



CHALK AND TALK

CENTRE FOR EDUCATION AND LANGUAGE



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In this Issue:

Director's Address...2

CEL Undertakings...4

MPU Endeavour...9

Time to Write...17

Language Games ...24

DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS

Welcome to the second volume of Chalk and Talk! We hope that you've read and enjoyed the contents of our first volume; especially, the 'Time to Write' Section. In this volume, we will share more news of our Centre's activities and we have also included writings from budding writers among our staff and students.

We recently celebrated the pre- Ramadan Pot Luck feast on the 3rd of May at our Centre together with our colleagues from Pre-University. It was an event to remember; there was so much food, fun and sharing. This brings to mind a well-loved saying by Virginia Woolfe, "One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well." We have created a bond that



would pave the way to working together in order to achieve our aspirations of serving the students and the university. We have seen opportunities in which we can pool our resources together and support each other.

We also got together on the 16th of May to decorate our Centres for Hari Raya with ribbons of ketupat, raya cards and tree and raya lamps. Everyone in the Centres lent a hand and made monetary contributions to buy the raya trinkets. Thanks to all our colleagues from the Centre of Pre-University. We look forward to more sharing and interaction among us.

For my CEL crew, thank you for being the unrelenting support when there were multiple deadlines to meet and work seemed unsurmountable and the end results seemed so unattainable; even when at times the nature of work went way beyond your line of duty. Thank you for the encouragement and the shouldering of burden together so that in the end we could see the light at the end of the tunnel.

It is really reassuring and comforting to know that I am not alone in the struggle. And all this is done in the name of serving the university and the students better. Ours is after all not just a job; it is a career and a commitment. We will always learn from our mistakes to achieve better results: "By seeking and blundering, we learn..."

Thank you all!

Assoc. Prof. Azian Abdul Kadir
Director
Centre for Education and Languages

CEL AND PRE-UNIVERSITY HARI RAYA CELEBRATIONS



CEL UNDERTAKINGS

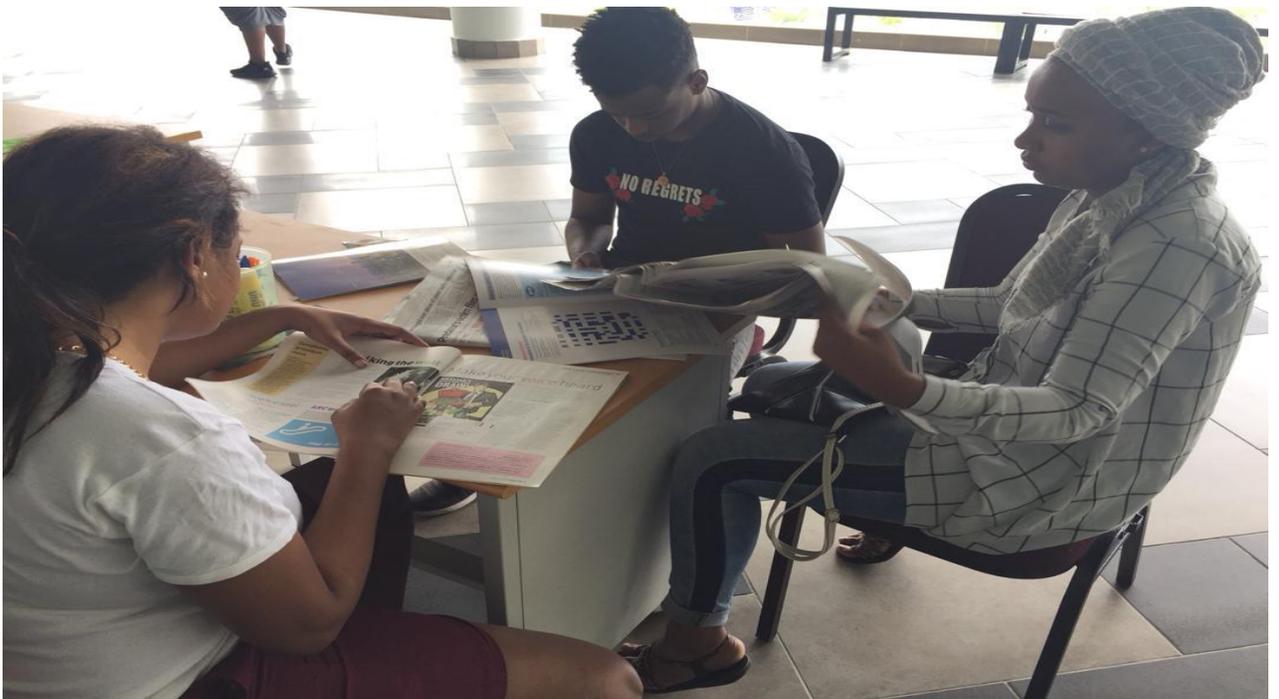
EAP Open Booth

13th – 14th April 2019

Center for Education and Language had an English for Academic Purposes (EAP) Open Booth in conjunction with Student Representative Council (SRC) month on the 13th and 14th of April. EAP students participated in the activities. Fun games were held such as ‘Pictures Paint a Thousand Words’ and ‘Charades’. These games provide practice in reading, grammar, writing, and vocabulary.

The booth operated from 9 am to 5 pm at the Library Spine. About 25 students participated in these activities and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Hopefully, this will encourage them to participate in future language activities. Well done, folks!





CEL UNDERTAKINGS

Songkran Festival

18th April 2019

The Songkran Festival is an annual festival which celebrates the Thai New Year that takes place on every 13th of April. Although the Thai New Year is on this date, the water festival usually is held between the 14th to the 16th of April every year. Nowadays, the festival is not only celebrated by the Thai community, but by the tourists who visit Thailand. They celebrate alongside the Thai people by participating in various water festival activities.

In conjunction with SRC Arts and Music Month 2019, Centre for Education and Language (CEL) organized the celebration of the Songkran Festival at The Amphitheatre, MAHSA University. The event that occurred on the 18th of April 2019 was attended by almost 200 students from various Faculties.

The participants threw balloons that were filled with water at one another while the Songkran songs were played. Some of the balloons were filled with coloured water and those who got hit with those balloons were considered the



lucky ones. The lucky students then received water guns that were provided by the organizer. It was truly an exciting and enjoyable event. The event ended when all participants cooperated in cleaning up the place together.



CEL UNDERTAKINGS

Teacher's Day Celebration

16th May 2019

Teacher's Day Celebration was organized by the Dentistry Faculty, in conjunction with the University Social & Corporate Responsibilities month. Students and staff joined hands to participate in these enjoyable and memorable activities. Teacher's Day Celebration is held every year in appreciation of teachers and their dedication to teaching and guiding students towards a promising future.

CEL, with the help of Diploma students, set up a booth for language games like crossword puzzle and word search games for students and lecturers to participate. The theme of the games was love and appreciation of teachers. The activities were conducted in front of The Habitat in the morning starting at 10 am and ending in the afternoon around 1pm. The games were interesting and at the same



time meaningful. Thanks to everyone who participated in this event. We will surely celebrate this event again next year with more zest and appreciation for teachers.

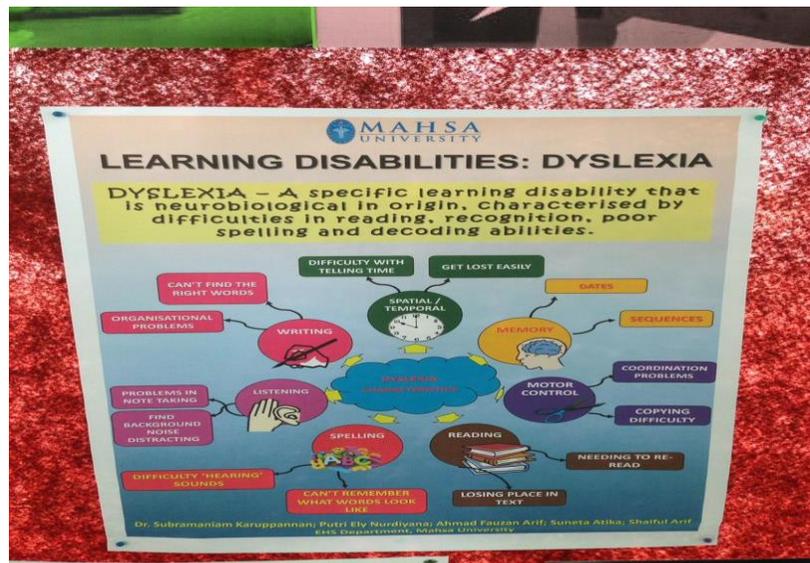
CEL UNDERTAKINGS

Poster Competition & Exhibition – Learning Disabilities: Dyslexia

11TH May 2019

A Poster Competition & Exhibition was organized by CEL in conjunction with the University Social & Corporate Responsibilities Month hosted by the Dentistry Faculty. Students and staff joined hands to participate in this enjoyable and memorable activity. The theme of the competition was Learning Disabilities: Dyslexia. All the Faculties exhibited the posters with appropriate content, design and layout. The activities were conducted at the Spine, Level 2 from 10 am until 1 pm. Each poster was placed on the Poster Board and it was evaluated by the audience.

The activity was educational and many students dropped by to view the exhibition. For many, it was a first insight into the concept of dyslexia and the posters gave them initial and important information regarding this type of learning disability among children and adults.



MPU ENDEAVOUR

“Time has a way of showing us what really matters in life”

Miles Davis

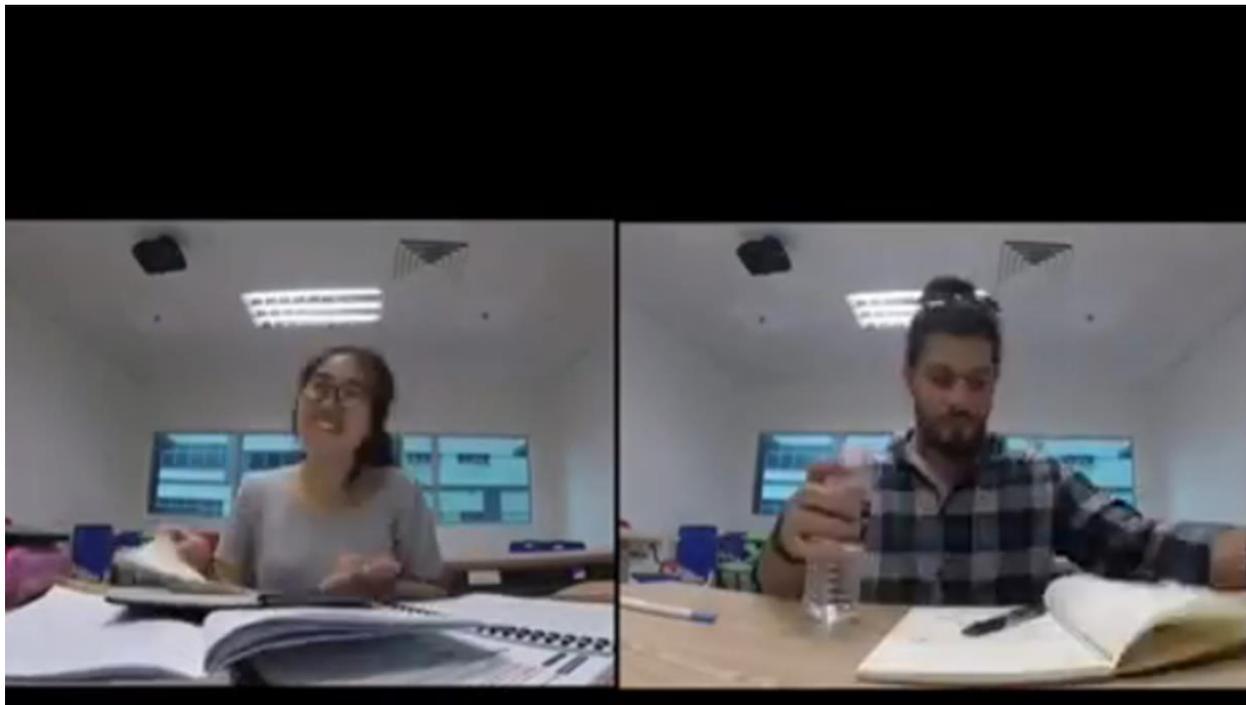
MPU- Time Management Course

Last semester, students who took MPU-Time Management subject had been assigned to promote a video regarding ‘How to Manage Your Time Wisely’ through Instagram. This assignment was conducted in order to create awareness of the importance of time management among students. The students were required to highlight on the consequences of procrastination. Well, what is procrastination? Procrastination is the avoidance of doing a task that needs to be accomplished by a certain deadline. It could be further stated as a habitual or intentional delay of starting or finishing a task despite knowing it might have negative consequences.

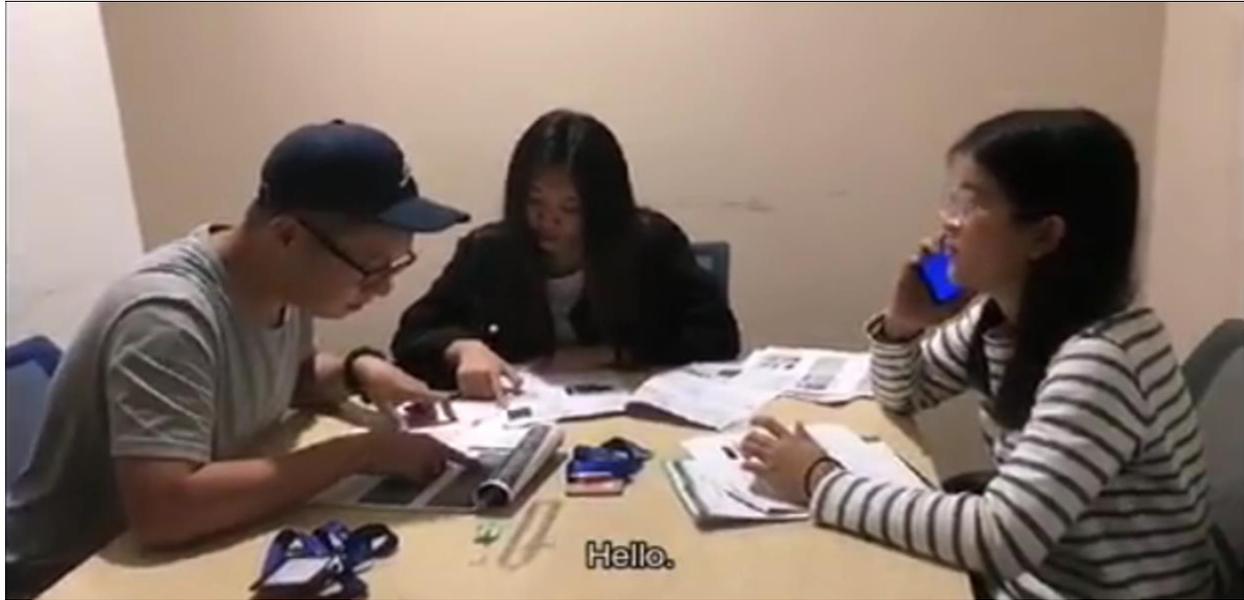
With the duration of less than a minute, students were required to create and promote the video for three days on Instagram. Evaluation was made based on the number of likes and reviews given on the Instagram with the hashtag #MPU2312. We hope that this activity was able to create the awareness on the risks of procrastination among MAHSA citizens.



MPU ENDEAVOUR



MPU ENDEAVOUR



MPU ENDEAVOUR



MPU ENDEAVOUR

Theatre on Cultural Diversity in Marriage Traditions



Ethics, citizenship & civilization are important elements in the process of a student's self-development which encompasses the physical, spiritual, instinctive, social and intellectual (cognitive) aspects. The development of civilization in the world is driven by a high degree of tolerance, respect, having an active culture of interaction and social relations. In line with this, the Ethnic Relations subject (MPU3113) attempts an alternative approach in educating students, not only in terms of learning in the classroom but also engaging students in the social aspects of the local community.

The assessment of the students in the April 2019 semester was conducted as a group presentation with the theme of "Malaysian Traditional Wedding". The theme was chosen to instill the values and tradition of our Malaysian multicultural society which may have been drowned by the traits globalization and the pursuit of modernity.

Each presentation group consisted of twenty students and they were from various ethnic groups. Through the study and research of students on the traditions of community marriage in Malaysia, they were able to provide an outstanding presentation through effective theatrical delivery. The cultural aspects of the local community were successfully demonstrated. Each group was given forty-five minutes to perform the theatre with the participation of nine groups held for three weeks. The involvement of students in theatre arts is expected to foster a high level of unity and tolerance among students, which in turn creates a more harmonious learning environment and an ethnic tolerance model among our international students.

MPU ENDEAVOUR



MPU ENDEAVOUR



MPU ENDEAVOUR



TIME TO WRITE



WORDS ARE
OUR MOST INEXHAUSTIBLE
SOURCE OF MAGIC



A Poem of Love

by *Hamdi Hassan*

Student, EAP, Upper-Intermediate Level

I never knew love could be so effortless

I never knew it would be so much easier to allow myself

To be completely honest about who I am

I never knew how good it felt until you came along

No matter how far we walk away, at the end of the day,

It's always us

It's beautiful how circumstances have little effect on what

We fell about each other

It's strange how hopelessly drawn I am to you and you are,

To me and how we don't want to stop

I wonder how you do that, calm me down with just a

Glance, just a hug, just a kiss that says, "I'm here"

Today, this moment, this second is beautiful because you are

With me, you make everything better.

My Favourite Role Model

by *Desmond Ng Wei-Qin*

Student, Foundation in Science

There are a handful of people that I look up to in my life as everyone shines in their own way. Legends from all over the world who come from different backgrounds with different stories such as Barack Obama, Selena Gomez and countless



others have managed to touch our hearts and souls as they continue to inspire and motivate others to become a much better versions of themselves. However, my favorite role model is someone who brings me to this world and that's my mother.

My mother is loved by many as she never fails to bestow a benign smile upon whoever that comes within her orbit. I grew up being raised by my mother. There is nothing more I could ask for from my mother. She takes care of me no matter

what the scenario is. It is not that I prefer my mother more than my father; it is just that my mother sacrificed a lot more than my father for me. I love my parents a lot, but things won't always go with the way you wanted it to be. My parents

divorced when I was 10 years old. My mother is a housewife and my father works as a manager, so there are no financial issues in

our family before the divorce. Before I was born, my mother used to be working as an assistant for my father. After I was born, my father prefers my mother to be at home to look after me. So my mother becomes a full time housewife. After the divorce, my mother has to take care of me and find a job to raise me. I was still young and rebellious. If anything didn't go my way, I will fight about it with my mother. I had been so

disobedient to my mother but she still never failed to shower me with her love.

My mother found a job as a waitress at a restaurant. Life was getting slightly better but my mother works 24/7 every day without off days. During those times, I rarely see my mother in the house, all I can see was my breakfast that my mother made for me. The only time I get to hang out with my mother was on Saturday nights because I can stay up until late at night. I spent every Saturday night like it was my last day on earth.

My mother would sacrifice anything in order to raise me. Sometimes she even worked as a flyer distributor without telling me. She didn't want me to pity her. When I was 12 years old, a small company called my mother and offered her a job as a secretary in their company. My mother accepted the job without hesitating. Now, my mother works lesser hours but get more income. She gets to spend more time with me and get to bond together more. I started to appreciate my mother more than I ever did. After work, even though my mother was tired, she still accompanied me until I finished my homework. Sometimes I saw her fall asleep on the sofa while watching television. I felt love and anger (at myself) simultaneously. I shouldn't disobey my mother; she did everything for me..

My mother will sacrifice everything for my own good no matter what, even though she could have a better life without me. These are all the reasons why I will always love my mother and she will always be my best role model.



Friends for Eternity

by Ahmad Bzeid Ebbah

Student, EAP, Upper Intermediate Level

Friendship nearly is the most important thing

It always release you from the problems you're having

Hooking up with others without complaining

Like trees in a forest, lining and protecting

Backing up each other from draught and withering.

Cherishing back to all the memories

All the moments, the laughter were hardly missed

Oh how I wish these moment can be freeze

But this delicateness of friendship I worried the least

You will always be part of me, as long as I breathe.

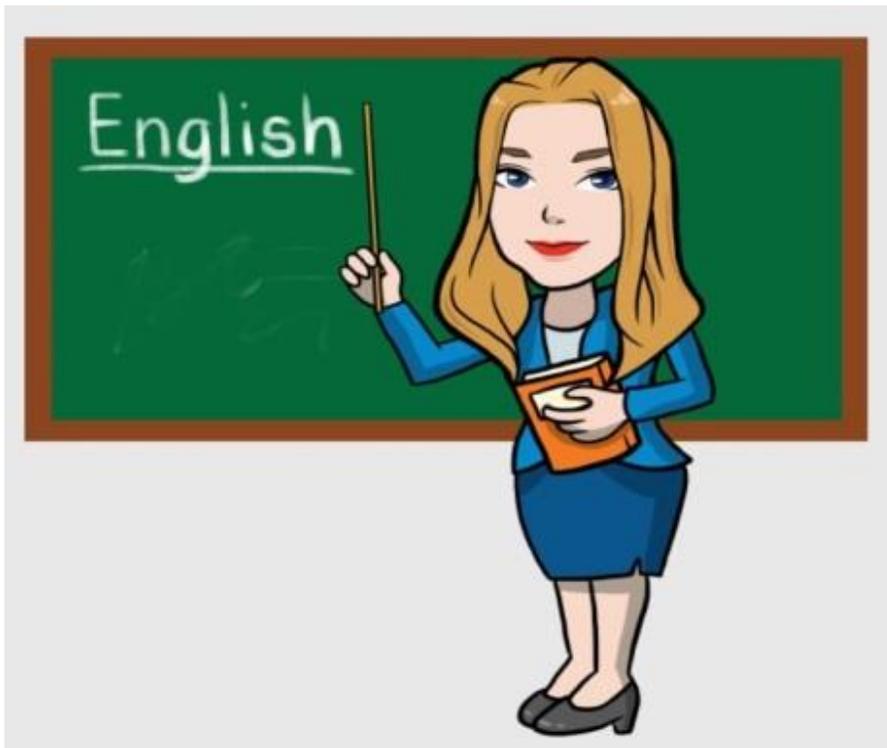


Great Teachers Don't Teach!

by *Muneesh Priya Venkiteraman*

Lecturer, CEL

In a conversation on LinkedIn, one person asked, "What are the characteristics of an effective teacher?" I read quite a few excellent remarks that describe what such a teacher does to be effective. I couldn't help thinking about some of my best



teachers.

I had an amazing psychology lecturer during my University time. He was on fire every class period and his enthusiasm was contagious. But the things I remember most are the psychological experiments in which we participated. I remember every detail and the supporting theories because I experienced it. My psychology lecturer was an effective teacher because he provided experiences that created long-term memories.

One characteristic of an effective teacher is that they don't teach. You say that is outrageous. How can an effective teacher teach without teaching?

My experience is that good teachers care about students. Good teachers know the content and know how to deliver it. Good teachers expect and demand high levels of performance of students. Good teachers are great performers and storytellers that rivet their students' attention.

All of this is good but great teachers engineer learning experiences that maneuver the students into the driver's seat and then the teachers get out of the way. Students learn best by personally experiencing learning that is physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual. John Dewey had it right in 1935 when he espoused his theories on experiential learning. Today we call this

constructivism.

Long past are the times when we teach content just in case a student might need it. A great teacher will devise a way to give the students an urgent reason to learn skills or knowledge and then let them show they have learned it by what they can do. This is called project-based learning.

A great teacher will keep the students wanting to come to school just to see what interesting things

they will explore and discover each day. We call this inquiry.

The philosophy that supports such a great teacher is simple. Students learn best when they are in control of their learning. Students must do the heavy lifting of learning and nothing the teacher can say or do will change that. Real learning requires doing, not listening, or observing only. Yet what do we find in every public school and university? Teachers talking, talking and talking while students listen, daydream and doze. We call this lecture.

The word "teacher" implies the flow of knowledge and skills from one person to another. Whether it is a lecture, or a power point, it involves talking at the students. While that is commonly viewed as the quickest and easiest way to impart knowledge and skills, we all realize that it is not the most effective. Socrates had it right when he only answered a question with more questions and look

what he produced -- some of the greatest minds that ever lived. We call this the Socratic method.

Yes, there are times when direct instruction is necessary, but only to be able to do something with that knowledge or skill, but a great teacher devises learning experiences that force all the students to be engaged much like being in the deep end of the swimming pool. Then the lesson on arm and leg strokes becomes relevant. To learn, the students must do something. We call this performance-based learning.

Returning to my original premise; great teachers do not teach. They stack the deck so that students have a reason to learn and in the process can't help but learn mainly by teaching themselves. This knowledge then becomes permanent and cherished rather than illusory and irrelevant.

Let's say, "Learning engineers" instead of "teachers."

Game of Thrones- Is It Worth Your Time?

by *Bukhari Shafie*

Lecturer, CEL

Game of thrones (GOT) is currently the most binge- watched TV series on earth. People from all ages gather in front of their screen to uncover its highly stimulating plot that keeps them amused and it's a subject of scrutiny by all of its avid followers where thousands of fan accounts are set up daily devoted entirely for its greater- than- life casts, which have gathered quite a number of following, namely Emilia Clarke and Kit Harrington.

To me, it isn't just a show. I personally believe now it's gained its full status as a 'cult'. To be completely honest, I'm obsessed with its characters and storyline. GOT was designed in such a way that it manages to capture many hearts; many are impressed by its narration that is dubbed as 'real' supplemented with its great cinematography and direction. One particular character that has managed to lift the image of GOT to a new height is Arya Starks (in my opinion). A strong, independent young lady who is separated from her family ever since her father (Ned Stark) moves south to King's Landing. Being the youngest in the family doesn't stop her from pursuing her greatest desires; to fight and



restore the honour of House of Starks which is torn to shreds by the likes of Cersei (another memorable character). Such a character has really affected me on the journey of life that one is destined to lead. She is forced to stand on her own two feet and to know how to fend for herself by abandoning the expected roles imposed on a lady her age. A character like Arya that fuels fans like me to continuously support this premise no matter what the price is; staying up late just to read reviews and theories (even though I have to get up early the next day).

GOT will come to an end soon and I'm pretty sure, all of its diehard fans will be devastated. Its legacy will continue to live on in the minds of many others and I will

remember it for a very long time for shaping the way I view the world; most importantly in the area of governance and leadership where power- crazed politicians fight strenuously to stay relevant. A masterpiece like this is hard to come by and I would advise you, to seize this opportunity while it lasts.

Sometimes a little escape from the harsh reality won't do us any harm, right?

LANGUAGE GAMES

C A T

Anagram Riddles

A C T

Anagrams are words that contain the same letters but arranged in a different order. For example, *act* is an anagram of *cat*. The answers to the clues below are anagram pairs.

Ex)	Something you see on a happy face. <i>smile</i>	A gooey, gross substance. <i>slime</i>
1.	The opposite of close.	An informal way to say 'no.'
2.	A boy or a man.	Something you eat.
3.	A body of water.	Where water drips from the ceiling.
4.	Trees with cones.	Another word for backbone.
5.	Something extra.	A long sharp weapon.
6.	Something you get for doing good.	Illustrate something again.
7.	Far away.	A rock from space.
8.	A place with little rain.	Took a break.
9.	Another word for story.	The opposite of early.
10.	Minutes and hours.	A thing on a list.

If you have any essays, poems, news or updates, please share with us.

E-mail your work together with an image and your details to:

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