



HUMAN



LOVE

and



NATURE

# Poetry Anthology

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## PREFACE

Dear readers, it is with great pleasure and pride that we present this anthology of poetry, a remarkable culmination of creativity and literary exploration by the talented students of the English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Sumatera Utara. This anthology showcases the learning outcomes of our students' engagement with the Theories of Literature I course in our Program, displaying their vibrant and diverse voices on the themes of Human, Love, and Nature.

This anthology is a sample of the Project-Based Learning implementation of our Outcome-Based Education Curriculum following the Indonesian Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology's regulation on curriculum for higher education. We hope that our students' exploration into literary expression not only deepened their understanding of poetic theories but also provided them with an exciting medium to express their unique perspectives and emotions.

We congratulate the course lecturer, Desri Maria Sumbayak S.S., M.Hum., M.A.TESOL., for her dedication to inspiring the students, and our students' commitment to the completion of this project. We hope the poems contained in this anthology inspire and resonate with you, dear readers, and enrich your outlook on the exciting potentials of poems as a literary expression.

Mahmud Arief Albar S.S., M.A.

**Head of English Literature Department**

## PREFACE

As a Literature lecturer, I frequently find myself intrigued by the significance of Literature for my Gen Z students. After examining poetry using specific theories and discussing the components of poetry (such as sound devices and language devices), the students in my Theory of Literature 1 class were provided with a workshop to compose a poem.

I strongly agree with the statement by Wellek and Warren (1942) that literature reflects real life. I believe that my young students possess profound thoughts, emotions, and experiences related to their own lives.

I am greatly surprised that my students were able to produce such exceptional poems on the themes of Human, Love, and Nature. This anthology of poetry was collected, designed, and edited by a dedicated team and myself within a period of three months.

The poetry anthology is expected to be published as a result of the literary class that utilizes a project-based learning approach. The publication process goes beyond just utilizing the students' literary knowledge and also incorporates their talents and passion in art, design, and technology.

Although it is still far from perfect, I believe this project has the potential to inspire those who enjoy reading it.

I would like to express my gratitude to the amazing team (Rosalyn Magdalena Br. Sitorus, Fadila Fitriana, Fahri Afandi, Fahri Salim, Geubrina Ramadhani Iskandar, and Jihan Azmi Kusmawan) and specifically to Mahmud Arif Albar S.S M.A, The Head of English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Sumatra Utara, who has provided invaluable support for this publication.

Desri Maria Sumbayak S.S., M.Hum., M.A.Tesol

**The Lecturer and Chief Editor**

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## A Small Prayer for My Rohingya Sisters

*Desri Maria Sumbayak*

My feet touched the mud as we got off from the wooden boat in the Bay of Bengal  
 The tropical sun heat started stabbing my face as it was almost midday  
 From far I saw a dry flat island so isolated from everywhere and  
 Hundreds of colored roof of shacks where thousands of people living for ages

We approached the camps and I saw men, women, children and babies  
 Families were living in the refugee camps, the shacks with dirt floor and tin roof  
 Some small toilets are in a row not far from their huts  
 I smelt the combination of dry muddy soil, dead chicken, urine and plastic rubbish.

I heard them spoke the language that I could not understand, maybe Burmese, Rohingya or Bengali  
 Yet sometimes I greeted them "Assalamualaikum"  
 they smiled and replied "Walaikumsalam"  
 They still smiled though their faces looked so tired and dejected

Dozens of children gathered in a school, a bigger wooden house  
 They were sitting on the floor and looked excited listening to their teacher  
 When we asked the students what they want to be in the future,  
 Some of them said they want to be a teacher and a medical doctor

A woman started her business selling food and daily needs  
 She works hard to see the help the family so they have food to eat  
 Some women with colored hijabs teach other women, teenagers and children  
 Teach how to avoid gender-based violence in the refugee camps

I can't believe they can live in that isolated place for years.  
 I can't understand how they still can smile, have dreams, and help other women

I pray they can reach their dreams, I pray they can continue helping women.  
 I pray they can have freedom to talk with other women from other parts of the world.  
 I hope they can go for shopping, sitting in a café and drinking a cup of mocha with whip cream.



## Colors of Mind

*Fahri Salim*

We never choose our dream colors  
Sometimes we are in the yellow  
Although the sunshine isn't ours  
It success make us feel mellow

Imagine hopes eaten by sea  
Then we are surely feeling blue  
The blue isn't looks like we see  
Even we have known what the clue

We cannot choose our dream colors  
Even the white can change to black  
Don't let the melody get worse  
Although the mind is being crack



## The Deceptive Embrace of Green

*Rosalyn Magdalena Br. Sitorus*

A line of buildings awaits my sight  
Offer me a place to pause and stay  
Yet, a sharp gaze did me alight  
Oh, he's the dazzling green, they say

His anger burns, a fiery might  
If I touch 'him' there, I fear the fray  
The wind's song and leaves' delight  
Complete this strange, beguiling day

Yes, I chose the greenest bough  
The coziest shelter, where I'd lay  
I sensed it there, somehow  
A pampering aroma to allay

Oh, how wrong I was, somehow  
Not all here are gentle, I must say  
This burning scent does disavow  
The paradise I sought, led me astray

The highest stalk, my ultimate quest  
To avoid that torment, I'll find the way  
I never knew a paradise, my rest  
Where the sweetest sticks sway  
I didn't err in my choice, I must confess



## The Understanding

*M. Hidayatullah Tuahta Sinaga*

Our life is very precious  
I guarantee you know that too  
So that you strive so serious  
Take their life as you do

You never know the pain  
Not sure you try to understand  
Imagine you know how hard the rain  
And what will you do then?

You can't hear trees' scream  
You can't see elephants' cry  
Their obvious in a film  
Hard to believe you aren't shy

Have you ever think to stop?  
Return the peace that you stole  
By sit together and talk  
To discusses the peace and love



## Maternal Glow

*Rofnal Samangilailai*

In shadows deep, Mother's light unfurls  
A beacon in the night when life's tempest whirls  
Her tender touch, a soothing, guiding grace  
A world without her warmth, an empty space

Through distance vast, who'll hear the words I say?  
In solitude, without her, whom to convey?  
Mother, oh Mother, words fall short but true  
In gratitude's embrace, my heart says, "Thank you."



## The Walking Mosquito

*Zakaria Achmad*

Mosquito, the annoying son of a b\*tch  
It sucks my blood, and made my body itch  
But if I try to slap, it's out of reach  
It flies around, and rings annoyingly on my ears

But then, I take a look at myself  
Sometimes I wonder, if I act like a mosquito  
I'm afraid that I act like a parasite around my friends

Because sometimes, people are no better  
Sometimes, people will take advantage from another  
Sometimes, people will exploit another  
And if things goes bad, they'll just run away from it

And then, I thought to myself  
That I'm not so different to a mosquito  
Am I... An annoying son of a b\*tch?





## Accompany

*Atalya Trifena*

When I'm on my own  
Everything seems cold  
Then I wonder how warm used to be

When I'm on my own  
The world is a grief  
That try to trap me inside

Now, knowing you are near  
Nothing left,  
But happiness.





## Cotton and Silk

*Fadila Fitriana*

Soft...

All things are bound to you  
About expression and feeling  
All the things that you have

About the soft touch  
Of hands and lips  
Emotional and patient  
Gentle all mannerisms

Soft words, smooth tone  
A smooth as silk thread  
Like a cotton, really soft  
What is inside, and outside you



## Unknown Whispers

*Tantiara Fiesta Sinaga*

Everybody loves things you do  
From the way you walk,  
To the way you talk

Everybody keeps their eyes on you  
Like you are their favorite movie  
And their favorite melody

Your arm is warm  
as the skyline gently falls  
Keeping everybody safe and sound

No more hesitation  
Everybody adores you  
and everybody is me





Paul

## Hunger In Me

*Desri Maria Sumbayak*

I heard the beats in your heart,  
faster and faster and closer to my mouth  
I saw your eyes full of fear and  
your mouth saying words of pray

hunger and hunger and hunger  
never thought of me  
masticate your flesh  
not better than  
the meat of monkey

hunger and hunger and hunger  
what should I eat?  
the voice of machine and people  
frighten my prey

I heard the beats in your heart  
faster and faster and closer to my mouth  
never I chosen you  
never I known you  
just arrived seven days in Riau

hunger and hunger and hunger  
who cares your mamak and bapak  
mourning on your body coming back  
to Toba without flesh and soul

I am sorry

The flash of light come closer  
I saw in a deep like a sword  
Who wants to get closer?  
I will kill you with my sword.



## Silent Witness

*Alvernod Andreas Harianja*

They're all big and grand  
They all know I'm at the bottom  
I watched as history unfolded

I witness death, birth, continuity  
I'll stay here until the water stops flowing  
I feel nothing but I know the earth is crying

A mother who no longer cared for by her children  
I am just an ordinary stone that will bear witness  
A mute witness to the child's future extinction



## Ticking Ending

*Hana Olivia Marpaung*

My wings are meant to fly  
Flying through touching the sky  
The world is a wonderful place  
Who once filled with peace and grace

Up, down, side by side  
Me and my pals chirping together  
Long enough 'till the darkness came arrived  
Gifted all of us sad pride and weather

I see the world below  
Turned into unsettled flow  
All matters began to tangled up in a row  
Falls apart as the demon says hello.





## Voices of the Displaced

*Jhonson Loeis*

The bear said, where is my house  
The tiger said, where do I live  
The birds said, where do I perch

All my forests,  
All my friends,  
All my trees,

Disappeared as if carried by the wind  
Disappeared as if everything was fine  
Disappeared as if we never existed

Are you satisfied, ask them  
Are you proud, ask yourself  
Or you are sad , let's our heart tell



## Nature's Affection

*Radita Astried Rizkya*

Under the bright sunlight  
I, the shady tree, remained at that time  
Best pals come with smiles and warm hugs  
Their affection radiates like a dazzling light

People plant trees, care for them with love,  
Holding life, in powerful hands.  
Man gives life, and trees give breath,  
In the caress of the wind, I can feel it

In my eyes I saw happiness  
In the sound of their laughter, I heard warmth  
We are true pals, tree and human  
Flowing affection, sharing it with living nature

Here, beneath the vast horizon  
I stand as a Witness to this relationship  
Best pals love is like flowing water  
Giving life to the world, making it more beautiful

I, the steadfast tree, grow with gratitude  
Seeing love all around, in the beauty of nature  
Best pals are a gift, an invaluable gift  
And I, tree, am eternally grateful.





## STRONG WINGS

*Trivera Hana*

clear sky  
fallen leaves  
the sound of vehicles passing by  
everything is visible at height

The wind that rushes  
Makes plants dancing  
raindrops  
make children dance in the rain

You can feel gusts of wind and even raindrops  
even if a storm occurs  
My wings won't stop halfway  
everything will be passed until reach the destination



## TINY CREATURES

*Reyhan Habib*

In a world of giants, I stand so small,  
An ant in this vast world, I crawl and sprawl.  
Beneath the towering grass and leaves so grand,  
I navigate with purpose, in this tiny land.

With six strong legs and a heart so stout,  
I carry burdens, I roam about.  
My fellow ants, a bustling team,  
Together we build our grand, subterranean dream.

In tunnels deep, we toil and strive,  
For our colony, we work and thrive.  
With unity and strength, we overcome,  
The challenges that nature brings, we're one.



## Twilight's Serenity

*Uswatun Rafi'a Pasaribu*

Amidst the whispers of ancient trees,  
I stand alone,  
Their leaves, like pages of history,  
Tell stories unknown.

The sun dips below the horizon,  
a fiery adieu,  
Painting the sky in hues of orange, pink, and blue.  
The river flows gently,

a mirror for the twilight sky  
Reflecting nature's beauty as the world says goodbye.  
The night emerges,  
a blanket of stars on high,

In this tranquil moment,  
all worries seem to die.  
The breeze carries secrets,  
Whispered in the night,

As the world finds solace in the soft, celestial light.  
In this tranquil realm where dreams take flight  
I find peace and serenity in the embrace of night  
Full of comfort



## ABOUT US



Desri Maria Sumbayak

Dhea Adelia Zai

Uswatun Rafi'a Pasaribu

Geubrina Ramadhani Iskandar

Vinjellina Batubara

Radita Astried Rizky

Fahri Salim

Alvin Afian

Dinillah Arifa

Yessi Sherly Abigail Ambarita

Paulus Dachi

Sophie Meilatifah Ahmad

Candrika Galaska

Zakaria Achmad

Rere Reviola

Trivera Hana Yosephine Siallagan

Alya Saqinah

Tantiara Fiesta Sinaga

Fahri Mulia Aria

Muhammad Hidayatllah Tuahta Sinaga

Inggrid Gavrila Beru Sembiring

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Juni Santa Simanjuntak

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Atalya Trifena

Hana Olivia Marpaung

Kanaya Nur Nabila

Rofnal Simangilailai

Jessicca Maria

Davis Timothy Humala Hutapea

Errando Varel

Anggi Yolanda Sigalingging

Fadila Fitriana

Alvernod Andreas Harianja

Reza Dian Irawan Lubis

Berlian Hasian Keyla Sinambela

Jhonson Loeis

Reyhan Habib Akbar

Rosalyn Magdalena Br Sitorus

Shalsa Billa Meisya

This poetry anthology book is a masterpiece made by lecturer and students of English Literature Batch 22 class A, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Sumatera Utara. This poetry anthology is a tangible manifestation of the spirit of collaboration that combines the creativity of lecturer with the material obtained in the "Theories of Literature" course as well as the creativity of ideas from all students. Each beautiful stanza presented is a reflection of the journey of the soul, the expression of various emotions, and also a deep experience through three themes namely Human, Love, and Nature.

Behind each page, the beauty of touching words is embedded, and in each rhythmic stanza, a mesmerizing journey of the soul is carved. This anthology is an offering for readers to find meaning in life, digest the beauty of the universe, and contemplate life stories revealed through enchanting words. May every stanza of poetry inspire, accompany the journey of life, and carve a lasting impression in the recesses of the reader's heart. Enjoy this fascinating poetry adventure! may it be a faithful companion on a colorful journey of the soul.

Editorial and Illustrator Team

