

CHALK THE HEART VOLUME 2

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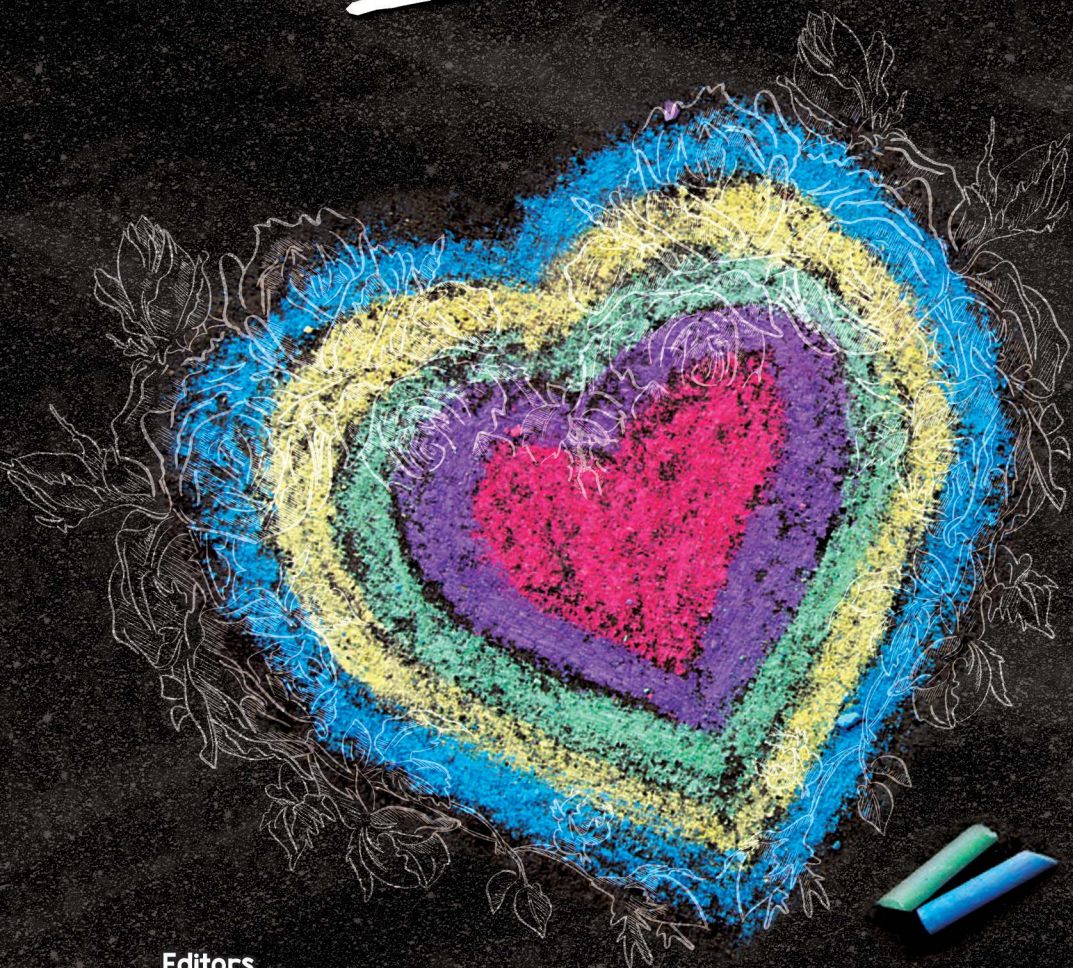
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Abstract: CHALK THE HEART is a compilation of poems, anecdotes and short stories that entail the essence of education. This compilation delves into the intellectual growth and also emotional roller coaster that occurs both within and outside classroom. The collection captures the joy and obstacles in learning. It also resembles diverse perspectives on transformative educational experiences. Interspersed anecdotes provide glimpses into real-life moments of inspiration and enlightenment. This anthology invites audience to reflect on their own educational journeys and appreciate the teachers and experiences that have shaped their lives.

Keywords: Poems, story, learning, inspiration, journey

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P R E F A C E

The purpose of this anthology, Chalk the Heart, is to share the life as educationists. This anthology portrays the panorama. In the heart of our education world, a story unfolds – a tale of dedication, inspiration, motivation, and unwavering commitment. This anthology delves into the multifaceted lives of educationists, photographing and crafting their triumphs, obstacles, and the profound impact they have on shaping society. Through these narratives, we celebrate the unsung heroes who ignite curiosity, foster growth, and leave an indelible mark on our lives. Each piece is a testament to the resilience and passion that define the teaching profession, offering a peek into the world where knowledge meets compassion, and dreams take flight. Furthermore, this anthology chapters are divided into three pieces of art namely anecdote, short stories, and poem. The pieces of arts are contributed by Centre for Language Studies, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn (UTHM) and written in either Bahasa Malaysia or English.

*Nurzarina binti Abdul Samad
Siti Zaimaliza binti Masturi
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ENTRY 1

SAYANG

Azmi Abdul Latiff

Seorang pelajar datang berjumpa di bilik. Termengah-mengah dia.

"Maaf encik, kumpulan saya lambat hantar laporan akhir. Saya ingatkan kawan saya dah hantar. Rupanya belum. Encik boleh terima lagi laporan ini?".

'As much as I was annoyed', kesian pun ada. Mungkin dia mereka-reka cerita. Tapi mungkin dia berkata benar. Masa saya pelajar 'undergrad' dulu pun, saya pernah hantar tugas lewat. Macam-macam alasan juga. Ada pensyarah yang terima penjelasan saya. Ada yang menolak mentah-mentah.

"Oklah saya boleh terima. Tapi kena penalti sikit sebab lewat", jawab saya selepas 'bising' sikit pada dia.

Pada masa dan ketika itu, saya melihat pelajar ini macam anak saya. Marah seorang bapa, tapi dalam hati rasa kasihan dan sayang juga.

ENTRY 3

GROWTH

Raihana Ahmad Jalaludin

In life, just like in school, learning never stops. We're all students, every single day — whether we realize it or not. But here's the truth: growth doesn't happen automatically. You don't just sit in class and suddenly know everything, right? You've got to engage, apply yourself, want to learn.

Now think about life. If you need to actively learn in school to pass a test, why wouldn't you need the same mindset for life's biggest challenges? You're a student of life, and every experience — good or bad — is a lesson waiting for you.

But here's the question: are you willing to be taught? To take those hard lessons, those moments of frustration, and turn them into fuel? Some people shy away from learning when it gets tough. But not you. You know that every setback is a setup for growth.

How do you grow? It starts with one simple word: desire. The desire to keep learning. The desire to improve. The desire to become the best version of yourself. Growth isn't just about collecting knowledge — it's about applying what you've learned to live a fuller, better life.

Think about the greatest teachers you've had. They didn't just give you answers. They challenged you, pushed you, sometimes frustrated you. Why? Because real learning happens when you're

ENTRY 5

BRIDGING GENERATIONS

Nurul 'Ain Othman

As I stepped into the lecture hall for my English class, I was struck by the sea of faces before me. They were mostly from the new generation — Gen Z — filled with energy, but their approach to learning was distinctly different from the millennials I had taught just a few years ago.

I remembered my experience with the millennials; they were eager but often relied heavily on traditional study methods. They would gather in groups, sharing notes, discussing assignments over coffee, and even engaging in lively debates. They had a certain passion for learning that thrived in personal interactions, and I enjoyed being part of that dynamic.

Now, as I faced this new cohort, I noticed that many students had their eyes glued to their smartphones, even during class. At first, I felt a twinge of frustration. I wondered if they were distracted or simply uninterested. However, as the weeks went by, I realized that their engagement with technology was not a barrier but a bridge to a different kind of learning.

One day, I decided to embrace their tech-savvy nature. Instead of the usual lecture, I divided the class into small groups and assigned each group a topic related to English culture and usage. They were to use their devices to research and create a short presentation.

ENTRY 7

KEHILANGAN

Nurzarina Abdul Samad

“Sesiapa tahu Aiman (bukan nama sebenar) di mana? Kenapa dia tak hadir ke kelas?” tanya aku selepas mendapati Aiman tiada di kelas. Tiada jawapan. Rupanya kawan-kawan sekelas pun tidak mengetahui keberadaan Aiman. “Tak kenal Aiman ke?” aku bertanya lagi. “Kenal madam tapi tak rapat” jawab salah seorang pelajar. “Okay, tak mengapa” jawabku.

Aku meneruskan pengajaran seperti biasa hari itu. Dalam fikiran aku, pelajar bernama Aiman ni perlu dicari jika dia tidak hadir lagi ke kelas minggu depan. Kursus Bahasa Inggeris yang satu ni memang boleh dikatakan jarang pelajar tidak hadir ke kelas melainkan jika ada masalah tertentu.

Hari yang sama, minggu yang berbeza. Aiman masih tidak hadir. Aku meneruskan kelas dengan harapan dia akan muncul ke kelas lewat sedikit namun tiada sehingga ke hujung kelas. “Tak boleh jadi ni” fikirku. Selepas kelas tamat, aku menghubungi Aiman melalui WhatsApp. Namun tiada jawapan. Keesokan hari, Aiman membalas mesej. Mesejnya berbunyi “Minta maaf madam. Saya ada masalah sedikit. Saya janji saya akan hadir ke kelas selepas ini”. Masalah apa yang dimaksudkan pelajar ini? Adakah dia seorang saja yang mempunyai masalah di dunia ini sampai boleh dijadikan alasan untuk tidak hadir ke kelas sebanyak dua kali. Aku sempat mengingatkan dia untuk menghantar surat tunjuk sebab.

ENTRY 9

MENGATASI DAN MELAMPAUI

Nur Zakiah Amir Hamzah

Pernahkah kau gagal?
Jika pernah,
Kau tak seteruk aku,
Aku telah gagal dalam perjalananku sendiri.
Aku rasa kejayaan bukan ditakdirkan untukku,
Kegagalan seolah dihantar khas buatku,
Aku terasa seakan ditakdirkan untuk lemah dan
keliru,
Seolah-olah segala harapan dan impianku hancur
begitu.

Hanya kerana aku gagal,
Orang menjauh,
Hanya kerana aku lemah,
Orang berpaling dariku.
Aku tenggelam walau cuba melihat dari sudut lebih
baik,
Berusaha kekal positif namun kelihatan suram,
Walau aku terus mendaki,
Rasa seolah takkan pernah mencapai kemuncak
impian.

Aku enggan terima realiti ini,
Namun aku juga enggan hidup dalam fantasi palsu,

ENTRY 11

WE RISE

Hairunnisa Ibrahim

Some days, life feels like a weight too hard to bear,
Like we're always running, but getting nowhere.
We reach for happiness, we long for light,
But it slips through our fingers, just out of sight.
Life pulls us down with all its demands,
It's a fight just to stand, just to make our plans.
The road is rough, the journey steep,
Some nights we cry ourselves to sleep.
But in the quiet, there's something small —
A moment of peace, though we've lost it all.
Maybe it's a laugh, or the morning air,
A fleeting reminder that joy is still there.
We fall apart, but we come back strong,
Even when it feels like everything's gone wrong.
In every crack, a seed can grow,
In our struggles, we find what we didn't know.
Happiness isn't some distant place,
It's in the little things, in a quiet space.
It's a hand to hold when we feel alone,
It's knowing we're never truly on our own.
We rise each day, with scars and grace,

ENTRY 13

THE FLAME OF KNOWLEDGE

Siti Zaimaliza Masturi

A spark ignites in curious minds,
A flicker small, but unconfined.
It grows and spreads, a dancing flame,
Forever seeking, never tame.

It starts with questions softly spoken,
In hearts where doubt leaves paths unbroken.
Through books and thoughts, through trial and test,
The flame of knowledge finds no rest.

It lights the way through darkest night,
Turning ignorance into sight.
A beacon strong, it calls the soul,
To seek, to wonder, to be whole.

Yet knowledge is not just for gain,
A crown of gold, or fleeting fame.
It humbles those who dare to learn,
For with each answer, more we yearn.

For every secret knowledge shows,
A thousand more remain enclosed.
The wise are those who understand,
That knowledge lies in what's unplanned.

ENTRY 15

A CLASSROOM OF CHANGE

Nurul 'Ain Othman

In the heart of the classroom, a shift in the air,
Generations collide with stories to share.
Millennials once gathered, notes in hand,
Engaged in discussions, their voices would stand.

But now, new faces with screens that glow,
Engagement through tech, a rhythm they know.
Eyes fixed on devices, yet hearts full of dreams,
Learning transformed, or so it seems.

“Let’s research together,” I said with a grin,
As they typed and they tapped, the learning begins.
Laughter erupted, they shared and they played,
In memes and in videos, their knowledge conveyed.

No longer just lectures, but vibrant displays,
Presentations ignited, in colorful arrays.
With confidence rising, they spoke with delight,
Bringing culture to life, their passions took flight.

In this dance of the ages, I found my own role,
To guide and to nurture each curious soul.
For in every method, old or anew,
Lies the heart of learning, a journey for you.

ENTRY 17

I B U

Nurulisyazila Othaman

Kau penat, tapi kau buat...

Kau lelah, tapi kau ceria...

Rumah kemas dan rapi hanya impianmu

Askar kecil kreatif sentiasa bekerja tanpa lihat masa

Jadualmu sama saban minggu

Tidak buntu kadang kau jemu

Wajahmu kusam penat dan letih

Tidak pernah ku anggap hodoh

Aku insan kerdil

Aku sentiasa perlukanmu

Ya, kau ibuku...

ENTRY 19

KADANGKALA A ITU BUKAN UNTUK APPLE

Raihanna Ahmad Jalaluddin

Hidup ini bukan sentiasa apa yang kau mahu
Tapi selalu beri apa yang memang kau perlu
Hidup bukan kehendak yang dituruti
Tapi keperluan yang perlu kau tempuhi
Kau bukan guru selalu
Tapi kau selalu harus berguru
Dari anak anak yang kau bimbing
Selalu berhikmah yang sentiasa ramah
Kau harus bersedia
Selalu dan sentiasa
Dengan hati yang terbuka
Karna ilmu hadir tanpa kita pinta
Kadang kala tanpa kita sedia
Sentiasa, di setiap langkah dan masa
Ada pengajaran yang tak mungkin kau kira

ENTRY 21

YOU ATTRACT WHAT YOU ARE

Shakira Shahlee

When I was younger, I didn't fully grasp just how much my mother did for me. She was always there — cooking meals, giving advice, constantly looking out for me. But I was caught up in my own world and too distracted to notice her quiet sacrifices. She'd often ask if I wanted to help her in the garden or go for a walk together, but I'd shrug it off, saying I was "too busy," though now I realize I wasn't.

Then came the day she was gone, and everything changed in an instant. It was like the ground beneath me disappeared. She had always been this constant, gentle presence in my life, always there, and suddenly she wasn't. I replayed all the moments I brushed her off, thinking there'd be more time. The conversations I missed, the time I wasted — I wish I could get it all back.

Losing her was a harsh lesson in how fragile life is. I regret not telling her enough how much she meant to me, how much I loved her, while I still had the chance. Now, I hold onto her memory, knowing I should have appreciated her more when she was alive. Her garden still blooms, and every time I see it, it's a quiet reminder that time with our loved ones is precious. We think we have all the time in the world — until we don't.

ENTRY 23

BOOK

Siti Zaimaliza Masturi

In quiet corners, on dusty shelves, A world awaits,
beyond us.

Pages worn and covered old.

A story's magic starts to unfold.

Ink and paper, bound so tight, Whisper secrets in
the night.

Adventures grand, and tales so deep, in a book's
embrace, dreams leap.

Through forests dark and oceans wide, Heroes
brave and villains hide.

Love and loss, joy and pain, In every line, life's
refrain.

A book's a friend, steadfast and true, with every
read, it feels brand new.

It holds our hearts, it sparks our mind, in its embrace,
solace we find.

So open wide its cover's gate, let imagination's
journey await.

For in a book, we find our place, A timeless,
boundless, wondrous space.

BIOGRAPHY OF EDITORS



Mrs Nurzarina binti Abdul Samad is an English language teacher. Her areas of expertise include TESL and communication. She was graduated with Master of Education (TESL) from UTM Johor and Bachelor of Education (Hons) in TESL from UiTM Shah Alam. She has almost 11 years of experience in teaching English at secondary school as well as tertiary level including UiTM Segamat and now, UTHM. She has also conducted programs related to public speaking to secondary and university students.

She has done several publications including book chapters, research articles and university news articles. She has received awards including human resource development panel award and excellent service award. Currently, she is actively involved in teaching English to undergraduates as well as being the Head of Focus Group in Teaching and Learning and the Coordinator for Quality and Risk Management in CLS. She enjoys being an educator and a writer.

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She graduated with PhD in Educational Psychology from UTM, Master of Education (TESL) from UiTM and Bachelor of Education (Hons) in TESL from UiTM. She has experience in teaching English for foreign and local students.

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Thus far, Dr. Sarala has graduated more than four PhD students and is currently supervising several post graduate candidates. She

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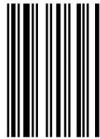
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