



# PenChant

Reviews on Books, Movies and More...

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## *In this Issue:*

### FOR IT MUST BE READ

Page 1

*Going Solo*

### MEET THE AUTHOR

Page 2

*Alan Alexander Milne*

### PERSPECTIVE

Page 3

### SONGS THAT WERE SONG...

Page 4

*Bilindling Nights*

### FOR THE GOOD TIMES...

Page 5

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower*

### ECLECTIC

Page 6



## *Editor's Note*

Roald Dahl. Most of us know him as a British novelist who has made some great contribution to the field of literature; at the same time, some of us know him as a tedious author due to the sole reason that we were made to study his chapters during English lessons which fell right after lunch! Either way, Roald Dahl is a personality who has so much more to him. Read to discover. We bring to you the Weeknd, the darling of our generation.

As we are at home during this unforeseeable time, we must learn to find the silver lining in our dark clouds and be grateful for all that we have. Do turn the pages to find an exciting movie review and more...

I present before you the fifth issue of the PenChant while looking forward to bringing you issues which will be engaging.

Dechen Sangay  
XII

*Roald Dahl*

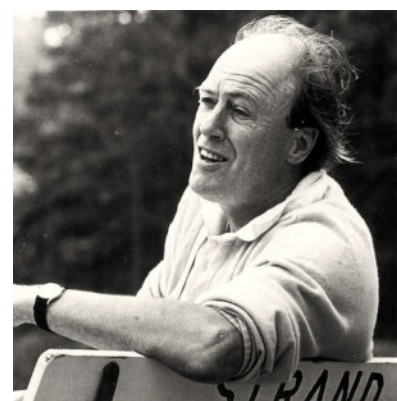
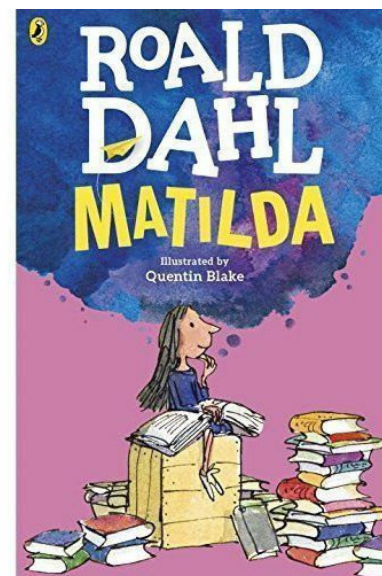
# GOING SOLO

Going Solo is an autobiography written by British novelist and wartime fighter pilot Roald Dahl. According to him, life is made up of a great number of small incidents and a small number of great ones. An autobiography must therefore unless it is to become tedious, be extremely selective discarding all the inconsequential incidents in one's life and concentrating upon those that have remained vivid in the memory.

This book is a continuation of his first autobiography called Boy which talked about his childhood. The first part of this book talks about his first job offered by the Shell Company. He was sent to East Africa on a three-year contract to supply fuel to inaccessible locations. He had a marvelous time there living in astounding outposts owned by Shell. He had many uncanny adventures as well, like the time when he went to a friend's place for a sundowner, while sitting on the veranda he saw a green mamba crawl inside the front room. He quickly ran outside to call the Snake-man, he was an old English man who lived there for years and caught snakes and sold them to zoos and laboratories.

The snake-man came within a few minutes and fearlessly fought the green mamba, eventually catching it after quite a while. In the second part of the book, he eventually joined the war as a squadron pilot in the Royal Air Force, flying planes like the Tiger Moth and Hawker Hurricanes. He was among the last Allied pilots to withdraw from Greece during the German invasion, also taking part in the Battle of Athens in April 1941.

In one of his accounts, he described a crash in the Western Desert, which fractured his skull and brought him several other problems such as temporarily being blinded during his days in Greece. After the country fell to the Nazis, he went to the Middle East to fight French pilots after staying for a brief time in Alexandria, Egypt. Many blinding headaches later he was invalided home by the doctor. He drove his Morris Oxford back to Egypt from Haifa, Israel; he then took a ship to Liverpool from Suez to realize that his family had shifted from Kent to a small village called Grendon Underground because of the war. He was finally united with his family after four long years.



COURTESY: GOOGLE

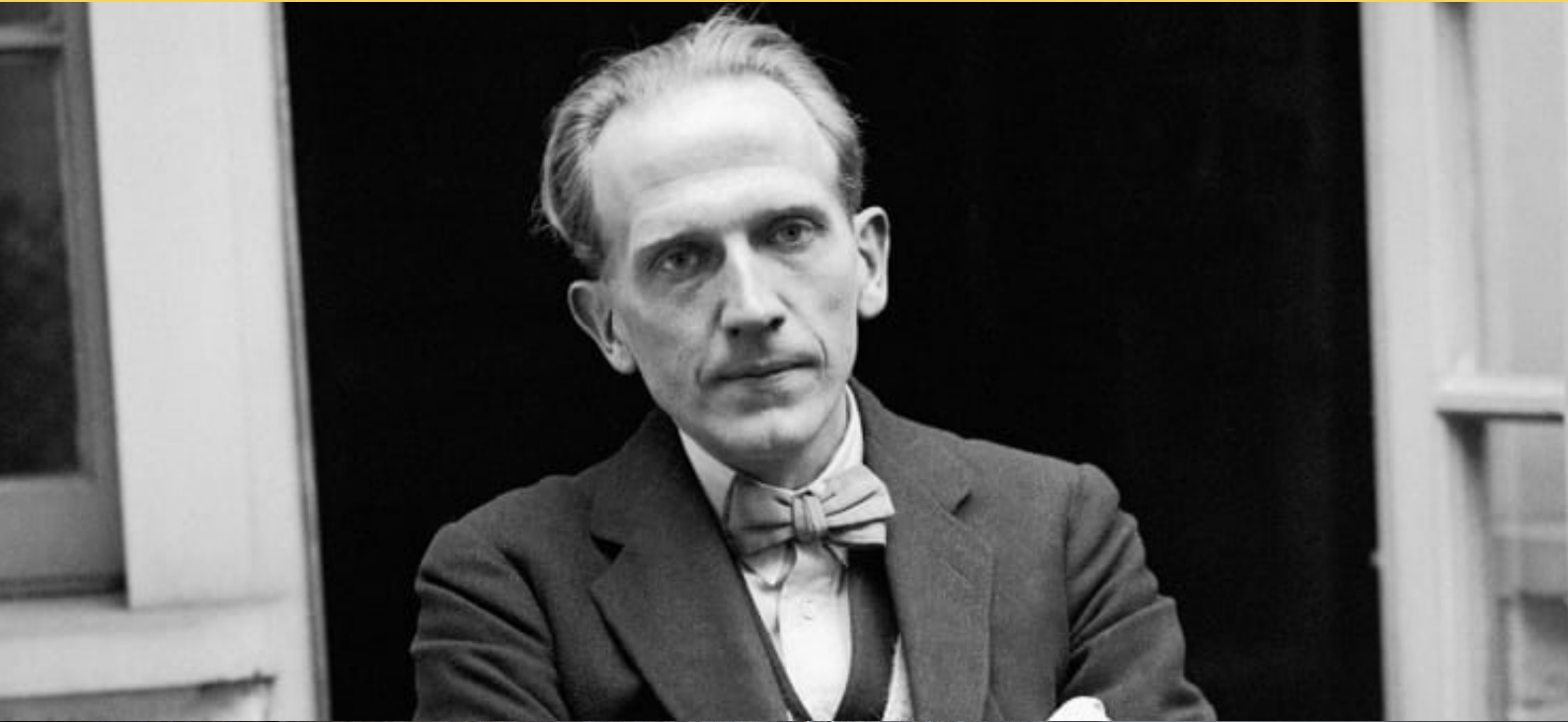
Adrit Bothra

X



# MEET THE AUTHOR

*Alan Alexander Milne*



COURTESY: GOOGLE

Alan Alexander Milne (18 January, 1882- 31 January, 1956) was an English author, best known for his books about the teddy bear Winnie-the-Pooh and for various other children's poems. Milne was a noted writer, primarily as a playwright, before the huge success of Pooh overshadowed all his previous work. He published over 18 plays and three novels, including the murder mystery "The Red House Mystery". Milne then produced a collection of children's poems and short stories.

Milne was an early screenwriter for the British film industry which included films like "The Bump", starring Aubrey Smith; "Twice Two"; "Five Pound Reward" and "Bookworm". In February 1924 Winnie the Pooh made his debut in a poem called "Teddy Bear," published in Punch magazine, later on the collection of these poems about Pooh became a part of the Winnie-the-Pooh books. The Pooh books were inspired by Milne's son Christopher Robin and his stuffed animals.

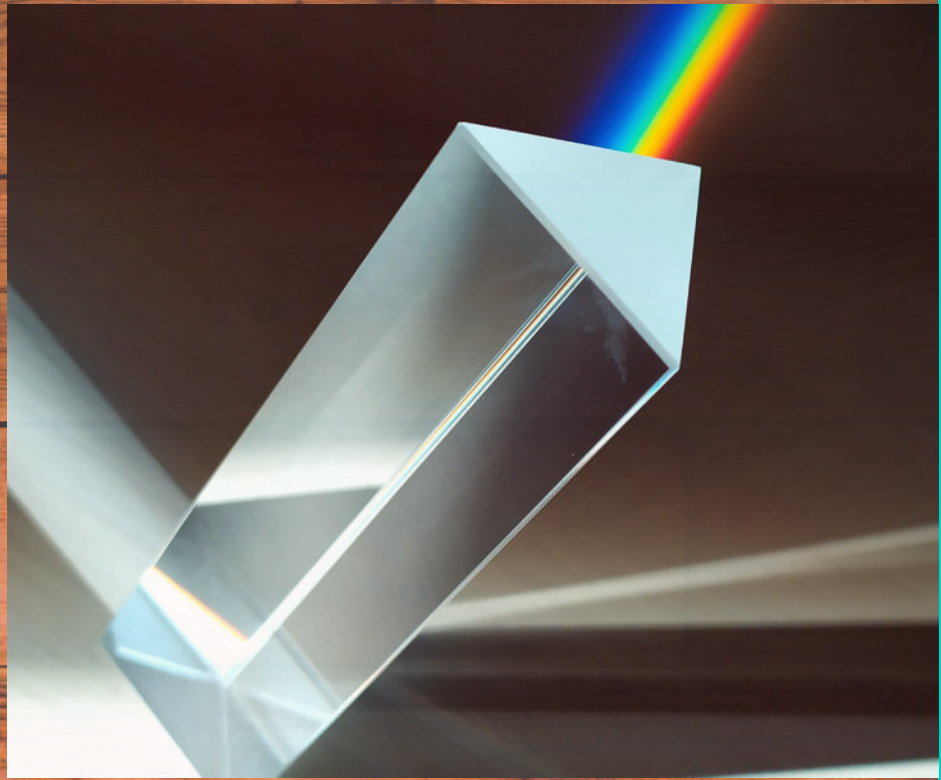
Milne did not relish the success of Winnie-The-Pooh - in fact, he stopped writing for children after the books became successful. His son eventually became estranged from him because he believed his father exploited his childhood at his expense. Milne retired to his country home Cotchford Farm, after a brain surgery left him an invalid in 1952. Today, Winnie the Pooh is the second most valuable character after Mickey Mouse and the stories written by Milne have been made into various TV shows after being bought by Disney, which continue to entertain children around the world till date.

**CHINMOY TAMULI**

**XI**







## CALIBAN. IS HE THE TYPE OF CHARACTER AS PORTRAYED BY PROSPERO IN ACT 1, SCENE 2 IN SHAKESPEARE'S THE TEMPEST?

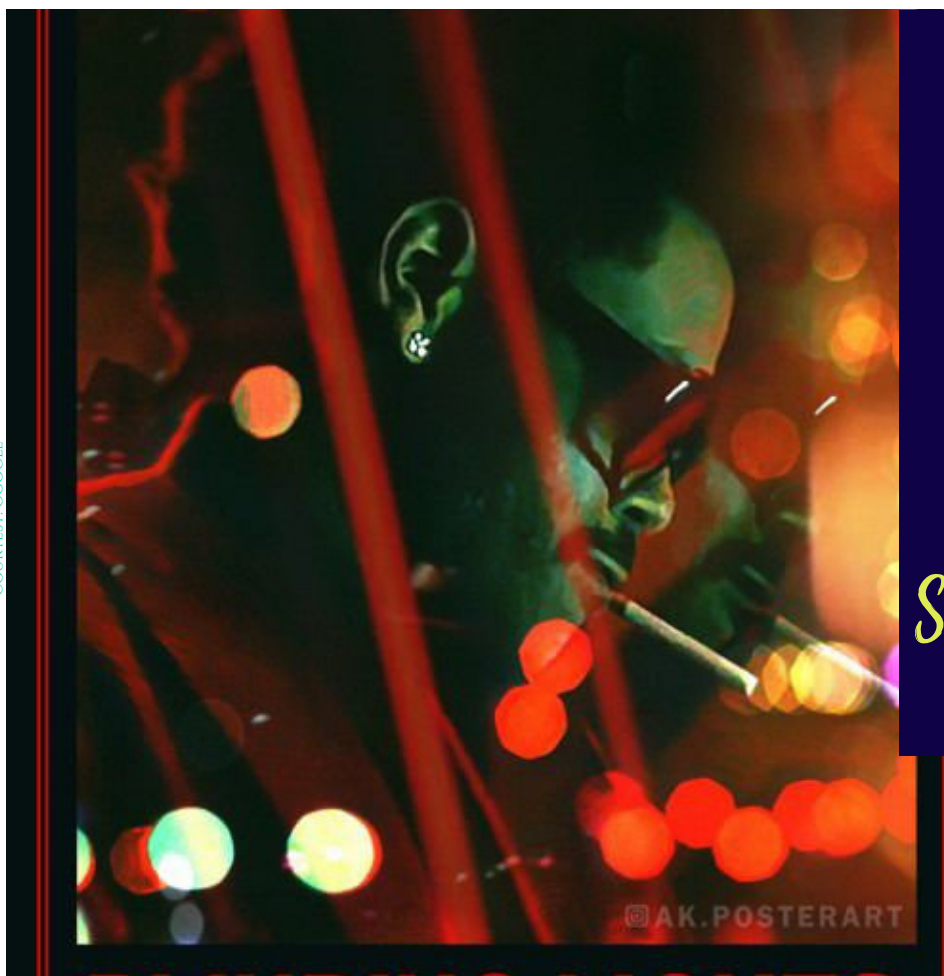
No, I do not think Caliban is the type of character portrayed by Prospero. Prospero's whole perspective of Caliban is heavily tinged with an air of superiority on Prospero's side and inferiority on Caliban's side. This was solely based on the fact that Caliban was Sycorax's son, whom Prospero has very generously labeled as a 'hag'. Another major reason is the fact that Caliban is a native of the island: a non-European. So this immediately boosts Prospero's sense of self-entitlement.

Although attempted rape is not a joke and it is one of the most heinous crimes a person can commit we must also keep in mind that Caliban was not born and brought up in a civilised community where one knows the social rights and wrongs while growing up and had a proper moral compass. He was the son of a witch who used to go around trapping spirits. He had never encountered humans in his life and meeting Prospero and Miranda becomes his first time meeting humans ever. We know that Caliban was taught language and how to express his wants, but nowhere is it ever mentioned that the 'savage' native was taught social cues and differentiation of right from wrong.

He Also, my personal opinion is that Prospero's constant negative criticism and berating of Caliban at every opportunity he gets ultimately led to Caliban turning into the brute he is represented as. Prospero is seen taking constant jabs at Caliban in every context and completely humiliates him. I feel that when a person is constantly subjected to a certain type of behavior and is being painted in a certain way, after a while, the person's mental walls will start crumbling, making that person give in to societal wants; here the 'society' being Prospero and the 'wants' being Caliban's behavioral downfall. For example, Prospero is constantly addressing Caliban with names like "lying slave", "abhorred slave", "poisonous slave" and "hag seed". Also, Prospero orders Caliban to do his bidding by threatening to curse his pains should he not do as he says. Prospero says, "If thou neglect, or dost unwillingly What I command, I'll rack thee with old cramps, Fill all thy bones with aches, make thee roar, That beasts shall tremble at thy din."







# BILINDING LIGHTS

By The Weeknd

*Songs That were Sung...*



“Blinding Lights”, the remarkably evocative second single to The Weeknd’s fourth studio album “After Hours” is an up-tempo electropop track that features large ‘80s-inspired synths and electronic dance music drums, built around a fogged, crepuscular production of Max Martin and Oscar Holter, similar to the sonic direction of his third studio album, *Starboy*. Indeed, a re-creation of a sonic aesthetic. The more adult tone of The Weeknd’s vocal lends itself toward something more complex than the mainstream, New Wave, something more akin to Depeche Mode. There is an ache of experience and weariness to The Weeknd’s vocal that is not at odds with the glorious synth line, but rather something that deepens and enriches the sound exhibiting an enticing tone and contributing to an emotional depth in synchronisation with the music.

The lyrics find Abel Makkonen Tesfaye, better known as “The Weeknd” in a constant state of distraction that he only gets relief from when in the presence of a significant other, conveying obsession. In essence, the song is about a man so consumed with a passion that he is blind to anything else around him. The opening stanza is about the man realizing that he’s fallen deeply in love almost as if “drowning in the night” and is led to believe that life is empty and cold without the person he loves and longs to be with. As the song progresses, with the music tempo building up, the artist portrays an image of loneliness and dissatisfaction through the lyric “I can’t see clearly when you’re gone I can’t sleep

until I feel your touch” implying that his life lacks clarity and meaning without the presence of his significant other.

The song thus concludes with a break, everything that was pulsating with energy is suddenly flattened out, stretched out, relaxing to a lovely, slow fade. The song ends perfectly as does the marriage of lyrics and music. The music, lyrics and forlorn echoes work in perfect harmony to communicate the excitement of and perfection of realizing that you’re in love and the soothing calm that comes with being loved.

“Blinding Lights” consequently conquered charts, smashing records, peaking at number one in thirty-four countries, including the United States and Canada, where it became The Weeknd’s fifth number-one single on the Billboard Hot 100 and the Canadian Hot 100 for four and seven weeks, respectively. The song was the best-performing global single of 2020, and it earned 2.72 billion subscription stream equivalents globally (21.7 million sales). It was Spotify’s most-streamed song of 2020 with nearly 1.6 billion streams. In February 2021 it surpassed 2 billion streams on Spotify, being the fastest song in history to reach the milestone. Currently, the song holds the record for most weeks spent in the top 5 and top 10 of the Billboard Hot 100. It became the first song to hold a spot in the top 10 of the Hot 100 chart for an entire year on the 9th of March 2021. On March 30, 2021, it broke the record for most weeks spent in the Top 20 and Top 40 on the Billboard Hot 100.

KAUSTAV GARG

XII



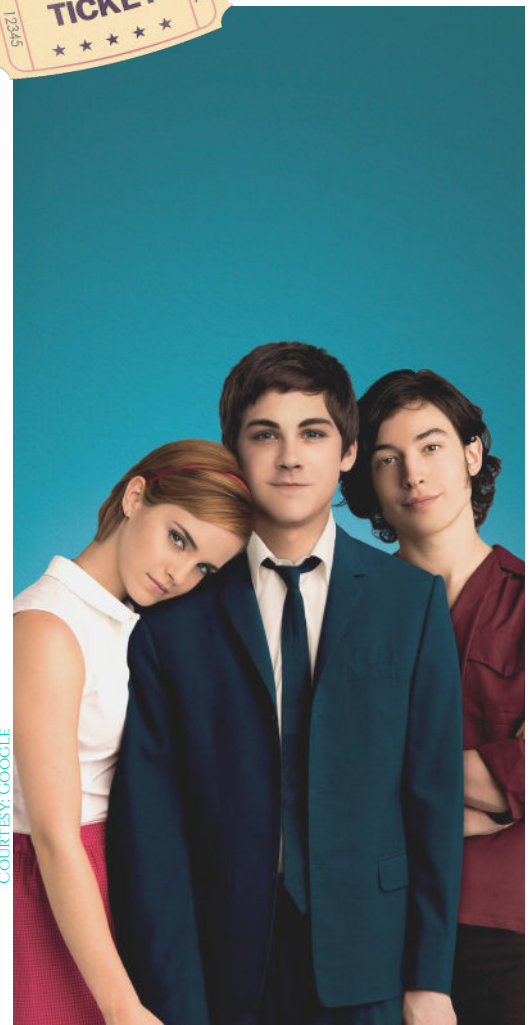
FOR THE GOOD TIMES...

# the perks of being a wallflower

WE ARE INFINITE



COURTESY: GOOGLE



Adapted from the novel with the same name, the film has garnered a cult-like following among teenagers since its release. It's an extremely faithful adaptation, mainly due to the fact that the film was directed by the book's author, Stephen Chbosky. But what makes teenagers around the world love this movie so much?

We tend to love coming-of-age movies like *Lady Bird* and *Perks of Being a Wallflower* because these films have a certain level of relatability and themes that we can connect to. In *TPOBAW*, the protagonist suffers from clinical depression due to repressed memories and trauma.

As I mentioned earlier the film was directed by Stephen Chbosky, who is the author of the film. Filmmakers often miss the point of a novel when they adapt it into a motion picture but since Chbosky is directing it, the film remains faithful to the source material. The film is really impressive, considering that this was Chbosky's second full-length feature film. Chbosky managed to direct a film that had a huge impact on our generation, and I think that is very hard to do nowadays. Film is an art form that is supposed to make us feel and *TPOBAW* touched the hearts and souls of millions around the world. Besides the protagonist Charlie, the character with

the most impact upon me would be Patrick. Patrick to me is the kind of person that considers holding up people he loves as his top priority for keeping people together and helping them reach their potential keeps him sane. He keeps himself together through the act of keeping others together. His personality being this extroverted, humorous boy often being the reason the classroom has something to laugh about is what his aura revolves around. He blabbers incessantly and like Charlie said in the movie "but after a while, he runs out of things to keep him numb". Nothing to me describes Patrick better. He fixes everyone around him and makes their burden his own till that's all left of him. He is most definitely my favourite.

Moreover, as for the soundtrack, I love it. The film uses a lot of pop music as a form of diegetic sound (diegetic sound is the sound that occurs within the context of the story and able to be heard by the characters. Non-diegetic music is the opposite e.g. orchestra music in movies) and it works really well. They really help the film give a rather comforting vibe. The songs were chosen really well and one song that stands out is *Heroes* by David Bowie which is a pretty inspiring song even without the context of the film.

Logan Lerman, Emma Watson and Ezra

Miller did a fantastic job in portraying their own characters. Even Paul Rudd was good and he gave one of the best lines from the film, "We accept the love we think we deserve". This line had opened up my perspective in a way I'm still grateful for. It may not have given me all the answers but it gave me enough. This movie emphasizes the feeling of loneliness despite the numerous amount of people around you, something many growing teenagers would relate to. A line that reflects on this common feeling from this film that I must highlight would be, "you see things and then you understand." This took place when Patrick welcomed Charlie to their friend group and declared him a "Wallflower" as they would say. This highlights how Charlie dealt with feeling left out and odd from the rest of his school mates until one member decided to give him a chance.



TIARA WARJRI  
XII



## Life

Growing up, my mother told me, "Sweetie,  
you will serve your husband one day,"  
Said, after my marriage, I will be sent away,  
Informed me my freedom will slowly decay,  
And advised me, as a woman, I'll be pay.

I wondered why and asked her the same,  
She warned me to not ask why lest I be blamed,  
Told m, this is how women are tamed,  
And those who do not obey, be defamed.

I wondered, "So, this is how women are treated,"  
To always be the one defeated,  
One who is considered better deleted,  
And one who should keep their opinions seated.

But I have a question

How is it fair to any extent?  
Don't we have any rights to obtain?  
Are women's lives just meant,  
For this?  
To dwell in it?

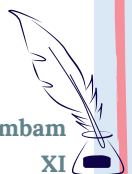
We have ourselves to worry about, for our own contentment  
So why are we considered only for work and entertainment?

My uncle once said, "They are women,"  
And chuckled, adding, "who is better known as glorified servants."  
The others in the room added, "One who belongs solely in the kitchen,  
and who are slaved as their positions."

All the other of my age had swallowed this truth,  
But I was not at all ready to,  
Cause it gave women no right to choose,  
And all of this, patriarchy induced,  
So this is not something to be excused.

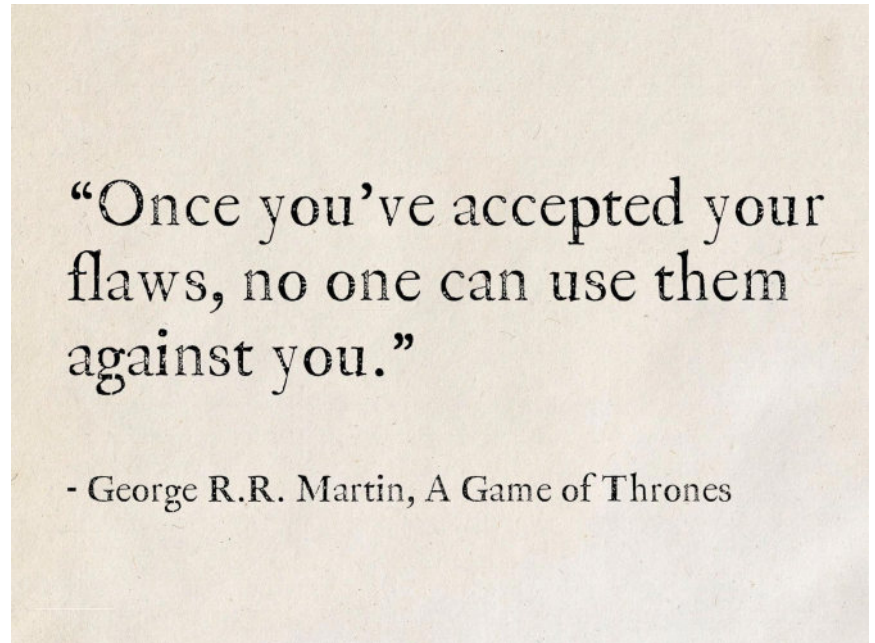
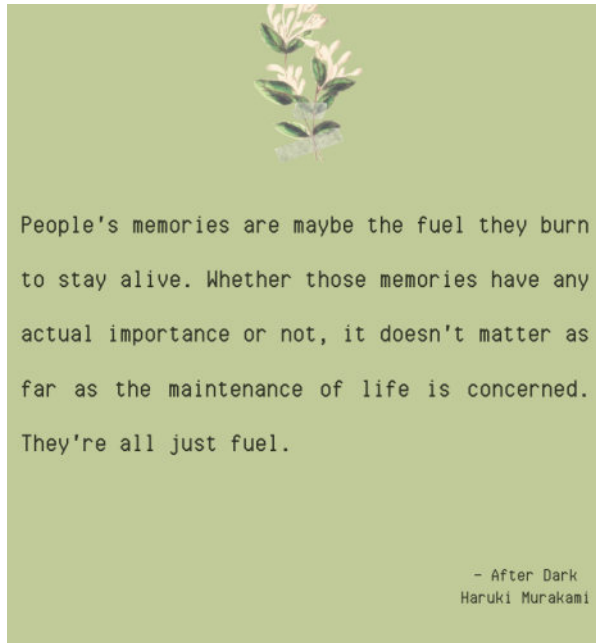
One day, I promise I will not let it continue,  
For, this called a woman's worth in million words: undervalued.  
And it sure is a big issue,  
Which needs to be discontinued,  
at all costs,  
For if not, humanity has lost.

- Angie Nongthombam

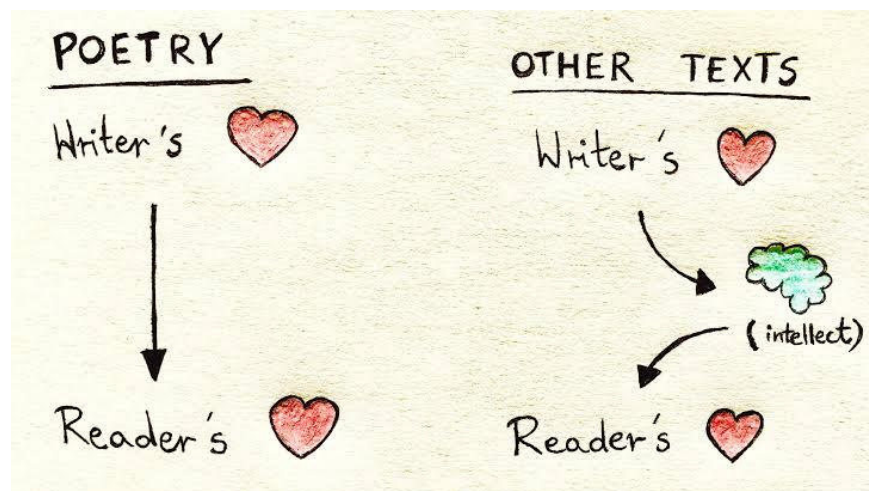
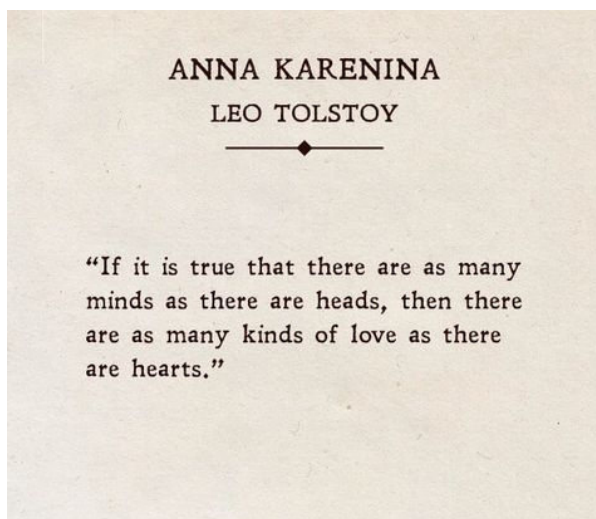




# ECLECTIC



COURTESY: GOOGLE



"A person who has good thoughts cannot ever be ugly. You can have a wonky nose and a crooked mouth and a double chin and stick-out teeth, but if you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely."





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