

University Preparatory Program NEWSLETTER



At the Saleh Barakat Gallery

A Visit to an Exhibition

Namir Mouhaffel

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Returning Home

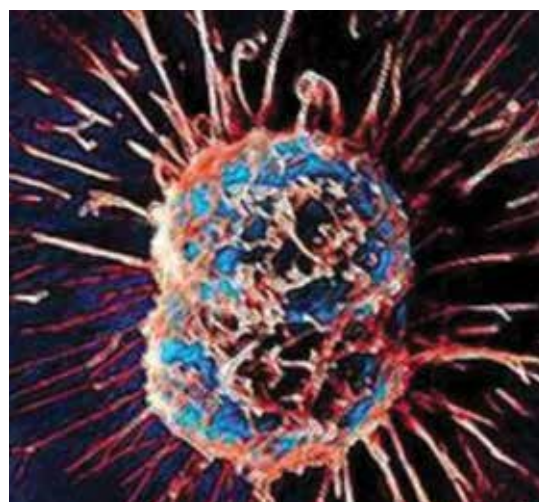
Khosseh Chalfoun

I had spent 10 years at AUB and I decided to come back home. When I reached my home, I saw everything was different. There the garden changed. The old trees... [Page 5]

Cancer

Reenal Faysal

It is the most touching topic that science has researched about. And if I were asked to write... [Page 8]



This newsletter was completed with the help and guidance of Dr. Samar Harkouss, Ms. Rima El-Harake & Ms. Katia Peltekian, as well as the contributions of the UPP students.

VIRTUAL EXCHANGE

Virtual Exchange - Wofford College & AUB

Joe Soubaih - UPP Instructor

It is with great pride that the University Preparatory Program at the American University of Beirut has been holding virtual sessions with Wofford College in South Carolina as part of the Stevens' Initiative. The initiative aims to promote cultural integration between American colleges and universities and universities and colleges in the Middle East and North Africa with classes for minorities or otherwise underprivileged students. One UPP level 3 class was chosen to have joined assignments with classes from Wofford College, as well as Skype sessions and reflections on the assignments. The assignments themselves were watching the movies *Ghadi*, *West Beyrouth*, and *A Film Called Amreeka*, and reflecting on these movies on social media, through Facebook and WordPress. For the upcoming Spring 2017 semester, the assignments will continue, with a new class and new assignments.

Although apprehensive at first at such a revolutionary method of interacting, students in both classes at Wofford and the UPP warmed to one another and communicated through Skype displaying a lot of enthusiasm for the joined activities. In addition, the UPP students actively reflected on the assignments and films they had to watch, recited Arabic poetry to introduce the Wofford students to Arab culture, and even introduced them to certain phrases and proverbs exclusive to Arab culture. This was all reciprocated with the same enthusiasm by the Wofford students. All in all, the learning experience was a success, as the aim to bring two cultures closer through education in a non-pure academic setting in the traditional sense was achieved. Commenting on the film *West Beyrouth*, UPP student Anis Amer says: "In a war there are no winners, everybody loses. In 1975, Lebanon had the civil war; Beirut was separated into two parts, East and West Beirut. At that time, Beirut suffered a lot; buildings were damaged, and thousands of people died. But it is not the state today. Every action should have a reaction; Beirut today is the place where we live together in peace with no problems."

Johnny Bou Saab, another UPP student, had the following to reflect on the film *Ghadi*, another assignment that was carried out by the students: "After watching *Ghadi*, I realized that some people may lie and never hurt anyone. People could lie and make other people happy easily. We've seen in the movie how some people prefer to live in a lie and be happy for the rest of their lives, and how others prefer realistic truth. The realistic side was shown by the guy who didn't accept the child's miracle in the movie and he always doubted the idea and investigated to make it fail. Moreover, the movie showed how people in the village had problems and were unhappy before the fake scenario of the angel child."

The UPP students were exposed to a new culture through the exchange program, and it was gratifying to see both groups of students be so dedicated and motivated in their assignments and in taking part in the cultural exchange process.



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

A Visit to an Exhibition

Namir Mouhaffel

Recently, an exhibition was held near our college. We went with our teachers and classmates to visit the exhibition. The name of the gallery was Saleh Barakat Gallery and it was in Clemenceau, Hamra. When we arrived to the gallery our director introduced us to a guide who told us about the story behind each painting. It was a modern gallery and most of the paintings were about war, destruction, and destroyed buildings. From all the paintings I saw, there was only one that I loved and another that I hated. The one I liked was named *The Old Cinema* it was painted by a Lebanese artist, Ayman Baalbaki. Ayman Baalbaki was born in 1975, the year the Lebanese Civil War started. It is therefore no surprise that he draws his inspiration from war and the related themes of destruction and loss, emptiness, both emotional and physical, retribution and the identity of the victim. He used acrylic paint in the artwork that I liked and it was about the old theatre of Beirut.

The colours were dark and the texture was rough but despite its dark side, there were many reasons why I liked this painting: the colours, size and creativity.

Art Gallery

Johnny Bou Saab

When we went to the Saleh Barakat Gallery on Friday the 18th of November, in Clemenceau, Hamra, there were many awesome paintings by Ayman Baalbaki; but the painting I liked most was "The End". I really liked how the colors merged with the blue sky, and it doesn't really affect the painting, but it makes it look weird, special, and colorful without being different from perfect. Furthermore, this building in Beirut was described perfectly in this painting, and it shows how the effects of the war are still there. In my opinion, I saw that this painting shows not only the effects of war, but also the resistance of the city, Beirut, because the sky is still blue and not smoky black or grey, and it contains the full-of-life colors like red, white, and green.

On the other hand, I didn't like this painting, because it's too complicated, not in the sense of colors or anything, but it contains damage and waste. The problem is that it doesn't contain anything else, and the normal thing one would only notice is the damage in the painting. Also, the colors are somehow the same throughout the painting. However, that doesn't mean that it's not amazing for some people who would like it.



Now let's talk about the painting that I did not like. One of the reasons that made me hate the second painting is that I did not understand its purpose; I mean it was a colourful, messy painting and the word "Beirut" was written in the middle of the painting. There was nothing in that painting that fascinated me.

Overall, we enjoyed the trip; we took a lot of pictures and it will definitely be a beautiful, lifetime memory.

The End

Reenal Faysal

“I belong to a generation that has a duty towards remembrance”, artist Ayman Baalbaki once said. His drawings are linked to war and displacement, loss and destruction, identity and collected memory, because he lived during 1975, the start of the horrible Lebanese Civil War.

Thus, the best example of his paintings is the one that reveals “Beirut Cinemacity” in Downtown which is entitled “Symbol of Civil War”.

Baalbaki expressed the massive destruction that was inflicted on Beirut in that war and demolished its most famous cinema by including the appropriate dark colors to attract the visitors and make them feel the horrible disaster.

This drawing really touched me, and I think that Ayman Baalbaki succeeded in transferring the real image of the Civil War in this image which he named “The End”. And I hope it would be the End of every War!



Pictures by Bahaa Chammout at the Saleh Barakat Gallery
November 18, 2016

Our Visit to the National Museum of Beirut

Ahmad Al Najjar

On Friday, December 2, 2016, UPP students from levels 1 & 2 went on a short daytrip to the museum. The National Museum of Beirut is the second museum that I visit in my life. Even though I hate trips that are crowded with many people, I really had a lot of fun. There were a lot of things that grasped my attention at the museum. I was very interested in the mosaics and ancient weapons. We were also able to see a new exhibit in the basement: artifacts like mummies, sarcophagi, and other historic items. However, I did not like other parts a lot, especially the marble statues and sarcophagi. They did not grab my attention as much as the ancient weapons and mosaics.



STUDENT WRITING ACTIVITIES

A Global Issue

Doha Albared

Global warming is a dangerous issue which causes a lot of problems that extend to many levels. One of the biggest problems caused by global warming is the flooding of seas and oceans. During this phenomenon, the temperature on earth increases to unusual degrees. As a result, in cold areas such as the north and south poles, icebergs - or snow in general – melt causing a phenomenal increase in the amount of water in seas and oceans. Therefore, their levels rise until they cause floods in certain areas. In fact, some scientists have predicted that some places will become parts of the Atlantic Ocean in the future as a consequence of these floods.

Another fatal damage caused by global warming is the change of the climate, which is an issue that leads to another serious one. This issue is the death of animals such as the polar bear. Because each type of animal lives in

a region where the climate is suitable to its nature, the sudden change of climate makes it very difficult for the animal to survive.

Also, global warming is a huge dilemma when it comes to the dehydration of plants, rivers and lakes due to the evaporation of water that results from the high increase in temperature. For this reason, people in the future will suffer from lack of water and waste of harvest. In conclusion, global warming is a problem that generates a lot of other problems, so humans should start to be aware of it and more conscious about its consequence before it's too late.

Returning Home

Khosseh Chalfoun

I had spent 10 years at AUB and I decided to come back home. When I reached my home, I saw everything was different. There the garden had changed. The old trees had vanished and the flowers, also. The house is painted a new color and the sofas in the house were changed. My room was very small but my parents had broken the wall down so it is larger. In addition, my parents built new rooms beside the house. Also my whole town changed. The church was bigger and the streets wider, too. Furthermore, the roads are paved and everyone has bought a new car or truck. In the center of the village, a new gym and a new pool have been added.

Body Language

Diana Herz

If you don't think your body has a language, think again! The secret of making a great first impression is body language. Body language is non-verbal communication. The face is the window into the soul. Reading facial expressions is helpful for understanding the people in our lives. Raising your eyebrows shows that you are surprised with what is being said. Looking into a person's eyes assumes that you are interested in what s/he is saying. Raising your voice means you're interested. Body language plays a huge role in important meetings or in job interviews since it reflects

your confidence; people can read your poses and postures. We stand and walk in a certain way when we are confident and another way when we are nervous. For example, having straight shoulders reflects high confidence while having your feet trembling says that you are nervous. Finally, body language reflects your postures and gestures.

My Hometown 10 Years from Now...

Saad Choeb

Definitely, their determination to stay and fight was the only thing that has not change in my people since 2015, when I left my country. In ten years, my hometown has changed radically. Reconstruction, renovation and development were taking place in Syria while I was studying abroad. It is tragic, in a sense, to feel like a foreigner in your home. However, I was amazed by people's potential in developing their towns.

During the ten years that I spent in Cuba, I tried to keep many detailed memories of my town, like streets, alleys and neighborhoods. On my return visit, I was uselessly trying to recall those details. Abou Ahmad Grocery is a humble grocery shop in Bab Touma, my neighborhood, where my mother used to send me to buy some food, not to mention the candy that I used to buy on my way back. Abou Ahmad, the amiable, pleasant old man was forced by the building owner to abandon his shop. Abou Ahmad's grocery is not there anymore! An overdone, chain cafe has opened there instead, shifting our neighborhood's appearance, trying to make it "super deluxe". Maybe this is for own benefit; who knows? A flood of tourists may come and visit my neighborhood and our old fashioned shops would be

so inappropriate then. This is just a small but frequent example of what is happening in my town. Upmarket shops are sprawling around the town. Not only have the shops changed, but also poor housing doesn't have the same look anymore.

Although people who dwell there are still living in poverty, their houses were cosmetically modified by global companies to fit tourists' tastes, neglecting the poor conditions which they live in. Cosmetic change has been imposed on my modest town by global building companies in order to "redefine beauty", as they claim. I believe that a country's beauty is a value that should be defined by locals that, in their turn, reconstruct, renovate and develop their countries based on their priorities and away from globalization.

If I Had to Choose a Word that Best Describes me...

Hadil Hobballah

Looking through the dictionary, I noticed a new word that I hadn't seen before. I was intrigued to find out what it means. For that, I searched it and realized that I was familiar with some of its synonyms but not with it, specifically. This word is "sanguine". It means "cheerfully optimistic or positive, especially in an apparently bad or difficult situation, hopeful, or confident." By getting this definition, I realized the importance of this word and how much it reflects its meaning. It is a really huge word that symbolizes its value since confidence and optimism are two indispensable elements in life. For this purpose, this word seems to be the basis of my personality.

I am a person who has high self-confidence. I am always aware and sure of the decisions and actions I take, such as going to a certain place or while chatting with others. I don't ever regret my decisions or hesitate to move forward. Moreover, I am always optimistic and hopeful. I always think positively about life. Whenever I face a problem, I try to counter it myself and overcome it wisely. Even if I fail the first time, I always hope it will work the next time. Furthermore, I believe in the saying: "what doesn't kill you, makes you stronger" and I work based on it all time. For instance, when I was in grade 12, I was enthusiastic about applying for the USAID scholarship, and I really did. Many people around said that the probability of my acceptance would be very small and it would not work. They caused me to be in a state of nervousness and confusion. However, I believed in my abilities and that I can do it. Fortunately, my hope turned real and I was accepted. Then, I was more motivated and more encouraged to continue in my way of thinking. I will always be confident and optimistic about my future, and never lose hope under any circumstances!

If I Had to Choose a Word that Best Describes me...

Baha Chammout

If I had to choose a word that best describes me, it would be "candid". Candid means "Characterized by openness and sincerity of expression; unreservedly straightforward. Not obscuring or omitting anything unpleasant, embarrassing, or negative". (freedictionary.com) For me, this word means to be honest and sincere in expressing my opinions, ideas, feelings, and thoughts. Not pretending to be someone that I'm not. It's a way to deal with people, by being honest towards them in what we feel and how we think of everything.

I think this word defines me because I'm honest when it comes to expressing my ideas and my opinions in anything. I never lie and say something that I don't believe in, so as not to hurt someone's feelings because it contradicts with his beliefs and opinions. Whether it's a political or religious or ethical matter, I say whatever I believe in, even if it's not what everyone else believes in or it would cause someone to be mad at me. As long as I'm respectful, I say whatever I want. We all have the freedom of expression; we should use it to feel alive, to make a difference in ourselves and the other person. We should always express our thoughts in a respectful and a calm way, and respect the other person's opinion no matter what it is.

In my life, whenever I'm with a family member, a friend, a stranger, or with a group of people and we're discussing a political or a religious matter such as how religion affects our societies or our existence and the existence of God (which are sensitive issues to many people), or talking about scientific theories and philosophical matters, Metaphysics and logic... (yeah, we actually do that), I express my opinion and provide proofs of my opinion, and I do that in a calm and respectful way, as I never shout or say anything disrespectful to someone or about his thoughts. But I don't care if my opinion will make someone mad because it contradicts with his beliefs, especially if it's a religious issue that we're talking about. I just say what I really think. Most importantly, I always respect the other person's opinion, even if it contradicts with mine. Just like he should deal with my opinion, I have to deal with his.

Journal Entry

Maya Nouredine

Nobody knows that I was jealous of my older sister when I was young. Since my sister is the first child, I thought that my parents cared for her more than me. I used to be jealous because she was smarter than me in addition to being more responsible. I also thought that my mother loved her more than me. I used to think that she- my sister- hated me until one day, I changed my mind. That day, we were waiting for the bus in front of the school. Suddenly, my classmate came and hit me in an aggressive way. I fell and hit my head on the pavement. Then, I opened my eyes to find myself in the hospital. I asked my mother about what had happened after I fell. She told me that my sister was the person who defended me by hitting my classmate. Then, she entered the school to call the ambulance from the principle's phone.

Since that day, I was convinced that I was obviously wrong. My sister is a person who can sacrifice herself for my safety. On that day, I knew that my sister didn't hate me, and I shouldn't be jealous anymore. We started enjoying our time

together; we eat, drink, study and go to school together. So, when we grew up, our relationship became stronger.

"Sister is probably the most competitive relationship within the family, but once the sisters are grown, it becomes the strongest relationship," said Margaret Mead. I am sure that my sister is my other half and my strength. She is with me; when I am weak, depressed, pessimistic and when I am cheerful, glad and optimistic. She always supports me when I am upset. Also, she motivates me to succeed in what I am doing, especially my studies. She is my best friend who I trust more than anyone in the world. We share secrets with each other. I can't tell her that I was jealous of her because I think that I was really silly!

Is it All About Science!!

Rony Aad

When I heard that I will take a semester of English in UPP, I thought it is going to be just English and boring. On Wednesday, a teacher got into the classroom and told us that she will be teaching us science. For instance, it seemed like we are going to take a course of biology, chemistry, and physics. We began with the first topic: Cancer, which is a very important topic nowadays. We had an overview about the definition, causes, symptoms, and types, and we had to research four types: breast, blood, skin and prostate since these are the most common types. We also prepared some posters. It seemed that the course will be a course of biology.

After finishing the first topic, we moved on to the second, which was Food Poisoning and Packaging. This subject was interesting since it shows us the correct way to store food, especially meat and poultry, and the best food packages to use in order to avoid contamination that may lead to diseases such as cancer. Then we moved to the next topic: The Garbage Crisis in Lebanon. And this is a huge problem that we are facing in Lebanon. We went deep into it; we discussed its causes, effects, and solutions; furthermore, we read a lot about the landfills and the incinerators which are the best ways to solve this problem, and in which we can treat the garbage in a well-studied process in order to produce electricity. Here we realized that the course does not treat only “academic topics”, but also “real topics”.

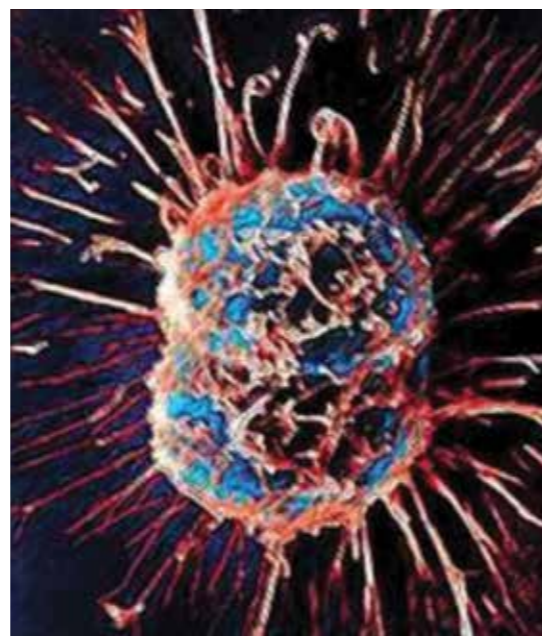
The next topic was Energy Resources. Here we did individual presentations, and everyone chose a source of energy. Now, the next topic is going to be Forensic Science, and we are so excited to learn about it because we had never learnt about such topics. The teacher recognized that our presentations and research skills were improving. Moreover, she always wanted us to be creative and innovative, and she always says:

“I have a feeling that you will have a shining future. Always remember those words!!!!.”

Cancer

Reenal Faysal

It is the most touching topic that science has researched. And if I were asked to write about a favorable topic which we went over this semester in Science, I would simply choose “Cancer”. It’s one of the most important issues that everyone should take seriously. Cancer is undoubtedly a serious and potentially lifethreatening illness. However, it is a misconception to think that all forms of cancer are untreatable and deadly. The truth of the matter is that there are multiple types of cancer, many of which can today be effectively treated so as to eliminate, reduce or slow the impact of the disease on patients’ lives. While a diagnosis of cancer may still leave patients feeling helpless and out of control, in many cases today, there is cause for hope rather than hopelessness.



Better Food Storage for a Better Life

Hassan Amro

What do we know about cancer? How can we know if what we are eating is safe? What are renewable and non-renewable energy sources and how can we benefit from them? And finally, what is the science of the crime: “forensic science”? This semester was all about these four, very important topics that are related to our lives. Three months have passed by, so that’s a total of 25 science classes, but I never once felt that I was bored during the science class. All these topics interested me and made me more curious, but if I must talk about one, I would choose the food contamination topic. I chose this topic because it had a major effect on me. It also made me more aware about what I am eating. In this topic, we were at first concerned about what our food is stored in: pottery, glass, metal, paper, and plastic. It was very important for us to know that there are types of plastic we shouldn’t be storing our food or even water in. For example, plastics that contain the numbers 3, 6 and 7 are plastic types that shouldn’t be used to store food and water for one reason: they cause cancer. I also learned that plastics which hold the number 1 and are used as water bottles should be used for only one time. This plastic classification

had a huge impact on me because I used to refill almost all my plastic water bottles, but the major impact was on my home because most of our plastic containers hold the numbers 6 and 7, which are very dangerous.

Metal is not safe either since costumers cannot see the food if stored in metal cans. Another disadvantage of storing food in metal is that acidic food can react with metals causing corrosion, which means that food may start to taste like metal. The last thing I became aware of is paper, since paper may contain printed ink which can leach into the food and cause body disorders. Since paper is also recyclable, it may be contaminated and thus cause digestion problems. The only two containers I’m starting to put my faith in are glass and pottery since they enhance food taste and keep food safe.

If we want to change the world, the change should begin with us. Therefore, I’m starting a revolution in my home against these bad food storages and I’m raising the awareness of my family who is becoming more convinced by my idea. And I can say that my first accomplishment is changing the gallons of water from plastics that hold the number 7 to glass gallons with the help of a company called “Talaya”, which is the first in Lebanon to offer refilled ‘Glass Gallons’.



STUDENT CLASS ACTIVITIES

New Year's Traditions

In BRAZIL
people wear white
because it
represents peace.



IN RUSSIA

burn your wish list in
a champagne glass
and drink it before
12:01



IN SWITZERLAND

wiped cream is
dropped into the floor
of the home, it
remains all year



IN CHINA

people eat a spoon of
lentils at midnight to
ensure a year full of
money



IN BELGIUM

farmers wish their
cows a happy new year
to bring luck



IN DENMARK

people throw glasses
against the door of a
relative for good luck

Tia Hajjar

Farah Makki

8 facts

that will make you surprised

Eating many
carrots

will turn you orange

Elephants
are pregnant
for 2 years

you could eat 3000-year-
old
honey

SLUGS

have 4 noses



LIPSTICK
contains
fish scales

FLAMINGOS

turn pink from eating shrimps

ANTS
STRETCH

WHEN THEY
WAKE UP

There's
avolcano in
Indonesia that
spews blue
lava

Sally Hamad and *Maya Neureddine*



Level 2 students working on a vocabulary activity

STUDENT E-PORTFOLIOS

“I have a very positive mindset where I believe that **End is not the end; in fact, E.N.D is Effort Never Dies** and if you get **NO** for an answer, remember N.O. is **Next Opportunity**. Always be positive.”
~ Karam Saredidine

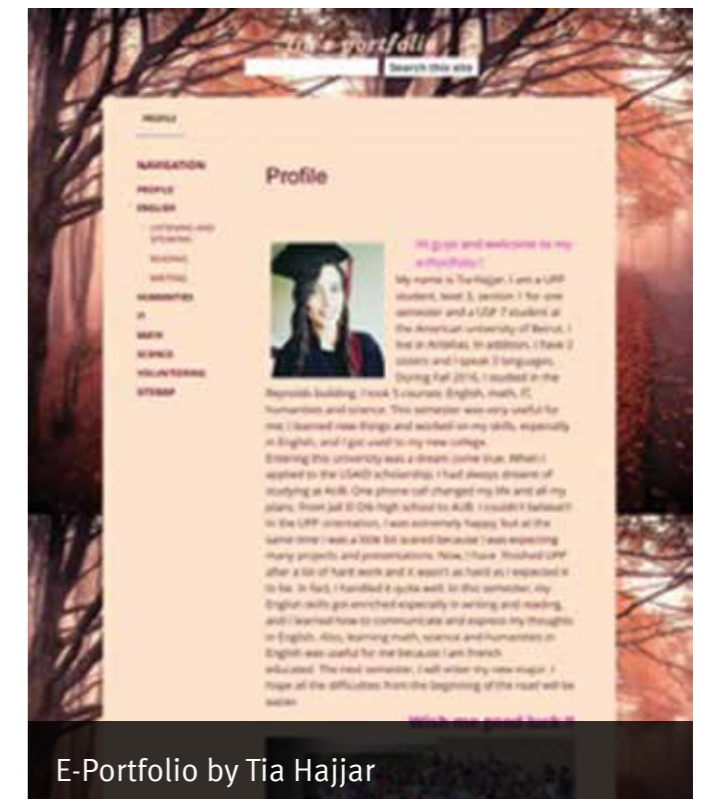


“This e-portfolio contains reflections about my university and my life outside it. Here I will be very true; I will be me.” ~ Sally Hamad

“This is my e-portfolio. It is a simple glance into my past life, a reflection on my present experience and an expectation of my future. Through it, I am going to shed light on the special events in my life and how they influence me.”
~ Hadil Hoballah



E-Portfolio by Nael Hammoud



E-Portfolio by Tia Hajjar

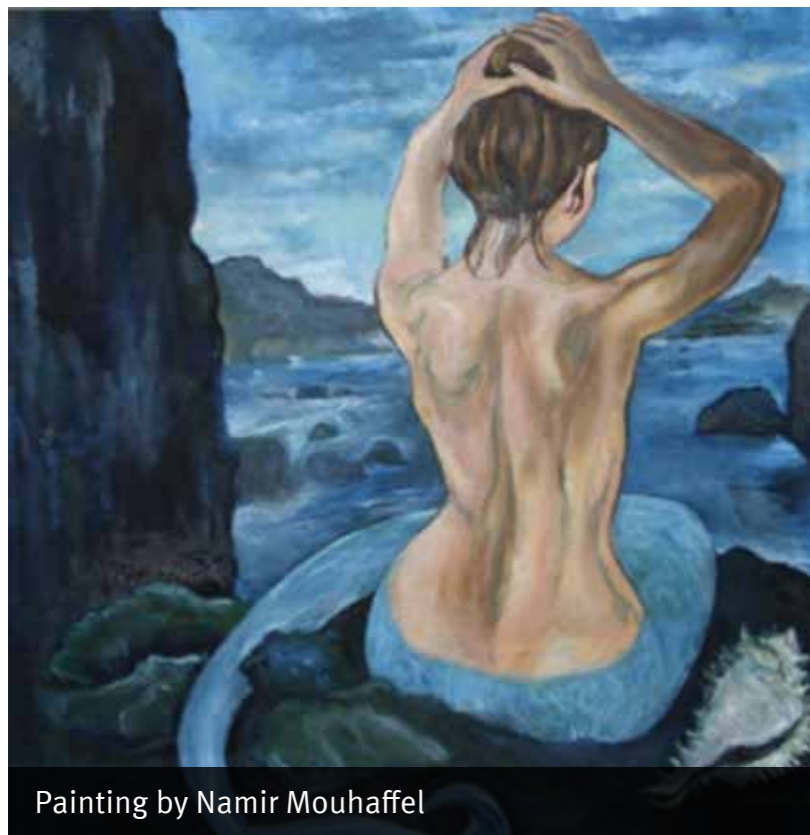
STUDENT ARTWORK



Photograph by Namir Mouhaffel



Photograph by Namir Mouhaffel



Painting by Namir Mouhaffel



Sculpture by Saad Choeb



Painting by Saad Choeb



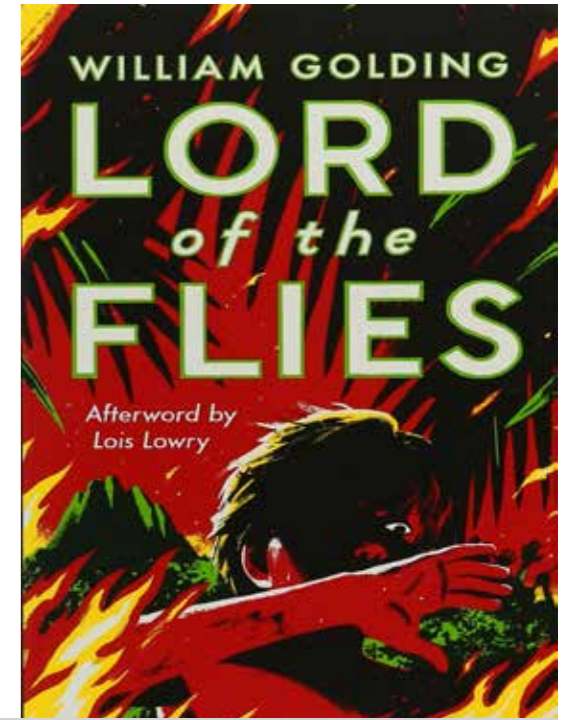
Painting by Saad Choeb

STUDENT ARABIC WRITING

أمير الذباب Lord of the Flies Book Review ضحى البار

أمير الذباب هي رواية قد تبدو لمن لا يقرأ بين سطورها قصةً خاليةً من الدراما والمنعطفات الصادمة. فهذا الكتاب يحاكي أفكاراً فلسفيةً بطريقةٍ رمزيةٍ غير مباشرة. فكل حدث وكل شخصية فيها ترمز لمعنى يخصّ البشر عامةً وليس فئات محددة من أي جنسية أو عرق أو دين. كما من المهم لأي شخص أن يمرّ على كل هذه الأحداث والشخصيات ولو مرة في حياته لأنها جديرة بأن تجعله يفكر بعلاقة الأخلاق والسلطة والنشر وتأثير كل منها على الآخر. كتب هذه الرواية البريطاني وليام غولدينغ بعد ما شهد من أحداثٍ داميةٍ خلال دخوله الجيش في الحرب العالمية الثانية. وهي أول رواية له على الإطلاق. وبالرغم من ذلك، فإن العديد من الروائيين وصفوها بأنها أجمل كتاب مرّ عليهم، كما وأنها صُنفت ضمن أفضل ١٠٠ رواية عالمية.

أمير الذباب تروي قصة مجموعة من الأطفال المفقودين في جزيرة إثر تحطم الطائرة التي كانوا قد استقلوها سابقاً. في غياب الراشدين الذين يمثلون السلطة والقيود على سلوكهم، تظهر نشوة الأطفال بالحصول على الحرية والفرصة لفعل ما يخلو لهم دون أي موانع، ولكنهم في نفس الوقت لم يفقدوا حس التحضر والخوف من الغوض. الأمر الذي يدفعهم إلى انتخاب رئيس أو قائد لهم للمحافظة على النظام إلى أن يتم إنقاذهم. يضع قائدهم، رالف، بعض القوانين وأهمها أن حامل القوقعة فقط يستطيع التكلم. إحدى الشخصيات الأساسية، جاك، الذي يمثل القوة الشريرة في نفوس البشر يحاول أن يصطاد خنزيراً لتأمين الطعام إثباتاً لنفسه ولمهارته في الصيد وبغية إثارة انطباع الآخرين، خصوصاً أنه يطمح بأن يكون قائداً. ولكن جاك يفشل في أول محاولة له، ليس لأنه انصرف عن الهدف ولكن بسبب ثقل مشهد الرمح بخرق اللحم ومشهد الدماء واحتضار الضحية، أي الخنزير.. فقد كان جاك لا يزال يتمتع ببعض



الحضارة. عند المحاولة الثانية والناجحة، اصطاد أول خنزير له مع باقي الأطفال. يصور الكاتب الفخر والغبطة اللتان تعتمران قلب جاك بينما الجميع يحمل الخنزير الميت متدلياً من قطعة خشبٍ والجميع يهلل "اقتلوها.. اخرجوا أحشائها.. اقطعوا حنجرتها" في إشارة للضحية، وذلك يمثل الفرحة العارمة التي تتباهم إثر القضاء على أول كائن حي وتفجر الرغبة بالقتل في نفوسهم. على الرغم من أن هذا الحدث يبدو صغيراً، فهو يمثل بداية تحول هؤلاء الأطفال إلى مجموعة من الهمج والمتوحشين. ولاحقاً، يقوم جاك بالاعتراض على اتباع القوانين التي وضعها رالف بحجة أنه لا يملك السلطة لكي يملي على أي أحد القوانين، فالجميع أحرار، يفعلون مشيئتهم، مما يرمز إلى انتشار الغوض في غياب السلطة. كما يقوم جاك بوصف رالف بغير المؤهل لأن يكون قائداً لأنه غير قادر على الاصطياد بالرغم من أن رالف، حسب تصوير الكاتب له، هو أكثر من يتمتع بالحس المنطقي والذكاء الكافي للقيادة بدليل أن هذه الشخصية اقترحت إشعال نيران على قمة الجبل كي ترى السفن المارة الدخان المنبعث، فيتم إنقاذهم، وهو هدف لم يعد يهتم له أحد بقدر اهتمامهم بمن يستطيع الاصطياد وخصوصاً بعد ظنهم (لأسباب وهمية) بوجود وحشٍ ما بالغابة. تدريجياً، ينضم جميع الأطفال إلى جاك جاعلينه قائدهم، مشكّلين "القبيلة" الخاصة بهم، وينبذون رالف وأصدقائه الذين يمثلون الفئة القليلة المتمسكة بالأخلاق التي تمنعهم عن التوجه نحو الهمجية وتجعلهم يتمسكون بالنظام في غياب السلطة.

يتحول حب الصيد عند جاك ومن معه في القبيلة إلى هوس لا يمكن إيقافه. ومع مرور الأحداث يتدرجون من الجراءة على قتل الحيوان إلى الجراءة على قتل البشر، فيقتلون اثنين من الأطفال الآخرين. وهم قد نسوا أنهم مفقودون على جزيرة ونسوا أمر إنقاذهم وكأنهم قد تبنا فكرة العيش كقبيلة بعيداً عن الضوابط والقوانين التي فرضت عليهم من قبل الراشدين في الحياة الحضارية التي عاشوها سابقاً. فهدفهم الأساسي بات القضاء على المجموعة الأخرى والتخلص من رالف تحديداً.

في نهاية الرواية، يقوم ضابط بالعثور عليهم بعد أن توقفت سفينته الحربية عند الجزيرة. هنا يحاول الكاتب أن يخبرنا بأن الضابط أنقذ الأطفال من الحالة التي كانوا فيها من توحشٍ ونزاعٍ في غياب رقابة الراشدين عليهم، ولكن الضابط نفسه كان على سفينة حربية وهي رمز للنزاعات والحروب بين البشر. فمن ينقذ الراشدين من وحشيتهم ونزاعاتهم؟

قصائد

فادي سعادة

امس كان يوماً عادياً...

الى ان وصلتني صرخاتك الصامتة،

تناديني، توقظني من حلم،

من طيفٍ لا وجود لأملي الزائف فيه.

هل كنت أدري أن ذلك أت؟

نعم لكتني هربت من واقعي المرير.

هل كنت أدرك أن مشاعرك اطفأتها

جراح الماضي؟

نعم فعلت لكتني رأيت في عينيك بصيص امل،

بصيص املٍ حوّلتِه شرارة المِ

أشعلت في نفسي لهباً

أحرق نفحة ذلك الحبّ اليتيم!

فكلماتك الاخيرة افتعلت نيراناً خامدة

لا تطغئها إلا نظرة تنطق همسات

للطالما تاق قلبي الى سماعها!

يا زمن!

لم هذه القسوة يا صديقي ...

لم تشنّ ارهاباً قلبياً يقتلني ...

لم تدع غاراتك تدمّر تحصينات حبي ...

أسأل نفسي و أعيد الكرّة!

هل أنا المذنب ... هل أنا من الذي بدأ الحرب ...

لكن قلبي المذبوح يصرخ!

لا يعقل أنت تكون أنت الفاعل ... لا يعقل ان

تؤذي قطعة مني ...

لو لم تكن هي!

لما مشيت الدرب الذي اختارته ...

لما رضت لقساوة ما تعودت أن ألقاها من أرق من في الكون ...

لما رضت لبعدي ما تعودت أن أعيشه مع أقرب روح إلى روحي ...

أعود لأقدراً!

إحساساً ضائعاً في أعماقها ...

تعباً لطالما زاده حبي لها ...

تحركاً لأوتار قلبها لا تستطيع إمساكه ...

لكن لا أحتمل!

أن تتركني وحيداً دون نفحة روح ...

أن تهجرني ضعيفاً دون نبضات ...

أن تختار بعداً يمنعها من مناداتي حبيبي ...

STUDENT PROFILES

Siraj Berry

Since I was a child, being an AUB student has been my dream. I never doubted that it will come true, not only because of the effort I put into studying, but also because of the chance the USAID program gave me to add colors to my life's painting. I grew up in a small village in the south of Lebanon, where I found joy and love, especially when I joined the Red Cross, which has become my second family. Joining AUB was a challenge, thus I decided to face it. I really enjoy the atmosphere of the campus, the friendly people I meet and the interesting classes I am taking; I know that the coming years may seem obscure, but I am sure that I will make the best of them because of the strength I've gained from my scholarship.



Namir Mouhaffel My name is Namir Mouhaffel and I am 19 years old.



I love art, photography, and painting. I'm originally from a very authentic city in Syria, called "Aleppo". I currently live in Beirut, Lebanon. This city is very beautiful, and I love it because it reminds me of my hometown, "Aleppo" since I feel that the Lebanese and Syrian cultures are very similar.

My educational journey started when I was 3 years old. I went to the Christian Catholic School of Aleppo, "Al Amal High School" from kindergarten until grade 11. Unfortunately, when the civil war started in Syria, I had to leave my beloved country and move with my family to a safer place. Therefore, I ended up moving to Amman, Jordan, where I completed grade 12. Currently, I am a student at the "American University of Beirut (AUB)" which is one of the most prestigious universities in the Middle East. I consider this place my second home.

During my first year at AUB as a UPP student I took many courses. The University Preparatory Program was a very rich experience. I have learned a lot from this program, and it gave me the opportunity to meet new friends, and it also increased my confidence with regard to my English and communication skills.

Reenal Faysal



I'm Reenal Faysal, 18 years old. I'm from Bchamoun, Mount Lebanon, a great historic village where the first Lebanese flag was raised after the country's independence. I have 2 sisters and 1 brother. My family is my biggest and greatest support. I studied for 6 years at Bchamoun Public Secondary School.

I'm a USP VII scholar, majoring in Petroleum Studies at AUB (American University of Beirut). It was a great opportunity to be a part of the University Preparatory Program because I have acquired great communication and linguistic skills. In addition, I have met new friends with whom I spent and shared the best days of my life! I like to learn new languages which can make me communicate with different cultures. Listening to music is the only thing I do when I'm stressed out, because it makes me feel calm and happy. I always try to do my best and put effort in any task or work I have to do. Thus, I try to complete my job for a better result.

Saad Choeb

Hi, I'm Saad Choeb.

I am a Syrian living in Beirut. I studied Fine Arts in Damascus for three years.

Growing up in a society such as ours, a teenager is molded into a subjugate that has no right in questioning the system. However, there came a day when I, among many others, refused to be blind followers of a system that eradicated any sense of free creativity we had.

That being said, I challenged my parents at some point and put my life on the line when I refused to leave the country as the conflict in Syria was at its peak, and I insisted on studying in Damascus for a year at least until I was able to attain a full scholarship.

My parents, like most of the parents in this unfortunate area in the world, are worried about their children's vague future. I, meanwhile, was rejecting any alternative my parents were providing me to fund my studies abroad, or my fleeing Syria. I argued, "I wanna leave my mark on my surroundings and my country, get a scholarship to study abroad and then come back".

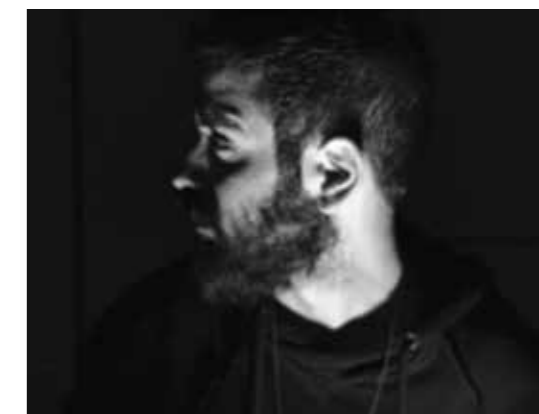
Out of the blue, I seized the opportunity of studying at AUB, one of the best schools in the Middle East. I had applied for and received a full scholarship. Now, I think being a university student is the ultimate starting point for the long journey ahead. I consider myself a good learner, someone who wants to be distinguished, willing to master all the major details, someone who wants to excel, to go a step beyond what he is asked to do. I am someone who has proven to overcome adversity by overcoming my health issues in the past and whatever life throws in my way.

Why Politics?

Until recently, the world of politics was so ambiguous that only few could analyze its symbols. It is that red line we, young people or students, in particular, are not allowed to cross. "Beware of politics!", they used to tell us. "It is dirty and dangerous; it's a game played by grownups where children are not admitted." So we grew up believing that only certain people are supposed to draw the maps of others' lives behind locked doors. But this, and only this is what has aroused my curiosity to break through.

As a child, I came across certain history books, biographies, heroes, and leaders of the past. To everybody's surprise, I enjoyed reading them when others expected a teenager like me who was only fifteen at the time, to take interest in different subjects. Those readings were the first to open my eyes to the world of politics.

A year or two later the crisis in my country started and I found myself, with many others, involved in helping with the Red Crescent Youth and local relief associations. Such tasks meant a lot to me; for the first time in my life I did something valuable and important, but the longer the crisis went on the more I felt the need to do something about it, something to deal with reasons, not just results. So, to politics I turn again. I found my country in need of many good hands against evil ones, in need of honest leaders who care about building its future. And I thought good education and political science could guarantee this. So, I planned to be in that field working hand in hand with others to help my country survive with the knowledge I also will gain. Goodwill together with good education and a lot of hard work is what my country needs. I will reflect that in the field work I'm going to join: media perhaps, or journalism, art, NGOs or a party.



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