

ELL TIMES

UNIVERSITY OF BIHAĆ - PEDAGOGICAL FACULTY - DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS' MAGAZINE

Featuring short stories, essays and poems by:

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Why you are wonderful

In our lives all of us have come across one of those people who are very negative and can only see the bad things in others. Everything that they or anyone else do or say they only see the bad side of it. That kind of people will always point out your flaws, your mistakes and they'll make sure that they do it in front of a big crowd. They do it because in that way, through someone else's pain and suffering, they are feeding their ego. They do not care that it is a wrong thing to do, or that it hurts you. Only thing they care about is themselves and their tinny ego. Those people do not see the world's beauty. They are not aware of anything beautiful that surrounds them. And you do not need those people around you.

Why miss out on something beautiful just because you have a bad company? There are so many things that we see every day that are amazing, that you see only once in a lifetime, but many of us do not even pay attention to it. We have allowed ourselves to be surrounded by so many negativities in life that we don't even notice when something beautiful is right in front of us. I believe that many of us have had a "friend" like this. A person who downgraded you, who made sure that they pointed out your insecurities to the world but you still gave them a chance to change. And that is what wonderful people do. They give chances, because they see beauty in everyone. They want to be the change the world desperately needs. And when you want a change you should always start from yourself. You are wonderful if you allow yourself to see things in your unique way, not the so-

called right way. Is there ever truly a right way? All the little things that you do, for example, when you smile to someone who is having a bad day, you can make their day better with just a smile, and it does not cost you anything. People who stop for a moment and ask you are you ok, the ones who text you first, the ones you make you laugh when you want to cry are the people you need in your life.

You are wonderful because you believe in me. You give me strength to carry on when I just want to let everything go. People like you are the ones we need. Your soul is pure and that's why I like having you around. You are the one who is pointing out the world's beauty when I miss the chance to see it. You are making a change in this world, in my world.

Elma Ramić



There is a man sitting on a bench...

have to go out. I went out. Cold air was refreshing but I just wanted to hurry up and come back home to drink some coffee. While I was walking and freezing, I saw someone on a bench. I thought that he must have been crazy or having some mental issues. „Who would sit on a bench while it's snowing? He must be crazy, hurry up, hurry up.“

I woke up and got back to reality. Sweet dreams, terrible reality. I woke up like every morning. I was alone. My mother was probably staying at one of her lovers. I was

It was winter. It was snowing and I just got up out of bed. I have no cigarettes, which means I was hungry. Nothing in a fridge. I will have to go out. I took some money, well I took what I had in my jacket and went out. I ate a sandwich and didn't know where to go. You have to know something. When I feel bad, I go somewhere where I was happy once. And I was happy only when my father was alive. You used to take me in one park. He would sit on a bench and I would play with another children... When he died, me and my mother continued our lives. She continued to have fun with her boyfriends and I as a sad little boy who grew up into a man who is not satisfied with his life and who wants a change but feels like a 80-year-old trapped in a boy of a 20-year-old.

I looked at him. He seemed to look at me too. I was thinking about running because I was afraid and just in a moment when I was going to start running, I fell and saw nothing but darkness.. When I woke up, I saw his face. He was looking at me and I felt like I was the only thing he sees..

Elma Halkić

FATES WORSE THAN DEATH

If someone asks you to describe the worst destiny you wouldn't want even to your worst enemy, what would you say? Would it be to lose someone you love or to live under constant threat and fear or maybe to starve with only one meal in five days? What it would be?

Imagine all that together and much more. Try. You can't because however you imagine, it is worse, much worse. Our worries are nothing compared to ones of the people who are fighting every day to survive, people who are running, hiding from soldiers. Even the sunniest day for them is the darkest. Their lives are filled with torment, agony, pain.

They had a home, a job, family, friends, but all that was taken from them. Imagine that everything you have now disappears, your house destroyed in fire, your clothes torn and dirty, without food, without shelter.

What would you do? Where would you go, where would you hide? It is hard to imagine yourself in that situation but right now, in this moment someone is living that

life, not just someone but thousands of people. Year after year they endure terror, pain, loss. Their eyes saw so many destructions, devastations. Their hearts felt fear every second, every minute. Their ears heard the most horrifying screams. Their bodies suffered terrifying injuries. They lost the ones they loved. They were alive but inside they were dying day after day.

They saw the worst side of human beings, the darkest side that is capable of killing an innocent child for superiority, power, money. What would you do? Would you give up and accept your destiny or would you keep fighting?

Life is the most precious thing that we have but their lives were in the hands of cruel, unmerciful and ruthless governments. Death which came with the explosion was the end for those tormented souls and for those who survived the fight continued...

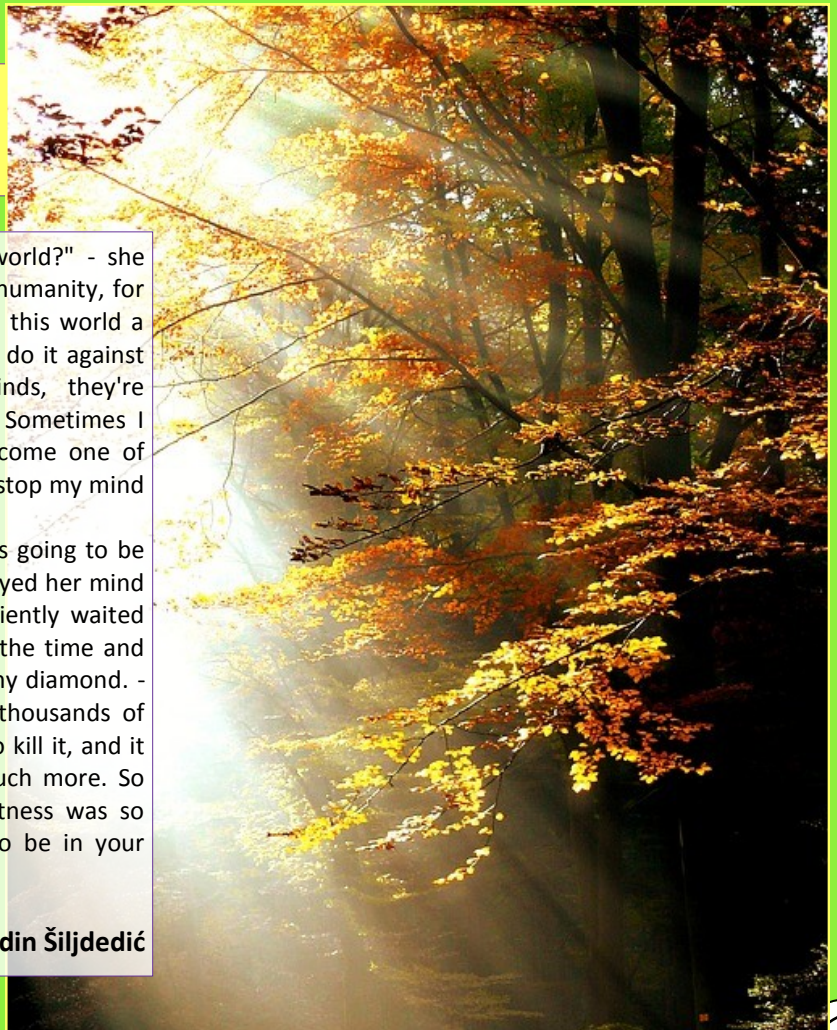
Alma Toromanović

The Light

"John, what is our purpose in this world?" - she said. "Our purpose is to build a better life for humanity, for our future children, for their children, to make this world a better place." "But how do you expect me to do it against all the bad people here, all the bad minds, they're everywhere, they are so incredibly powerful? Sometimes I can't even decide who I am, sometimes I become one of them even if I don't want to, how am I going to stop my mind and my body from the bad?"

In this particular moment I knew she's going to be my wife. Her eyes were so confused, they betrayed her mind which was full of million questions that impatiently waited for answers. Her eyebrows were puckering all the time and she was a bit nervous. My beautiful creature, my diamond. "Well, listen to me Emily, I once dreamed a thousands of candles holding a bulb. They carried the bulb to kill it, and it could not escape because candles were so much more. So they did, they killed a bulb because its brightness was so much bigger. So what are you going to try to be in your life?" "A bulb?" "No Emily, be the light."

Elvedin Šiljdedić



OUR LIVES BEGIN TO END THE DAY WE BECOME SILENT ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER



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though we torture and skin animals to keep us warm.

The way in which animals are killed because of their skin in fur industry is gruesome for anyone. There are many techniques to acquire fur. Some of the ways are by electrocution, gas, leghold traps, wire snares, gripping traps (crushes the animal) and many other. Once the animal is skinned, their furless bloody bodies are tossed into piles with the rest of their unfortunate friends. Some of the animals in these mounds are still breathing for up to ten minutes. A more terrifying and painful way to die

According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (third) definition of word *animal* is "Any living creature including humans" but it seems that a lot of us have forgotten this. Today, animals are seen as nothing more than a childhood pet, a source of education, useless annoyance or even a thing. Luckily, there are people to whom animals are beautiful creatures that should be protected and cherished.

When You choose your mascara or eyeliner, do You take a moment to see what kind of makeup you are using? You could be supporting animal cruelty without knowing it. Today many makeup products, such as mascara, are being tested on animals.

As we all know, animals do not have the same abilities as humans. They cannot talk, write books or drive cars, but neither can some humans. We don't ask how intelligent a person is before we decide whether to eat them or experiment on them. Regardless of intelligence, their life still has value to them. Use of animals clearly violates animals' right to live without suffering pain or emotional distress.

Animals are subjected to pain in tests of skin or eye irritancy, they are killed while establishing the lethal dose of chemical products. They are burned, cut, mutilated, poisoned, turned into drug addicts or alcoholics, given diseases such as cancer or arthritis, crippled, blinded, starved, and braindamaged...

After doing all this we still dare to call ourselves humans. We dare to call our society „modern“ even

is unimaginable.

There is no need to steal their skin, we have our own. Raise Your voice and keep in mind that our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

Aldina Huskić



stop animal testing by helpanimals

Zazzle

Nothing but love

Winter night. Snow... Fire...

Scott and Lisa were in their house, by the fire, watching a movie. There was a small Christmas tree and their quiet voices whispering about the future.

He put his hand around her stomach. 'You're so beautiful. I can't wait the day I get to hold our baby in my arms. I hope she'll be beautiful as her mum.' 'Oh, come on Scott, of course she will. Maybe she'll have your lips. God, I love your lips.'

He kissed her. There was a small tear rolling along her face.

'Are you crying, beautiful?' - Scott asked.

'No, I'm just being emotional. I'm afraid, Scott. I don't know why I love you and I love our baby. I can't even imagine that one day I might lose you.'

'Don't you dare say that. Listen to me. We are always going to be together. The three of us. OK, love?'

'OK. Promise me you will always love me.'

'I promise, Lisa. I will always love you.' - he whispered.

'Great, now get your wife a glass of water.' - she laughed.

While he was walking to the kitchen, Lisa felt a huge pain in her stomach. She screamed Scott's name.

You could hear pain in her screams. The glass broke. 'Scott, help me. Something's wrong with our baby.'

He saw the blood when he lifted her.

'Everything is going to be OK, Lisa. We are going to the hospital. You're gonna be alright. Both of you.'

Trust me.

They rushed to the hospital. He was the most wonderful man for Lisa. While he was driving, he kept thinking about how they met, how they planned a name for their little girl. Sara.

'Sara, please don't do this to me. I love you. You have to be OK.' - Lisa screamed.

They came to the hospital. She was immediately taken to surgery. He kissed her while the tears covered his cheeks. It was a long night. Finally, the doctor came out. Lisa was taken to a hospital room. The doctor said they have to talk. She was still sleeping. Something was wrong. He told Scott that the baby is not doing fine. It is going to be good for a few days but they have to act quickly. The baby or Lisa..

'Hey, beautiful. I love you. You're my hero.' - 'The baby, Scott?'

'We have to talk. Baby is not so good, honey.' - 'What?!' The doctor walked into the room. - 'Lisa, we must talk. He



put his hand on her arm and said: 'You or the baby will survive. Not both. I'm so sorry.'

Lisa said nothing. She looked at Scott, took his hand and put it on her stomach. 'You know what we have to do.' - she said.

Scott was still crying. - 'I know. I love you.'

'My mum was so beautiful, right daddy?'

'Oh, yes she was, Sara. The most beautiful woman on the planet. There is nothing she loved more than you.'

'I know daddy. I love her too.'

Elmedina Bajramović

8 Mile

The story is set in Detroit in 1995, where a young white rapper tries to navigate through his hard life and become someone. The main character in this movie is Jimmy Smith Jr. also known as Bunny Rabbit. Other characters are his mother, his mother's boyfriend, his sister, his crew, and a gang called "Free World". Jimmy is just a regular guy who grew up without a father, with his mother and sister, and he spent his life in ghetto, living in a trailer park. He works an ordinary low-paying job, and struggles to succeed in music industry by making rap songs. Which is really hard for him since most of the rappers are black, so he tries to win respect of other people by going to a place known as "The Shelter" where battle raps are organized, where he has to beat other rappers lyrically in freestyles.

Jimmy is trying to achieve more by becoming a battle rap champion in "The Shelter". He also meets a girl and they started dating. A guy named Wink is promising Jimmy a bright future in rap music. He told Jimmy that he has some connections which will help them both succeed, but later on Wink just betrays Jimmy, and has sex with his girlfriend. After Jimmy found out about them he beat Wink up, but a bit later on Wink called "The Freeworld" gang and they beat up Jimmy pretty good. The leader of the gang is also a rap battle champion in "The Shelter". So after getting

his heart broken, and getting beaten up by that gang, Jimmy decides to stand up and battle rap them.

The film showed exactly how the streets of Detroit look like. You find a lot of men in Detroit and in every city that has the same background as his character. Eminem told a similar story of his own. He's a white male from Detroit that has always dreamed of becoming a rapper. Main theme is his struggle through life. Every obstacle he meets he fights to get through it. That is related to our everyday life. For every obstacle we have to fight more and more and we will succeed.

8 Mile was nothing but non-stop drama and that's what I love about it mainly. It has its humor, it has its fun, it has all of the qualities of a good film. 8 mile is my favorite movie because it shows how life can be. Example of how good this film is a fact that it won an Oscar. It is named as the best hip-hop movie and best English language movie. If you have an open mind and would like to just find out more about the hip hop culture, learn about hard life, then 8 Mile is a movie I suggest. You can also relate this movie not only with rap, even if you are sportsman or worker you had your obstacle, and there will always be people who will look you differently. I suggest to anyone who hasn't seen 8 Mile to either rent it or purchase it, because you won't regret it.

Denis Huskić

Photo courtesy of www.uphe.com

In dreadful silence,
which could froze a flame,
we don't act , just justify
" I am not to blame " .

Our brothers, sisters
all across the land,
now die in starvation
Should they eat dry sand ?

They just want clear water,
Is that really a lot?
Let's help them all together,
Are they humans not ?

They don't seek our fortune,
nor they want our gold,
Are they not part of this world ?
Are our hearts so cold ?

Sumeja Ičanović

Unite



A MAN'S HEART CAN CRY

In the brightest of the light
Standing at his sight
A vixen lady with the baby
And a smile on her lips

They had it all
And they sacrificed their love
Older ones were smiling
Because shame was not there to harm it

Looking through his eyes
He was falling apart
He had the baby which he adored
But was it his?
That is the pain he endured

In the darkest of the night
A letter was found
Tears were falling down
And it all broke apart

A scream ripped through the halls
Baby's cry
"You will be the death of me"
And the death was present now

He pulled the trigger shouting
Shouting curses through his teeth
Vixen lady was a mistress
And she wanted to stay with him

But deep down she knew it could never work
And married the one who was chosen by her parents

They thought the secret will never be revealed
But the blood proved they were deemed

"Why me?" he screamed
A lifeless body was in front of him
Another bullet was shot
And on the body he fell

He whispered to her again
"Why me! I loved you!"
And he began to fade

Everything went black
But baby's cry ripped through the halls

Plamena Alibabić



Seize the day!

I often catch myself thinking about time, about years just passing by.. I remember, when I was 15, I couldn't wait to turn 18. It was huge at that time. I thought I will get independent and all grown up. Years were passing very slowly back then (at least I thought so). And then I turned 18. Nothing changed. I was the same person, just with an ID. Then I turned 19, 20. I think that from the time I turned 18 to now, moments, days, months were passing by very slowly.

Time is tricky. You think you have plenty of it and when you want to do something and you don't have courage for it, people postpone it by 'I'm young, I have time'. In my opinion, people nowadays take time for granted. They spend 4-5 hours (some of us even more) online, qasting our time on Facebook, YouTube and all those social networks that are useful in one hand, but we are starting to lose our time on things like watching other people's pictures and life events. In general, we are one lazy and internet-addicted generation.

I think that Facebook and Instagram took

control over our lives. I mean, if a couple gets engaged and they don't put it on Facebook (they will, I'm just saying) what? It's like they are not engaged? In our society, if something is not online, it's like it didn't happen.

We need to realize that there are very important things in our lives. This life is beautiful and you have a chance to live it in your best. Don't have money to travel? Well, go out and drink coffee with your friends, talk to people. Time is very powerful and we should use it properly.

Time can bring us beautiful things, but can also show us its dark side. It can take our beloved ones. It will take us one day. We must be aware of it and try to be grateful for all tha we have. Embrace life and spend every second in doing something good for yourself and for other people. That's how we will be proud of the time behind us and the time that will come. Carpe diem :)

Nisveta Eljazović



A CONVERSATION WITH YOUR PARENTS

Some of us are more fortunate than others to have parents. But as much as we are lucky to have them often we do not appreciate that. We do not appreciate what they do for us, we see it as their obligation to take care of us. All the sacrifice that they make for us, all that they have to do to make us happy, to make sure that we have all that we need for normal childhood. They made sure that we have proper education that we need, to have all the toys that we wanted no matter what they had to do for it. We often don't see all the things that they have to do just to see the smile on our face, to see that we are happy and healthy, that we have normal childhood. They have to give up on so many things just to make sure that we have all that we want. So many parents have to give up on almost everything just to make sure that their children have all that they need. That is especially visible in Bosnia, where the economic situation of the country is not at its peak, but parents still manage somehow to provide for their children all that they need. They manage to pay for their college, to make sure that they don't feel "left out".

When we talk to our parents, those are usually conversations about our future, what should we do, where should we go, and teenagers usually don't feel like listening about that, when all that is on their minds are going out, drinking and not caring. We often feel frustrated about those kind of conversations, even when we in back of our minds know that those conversations are for our well-being. But, as teenagers we do not see it like an advice, we see it more like a lecture that we are obliged to listen. Later, in life, when we realize some things and see how the world works, we see that those were life lessons that we should have carefully listened to. Usually we just talk back to our parents, because we feel that talking to our parents is somehow annoying.

Later, when we leave our teenager phase, we realize that we should have listened to our parents, that we should have talked to them more, because you never know when is the last time that you get to talk to your parents. We enter the world of grownups and become so busy that we again forget about our parents, and we give them so little of our time. Seems like everything is more important, we feel like our parents will always be there but that is not the case. We usually become aware of that when it becomes too late. We should appreciate our parents and time spent with them, because it will be too late when we lose them. We should be able to know how to be grateful for our conversations with our parents. We should appreciate conversations with our parents, because they are our only and true friends, who will stand by our side no matter what. Their conversations are full of love and true and honest advices. Appreciate what you have before it's too late.

Alen Hirkić



The influence of technology on society nowadays



If we need some subject that needs to be discussed in my opinion it should be the influence of modern technology on all of us nowadays.

We are living in the world where technology burgeoned, expanded so quickly, and it probably won't stop. Is it good for us to live in this kind of world or not? I will try to discuss more about it, because for me it is important to find a perfect answer on this question. That's why I chose this topic.

In the past people used technology as a tool for making survival much easier. But today it changed a lot, technology is today a tool for making money and entertainment. It is true that it makes our lives easier, but it also creates certain issues. We need to ask ourselves if the use of technology is destroying face to face interaction and communication between people. Why are people sharing things on social networks, things about their personal lives? But when they meet their friends, when they go out for a coffee, they are quiet and they keep staring at their expensive mobile phones or tablets. Does it make any sense?! Are we the slaves as humans of ordinary things that we possess?

Whenever you are out you see people with all kind of electric devices, and you see how it destroys slowly face

to face interaction.

Teenagers are mostly exposed to the impact of modern technology but it's not that people with different age are lagging. This will lead to loneliness of many people, people will desperately try to make a friendships through the virtual world, and that won't make us happy, it won't satisfy our needs as human beings. Is this destroying our family life? Well, yes, all the time everyone is so dedicated to their devices, even while eating.

This is killing our lives, it is not as it used to be, we are human beings we can't function normally without each other. Let's try to live our lives as best as we can, let's do something that will put a smile on our faces when we get old, something that will fill our lives.

I'm not saying that we should stop using it completely, just let's be aware of some limits. So, if you are reading this, tell and show to people who you truly love, to those who are surrounding you, tell them what do you feel for them, it will make everyone much happier. One real kiss and smile would make them happier than any other emoticon on social networks.

Azira Hadžić

The Real Thing

have said love does not exist, not because I never experienced it, but because I did not believe in love, an emotion that cannot be seen but only felt to a certain point. How could that be, is the question I would always ask myself. He came into my life without a warning, he was my knight in shining armor. During this time in my life I was lost and confused about how to love myself or anyone for that matter. He and I shared a connection that was unbreakable, we would chat on the phone all night, sometimes until the sun came up. Every time I would hear his voice, butterflies would form in my stomach and I would get so excited. I shared my most intimate thoughts with him and he accepted me for whom I was. He taught me that love transcends all physical boundaries and is there to be felt and enjoyed with between two people. He taught me how to be patient in my life and to wait for good things to come to me, rather than stressing after them and never finding them. Before I met him, I had always been afraid to follow my dreams. But he came into my life and made me feel so strong and at peace with my-

self. He was the first person who I truly fell in love with and year ago I can safely say that it is from him that I have learned to love w o u l d unconditionally.

He is the one who holds my cold hand in one and my warm heart in the another hand. He, who brings the best of me, who always keeps me smiling even when I want to cry and scream, who fought for me even when I wanted to give up. He, the one in whose brown eyes and smile I fell in love with. He loves me and I love him too. When I smile he smiles, when I laugh he laughs.

He is the man that can walk with me in sorrow and pain, join me in my happy and tough times, love me for what and who I am, think no more of my defects and imperfections. In his own way i feel cared, cared like girls who take care of their teddy bear. Safe, safe like queen protected by her king. He knows I am insecure, little wierd, big mouth, sometimes annoying, really stubborn, that I have to be always right, and he still loves all that things about me. And this what we have is the real thing baby.

Amina Pečenković



EDITORS' NOTE

Dear readers,

"ELL Times" presents the essays of the second-year students of the Pedagogical Faculty in Bihać, written during the Writing Course as part of the subject Modern English Language II. It chronicles their current preoccupations, desires, social conscience, cultural recommendations and messages for a good life to fellow students and citizens, all in English - thus, it is appropriately named "English Language and Literature Times", which you now hold in your hands, eager to peer inside.

These essays, poems and stories bid you welcome - from a delightful love note on the second page, to another proclamation of love on the last one, from a call to action to a simple advice "talk to your parents" à la J. K. Simmons - every word is a window into the minds and hearts of these student writers, every title an invitation.

There is a two-year road ahead of them, still. Half of their student life has passed, and they have gained knowledge and skills that will guide them to that bright moment of graduation. Until then, wish them a pleasant journey and read these essays as their gifts to the world of tomorrow.



IMPRESSUM

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