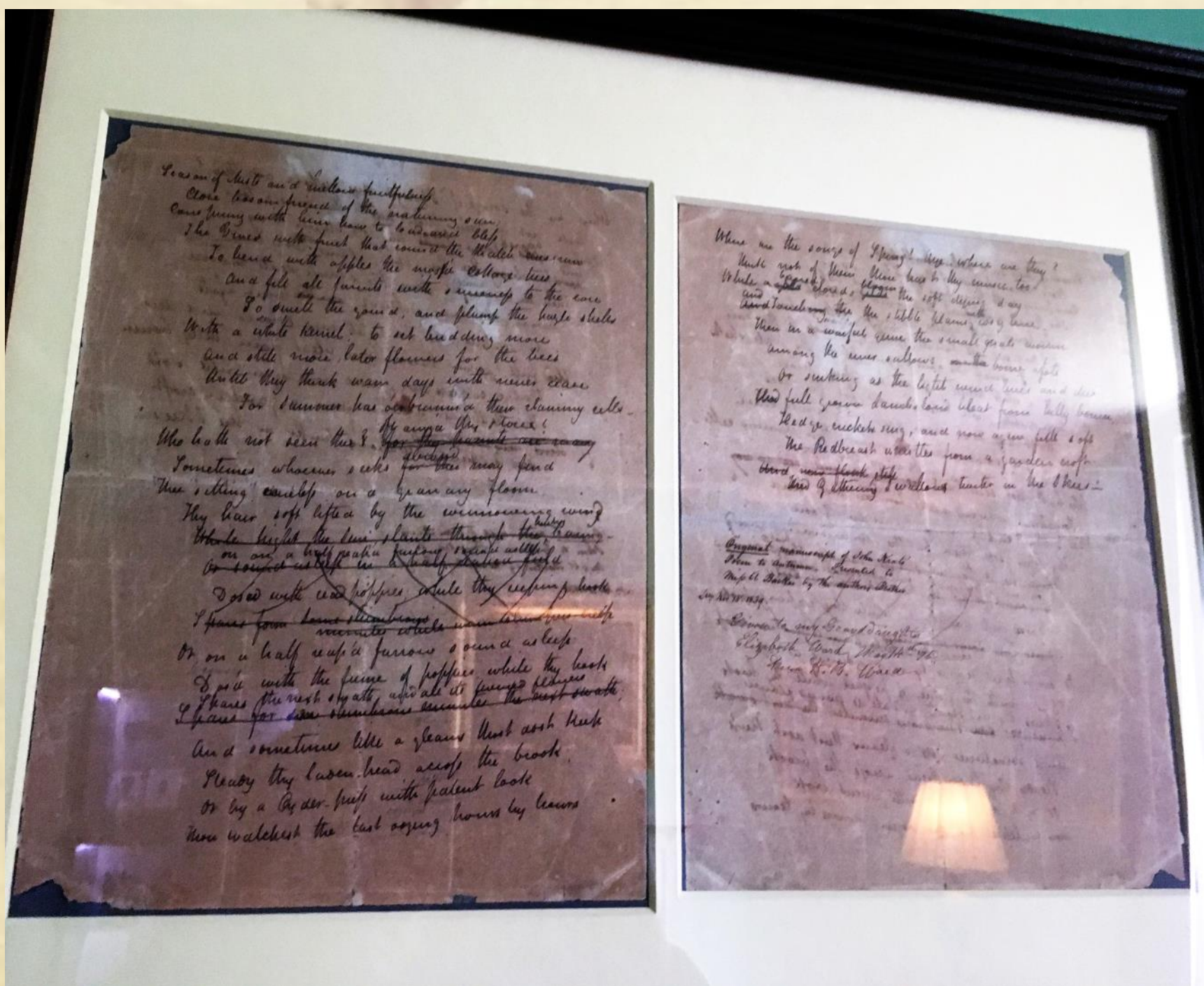
The house consisted of twelve rooms where each room was fully furnished and the attention to detail in each room was mesmerising. This also gave us insight into the life of this great poet. There was also a display of artifacts from Keats' time which were also used by him! Some artifacts included Keats's copy of John Milton's 'Paradise Lost' with his own notes and the original engagement ring of Fanny Brawne- Keats' beloved. The bedroom in which Keats lived for most of his life after he realised he had consumption (tuberculosis) , the illness he knew would kill him, was a lovely, pale shade of pink which was recreated by studying the ruins of the original paint! One could almost feel his spirit alive in the house.

The defining moment for me was seeing the original manuscript of the famous ode- 'Ode to Autumn'. Words cannot describe how overwhelmed and teary-eyed I was on seeing the words of the poem- the very poem I had learnt and fell in love with, etched on parchment in his very own handwriting!

The rooms also had a listening section where one could listen to the recordings of Keats' letters and poems. The letters gave an understanding of the poverty he lived in and how he died thinking himself to be a failure as a poet. His words regarding his failure on his tombstone, 'Here lies a poet whose name is writ in water', moved me to tears and I wish I could somehow go back in time to tell him that he never was a failure but one of the greatest poets who ever lived.

Although the Keats Museum is not a famous tourist destination like the Big Ben or London Eye, it continues to carry on the legacy of John Keats. It was definitely the highlight of my trip and the only way to describe the entire experience is by Keats's own words – 'For myself I know not how to express my devotion to so fair a form: I want a brighter word than bright, a fairer word than fair.'

Amala Reddie



PARA-PARA-PARADISE

If you were to peel my layers and excavate my essence from under my skin, it wouldn't take you long to realise that I'm a 22 year old girl with a heart for a brain and a fool for a heart. A Bombay girl with the ocean spirit flowing in her veins and the mist leaving dew drops on her desires, moistening her eyes with gratitude each time she tricks time to steal yet another glance of wisps of clouds mirroring the waves of the sea - that's me.

How does it feel when destiny knocks on your door with a dream? Unreal, that's the only word I can cram my wholesome experience at Maldives into! It's a destination I had only fantasized about, wondering how it would feel to explore a place euphemising the blue and green of our planet, the colours blending to birth an otherworldly land surrounded by the sea.

Arriving in the capital city was a joyride in itself. On my way to the ferry station, what took me by surprise was the landing strip – it was parallel to the coastline and the sea was a narrow width away from the airport. I had a lot of believe-it-or-not moments in store for me!

I spent 6 days and 5 nights in the lap of Nature with the wind and the waves lapping at my soul, witnessing her artwork as it waded past me underwater (dolphins, stingrays, mantas – you name it) and engulfed me in its hues when the skies smiled its vibrant moods at me. Since I voyaged to the heavenly country in an off-season period, there weren't many tourists on the island I was lodged at, something that made my stay even more 'sea-rene'. I had the entire beach to myself on several occasions and let me confess, the only simile stuck in my brain is that of living inside a Windows wallpaper.

We all have an image painted in our heads, a happy place our minds often wander off to in times of despair. We close our eyes and there we are – breathing and feeling a little better. For me, this fantasy isn't as unreal now. The sky is more silver than grey and the calm lingers a little longer - even in my home city as my heart beats in sync with the sea.

Vrutti Joshi



BOOK LIST CHALLENGE 2017

Fellow bibliophiles, we are back with this month’s Book List Challenge! The start of a new session calls for an applause for the efforts put in for the grueling exams as well as for the brand new milestones that await us in the upcoming year. Furthermore, we must cave in to the simpler joys of life and for that purpose; we bring you three categories and accordingly, three books to be read every month to satiate that intellectual hunger within.

This month's categories are:

I. A book set in the place you want to visit.

Learning a thing or two about a place from your travel bucket list definitely wouldn't hurt.

- a. Most of us harbour a soft spot for Paris, and so we have The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah.
- b. Further, we have Iliad by Homer, and
- c. The Martian by Andy Weir for the more adventurous ones.

II. A book that was published the year you were born.

Age is just a number... not. Pick a book as old as you!

- a. The Rainmaker by John Grisham (1995)
- b. A Game of Thrones by George R.R. Martin (1996)
- c. Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden (1997)

III. A book your friend recommended.

Either it would actually turn out to be a nice one or it would give you an excuse for a retreat (or revenge). A win-win situation, right? That's all folks, we hope you find this challenge engaging and encouraging for the bookworm within!

Arunima Rayalu MA Part II (English)

LITERARY MILESTONES

Literature has the power to turn words into actions, to ignite a spark within millions and it continues to do so centuries later. Thus we would like to celebrate some of the literary milestones that have had an impact on millions and which have coincidentally, taken place in the month of June. Mentioned below are a few milestones- :

• 9th June

Marks the death anniversary of one of England’s most prolific writers, Charles Dickens. The novel genre as we know it flourished under his plume. His gothic descriptions and pauperized characters gave an immaculate portrayal of Victorian England.

• 12th June 1942

Anne Frank received a diary on her birthday, a diary which would take the world by storm even decades after its publication. Her accounts as a Jew in German-occupied Netherlands depicted the Holocaust from the eyes of a 13 year old girl.

• 16th of June

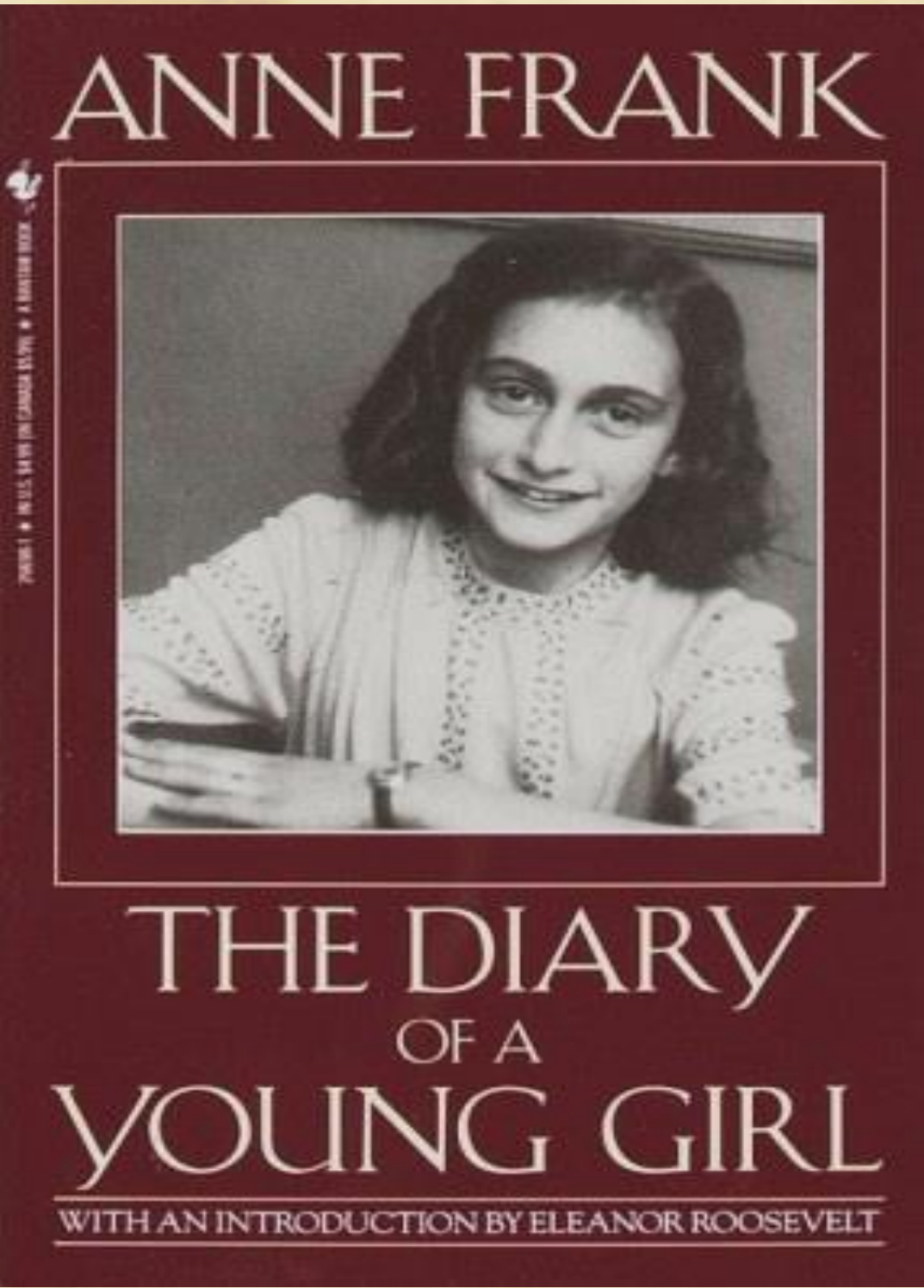
Every year on this day the life of James Joyce is celebrated and this day is called Bloomsday. The events of his acclaimed novel ‘Ulysses’ are read and dramatized on this day.

• 26th June 2017

Celebrates the 20th anniversary of the publication of J.K Rowling’s *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone*. The terrific trio of Harry, Ron and Hermione have grown up in front of our eyes and we have grown up with them too. J.K Rowling’s fictitious world provided a relief when we needed a break from the muggles around us. Here’s to the boy who lived.

• 29th June 1613.

The Globe Theatre, where most of Shakespeare’s plays are performed, burned down. The theatre has since then been rebuilt and has become a mecca for Shakespeare’s fans where a lot of his plays are brought to life.



ANNE FRANK- AN ORDINARY TEENAGER IN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

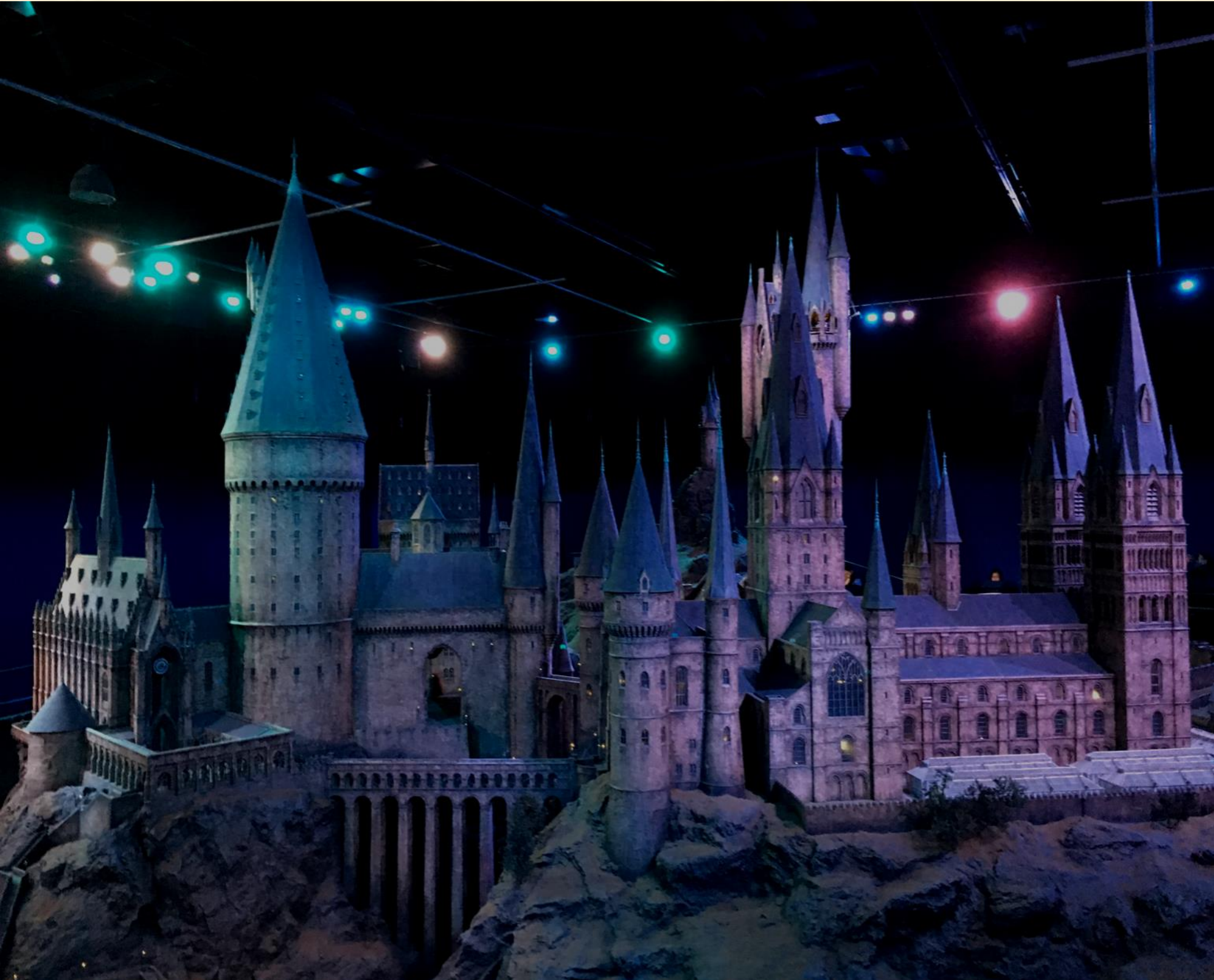
A teenage girl’s diary is a secret place. Everything that is in her mind and heart is poured out on those pages. Read a teen girl’s diary and you will know exactly what she thinks, what she feels, and her opinions on everything under the sun.

Most teenage girls’ diaries will talk about boys, school, dressing up, film stars, friends, peer pressure, parents, crushes... all the ordinary things adolescent in life. The most famous diary in the world – the diary of Anne Frank, talks about these things too. The only difference is that while the rest of the girls go through these experiences in the free world, Anne Frank went through it all hiding in an attic. Why? All because she was a Jew living in the Netherlands during the reign of the Nazis.

Life for the Jews during the Nazi regime was terrible and Anne and her family had to go into hiding to escape being shipped off to a concentration camp. Anne was only 13 when this happened. She had just started her teenage years when she was cooped into a tiny secret annex with her parents, sister and another family.

While in hiding, Anne Frank wrote about her daily experiences. She described life in hiding and the problems of the war. But this was not all she wrote about. No matter what the circumstances, she was still a teenage girl. Her diary also revealed her thoughts about her life, boys, film stars, being in love, fights with her parents, her relationship with her sister, the changes her body was going through, her hopes, dreams and ambitions.

Anne wanted to be a writer when she grew up but unfortunately, her life was cut short as the Nazis found the Frank family in hiding and she was murdered in a concentration camp. However, her dream to be a published writer did not die with her. Her father, the only surviving member of the family, published Anne’s dairy as it was her wish and today, it remains one of the most read books in the world.



WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS– A TRIBUTE

William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) was a 20th Century poet of the Traditional stream, whose art was an attempt to escape from the sordid materialistic world around him.

Yeats' mastery of language and rhythm established him as an accomplished artist, showing a more direct and virile expression. His compact and closely-woven style lands itself readily to a wide variety of subjects. On account of his 152nd birthday, we have decided to showcase five of his famous poems:

The Cat and The Moon

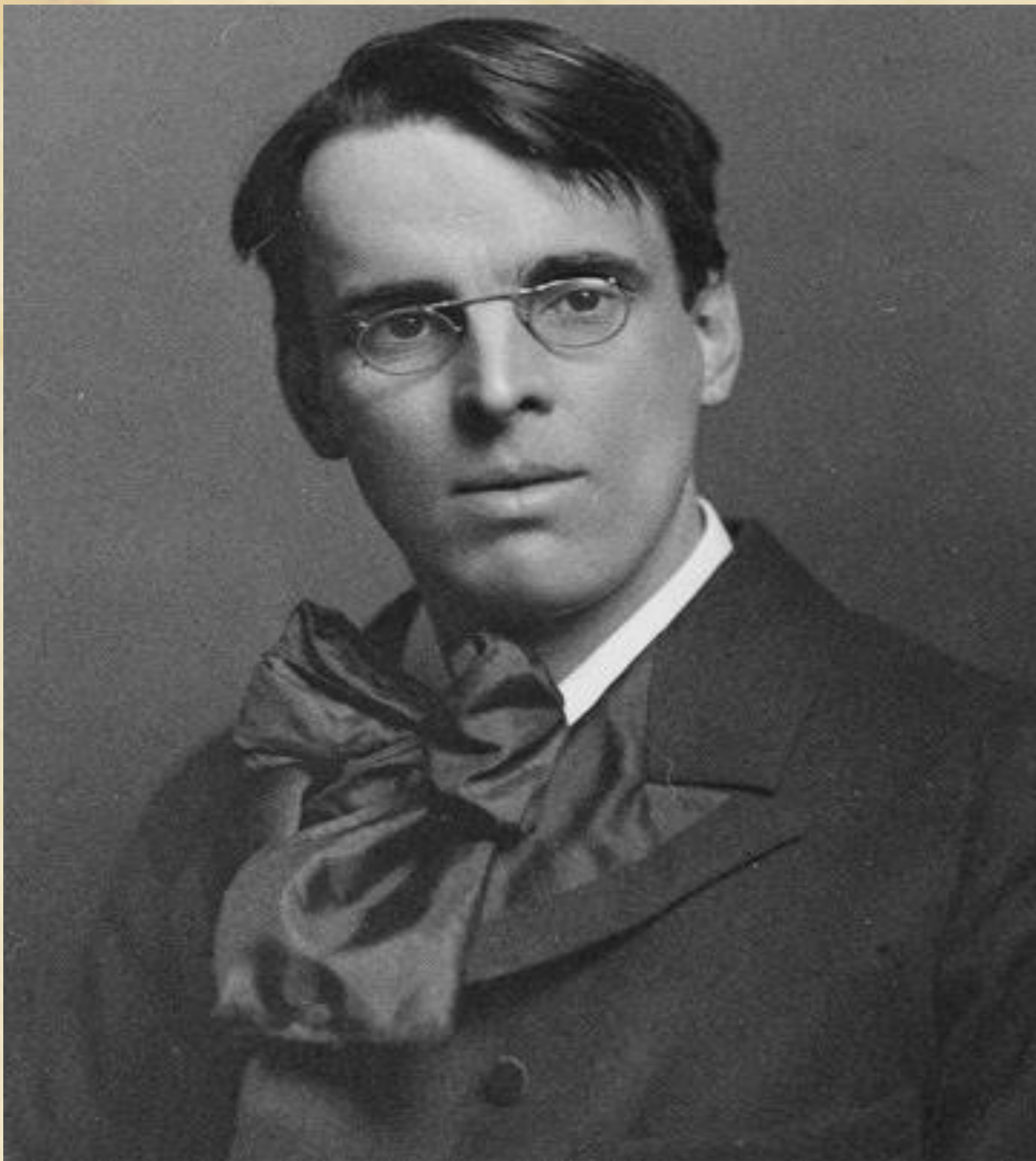
The cat went here and there
And the moon spun round like a top,
And the nearest kin of the moon,
The creeping cat, looked up.
Black Minnaloushe stared at the moon,
For, wander and wail as he would,
The pure cold light in the sky
Troubled his animal blood.
Minnaloushe runs in the grass
Lifting his delicate feet.
Do you dance, Minnaloushe, do you dance?
When two close kindred meet.
What better than call a dance?
Maybe the moon may learn,
Tired of that courtly fashion,
A new dance turn.
Minnaloushe creeps through the grass
From moonlit place to place,
The sacred moon overhead
Has taken a new phase.
Does Minnaloushe know that his pupils
Will pass from change to change,
And that from round to crescent,
From crescent to round they range?
Minnaloushe creeps through the grass
Alone, important and wise,
And lifts to the changing moon
His changing eyes.

The Second Coming

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

Surely some revelation is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming is at hand.
The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out
When a vast image out of Spiritus Mundi
Troubles my sight: a waste of desert sand;
A shape with lion body and the head of a man,
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it
Wind shadows of the indignant desert birds.

The darkness drops again but now I know
That twenty centuries of stony sleep
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?



The Lake Isle of Innisfree

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

Death

Nor dread nor hope attend
A dying animal;
A man awaits his end
Dreading and hoping all;
Many times he died,
Many times rose again.
A great man in his pride
Confronting murderous men
Casts derision upon
Supersession of breath;
He knows death to the bone
Man has created death.

The Rose Tree

'O words are lightly spoken,'
Said Pearse to Connolly,
'Maybe a breath of politic words
Has withered our Rose Tree;
Or maybe but a wind that blows
Across the bitter sea.'
'It needs to be but watered,'
James Connolly replied,
'To make the green come out again
And spread on every side,
And shake the blossom from the bud
To be the garden's pride.'
'But where can we draw water,'
Said Pearse to Connolly,
'When all the wells are parched away?
O plain as plain can be
There's nothing but our own red blood
Can make a right Rose Tree.'



TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD REVIEW

This American classic, authored by Harper Lee, was first published in 1960 and it went on to win a Pulitzer Prize. Set in 1930s Alabama, the novel is narrated by six-year old Scout Finch, and it takes a look at racism through her eyes when a black man goes on trial for raping a white woman.

To the utter dismay of Maycomb County's racist community, Atticus Finch, an attorney, agrees to defend Tom Robinson, the black man who has been (falsely) accused of raping a white woman, Mayella Ewell. This decision changes the life of his children-Scout and her brother Jem. Atticus provides sufficient evidence which proves that Mayella and her father are lying. Despite the evidence, the 'all-white' jury convicts Tom. In the aftermath, the children along with their father face animosity from their friends and neighbours.

This book appealed to me because of the delicate humour it provides, formed by the incongruence between a child's understanding of reality and the actual reality.

Doing what's right is undoubtedly subjective, but the book relies on the gut instinct of right and wrong and distinguishes it from blindly following the code.

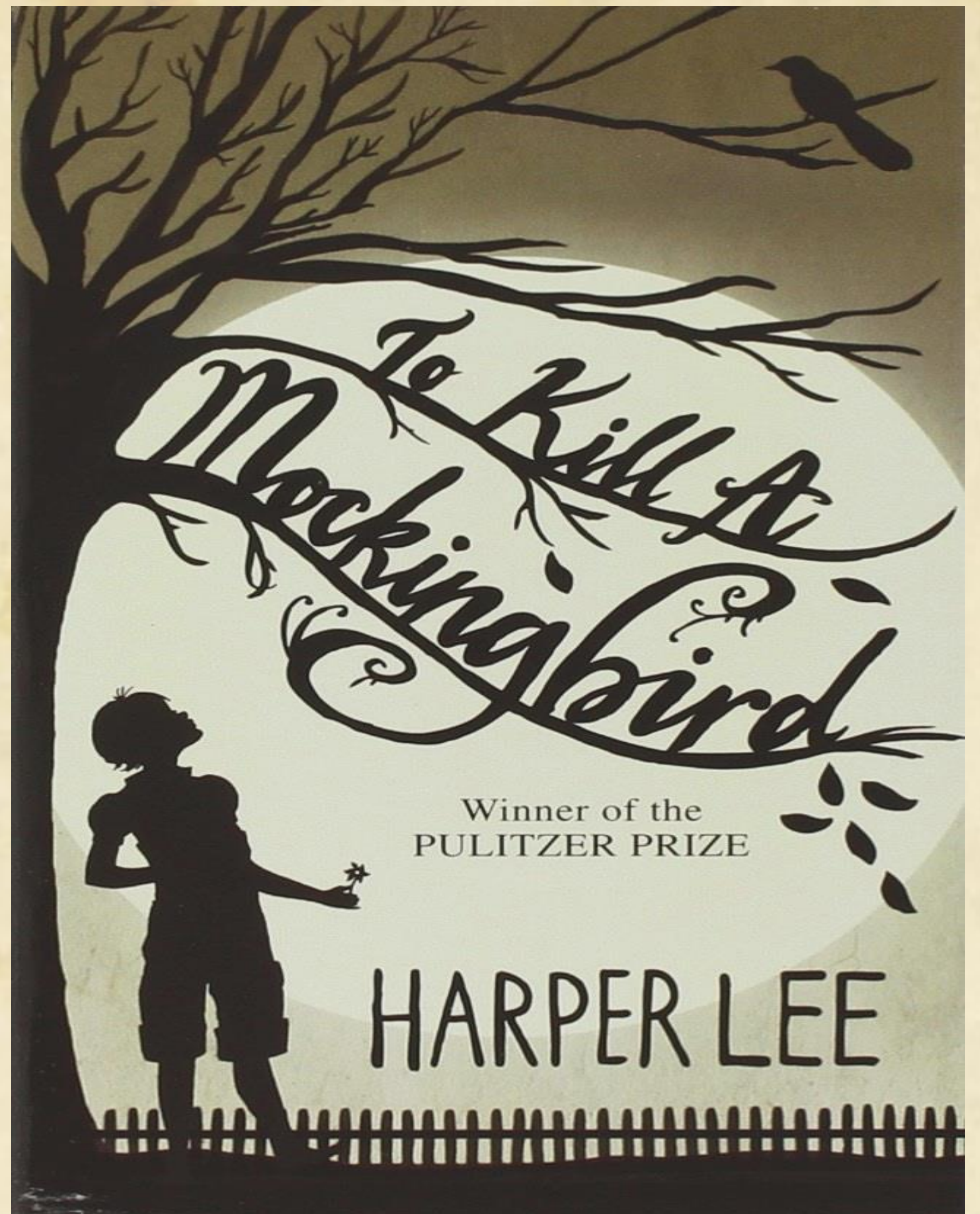
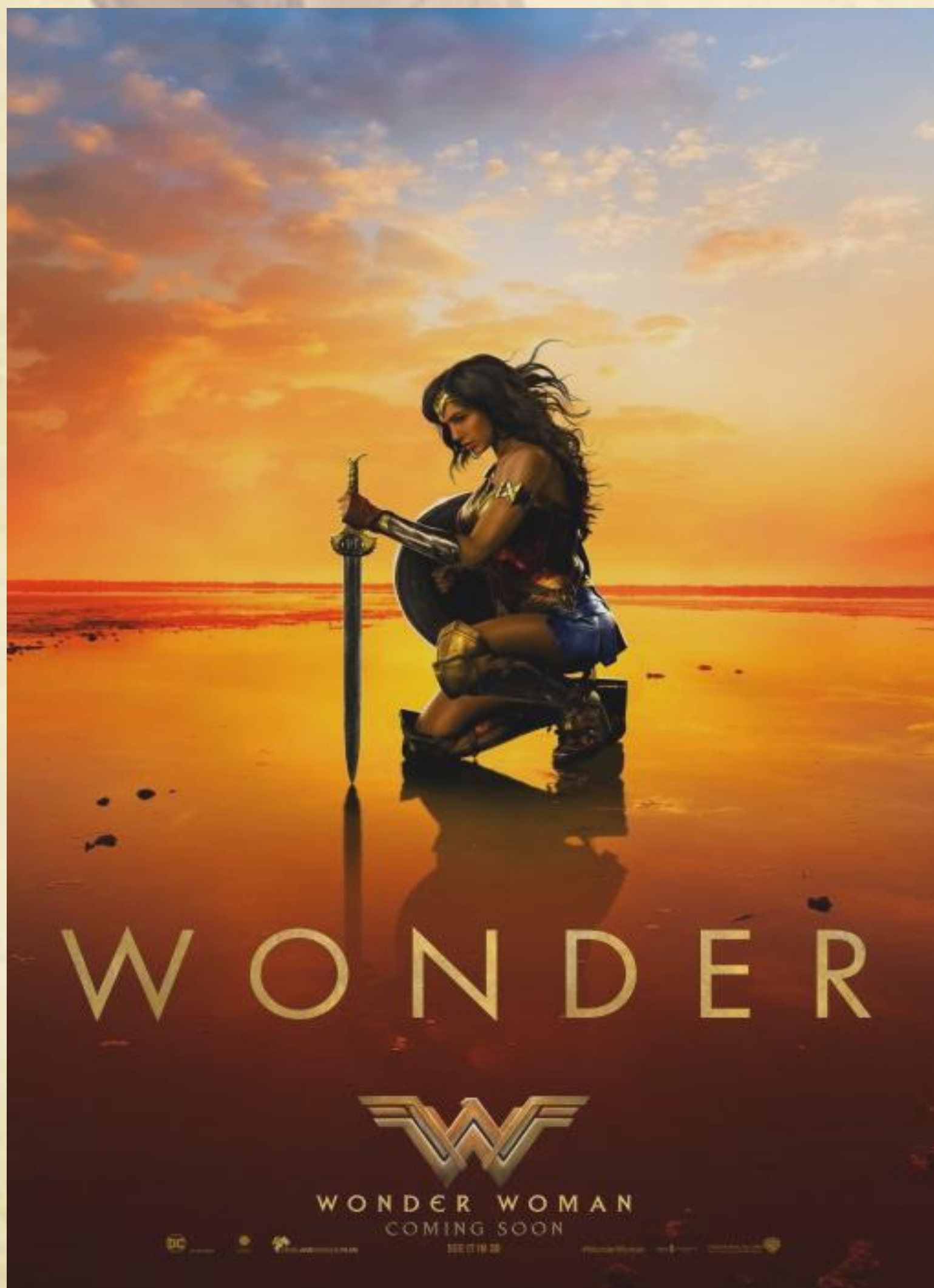
The title *To Kill a Mockingbird* refers to a native belief presented early in the novel- that it is a sin to kill a mockingbird. Here, mockingbirds are represented by Tom Robinson, Boo Radley and Jem- they are innocents who have been bruised due to their exposure to squalor. Lee subtly implies that to kill a mockingbird is to ultimately destroy innocence. "Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy...but sing their hearts out for us", Miss Maudie explains to Scout.

Another aspect which makes this book a page-turner is that it's written in colloquial Southern diction. This provides for a more intimate documentation of racism and prejudice through Scout's eyes, bringing out the unembellished truth.

The moral voice of Atticus is ever-inspiring and will always echo in every situation one comes across. His calm integrity and politesse is the most striking. Lee should be applauded for presenting us with Atticus- he is a peculiar father, and the most fair-minded character throughout the novel. In the film adaptation, Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch is idyllic.

Above all, I found this novel to be gritty. This grit is exhibited by all the protagonists as well as the defendant Tom. Standing up for righteousness against a tough system is not only harrowing but gruelling and the book precisely captures this aspect. To conclude, I quote *The Guardian*: "To Kill a Mockingbird' will never stop being a good book, and it will never stop inspiring good people".

Sanika Thaware



WONDER WOMAN REVIEW

A WOMAN WHO DID WHAT NO MAN COULD

I watched history unfold on 2nd June 2017 as I saw Gal Gadot take on the role of a beloved childhood favourite, Wonder Woman. The movie, directed by Patty Jenkins, was an instant box office triumph. However, its impact isn't merely a monetary one.

Diana Prince was the only child on the all-female island of Themyscira, home of the Amazonians. She had always been eager to be a warrior like her mother, Queen Hippolyta and her aunt Antiope. She was brought up under the impression that any kind of war is orchestrated by the Greek god of war, Ares. So, when a spy Captain Steve Trevor informs her of the ongoing World War I, she is determined to stop Ares and save mankind. Diana believes that a sword through Ares' heart will put an end to the raging war, though will it?

Patty Jenkins has succeeded at capturing the true character of Wonder Woman and has delivered a movie full of action, emotion and a good storyline. In countless of action sequences, we see her rescuing Steve Trevor, thereby subverting the 'damsel in distress' tradition of superhero movies. There is a scene where a small village- 'No Man's Land' which was constantly being bombed by the Germans. Diana refused to leave any civilian in harm's way and we see a woman walking into 'No Man's Land' in full armour, deflecting bullets and tearing down the German line of defense all by herself. The scene is brilliant and riveting! Wonder Woman is compassionate and kind along with superb fighting skills. The fighting moves of the Amazonians make you want to rush immediately to the local visa office of Themyscira to immigrate to this beautiful yet formidable island.

Diana overcomes her initial naiveté about human nature and despite their shortcomings she chooses to believe that love trumps hate. Call it cheesy, but this statement remains true even a century after World War I.

Since its release, Wonder Woman has had a profound impact on countless children. Forget dressing up as Wonder Woman, these kids wish to work together to defeat evil and speak 100 languages like Diana. A young boy asked for a Wonder Woman lunch box and a girl went to school dressed up as Wonder Woman because she wanted to be ready to save the world.

In this decade of countless male-centred superhero movies, Diana Prince shines and stands out like a diamond- a rare and priceless gem! She is beauty and intelligence, action and compassion, a warrior and a woman.

Harshita Lalwani