

HASHTAG

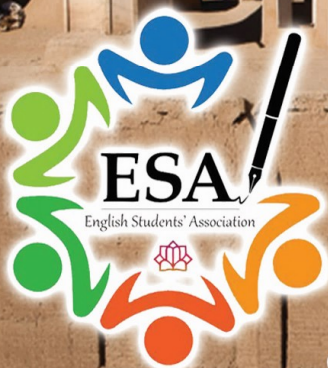
A Biography of Sylvia Plath

Eighth Grade

LANGUAGE & CULTURE

We are all BLIND!

**First-Years
Curious Case**



MAY 2019

HASHTAG



Chief Editor's Note

Seyed Iman Tofighi

Humankind has recently been dogged by an inkling of displacement and alienation. Feeling lost and disconnected, we have been attempting to disentangle ourselves from the personal bondage of loneliness, deprivation, and injustice. Inasmuch as we are desperately in pursuit of reform and happiness, albeit quite idealistic and perhaps quixotic, we have realized that the fulfillment of a "Better Future" and "Peace in our Time" can only be achieved through a collective effort; a unified response. Therefore, Hashtag(#) was born of a resourceful mind seeking voice and identity to awaken the sleeping souls of other humans.

All the dreaming aside, a team of diligent students with shared interests and goals are doing their best to remind themselves of their human duties for bringing "change". As of the functions of #Hashtag, connecting and uniting still remain our highest values in our team. Were you fond of having a contribution, though diminutive, towards visionary mottos mentioned above, you would find yourself more than welcome to join us.

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Curious Case of FRESHMEN!

Not that there's something wrong with freshmen, but we all know that there are some funny things freshmen do; things that we all used to do as first-years and sure the seniors -just like you- used to make fun of us. So, here we're going to have a quick review on what freshmen usually do.

The first thing that may draw your attention is the students who ask the Professor: "May I go to the bathroom?" And not just asking for permission to get out, but also asking if they can come in! Sadly, these students usually ask other questions like: "When is the bell going to ring?", or: "Sir/Ma'am, may I answer the questions with pencil or pen?" You may not believe but students who ask "Pen or pencil?" or believe that there should be a bell at the university still exist; most of them have a pencil case full of "COLORED" pens and pencils, which falls on the ground four times a session!

Another type of first-years you surely have seen in the campus, is those who are taking picture with probably "EVERYTHING" at the university. It actually starts with a picture in front of the facade, but two weeks later you will see them taking pictures from cats, flowers, and even insects!

HELLO
MY NAME IS

Freshman

So, you'd better not follow the freshmen on Instagram because seeing posts like "Meh and the lovely cat in the campus" will drive you crazy. These full-time-capturing students usually find their "BFF" in the FIRST MONTH!!! Actually, after the first week you can see the first-years travelling in groups, but after that, they will separate and the romance starts! Hand in hand, walking together, taking pictures (this is why a BFF is needed) and captioning "Sisters for life", or "Best Friends Forever". Calm down dear senior, everything will be better by the next semester. You may even find some of the newcomers telling everyone that "I could have been studying at Shahid Beheshti but my conditions made me choose this university". And one of those conditions, for sure, is that "I didn't study and I'm here, who knows what would have happened if I had studied!"

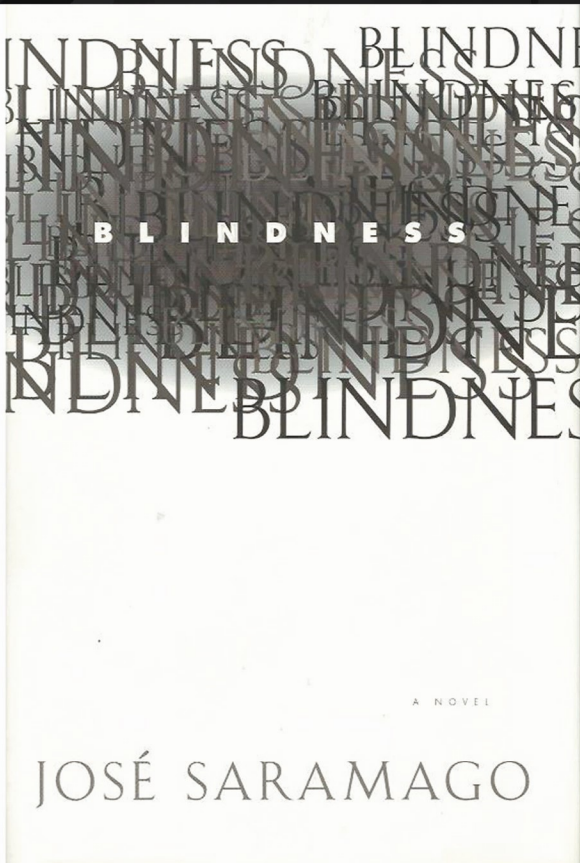
Now... If you're a senior, there's no doubt that you can remember a good example for each case, but if you're a freshman... For God's sake, DON'T ACT LIKE A FRESHMAN!

Written by:
Mahsa Roudheleh, a Freshman

“PERHAPS ONLY IN THE WORLD OF THE BLIND
WILL THINGS BE
WHAT THEY TRULY ARE.”

BOOK REVIEW

A REVIEW ON BLINDNESS



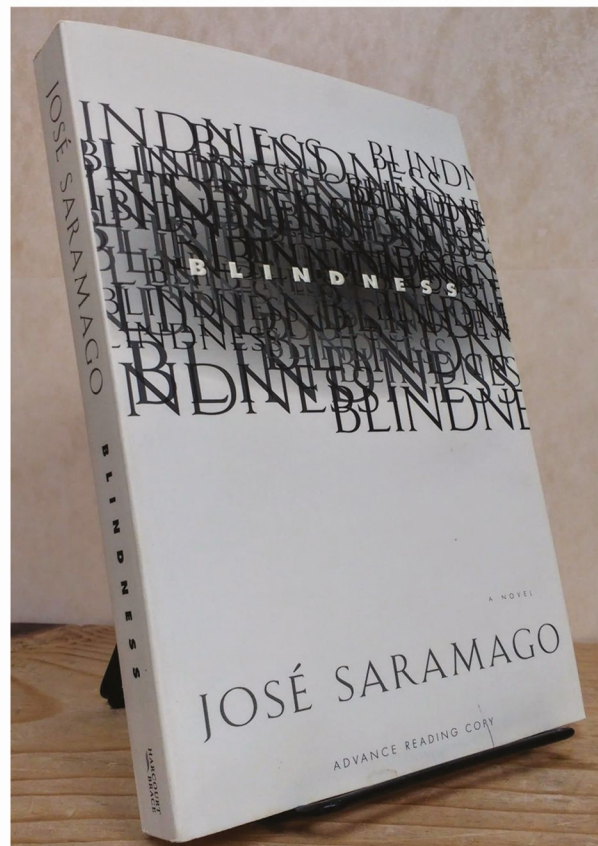
Blindness is a novel written by the Portuguese author, Jose Saramago. It was first published in Portugal in 1995, and its English translation was released in 1998. It is one of the most famous novels written by Saramago, receiving the Noble Prize for Literature in 1998 for writing this novel. This work can be considered as a sociopolitical novel. The story is about an unnamed city, its unnamed citizens, and what occurs to them. This city is hit by an epidemic, "white sickness," which almost leaves no one safe and turns everyone blind; everyone except for one woman. The authorities cannot control the situation, that is why all the blind ones are taken to be kept in quarantine in an abandoned mental hospital. The author wants to describe a modernized place wherein the authorities and those holding power are helpless to provide the needs of people in that society.

In the hospital, everything goes out of control and ends in chaos. As a matter of lack of food, water, and other necessary needs and opportunities, the blind people have to struggle with each other over the sake of their survival. In other words, the most powerful ones take control over the weaker for self-protection. While reading this book, you'll see how the darkest sides of human nature can be brought to the surface and take control of everything. This novel does what a great novel is supposed to do and it reveals what has been hidden from the outside. In fact, it shows that the real blindness was there all along; the blindness towards the other people, the blindness towards the outside, and this physical blindness put us in a way to unveil what was always there but had been unseen before.

Fear, greed, hatred, ignorance, brutality, filth, rape, murder, theft, all these had been there no matter in what position the people were and this blindness, as a tool, amplified them or brought them to the surface eventually.

By reflecting on this work, you will obtain with a vision. The one which uncovers the truth that every one of us is kind of blind to; blind people who can see but do not see, just like the characters of the story.

There's a saying that "when no one is watching you, whatever you do and whoever you are is exactly the truth of you."



You do not need to pretend like you are someone else to have an impact on others, and this is true about the characters of this story. Since they cannot see one another, they let themselves act as they feel like it, no matter whether this attitude can endanger other people's lives or not. As we mentioned before, none of the characters are named and they are all labeled by their position. For instance, the first man, the doctor's wife, the man with the black eye-patched, and so on. Saramago usually chooses women as the most powerful characters of his novels. Here the doctor's wife takes that role. She is the only one who remains hale. Saramago, in fact, gives himself the opportunity to describe events by keeping the doctor's wife immune to the disease.

The style of this book may not be for everyone. Possessed of little punctuation, the sentences are long and run-on. Needless to say that it is not a book just to be skimmed but a book that requires concentration. It is, nonetheless, a highly recommended book and one of those that makes you think and contemplate, which is a great characteristic itself. Hope you enjoy it!

Written by:
Vafa Aradfar

EIGHTH GRADE

FILM REVIEW

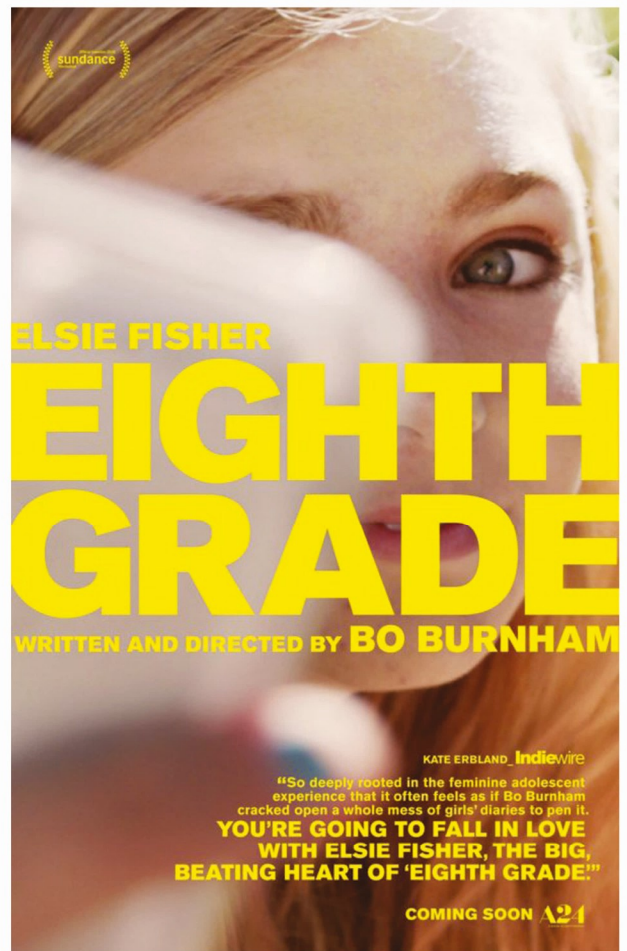
What would happen if a thirteen-year-old girl named Kayla, living with her father, was fighting against anxiety and nervousness? How do you narrate and handle the storyline? There is nobody to help her through this time. She is alone and even her father is unable to really be with her girl. So, she goes for internet and social media, which is a good choice for all who want to escape from reality, relate to other human beings and stick oneself to people "out there" as Kayla mentions.

Every night she immediately grabs her smartphone after dinner and scrolls different websites, Instagram, and Twitter pages. She does it until she falls asleep. Worried about his daughter, Daddy does not know how to deal with single-parenting and that is exactly the beginning of all the pressure the movie *Eighth Grade*, a 2018 comedy-drama, is trying to show us.

Eighth Grade is about the eighth grade. The time when young boys and girls are passing through childhood to a world where they are going to come upon serious issues; when family struggles start to grow and parents are going to have a hard time convincing themselves that their children are not the same little innocent kids anymore, when the door keys become the main problematic thing between parents and kids. Moreover, the cyberspace is going to be children's friends, meaning it can be beneficial or a sign of risk at the same time.

Bo Burnham, the 29-year-old American comedian filmmaker to answers the question "How do you define the Internet?" as follows:

"I am on the internet. I go to the Internet for a lot of things. The Internet is a well of humanity if you dig the surpasses of it. All you see on the Internet is like the purest exchange of materials between the public and us."



The movie starts with a scene, in which the girl, is filming herself. She is seeking attention, somehow looking for a great number of audience. She uploads inspirational videos on Youtube, using messages like: "You should be yourself. Although it is not easy to be yourself, you have to try it. You have to go out and put yourself there. "There" means anywhere you don't usually go, like a place that has been unreachable for you, or you have been so scared of getting there.

She repeats some words many times, showing how much she is stressed out in front of the camera. Emphatically, this part of the movie is recorded as a real filming format to disturb and prepare the audience's mind. Yes, we are about to watch a psychological movie on teenage matters, categorically speaking, the ones who are not self assured and typical enough.

She has common problems with her father as every other teenager. Her father is a divorced mid-aged man who is trying to get in touch with her young girl but does not know the proper way. He violates the girl's privacy very uncomfortably and embarrassingly, assuming that this is a symbolic action of the father-daughter relationship that actually he has to do as a close friendly father.

He thinks he is expressing his feeling towards Kayla. He embarrasses her in many situations not letting her experience some youth time. But the girl just freaks out, yells at him and complains that why he does not knock at the closed door before coming in. So, the connection fails again and again. That is where the director takes Kayla and us to another atmosphere of Kayla's life: School. This is the place place she spends half of the day, but not with groups and gatherings. She is an aloof and remote student.



This is a good movie for families to understand how important it is to get close to children and have a simple but practical conversation with them. We are all aware that middle school can be hard. Similarly, passing through it and entering into the world of adolescence can be tough as well. Clearly, there has to be parents, a sensation of family spirit, and a heartfelt environment for young children in order to get over this significant period of time only because it is a big deal. It is a part of transition into a normal, social, helpful adult who is going to be a parent one day. And in this way, the role of the Internet and social media is undeniable and important as we seen in this movie.

Written by:

Masoumeh Jafari

Biography of Sylvia Plath

Early life

Sylvia Plath was an American poet, novelist, and short story writer; born on October 27, 1932, in Boston, Massachusetts. Her father, Otto Plath was a German university professor and Plath's mother, Aurelia Schober, was one of his students. Plath was a gifted but troubled writer, showing great promises at an early age. She was merely 8 years old when her first poem was published by a local magazine.

Her father passed in 1940 due to complications of untreated diabetes; he was a strict man and his death had a great impact on her. Plath's infamous poem "Daddy" is about her complex relationship with her father. During high school, she wrote many poems and kept a journal. She had her first national publication in *Christian Science Monitor* right after graduating from high school. In 1950, she attended Smith College on a Fulbright



scholarship. In her junior year, 1952, she was the co-winner of the *Mademoiselle* magazine fiction contest. At Smith, she achieved numerous academic, artistic and social success, though the experience was not what she expected. She fell into severe depression, following electroconvulsive therapy. She made her first documented suicide attempt on August 24, 1953, by taking her mother's sleeping pills. After surviving the first attempt and receiving more insulin and shock treatment, she seemed to be on her way to recovery and returned to college.

Following graduation, Plath met fellow poet Ted Hughes at a party and got married on June 6, 1956, resulting with two children. Later on, in 1962 she discovered Hughes' affair with another woman and got divorced. She had a car accident shortly after the event which she described as "one of the many suicide attempts." Plath explained her new episode of depression to John Horder, one of her close friends, who lived nearby.



All set aside, in that time she had a burst of creativity and wrote many of her poems on which her reputation now rests. She published "Colossus" by the time she was alive in 1962 and finished "Ariel". Although she kept her appearance taken care of and hid her feelings, her depression had worsened, marked by constant agitation, suicidal thoughts, insomnia, and inability to cope with daily life. Eventually, on February 11, 1963, she attempted suicide by inhaling gas. They found her in the kitchen with head on the oven at age thirty.

Career life

Plath is best known for her style of confessional poetry and writing; the poetry of personal or "I". Nearly all of her works are merged with her personal life. An example is her well-known poem "Daddy" where she explains her feeling of betrayal toward her father.

You do not do, you do not do

Any more, black shoe

In which I lived like a foot

Barely daring to breathe or Achoo

Another famous poem, "Lady Lazarus," is about suicide, speaking of close calls with death at the age of ten, twenty and thirty. Plath did nearly die in a car accident at age ten, tried to kill herself at twenty, and purposely ran her car off the road at thirty. Her only semi-biographical novel, *The Bell Jar*, was published in 1971 long after her death. It consists images of her breakdown and recovery during college, and is narrated by nineteen-year-old Esther Greenwood. Her three-part novel explores; Esther's unsatisfactory experiences as a student editor, the return to her family where she suffers a mental breakdown and suicide attempts, and her recovery process.

Many of her works were published after her death, except for "Colossus" which she published herself. Hughes became her literary executor and edited what is considered to be her greatest work *Ariel* in 1966, it featured "Daddy" and "Lady Lazarus". He continued to produce new collections of Plath's works. Plath won the Pulitzer Prize in 1982 for collected poems, making her the first poet to ever receive this award posthumously. She was well-known and famed long after her death since most of her works were published posthumously.

Written by:

Alireza Ahmadi

The French Influence on the

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

“The English language is a lot more French than we thought.”

-Andreas Simons

The English language and its origins have long been a highly contentious topic; it has sparked a storm of intense controversies and heated debates among many linguists and researchers for decades. English, like other languages, has been shaped by a number of disparate languages over the centuries. There is a plethora of facts that should be initially considered before elaborating on the chief objectives of this essay. The fact that all languages have families just as human beings is the premier one to pay attention to.

Language specialists palpably categorize languages into several families or groups. English is one of the conspicuous members of the Indo-European language family. Due to the hundreds of languages that give birth to the Indo-European family, linguists meticulously divide them into nigh pertinent subfamilies. The Germanic branch is one of those Indo-European subfamilies which has four prominent classifications; West, East, North, and South. English is classified as a West Germanic language, meaning that it is nearly connected to other Germanic languages such as Dutch and German.

Foreign impacts on English are undeniably immense that they have altered English from an approximate pure language to an utterly mixed one. What many people do not comprehend is that French and Latin make up the largest portion of penetrating influence on English. It is also noteworthy to mention that almost all languages have sprouted from Latin or other Romance languages (French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Romanian) somewhere throughout this thrilling history. The principal objective of this essay is to explicitly disclose the French influence on different components of the English language including syntax, lexicon, orthography, and pronunciation. Above all, its germane socio-historical backgrounds, which gave rise to this language mutation, will be comprehensively covered.

Although the status of French has considerably fluctuated all over the history of English, the profound influence of French upon the English language sequentially occurred in 1042 and 1066. During 1042, the English throne of Edward the Confessor, who had spent a long time in exile in Normandy, negligibly brought French into early contact with English. Nevertheless, it was the Norman Conquest of 1066 which drastically led to the arrival of the French-speaking Normans. Afterward, the official language of the courts and the aristocracy turned into French. Bill Bryson, a renowned American linguist of the English language, proclaims the Norman conquest of 1066, “The final cataclysm awaited the English language”. Gradually, English and French merged towards what we distinguish as Middle English. An evolutionary version of

of English that is somewhat identical to the English we use and speak today emerged around the time of Shakespeare. This version is widely known as Early Modern English or, in other words, the Language of Shakespeare. After about 80 years of coexisting with French, its massive influences on English became more manifest.

Vocabulary

The Oxford Dictionary claims that there are roughly 250000 distinct words in English vocabulary. As previously mentioned, the French had a key role in building English. What we have to take into account is that it is ascertained that nearly one-third of all English words are directly or indirectly derived from French. Moreover, recent studies depict that English speakers, who have never studied or heard French, already know 15,000 French words.

Pronunciation

It is fundamental to know that in Old English, there were the phonemes /f/ and /s/ named as unvoiced fricative sounds. Here, French advantageous influence remarkably helped to distinguish their voiced counterparts [v], [z], [ð], and [], as well as contributing the diphthong [y].



Grammar

Simply put, French syntactic patterns such as phrases consisting of nouns followed by adjectives were introduced into English, rather than the usual adjective + noun sequence used in English. Telling examples are *attorney general*, *surgeon general*, *court-martial*, *fee simple*, *heir male*, *letters patent*, and *proof positive*.

Borrowings

There are abundant French words and expressions English has adopted and borrowed. This is not restricted to the two or three centuries after the Norman Conquest. It also happens these days in the 21st century. However, it is not the unique characteristic of the English people to borrow foreign words and expressions. We can find similar instances of it all through the history of languages. It can be said that it is a necessary natural process all languages should pass through. What makes a nation borrow words from another language has been completely asserted by Dr. J.A. Sheared (1962), "The acquisition of loan words from another language shows that the borrower feels that there is something superior in the foreign language, or in the people who use it.

It can be deduced as an overall picture that English owes a lot to French. Given the influences on the chief parts of the English language obviously outlined in the previous paragraphs, it is quite predictable that in the near future we might witness another enormous revolution of the English language, like that of the Norman invasion which certainly has more exhilarating stories behind the change of English.

Written by:

Maryam Maghrour

The relation between **LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND TRANSLATION**

Every human being in this world is truly fascinated by being in touch with others, which is why people often tend to get together and share their conspicuous, outstanding experiences of the journeys they have been through so far. Throughout these gatherings, people will get to know more about each other's cultural dissimilarities, thoughts, points of view, and language backgrounds. The fact that many miscellaneous languages are spoken in the world today resulted in bringing about an adequate and underlying way of exchanging different languages and cultures, known as "Translation". The aim of this text, to the extent of logistic constraints, is to critically assess the ways in which language, culture, and translation bear upon each other.



Before proceeding to examine the ways in which these three are connected, it is important to find out what is exactly meant by using them on their own. As a matter of fact, the concept of culture encompasses diverse sections in any society, known as norms, manners, traditions, preferred styles of thinking, beliefs, and etc. Our insight into different cultures could not have developed without the tremendous help of language.

According to humankind's history, nothing has ever been more dramatic and productive than language in easing the way people could express their sentiments, demands, experiences, ideologies, and outlooks.

In other words, language and culture complete one another. As was pointed out earlier in this text, people do not share the same language and culture. That is the time when the need for the unavoidable intervention of the translator is strongly felt.

One of the greatest challenges with which the translator encounters is assumed to be the translation of cultural elements, more specifically literary text. The translation is not confined to bringing about mutation in the way the text is written or the words used. It is indeed a site from which the non-native reader's perception of culture is shaped. Therefore the profound knowledge of the translator of both source language and target language plays an important role. The more the message conveyed in the text is crystal clear, the less the reader is likely to get perplexed while tracing the message.



Since language and culture are not detachable, learning a new language leads to familiarization with a new culture. Every culture and language have their own appeals which will be shown to the world by translation. Consequently, there is no limitation in getting to know different outlooks, customs, and historical, religious backgrounds of other civilizations anymore.

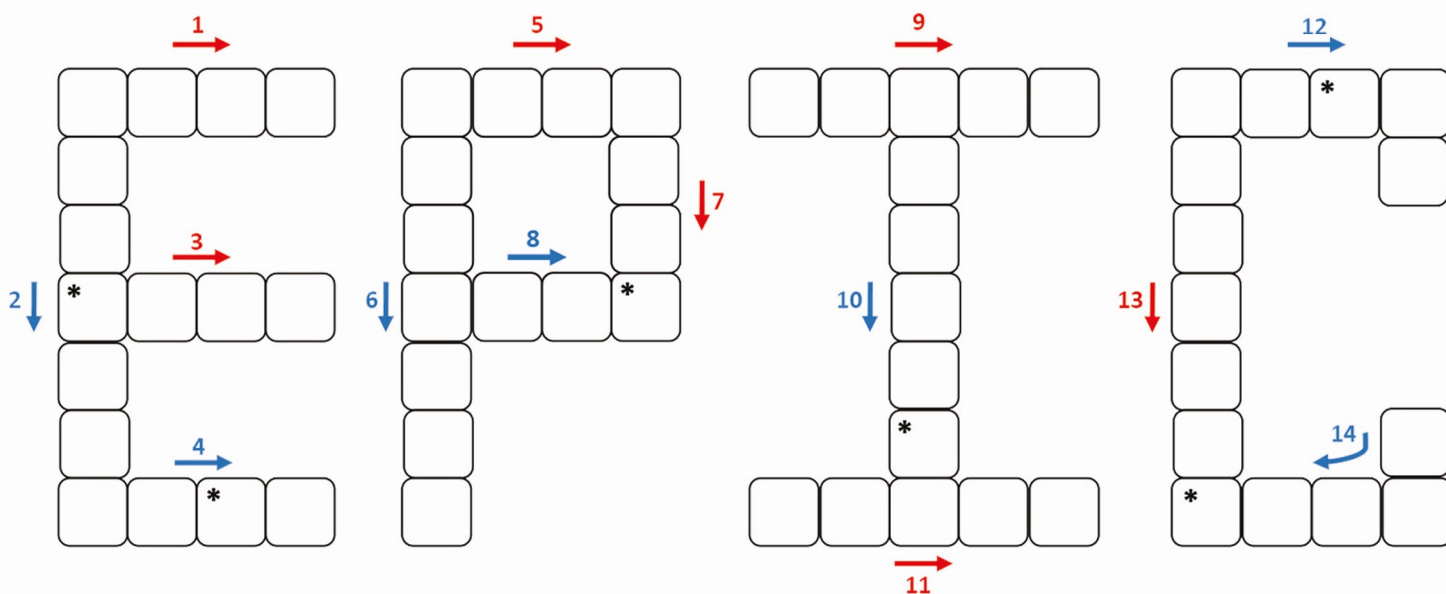
Furthermore, by acquiring a new language you can literally take your time living different lives. Every language has got its own rules, and mannerisms rooted in culture which you are needed to be aware of if you're looking forward to acting properly in treating the native speakers. Languages and cultures are beneficial tools with which you will feel free to divulge diverse, exceptional, and remarkable aspects of your usual self to people who speak the same language as you.



In addition to the previously pointed out advantage of learning, a new language self-discipline enhancement, gain of a more desirable insight into the world views, aptitudes, and finding better chances in the job market are actually notable upsides of being a language learner. While it might take too long to become fluent in utilizing a language, the amount of elation and joy that you receive during the process of learning is just incomparable.

All in all, language is considered to be a practical tool by which we can take steps into the world of intriguing cultures, and then interacting with amazing people all over the world. Fortunately, there are many enthusiastic and sophisticated translators who are ready to challenge themselves and come up with easily understood, accurate translations by which we will enter the wonderland, where we can see how languages, cultures, and translators are connected to one another.

TABLE



Put the marked letter in correct order to find the password: _ _ _ _ _

1. Mythos
2. One of Jesus favourite device for teaching
3. The earliest of Sophocles' seven tragedies that has survived
4. One of the genre which must start in media-res
5. Professional story teller in medieval Gaelic
6. One of the most important epic heroic poems
7. Aphrodite's sacred animal
8. The Poet of le Roman de Brut
9. The father of psychoanalysis
10. A title for describing a distinctive quality of a person or thing
11. Theme of a story
12. One of the three signs distinguished by C.S Pierce
13. Studies began as liberation movements
14. A structurist whose tri-partite model consist of imagary, symbolic and the Real

Written by:
Maryam Iranpour

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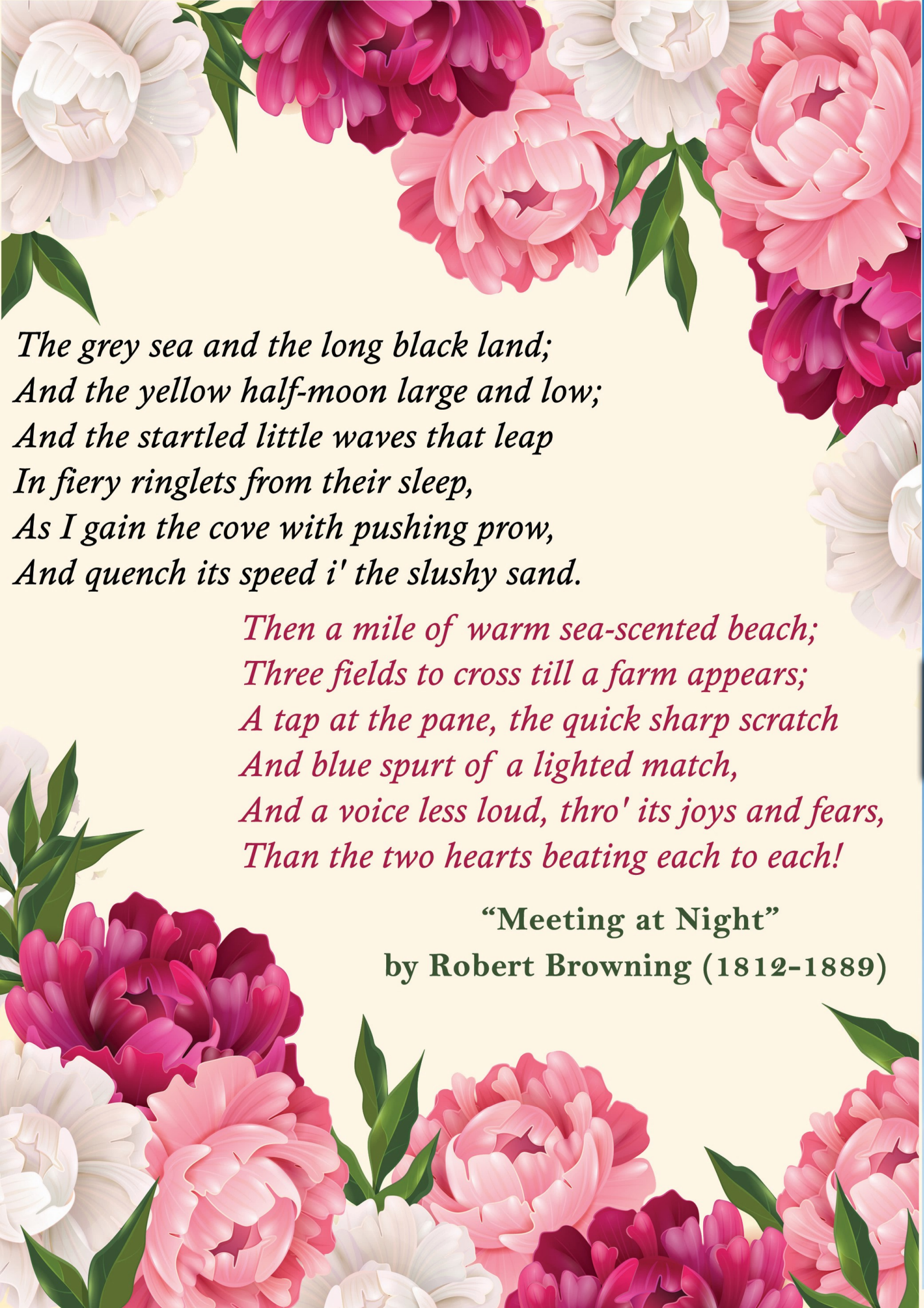
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- A) <https://thefamilywithoutborders.com/>



*The grey sea and the long black land;
And the yellow half-moon large and low;
And the startled little waves that leap
In fiery ringlets from their sleep,
As I gain the cove with pushing prow,
And quench its speed i' the slushy sand.*

*Then a mile of warm sea-scented beach;
Three fields to cross till a farm appears;
A tap at the pane, the quick sharp scratch
And blue spurt of a lighted match,
And a voice less loud, thro' its joys and fears,
Than the two hearts beating each to each!*

“Meeting at Night”

by Robert Browning (1812-1889)