

EDITORIAL

Call for Papers:

Dear Readers,

I'm delighted to present the latest issue of our E-Journal, Teaching & Research in English Literature.

At the outset, permit me to briefly introduce myself. I'm Shaila Mahan, an educator, administrator and a teacher-trainer with a keen interest in ELT and Indian writings in English which I've pursued for the past three decades. I'm currently working as an Associate Professor at the Commissionerate of College Education of Rajasthan in Jaipur. I'm an IELTS Examiner for the British Council and have been closely associated with ELTAI for about 15 years.

I'm thankful to Professor Rajagopalan for entrusting the task of editing this prestigious Journal. I consider it an honour to be a part of the editorial team and will work hard to live up to the faith reposed in me. With the co-operation and support of all friends, contributors and well-wishers of this journal, I hope we shall be able to carry forward the high standards set by Dr Pradeep Singh Xavier and all other past editors.

I'm happy that after a brief lull, we are able to resume the publication of our journal. Hope this reading material provides a soothing balm to all of us as we grapple with the corona crisis that's currently gripped the whole world. In these stressful times, what could be a better theme than a brief exploration of some Shakespearean plays? Like all literature enthusiasts, I've a special interest in Shakespeare and feel that the Bard remains as relevant today as in his own times!

Shakespeare holds a unique place in the world of literature and continues to enthrall people across various cultures. His works reflect profound insights into the human condition as a wide range of thoughts, emotions and situations in diverse socio-political conditions find articulation in his works. This universality of his writings has inspired countless artistic renderings across time and space. Shakespeare continues to inspire passion and debate even 400 years after his death. As Ben Jonson rightly remarked: "He was not for an age but for all time!"

With this perspective, the present edition brings together some perceptive pieces on a few plays of Shakespeare which were presented in a recent initiative by ELTAI India in the form of an online workshop. We have a variety of papers that begin with CA Lal's analysis of King Lear wherein he gives us a historical overview as also some fresh perspectives on this well-known tragedy. Murali Krishnan TR gives us some insights and critical observations on a lesser known political tragedy, Coriolanus, based on the life of a legendary Roman leader which gives us an idea of the politics of that ancient era.

Besides acquainting us with the plot and characters of Much Ado About Nothing, Shaila Mahan reflects on the enduring relevance of this witty and fascinating comedy. In addition to these three pieces, PN Ramani gives us an absorbing summary of The Merchant of Venice and based on that he has designed some interesting and engaging tasks on the characters and structure of the famous comedy. Finally, TS Chandra Mouli provides a comprehensive interpretation of The Tempest, the last of the Bard's plays regarded by many as his most mature creation which revolves around the key theme of colonisation.

Hope the writings on Shakespearean plays would set the tone for further interesting and absorbing issues.

Shaila Mahan

Editor-in-Chief, JTREL