

हंसराज महाविद्यालय

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय

महात्मा हंसराज मार्ग,

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NAAC ACCREDITED 'A++' GRADE COLLEGE

2023-2024

Name of the Event: Book club meet on normal people

Organised by: The English Society

Date of the Event: 31st august, 2023

Name of Convener: Dr. Maitri Baruah, Dr. Meenakshi Malhotra

Event Description

In our recent book club meeting on 31st August, 2023, we discussed Normal People by Sally Rooney which is not so much a novel as it is an exploration on the intricacies of human love and connections. It is almost a character study of two challenging human beings coming together and then falling apart, over and over again with the thematic fatality called love.

We discussed how we see Rooney picking up these different human characteristics like individualism and this burning need for communication and how her characters defy those very needs. Marianne and Connell, despite being two very strong characters, are shown to be not altogether self sufficient and miscommunication makes a huge part of their story.

With Connell's storyline, the book also really dives into commentary about "college culture" and the failure to fit in amongst people at that stage of life, that some people really related to in the discussion. College is a tumultuous time for a lot of people and the book heavily ponders upon that.

Rooney also really goes in strong with some heavier topics like family abuse and trauma, self loathing, insecurities and other issues like anxiety, as it was observed by the students. As a modern writer, it is not so much a modern step to talk about

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these issues but still, the craftsmanship with which Rooney deals with them is commendable. Another thing students also pointed out was the presence of Marxism and how it clearly reflects Rooney's position in the book. Though Marxism is seen to be completely developed in Rooney's third book "Beautiful World, Where Are You", Normal People still reflects those aspirations of the writer.

The use of emails was thought to be peculiar by some but others conjectured that maybe it was because the novel was supposed to be catering to the millennial generation as well.

Throughout the discussion, the book was heavily quoted by ambitious readers and we observed how they connected it to the overarching theme of "August" by Taylor Swift and the longing, the despondence and the unfinished ending she sings of in the song.

Five Geo-tagged Pictures:



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Attendance Sheet

1. Karma - B.A. English (hons.) 2nd year
2. Arshia Mathur - B.A. English (hons.) 2nd year
3. Mehwish- B.A. English (hons.) 2nd year
4. Kavyansh- B.A. English (hons.) 1st year
5. Aryaman- B.A. English (hons.) 1st year
6. Saignik- B.A. English (hons.) 3rd year
7. Ragini Sharma- B.A. English (hons.) 3rd year
8. Anupriya Sharma- B.A. English (hons.) 3rd year
9. Himangi Dayal- B.A. English (hons.) 2nd year
10. Srishti Garg- B.A. English (hons.) 2nd year
11. Aanchal- B.A. English (hons.) 2nd year
12. Sanyam Gupta- B.A. English (hons.) 2nd year
13. Ginni- B.A. English (hons.) 2nd year
14. Lakshay- B.A. English (hons.) 2nd year
15. Kabyashree- B.A. English (hons.) 1st year
16. Arohi- B.A. English (hons.) 1st year
17. Prateek Arsh- B.A. English (hons.) 2nd year