

1. Title: Indira's Life After English Honours

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For a person like me, who “assumes” herself to be rather decisive about ordering, structuring and approaching one’s life, three years at JDMC’s English Department was an unpredictably colourful experience. The time (and over-time) I spent along the corridors and stairs alternating between room no. 13 to room no 63, has led to discover people, texts and myself, in unexpected ways. The long and short time of six semesters would make you realise how many ways there are to see, truly see, systems within the world around you. How the act of knowing has no inherent telos, just as the text that transmutes its form beyond pages to stage, audio, vision and memory. I think learning with the English Department has been the most inter-disciplinary time, so much so that it has become a method to my life. And yes, I would unabashedly admit, that there were interregnums between semester when you are haunted by this question “What next?”, “English Literature, but so what?”. While these questioning moments are tough to answer, I would say that this discipline and department of English Literature has truly illustrated how liberal, arts can be, and so can your approach to the world after English Honours. I distinctively remember a class on Literary Criticism where we were discussing New Criticism, where collectively we were confronted with questions like “What is the purpose of this discipline of English Literature?”, “Why should we study English Literature?”, “What would we get out of it?”. Among the uncountable answers that I can give, if I were to put it briefly I would say: this discipline has taught me to read. English Honours has taught me ways to read in and around texts. It has taught me that in many ways individuals are also texts, battling their authorial and social pressures. I have learnt to be a critical and compassionate reader to both.

To end it in a rather literary fashion, F. Scott Fitzgerald once wrote, “That is the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings. That you’re not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong.” As an alumni of JDMC’s English Department, I take a lot of pride in saying that I belong to a community of teachers and students who share this discipline that grows and continues to grow with you.