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Presentation

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Mary Kom Interview: "I was pretty confident about myself"

Welcome to the inspiring story of Mary Kom, one of India's greatest sporting icons whose journey from humble beginnings in a remote village to Olympic glory has captured hearts worldwide. This presentation explores the remarkable life and career of the woman famously known as "Magnificent Mary," whose determination and resilience have made her a symbol of female empowerment in Indian sports.

Early Life: From Humble Beginnings

Born on November 24, 1982, in Kangthei village in the northeastern state of Manipur, Mary Kom (Mangte Chungneijang Mary Kom) grew up in challenging circumstances:

- Raised in a poor family where her parents worked as tenant farmers in jhum fields
- Regularly helped her parents with farm chores while continuing her education
- Developed an early interest in athletics despite financial hardships
- Found inspiration in fellow Manipuri boxer Dingko Singh's success



Mary's father, an ardent wrestling enthusiast himself, encouraged her to pursue boxing as a career, setting her on a path that would change Indian sporting history.

The Beginning of a Boxing Journey



Mary's early career was marked by determination and sacrifice, training in facilities that were far from world-class while juggling her responsibilities at home. Her natural talent and fierce competitive spirit helped her overcome these challenges.

World Championship Dominance

Mary Kom's international career reached extraordinary heights as she dominated the World Boxing Championships:

5

World Championships

Won an unprecedented five World Boxing Championship gold medals, establishing herself as one of the greatest female boxers in history

6

Global Medals

Became the first woman boxer to win a medal in each of the six global championships, demonstrating remarkable consistency at the highest level

Her technical prowess, tactical intelligence, and mental fortitude made her virtually unbeatable in her weight category for many years. Mary's achievements brought unprecedented attention to women's boxing in India.



Olympic Glory: Breaking Barriers

London Olympics 2012: Making History

The 2012 London Olympics marked a pivotal moment in Mary Kom's career and for Indian women's sports:

- Became the first Indian woman boxer to qualify for the Olympics
- Competed in the 51kg flyweight category, moving up from her usual weight class
- Won bronze medal, becoming the first Indian female boxer to win an Olympic medal
- Her achievement inspired a generation of young Indian girls to take up boxing



"I was confident about myself and prepared well for my game. The bronze medal at the Olympics proved that with determination and hard work, anything is possible."

Beyond the Medals: Mary's Impact on Indian Sports

Pioneer for Women's Boxing

Mary's success legitimized women's boxing in India, a country where women in combat sports faced significant cultural barriers and limited resources

Opening Doors

Her international achievements created pathways for many budding women boxers to take up the sport professionally

Advocacy for Sports Development

Consistently advocated for better support systems for athletes, including corporate sponsorship to allow athletes to focus fully on their training

Representation

Brought global recognition to athletes from India's northeastern states, a region often underrepresented in national conversations

Mary's influence extends far beyond her personal achievements. She has become a powerful symbol of what Indian athletes—especially women—can achieve on the global stage with proper support and recognition.

The Person Behind the Champion



Character and Values

Despite her international fame and success, Mary Kom has remained grounded in her values and identity:

Family-Oriented

Maintains strong family ties despite demanding training schedules and competitions

Humble Origins

Never forgotten her humble beginnings, remaining connected to her roots in Manipur

Down-to-Earth

Known for being sensible, patient, and realistic with no trace of arrogance despite global fame

In Her Own Words: Insights from a Champion

"More people should take up sports as a full-time career to win more gold medals. Corporate should sponsor players so that they can concentrate on their games rather than taking the tension of financial aid."

In her interview with Sportskeeda, Mary Kom shared her vision for Indian sports:

- Emphasized the need for athletes to receive adequate financial support to focus entirely on training
- Called for greater corporate involvement in sports sponsorship
- Expressed pride in her Olympic performance while setting higher goals
- Highlighted the importance of mental preparation and confidence in achieving success

Her practical approach to sports development reflects her understanding of the challenges faced by athletes from humble backgrounds in India.

Legacy and Continuing Influence

Sporting Excellence

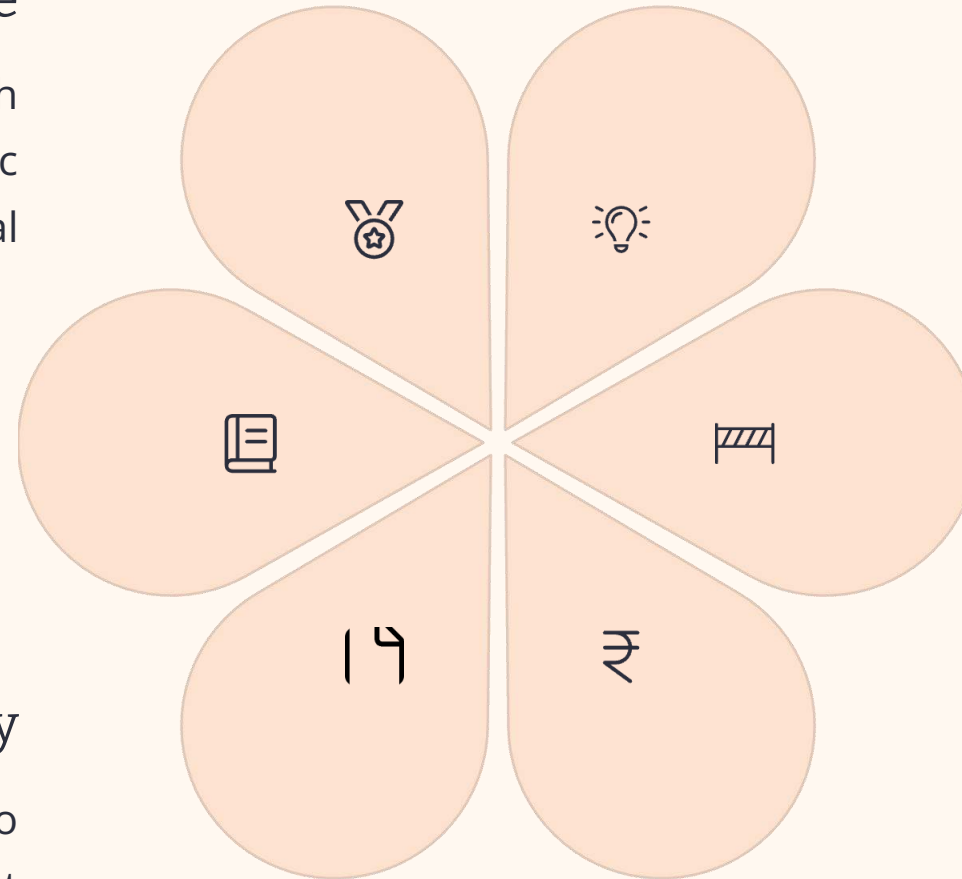
One of India's most decorated athletes with multiple world championships and Olympic medal

Cultural Impact

Her life story inspired a biographical film and numerous books

Boxing Academy

Established the Mary Kom Boxing Academy to nurture young talent



Inspiration

Known as "Magnificent Mary," she has inspired countless young women to pursue their dreams

Barrier Breaker

Broke gender stereotypes in combat sports in a traditionally conservative society

National Icon

Elevated as a national sports icon and role model for millions of Indians

The Enduring Spirit of Mary Kom

Mary Kom's journey from the remote fields of Manipur to Olympic glory embodies the triumph of human spirit over adversity. Her story is not just about sporting excellence but about breaking barriers—gender, economic, and social—through sheer determination and hard work.

As she continues to inspire and mentor the next generation of boxers, Mary Kom's greatest contribution may be the paths she has opened for others to follow. In a nation where sporting heroes have traditionally been men, she stands as a powerful reminder that champions come in all forms.

The legacy of "Magnificent Mary" will continue to inspire generations of Indian athletes to dream big and fight harder—both in the ring and in life.

The Naïve Friends

A Children's Story by Munshi Premchand

A heartwarming tale about two siblings whose good intentions lead to an unexpected lesson about nature and wisdom.





Meet Keshav and Shyama

The Siblings

Keshav (the elder) and his younger sister Shyama are curious, kind-hearted children living in a traditional Indian home.

The Discovery

They discover birds flying back and forth to their house cornice, forgetting even "the joys of milk and jalebi" in their excitement!

Curious Minds



Their minds bubbled with endless questions:

- How big were the eggs?
- What colour were they?
- How many eggs were there?
- What did the birds eat?
- How would the chicks hatch?
- What was the nest like?

But no one had time to answer their questions - Mother was busy with housework, and Father was absorbed in his books.

Growing Curiosity

Hidden Treasure

The children couldn't see the nest or eggs from below, making them even more curious.

Worried Thoughts

They began to worry about the baby birds: *What if they starve? What if they're thirsty? What if there's no shade?*

Kind Plan

Their solution: provide food grains, water, and shelter for the mother bird and her future chicks.

The children's hearts were filled with kindness, but they lacked the wisdom of experience.

The Risky Climb

With determination in their hearts, the children gathered:

- Rice grains from the kitchen
- A water bowl
- A garbage basket for shade
- Two stools stacked for climbing

Keshav felt scared on the wobbly stool. "Hold it firmly, Shyama!" he whispered, stretching his arms toward the cornice.

The moment his hands reached up, the birds flew away in fright.



The Discovery

What Keshav Saw

Keshav was surprised! Instead of a proper nest like those he'd seen in trees, he found:

- Scattered twigs on the cornice
- Three delicate eggs lying exposed
- No protection for the precious eggs

Seeing this, Keshav felt even more determined to help.

☐ "Show me the eggs too!" begged Shyama, her curiosity growing stronger.

But instead of showing her, Keshav asked for a piece of cloth to make a soft cushion for the eggs.



Well-Intentioned Help



Soft Cushion

Keshav carefully placed the folded cloth under the eggs for comfort



Food Supply

He scattered rice grains nearby for the mother bird to feed her chicks



Water Bowl

A small bowl of water was placed to prevent thirst



Shade Cover

He erected a makeshift roof to protect from the hot sun

All this was done in secrecy, without their mother knowing. Meanwhile, the birds approached but quickly flew away, seemingly afraid.

A grayscale illustration of a young boy and girl standing in a field. The boy is on the left, looking down at a bird's nest on the ground. The girl is on the right, also looking down. The nest contains several eggs, some of which are broken and scattered on the ground. The background shows tall grass and a distant horizon.

The Heartbreaking Discovery

After their afternoon nap, the children rushed outside to check on the eggs. What they saw made Keshav's face turn pale...

The eggs were broken, scattered on the ground below.

Keshav stood frozen, staring at the ground with gloomy eyes, as their mother came out and discovered what they had done.

The Painful Lesson

Their mother explained the harsh truth:

"The birds dropped the eggs because they were tainted by your touch. Birds don't hatch eggs that have been handled by humans."

Keshav was devastated. The realization struck him like lightning - **in his efforts to protect the eggs, he had destroyed them**. This thought made him cry many times.

The children's good intentions had led to tragedy because they lacked understanding of nature's ways.



The Message of "The Naïve Friends"

Innocence

Keshav and Shyama were "naïve friends" - they truly believed they were helping the birds, acting from pure hearts.

Wisdom

Good intentions without knowledge can sometimes cause harm. Wisdom comes from understanding nature's rules.

Learning

The children learned a difficult but important lesson about how our actions, even well-meant ones, can have unexpected consequences.

Munshi Premchand's timeless story reminds us that **kindness must be paired with understanding** to truly help others.



FUR: A Satirical Tale of Selfishness & Revenge

An exploration of H.H. Munro's (Saki's) wickedly clever short story



The Players in Our Comedy

Suzanne

Our protagonist (though hardly heroic) - materialistic, self-absorbed, and desperate to impress the wealthy Russians at Davos with an expensive silver-fox fur stole.

Eleanor

Suzanne's "friend" and accomplice - seemingly helpful but harboring motives of her own. Far cleverer than she initially appears.

Bertram

Suzanne's wealthy cousin - an easy mark for manipulation in Suzanne's mind, but perhaps not as predictable as she assumes.

**"One can't be too careful about
giving birthday presents."**

- Saki, "Fur"

The Delicious Plot

Like many of Saki's tales, "Fur" operates on deception and manipulation - though with a delightful twist of karmic justice.



The Coveted Prize

Suzanne desperately wants a silver-fox stole for her birthday gift from wealthy cousin Bertram.



The Cunning Plan

"Accidentally" bump into Bertram near the department store and steer him toward the fur department.



The Setup

Eleanor will casually mention Suzanne's birthday when they separate Bertram from Suzanne.

A seemingly foolproof scheme, but in classic Saki fashion, human nature proves far less predictable than our protagonist imagines...

The Fatal Refusal

As they wait for Bertram to arrive, Eleanor makes a simple request of Suzanne:

"I want you to come round tomorrow evening after dinner and play bridge with my aunts while I keep Harry Scarisbrooke amused."

Suzanne's response reveals her true character:

❌ "Sorry, but I really couldn't. **Your aunts are the most frightful bridge players.** It's absolute torture to play with them."

This selfish refusal to spend a single evening helping a friend becomes the pivot point of the entire story - a classic example of Saki's belief that small decisions often lead to monumental consequences.



The Delightful Double-Cross

Eleanor, stung by Suzanne's selfishness, improvises a brilliant revenge when left alone with Bertram:

1. She mentions that *her* birthday is just before Suzanne's
2. She suggests a **fan** would be perfect for Suzanne (knowing she already has many)
3. She fabricates a heart-wrenching story about a promised silver-fox fur that she never received
4. She steers Bertram away from Suzanne in the crowded store

Eleanor's improvised scheme exemplifies Saki's favorite literary device: the unexpected reversal of fortune. The manipulator becomes the manipulated, all through a seemingly innocent conversation.



The Comeuppance

Days later, Suzanne calls Eleanor:

"Thanks awfully for the photograph frame. It was just what I wanted. Bertram has given me a wretched fan."

Eleanor's response delivers the story's perfect punchline:

"How funny. He's given me a **silver-fox stole**. Rather nice of him, wasn't it?"



Saki's Satirical Themes

Social Climbing

Suzanne's obsession with impressing "the Russians at Davos" reflects Edwardian society's preoccupation with status and appearances.

Hollow Friendship

The relationship between Suzanne and Eleanor shows how social connections often mask self-interest rather than genuine affection.

Poetic Justice

Saki delights in having characters receive exactly what they deserve rather than what they desire - a moral comeuppance delivered with ironic precision.

Like many of Saki's stories, "Fur" is deceptively simple in plot but rich in social commentary about the Edwardian upper classes and their petty preoccupations.

Literary Techniques: The Saki Signature

Economy of Style

Saki conveys character and plot with remarkable brevity. In just a few pages, we understand the full psychology of both women.

Dialogue as Character

Rather than lengthy descriptions, Saki reveals personality through speech patterns. Suzanne's dismissive comment about Eleanor's aunts tells us everything.

The Unexpected Twist

The reversal of fortunes is Saki's signature move. The manipulator becomes the victim of manipulation.

Social Satire

Behind the humor lies cutting commentary on human selfishness and the shallow concerns of the upper classes.



The Moral of the Tale?

"Suzanne and Eleanor have not spoken to each other since, but they are getting to be quite good friends again."

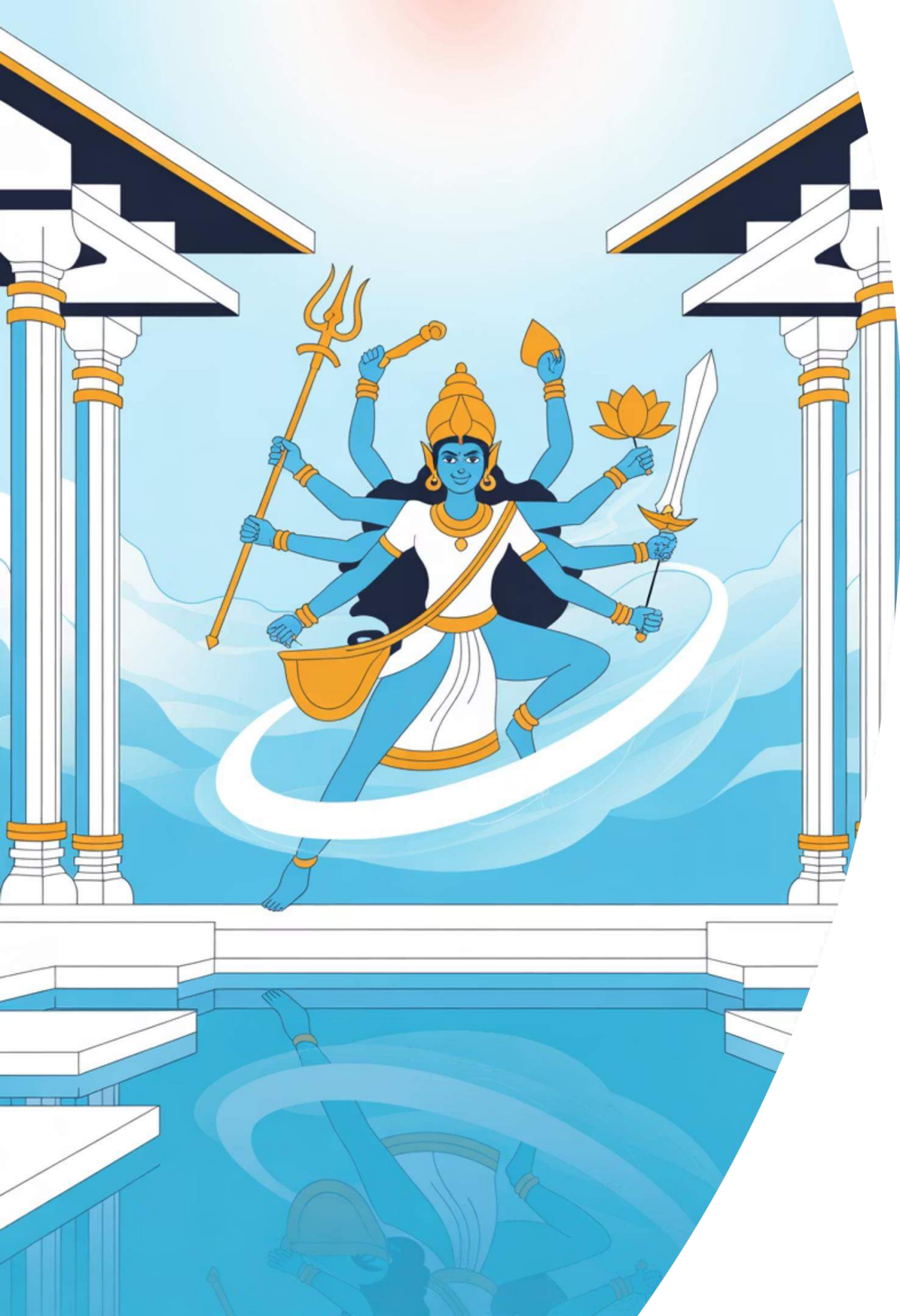
Saki's wickedly ironic conclusion suggests that in their social circle, such betrayals are merely temporary inconveniences. The friendship will resume because social connections matter more than genuine loyalty.

For Students

Consider how Saki's brief tale tells us more about Edwardian society than many lengthy novels. What does this story reveal about the author's view of human nature?

For Teachers

Pair "Fur" with Oscar Wilde's social comedies or Jane Austen's character studies to explore how different writers use irony and wit to expose social hypocrisy.



"Kali, the Mother" by Swami Vivekananda.

A journey into the mystical poetry of one of India's most influential spiritual leaders and his powerful invocation to the destroyer of evil.

Swami Vivekananda: The Spiritual Visionary

Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902) stands as one of India's most revered spiritual figures. A disciple of Sri Ramakrishna, he captivated the world with his wisdom at the Parliament of Religions in Chicago (1893).

Beyond his spiritual teachings, Vivekananda was:

- A passionate patriot during India's colonial era
- A profound thinker and philosopher
- A gifted orator who could move audiences
- A poet who expressed deep spiritual insights



The Origins of "Kali, the Mother"

Divine Inspiration

The poem was composed after Swami Vivekananda's profound spiritual experience at the temple of Kshir Bhavani in Srinagar, Kashmir.

Publication Legacy

The poem appears in "The Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda," published by Advaita Ashrama, preserving his spiritual and literary contributions.

Mystical Expression

Written as an invocation, the poem serves as a spiritual call to the Divine Mother, embodying both creation and destruction in Hindu philosophy.

The poem reflects Vivekananda's deep connection to Shakti worship within the Vedantic tradition, representing his understanding of the divine feminine principle as the active cosmic energy.

Goddess Kali: Destroyer of Evil

The Divine Mother in Hindu Tradition

In Hindu spirituality, Kali represents the fierce aspect of the divine feminine energy (Shakti). Though her appearance may seem terrifying, she embodies divine protection and liberation.

- Symbol of empowerment and ultimate reality
- Destroyer of ego and illusion
- Liberator from the cycle of death and rebirth
- Representation of time and transformation



Kali's fierce appearance, with her neck of skulls, protruding tongue, and weapons

Poetic Imagery: The Apocalyptic Setting

"The stars have been blotted out, clouds seem to be covering clouds..."



Cosmic Darkness

Vivekananda creates a scene of overwhelming darkness where stars disappear and clouds layer upon clouds, symbolizing spiritual ignorance and moral decay.



Natural Chaos

Howling winds, uprooted trees, and turbulent seas represent the disorder in society when moral values collapse and sin prevails.



Personified Death

Death appears as an active force "scattering diseases" amid flashes of "lurid light," creating a sense of impending doom that only divine intervention can counter.

This apocalyptic imagery serves as the perfect backdrop for the appearance of Kali, who emerges as the only hope against overwhelming darkness.



The Paradox of Divine Terror

The Terrifying Form

Kali's breath carries "the destruction of demonic forces" and her footsteps "shake the earth." Her garland of severed heads symbolizes her triumph over sin and ego.

The Loving Mother

Despite her frightening appearance, Vivekananda recognizes her as the "powerful mother of the universe," showing the Hindu understanding that destruction serves creation.

Transformative Destruction

As "Destroyer of the old decadent order and Creator of the new one," Kali represents the necessary cycle of dissolution and renewal in both cosmic and personal evolution.

Spiritual Significance for Modern Times

Facing Inner Darkness

The poem invites us to confront our inner demons—lust, greed, and immorality—rather than ignoring them. True spirituality requires acknowledgment of shadow aspects.

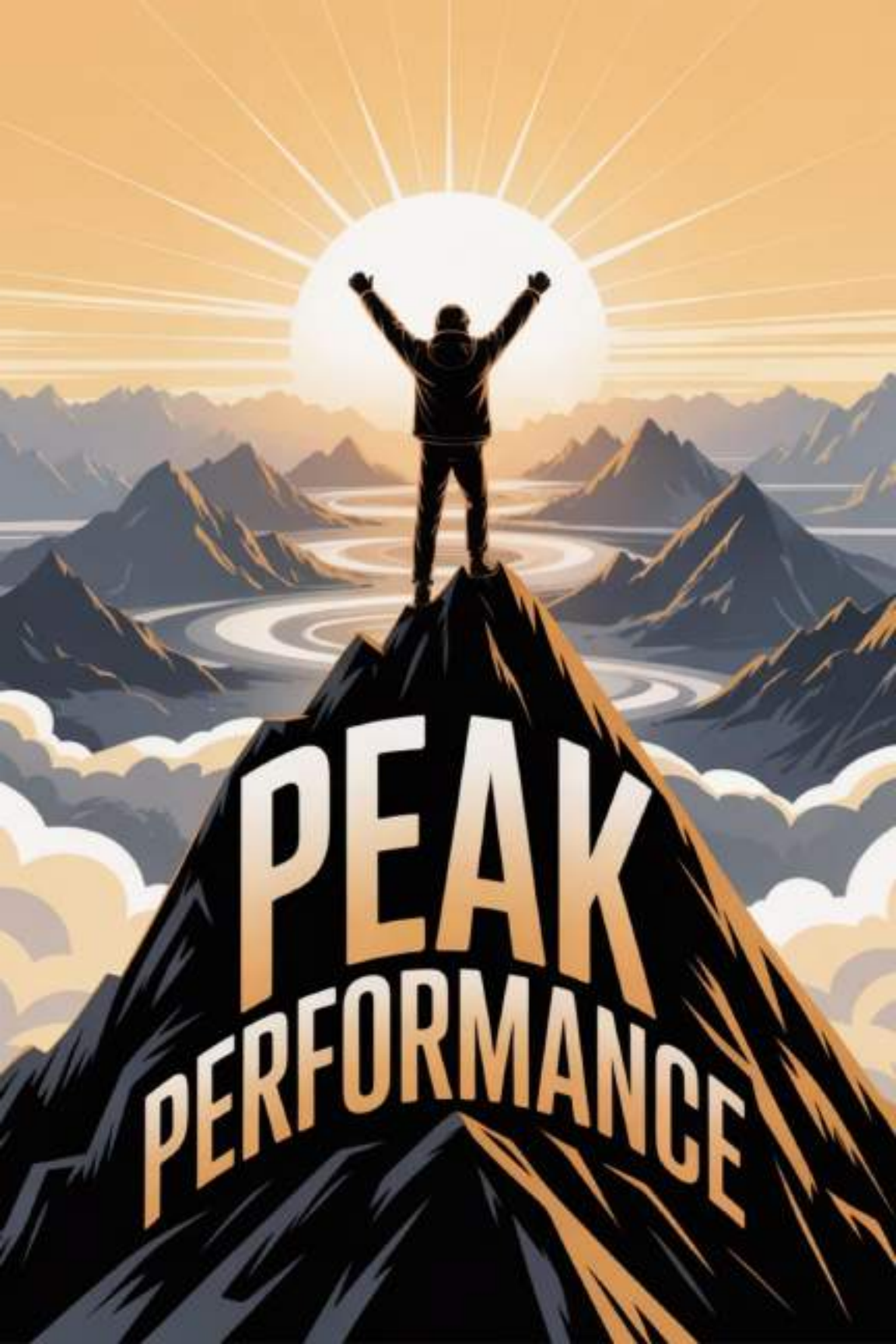
Embracing Transformation

Vivekananda's willingness to embrace even Kali's terrifying form teaches us to welcome necessary change and destruction of old patterns for spiritual growth.

Divine Protection

The poem reassures that even in our darkest moments, divine grace remains active, working to destroy what no longer serves our highest purpose.

Vivekananda's "Kali, the Mother" remains relevant today as we navigate personal and collective challenges, reminding us that transformation often requires dismantling before rebuilding can begin.



Don't Quit: Finding Courage in the Face of Adversity

A timeless message of perseverance and hope from Edgar Albert Guest's celebrated poem that continues to inspire generations through life's toughest challenges.

The Poet Behind the Inspiration

Edgar Albert Guest (1881-1959) was a British-born American writer who became known as the "People's Poet" for his accessible, optimistic verses that resonated with everyday readers.

His simple yet profound poetry captured the spirit of perseverance that defined early 20th century America, making him one of the most widely read poets of his time.



Guest's work appeared in newspapers across America, bringing hope and encouragement to

When Life Seems to Go Wrong

"When things go wrong, as they sometimes will, When the road you're trudging seems all uphill..."



Facing Adversities

Life presents unexpected challenges and roadblocks that test our resolve and determination.



Limited Resources

Financial struggles and mounting debts can make the journey seem impossible to continue.



Emotional Burden

Cares and worries become constant companions, weighing heavily on our minds and spirits.

The Central Message

Rest if you
must, but don't
you quit!

This powerful line captures the essence of Guest's message - acknowledging human limitations while encouraging persistent effort. It recognizes that while breaks may be necessary, giving up entirely is never the answer to life's challenges.

SYMPHONY OF THE ELDERS



Life's Unpredictable Journey

"Life is queer with its twists and turns"

Unexpected Turns

The path to success is rarely straight, with detours and obstacles appearing when least expected.

Hidden Proximity

We never know how close we are to breakthrough - success might be just one more attempt away.



Failures Transform

What seems like certain defeat can suddenly change course, becoming the foundation for future triumph.

Victory Awaits

Success often arrives for those who maintain their determination through periods of apparent failure.



The Tragic Irony of Giving Up

So Near, Yet Unseen

The poem reveals the heartbreaking irony that many give up when success is just around the corner - never realizing how close they actually were to achieving their goals.

"Often the goal is nearer than it seems to a faint and faltering man"

The exhausted struggler, unaware of imminent victory, surrenders the "victor's cap" that might have been theirs with just one more push forward.

Finding the Silver Lining

Look Beyond the Clouds

Guest encourages us to search for the "silver tint" hidden within the "clouds of doubt" that surround us during difficult times.

Perspective Shift

What appears distant and unattainable might actually be within reach - our perception often distorts reality when we're struggling.

Embrace Challenges

The hardest moments are precisely when persistence matters most - they test our commitment and reveal our true strength.



The Key to Success



Overcome Fears

Conquering the internal voices of doubt and fear that tell us to abandon our pursuit.



Build Resilience

Developing the mental toughness to withstand setbacks and continue moving forward.



Maintain Vision

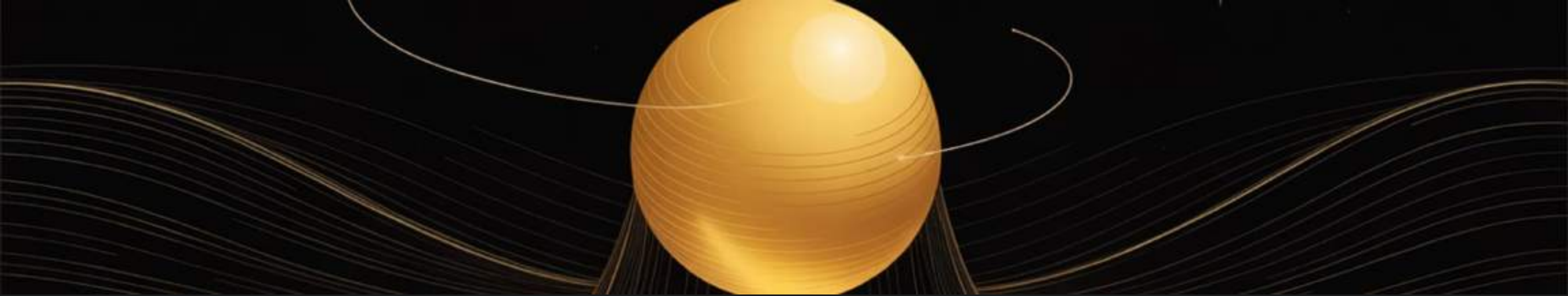
Keeping our eyes fixed on the ultimate goal even when the path becomes difficult to see.



Persist Through Pain

Continuing the journey despite discomfort, knowing that growth happens at the edges of difficulty.

Success isn't merely about talent or opportunity—it's about the unwavering determination to continue when everything within and around us suggests giving up.



The Darkest Hour

"It's when things seem worst that you must not quit."

The poem's concluding line delivers its most powerful message: our greatest temptation to surrender comes precisely at the moment when persistence is most crucial. It is often in our darkest, most challenging moments that breakthrough awaits on the other side—if only we have the courage to continue.

Carrying the Message Forward

The enduring popularity of "Don't Quit" speaks to its universal message that resonates across generations, cultures, and circumstances. In our most difficult moments, Guest's words continue to whisper encouragement.

Whether facing personal struggles, professional setbacks, health challenges, or emotional battles, the poem reminds us that perseverance—continuing despite overwhelming odds—is often the defining factor between failure and success.

Remember Your 'Why'

Connect with your deeper purpose to find strength during challenging times.

Take Small Steps

Break overwhelming challenges into manageable actions to maintain forward momentum.

Seek Support

Draw strength from others when your own reserves feel depleted.

The Vibrant Tapestry: Exploring "In the Bazaars of Hyderabad" by Sarojini Naidu

A journey through the lyrical marketplace of

A journey through the lyrical marketplace of India's poetic

A journey through the lyrical marketplace of India's poetic nightingale



The Nightingale of India

Sarojini Naidu (1879-1949), affectionately known as the "Nightingale of India," was not merely a poetess but a fiery political activist and feminist whose verses sang of Indian culture during a pivotal era of nationalist awakening.

Her collection "The Bird of Time" (1912) contains some of her most celebrated works, including "In the Bazaars of Hyderabad"—a vivid portrait of traditional Indian commerce and craftsmanship.

Poetic Structure: A Marketplace Conversation

Dialogue Format

The poem unfolds as a series of questions and answers between a curious observer and various merchants and craftspeople in the bazaar.

Rhythmic Pattern

Each stanza follows a musical question-answer pattern, creating a melodious cadence that mirrors the bustling rhythm of the marketplace.

Sensory Experience

The poem engages all five senses through meticulous descriptions of colors, textures, sounds, and implied scents and tastes of the bazaar.

This conversational structure invites readers to become virtual tourists, experiencing the bazaar through intimate exchanges rather than distant observation.

The Merchants' Wares

"What do you sell, O ye merchants? Richly your wares are displayed. Turbans of crimson and silver, Tunics of purple brocade, Mirrors with panels of amber, Daggers with handles of jade."

In this opening stanza, Naidu immediately establishes the visual opulence of the bazaar. The rich colours—crimson, silver, purple, amber—evoke the royal heritage of Hyderabad while the exotic materials—brocade, amber, jade—speak to India's historical position in global trade networks.



The Vendors, Maidens, and Pedlars

The Vendors

"What do you weigh, O ye vendors? Saffron and lentil and rice."

These staples of Indian cuisine represent the practical, everyday aspects of bazaar commerce—essential ingredients that sustain daily life.

Through these exchanges, Naidu reveals not just goods but the social fabric of Hyderabad—its daily sustenance, aesthetic practices, and entertainment.

The Maidens

"What do you grind, O ye maidens? Sandalwood, henna, and spice."

Fragrant sandalwood, decorative henna, and aromatic spices suggest beauty rituals and cultural traditions maintained by women.

The Pedlars

"What do you call, O ye pedlars? Chessmen and ivory dice."

These luxury items for games of strategy reveal the leisure activities of the wealthy, hinting at social stratification.

The Artisans' Crafts

The Goldsmiths

"What do you make, O ye goldsmiths? Wristlet and anklet and ring, Bells for the feet of blue pigeons, Frail as a dragon-fly's wing."

Dancers' Ornaments

"Girdles of gold for dancers, Scabbards of gold for the king."



Fruits and Melodies

The Fruit-Men

"What do you cry, O fruitmen? Citron, pomegranate, and plum."

These exotic fruits represent the natural bounty of India—sweet, tangy treasures that nourish and delight the senses. Each fruit carries cultural significance in traditional Indian households.

Through fruits and music, Naidu adds layers of sensory experience, inviting readers to taste the sweet-tart flavours and hear the melodious tunes that would have permeated the marketplace.

The Musicians

"What do you play, O musicians? Sitar, sarangi, and drum."

The traditional instruments—sitar (stringed), sarangi (bowed), and drum (percussion)—create a soundscape that would have filled the bazaar, reminding us that markets are not just visual but auditory experiences.

The Mystical and Ceremonial



The Magicians

"What do you chant, O magicians? Spells for the aeons to come."
The magicians represent India's spiritual and mystical traditions, their incantations connecting the present moment to eternity.

The Flower-Girls

"What do you weave, O flower-girls? With tassels of azure and red? Crowns for the brow of a bridegroom, Chaplets to garland his bed."
The flower-girls create decorations for wedding ceremonies, symbolizing life's joyous passages.

Life and Death

"Sheets of white blossoms newly garnered To perfume the sleep of the dead."
The final lines transition to funeral traditions, completing the cycle of existence celebrated in Indian culture.

In these stanzas, Naidu transcends commerce to explore how bazaar goods support spiritual and ceremonial aspects of Indian life—from magical practices to celebrations of marriage and rituals of death.



Poetry as Nationalist Expression

Published during the Indian independence movement, "In the Bazaars of Hyderabad" carries subtle political significance beyond its vivid imagery:

Cultural Pride

By celebrating indigenous crafts and traditions, Naidu counters colonial narratives that devalued Indian culture, asserting the richness of her heritage against European domination.

Economic Nationalism

The detailed inventory of local goods aligns with swadeshi principles—the movement promoting Indian-made products over British imports as a form of economic resistance.

Lyrical Resistance

Through English verse celebrating Indian culture, Naidu demonstrates how colonizers' tools could be repurposed to assert national identity and pride.

Literary Legacy: The Enduring Bazaar

Sarojini Naidu's "In the Bazaars of Hyderabad" remains a masterpiece of Indian English poetry for its:

- Sensory richness that transports readers across time and space
- Harmonious blend of Indian content with English poetic forms
- Celebration of everyday commerce as culturally significant
- Preservation of traditional practices now increasingly rare

The poem invites us to see markets not merely as commercial spaces but as cultural archives—living museums where craft, art, sustenance, celebration, and spirituality converge in a vibrant tapestry of human experience.

In our modern world of mass production and digital commerce, Naidu's bazaar stands as a reminder of what we gain—and what we lose—as methods of exchange evolve across generations.

As you study this poem, listen for the echoes of the bazaar in your own experiences of markets and commerce. How do today's marketplaces reflect or differ from Naidu's lyrical bazaar?



A Walk By Moonlight: Exploring Derozio's Masterpiece

A journey through Henry Louis Vivian Derozio's profound meditation on nature, friendship, and spiritual awakening.

About Henry Louis Vivian Derozio (1809-1831)

Indian Poet & Reformer

Despite his short life, Derozio was a highly influential figure in the Young Bengal movement, encouraging free thought and questioning orthodoxy.

Romantic Sensibilities

Known for his deep connection to nature and exploration of philosophical and spiritual themes in his poetry.

Legacy

"A Walk by Moonlight" exemplifies his introspective and reflective poetic style that continues to resonate today.



Central Themes of the Poem

Memory & Nostalgia

The power of beautiful moments to become cherished memories



Connection with Nature

How moonlight and natural elements inspire and reveal deeper truths

Friendship

The added joy and depth that shared experiences bring to life



Spiritual Awakening

Elevation of the human spirit beyond the mundane to unity with the universe

Structure and Style

The poem is written in **quatrains** (four-line stanzas) with an **ABCB rhyme scheme**, which gives it a lyrical and contemplative flow.

Derozio uses evocative imagery and a conversational, yet reflective, tone to draw the reader into his experience.



The Opening: Setting the Tone

"Last night — it was a lovely night, / And I was very blest —"

"Shall it not be for Memory / A happy spot to rest?"

1

Tone of Gratitude

The speaker immediately establishes a sense of profound happiness and blessing

2

Memory as Haven

Suggests this beautiful memory will serve as a comforting place to revisit in thoughts

The Power of Memory

"Hours which, at distance, mildly shine, / Shine on, but never burn."

"And some of these but yesternight / Across my path were thrown,"

"Which made my heart so very light, / I think it could have flown."

Memories provide **warmth and clarity** without the intensity that some memories might bring ("never burn").

The specific experience of "yesternight" was so **uplifting** that his heart felt incredibly joyful and free—almost as if it could float away.



The Gathering of Like Minds

1

Visiting Friends

"I had been out to see a friend / With whom I others saw:"

The speaker had been visiting a friend, and through this friend, met other acquaintances.

2

Natural Attraction

"Like minds to like minds ever tend — / An universal law."

People with similar thoughts and dispositions naturally gravitate towards each other—setting the stage for meaningful companionship.

The Spontaneous Walk

"And when we were returning home, / 'Come who will walk with me, / A little way', I said, and lo! / I straight was joined by three:"

As they head home, the speaker impulsively invites someone to walk with him. To his pleasant surprise ("lo!"), three people immediately join him.



The Companions

"Three whom I loved — two had high thoughts / And were, in age, my peers; / And One was young, but oh! Endear'd / As much as youth endears."

Two Intellectual Equals

Two companions are the speaker's intellectual and age equals ("high thoughts," "my peers"), suggesting stimulating conversation.

One Youthful Friend

The third is younger but equally cherished, highlighting the endearing quality of youth and the value of diverse companionship.

The Moon's Presence

"The moon stood silent in the sky, / And looked upon our earth:"

"The clouds divided, passing by, / In homage to her worth."

The moon is personified as a silent, watchful presence, overseeing the earth.

The clouds part, almost reverently, acknowledging the moon's beauty and importance, allowing her light to shine unimpeded.



Nature Responds to Moonlight



Dancing Leaves

"There was a dance among the leaves / Rejoicing at her power, / Who robes for them of silver weaves / Within one mystic hour."

Leaves sway as if dancing, transformed by the moon's silver light into something magical.



Singing Winds

"There was a song among the winds, / Hymning her influence — / That low-breathed minstrelsy which binds / The soul to thought intense."

The wind's gentle rustle becomes a song of praise, connecting the soul to deep introspection.



Experiencing the Moonlight

"And there was something in the night / That with its magic wound us; / For we — oh! We not only saw, / But felt the moonlight around us."

The night possessed an indescribable **magic** that deeply affected them. They experienced the moonlight not just visually, but **sensually and emotionally**, feeling its pervasive presence.



The Mysteries of Existence

"How vague are all the
mysteries / Which bind us to
our earth; / How far they send
into the heart / Their tones of
holy mirth;"

The speaker marvels at the profound, yet often unclear, spiritual connections that tie humanity to the physical world.

These mysteries evoke a deep sense of sacred joy and profound happiness within the human spirit.

Spiritual Perception

Glimpses of the Divine

"How lovely are the phantoms dim /
Which bless that better sight,"

"Phantoms dim" refers to subtle
spiritual insights or fleeting visions.

"Better sight" implies an elevated
perception beyond mere physical
vision.

Inner Illumination

"That man enjoys when proud he
stands / In his own spirit's light;"

This elevated perception is achieved
when a person is confident and
aligned with their inner spiritual truth.

Transcending the Material

"When, like a thing that is not ours, /
This earthliness goes by,"

In these profound moments, material
concerns seem detached and
temporary, not truly belonging to our
essence.



Perceiving the Eternal

"And we behold the spiritualness / Of all that cannot die."

This is a key spiritual realization: the ability to perceive the immortal, spiritual essence underlying all things, transcending the temporary nature of the physical world.

When this spiritual perception is awakened, they can truly understand the subtle "voice" or message carried by the night wind.

Nature's Symphony

"'Tis then we understand the voice / Which in the night-wind sings,
/ And feel the mystic melody / Played on the forest's strings."

The sounds of the forest (leaves rustling, branches swaying) are perceived as a "mystic melody," a profound and enchanting music played by nature itself.



Cosmic Communication

"The silken language of the stars / Becomes the tongue we speak, / And then we read the sympathy / That pales the young moon's cheek."

1

Speaking with Stars

The subtle, profound communication of the stars (metaphorically, cosmic wisdom) becomes accessible and understandable.

2

Empathy with Celestial Bodies

They can discern subtle emotional nuances in celestial bodies, emphasizing a deep empathetic connection with the cosmos.

The Inward Eye

"The inward eye is open then /
To glories, which in dreams /
Visit the sleeper's couch, in
robes / Woven of the rainbow's
beams."

This "inward eye" (mind's eye, spiritual insight) opens to grand, beautiful visions typically only experienced in dreams.

These "glories" are described as being wrapped in "robes woven of the rainbow's beams," signifying their ethereal beauty and splendor.



Finding Heaven on Earth

"I bless my nature that I am / Allied to all the bliss, / Which other worlds we're told afford, / But which I find in this."

The speaker feels blessed to be connected ("allied") to a profound joy. He contrasts this with the common belief that such bliss is only found in "other worlds" (afterlife, heaven), asserting that he finds this spiritual happiness right here, in this present existence.

Spiritual Connection

The poet discovers transcendent joy not in some distant afterlife, but in the present moment through communion with nature.

Present Bliss

This realization challenges conventional religious views that paradise exists only beyond this life.

Universal Interconnectedness

"My heart is bettered when I feel / That even this human heart / To all around is gently bound, / And forms of all a part;"

"Oh! In such moments can I crush / The grass beneath my feet? / Ah no; the grass has then a voice, / Its heart — I hear it beat."

The poem concludes with a powerful demonstration of profound connection. In this heightened state of spiritual awareness, the speaker perceives even the grass as having a "voice" and a "heart" whose beat he can hear.

This is the ultimate expression of the "bettered heart" and "inward eye"—complete empathetic unity with all forms of life, revealing the spiritual essence that connects all creation.



Resume Writing & Invitation Letters: A Beginner's Guide

Welcome to this comprehensive guide designed specifically for college students who are beginning their professional journey. Whether you're applying for your first job, internship, or planning social and professional events, mastering the art of resume writing and invitation letters is essential for success in both academic and professional settings.

This presentation will walk you through everything you need to know about creating effective resumes that catch employers' attention, as well as writing appropriate invitation letters for various occasions. You'll learn the differences between formal and informal communication styles, see practical examples of each type, and understand how to respond appropriately to invitations you receive.

What is a Resume?

A resume is a professional document that provides a concise summary of your educational background, work experience, skills, and achievements. It serves as your first introduction to potential employers and is often the deciding factor in whether you'll be invited for an interview.

Think of your resume as your personal marketing tool – it showcases your qualifications and demonstrates why you're the right candidate for a position. For college students, your resume might highlight academic achievements, volunteer work, internships, part-time jobs, relevant coursework, and extracurricular activities.

The key to a successful resume is clarity and brevity. Employers typically spend only 6-7 seconds scanning each resume, so yours must make an immediate impact. Keep it to one page, use clear headings, and focus on your most relevant qualifications.



Purpose

To secure an interview by highlighting your qualifications



Length

One page for students and recent graduates



Focus

Clear, honest, and relevant information only



Basic Resume Sections

A well-structured resume follows a standard format that makes it easy for employers to find the information they need. Here are the essential sections every college student's resume should include:

01

Contact Information

Place this at the top of your resume. Include your full name (make it stand out with slightly larger font), phone number (ensure voicemail is professional), email address (use a professional-sounding email), and optionally your LinkedIn profile or portfolio website.

Avoid using unprofessional email addresses.

03

Experience

Include all relevant work history: part-time jobs, internships, volunteer positions, and significant project work. For each position, list the organisation name, your job title, dates of employment, and 3-5 bullet points describing your responsibilities and achievements.

Use action verbs to begin each bullet point.

02


Education

List your current college or university, degree programme, expected graduation date, and your GPA if it's above 3.0. You can also include relevant coursework, academic honours, scholarships, or dean's list achievements. For college students, education typically appears near the top since it's your strongest qualification.

04

Skills

Highlight technical skills (software proficiency, programming languages), language skills (specify fluency level), and relevant soft skills (communication, teamwork, problem-solving). Be honest about your skill level – you may be asked to demonstrate these skills during an interview.

 **Top Tip:** Tailor your resume for each job application. Highlight the experiences and skills most relevant to the specific position you're applying for. This shows employers that you've taken time to understand their needs.

Example Resume Objectives

A resume objective (also called a career objective or professional summary) is a brief statement at the beginning of your resume that explains your career goals and what you can offer to an employer. For college students with limited work experience, this section helps establish your enthusiasm and potential value to the organisation.

Your objective should be 2-3 sentences long and tailored to the specific job you're applying for. It should mention your current status (e.g., college student, recent graduate), the type of position you're seeking, and your key strengths or relevant skills.

Retail Position

"I am a first-year Business Studies student at Manchester University seeking a part-time position in retail to develop customer service skills. I have excellent communication abilities demonstrated through volunteering at community events and serving as a student ambassador for my college."

Marketing Internship

"Enthusiastic second-year Marketing student seeking a summer internship to apply classroom knowledge in a professional setting. Experienced in social media management through university societies and possess strong analytical and creative problem-solving skills."

Administrative Role

"Organised and detail-oriented Psychology student looking for a part-time administrative position. Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite and experienced in managing multiple priorities through balancing academic responsibilities with extracurricular leadership roles."

Research Assistant

"Third-year Biology student seeking a research assistant position to contribute to scientific discovery whilst developing laboratory skills. Completed advanced coursework in molecular biology and genetics, with experience in data analysis and maintaining detailed research notes."

Invitation Letters: Formal vs Informal

Formal Invitations



Formal invitations are used for official or professional events such as business conferences, awards ceremonies, weddings, graduation celebrations, academic lectures, and corporate meetings. These invitations follow specific etiquette rules and use polite, respectful language.

Characteristics of formal invitations:

- Written in third person or very polite language
- Specify dress code if appropriate
- Provide complete date, time, and venue details
- Include RSVP information with deadline
- Use formal closing phrases
- Include full titles (Mr., Mrs., Dr., Professor)

Informal Invitations



Informal invitations are used for casual social gatherings among friends, family, or close colleagues. These might include birthday parties, barbecues, game nights, casual dinners, or weekend get-togethers. The tone is relaxed and friendly.

Characteristics of informal invitations:

- Written in first person with conversational tone
- Use of first names or nicknames
- Relaxed language and sometimes humour
- Basic event details without excessive formality
- Casual RSVP requests
- Friendly closing phrases

Remember: The level of formality should match both the event type and your relationship with the recipient. When in doubt, it's better to err on the side of being more formal rather than too casual.

Invitation Examples



Formal Invitation Example 1

The Faculty of ScienceUniversity of Cambridge

Dear Dr. Smith,

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Science Research Conference on Wednesday, 15th December 2024, at 10:00 AM in the Grand Lecture Hall.

The conference will feature presentations from leading researchers in environmental science and includes a networking lunch. We would be honoured by your presence and insights.

Please confirm your attendance by 1st December 2024 by responding to this email or telephoning our office at 01223 334455.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Jane Doe
Conference Organiser



Formal Invitation Example 2

Dear Ms. Thompson,

The Student Union Executive Committee requests the pleasure of your company at the Annual Awards Ceremony on Friday, 22nd November 2024, at 6:30 PM.

The event will be held in the University Assembly Hall, followed by a reception in the Atrium.

Formal attire is requested.

Kindly RSVP by 10th November to studentunion@university.ac.uk

We look forward to celebrating this year's achievements with you.

Respectfully,
James Wilson
Student Union President

Informal Invitation Example 1

Hi Tom!

I'm having a birthday party this Saturday, 10th March, at 7 PM at my flat (15 Oak Street, Apt 4B). There'll be food, music, and good company!

Hope you can come! Let me know by Thursday so I can plan food.

Cheers,
Anna

Informal Invitation Example 2

Hey everyone!

We're having a barbecue at the park next Sunday (20th May) around 3 PM to celebrate the end of exams. Bring your favourite drinks and maybe a garden game!

Location: Riverside Park, near the main pavilion.

Text me if you're coming – the more the merrier!

See you there,
David

Accepting Invitations: Formal & Informal

When you receive an invitation, it's polite to respond promptly, especially if an RSVP deadline is mentioned. Your acceptance should match the formality level of the original invitation and express genuine appreciation for being invited.

Formal Acceptance Examples

Example 1: Conference

Dear Dr. Johnson,

Thank you very much for your kind invitation to attend the Annual Research Conference on 15th December. I am delighted to accept and confirm my attendance.

I am particularly looking forward to the presentations on sustainable technology and the opportunity to network with fellow researchers in the field.

Please let me know if you require any additional information from me prior to the event.

Best regards,
John Lee
Senior Lecturer, Environmental Studies

Example 2: Awards Ceremony

Dear Mr. Wilson,

I am honoured to accept your invitation to the Annual Awards Ceremony on 22nd November at 6:30 PM.

Thank you for including me in this special celebration. I look forward to recognising the outstanding achievements of our student body.

I confirm my attendance and note the formal dress code.

Yours sincerely,
Professor Sarah Mitchell

Example 1: Birthday Party

Hey Anna!

Thanks so much for the invite! I'll definitely be there on Saturday at 7. Can't wait to celebrate with you!

Should I bring anything? Let me know!

See you soon,
Mike

Example 2: Barbecue

Hi David,

Count me in for the barbecue on Sunday! Perfect way to celebrate finishing exams.

I'll bring some soft drinks and my frisbee. See you at 3!

Cheers,
Rachel

Informal Acceptance Examples



Regretting Invitations: Formal & Informal

Sometimes you cannot attend an event despite wanting to. When declining an invitation, be prompt, polite, and brief in your explanation. You don't need to provide extensive details about why you cannot attend, but expressing regret shows good manners.

Formal Regret Example 1

Dear Mr. Brown,

Thank you very much for your kind invitation to the Science Research Conference on 15th December. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend due to prior academic commitments that cannot be rescheduled.

I am disappointed to miss what promises to be an excellent event. I hope the conference is a tremendous success and look forward to hearing about the outcomes.

Please extend my best wishes to all participants and organisers.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Emily Clark

Department of Chemistry

Formal Regret Example 2

Dear Ms. Williams,

I am grateful for the invitation to the Annual Awards Ceremony on 22nd November. Regrettably, I must decline as I will be attending a family commitment on that date.

Please accept my apologies for any inconvenience. I wish everyone a wonderful evening celebrating the year's achievements.

With warm regards,

Professor Robert Taylor

Informal Regret Example 1

Hi Lisa,

Thanks for inviting me to your party this weekend! I'm really sorry, but I can't make it – I have to work Saturday evening and couldn't swap my shift.

Hope you all have an amazing time! Let's definitely catch up soon for coffee.

Have fun!

Jake

Informal Regret Example 2

Hey David,

Gutted to say I can't come to the barbecue on Sunday. My parents are visiting that weekend and I promised to spend the day with them.

Sounds like it'll be brilliant though! Maybe we can plan another one later in the month?

Enjoy!

Sophie

Tips for Writing Resumes & Invitations

Whether you're crafting a resume or writing an invitation letter, attention to detail and clear communication are essential. Here are key principles to remember for both types of documents:



Use Clear, Appropriate Language

Choose words that match the formality level needed. Keep sentences straightforward and avoid overly complex vocabulary. For resumes, use strong action verbs. For invitations, be courteous and specific.



Check Spelling & Grammar

Always proofread your documents multiple times. Use spell-check tools, but don't rely on them exclusively. Ask a friend or family member to review your work. Mistakes can create a negative impression.



Be Clear About Details

Include all necessary information: dates, times, locations, and deadlines. For resumes, ensure contact information is current. For invitations, provide clear directions or venue details if needed.



Be Honest & Focused

In resumes, accurately represent your skills and experiences – never exaggerate. Highlight your genuine strengths. In invitations and responses, be sincere in your tone and clear about your intentions or availability.

Tailor Content
Customise your resume for each application and match invitation formality to the occasion

Format Properly
Use consistent formatting, appropriate fonts, and adequate white space for readability

Respond Promptly
Submit resumes by deadlines and reply to invitations within the RSVP timeframe

Final Thought: Both resumes and invitation letters are about making positive impressions. Take your time, be thoughtful in your approach, and don't hesitate to seek feedback from tutors, career services, or trusted friends before sending important documents.



The 8 Parts of Speech: Simple Guide with Examples

Master the building blocks of English grammar with clear explanations and practical examples.



What Are Parts of Speech?

Parts of speech are the categories of words based on their role in a sentence. They help us understand how words work together to create meaning and communicate effectively.

Building Blocks

Each part plays a specific role in sentence construction

Working Together

Parts combine to express complete thoughts and ideas

Eight Categories

Nouns, Pronouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Adverbs, Prepositions, Conjunctions, and Interjections

Nouns: Naming People, Places, Things, or Ideas

Nouns are words that name a person, place, animal, thing, or idea. They are the foundation of most sentences and help us identify what we're talking about. Nouns can be concrete (things you can touch) or abstract (ideas and feelings).

15 Examples of Nouns

- **dog** – The dog barked loudly
- **city** – London is a busy city
- **happiness** – Her happiness was contagious
- **teacher** – The teacher explained the lesson
- **car** – His car is very fast
- **London** – London has many museums
- **apple** – I ate a red apple
- **freedom** – Freedom is a human right



- **school** – She goes to school daily
- **cat** – The cat climbed the tree
- **book** – This book is interesting
- **love** – Love makes us stronger
- **river** – The river flows gently
- **friend** – My friend helped me

Pronouns: Words That Replace Nouns

Pronouns are words that take the place of nouns to avoid repetition and make sentences flow more smoothly. They refer to people, places, or things without naming them directly. Using pronouns makes our speech and writing less repetitive and more natural.

1

Personal Pronouns

I, you, he, she, it, we, they – refer to specific people or things

2

Object Pronouns

me, him, her, us, them – receive the action in a sentence

3

Possessive Pronouns

mine, yours, theirs – show ownership or belonging

Complete List of 15 Examples

I, you, he, she, it, we, they, me, him, her, us, them, mine, yours, theirs

📄 **Example sentence:** **She** is reading a book in the library.

Verbs: Action or Being Words

Verbs are words that show what someone or something does (action verbs) or is (state of being verbs). They are essential to every sentence because they tell us what's happening. Without verbs, we cannot express actions or describe states of existence.

Action Verbs

- **run** – Children run in the playground
- **jump** – The frog can jump high
- **eat** – We eat dinner together
- **sleep** – Babies sleep a lot
- **think** – I think about my future
- **write** – She writes in her diary
- **sing** – Birds sing in the morning
- **play** – They play football daily

Being Verbs & More

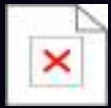
- **is** – The sky is blue
- **are** – You are my friend
- **was** – It was cold yesterday
- **have** – I have a bicycle
- **walk** – We walk to school
- **do** – They do homework daily
- **read** – He reads every night



Example sentence: They **play** football every day after school.

Adjectives: Words That Describe Nouns

Adjectives are descriptive words that tell us more about nouns. They describe a noun's size, colour, shape, quality, or quantity. Adjectives make our language more vivid and help create clear mental pictures for readers and listeners.



Size & Shape

big, small, tall – describe physical dimensions



Colours

red, blue, green – describe visual appearance



Qualities

happy, smart, fast – describe characteristics




Conditions

cold, bright, soft – describe states or feelings

15 Adjective Examples

big, small, red, happy, tall, blue, fast, smart, cold, bright, old, new, soft, loud, green

 **Example sentence:** The **red** apple is sweet and delicious.

Adverbs: Words That Describe Verbs, Adjectives, or Other Adverbs



Types of Adverbs

- **How:** quickly, slowly, carefully, loudly, well
- **When:** yesterday, soon, always, never, early, often
- **Where:** here, there, near
- **How much:** very, too, almost

Complete List of 15 Examples

quickly, slowly, very, well, yesterday, here, always, too, soon, loudly, carefully, never, often, early, almost

Example sentence: She runs **quickly** to catch the bus every morning.

Adverbs are words that tell us *how*, *when*, *where*, or *how much* something happens. They add detail to verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs, making our descriptions more precise and informative.

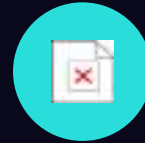
Prepositions: Words That Show Relationships

Prepositions are words that link nouns or pronouns to other words in a sentence. They show relationships of place, time, direction, or manner. Prepositions help us understand where things are, when things happen, and how things relate to each other.



Place

in, on, under, over, between,
beside, near, behind



Time

at, before, after, during



Direction & Other

through, with, about

15 Preposition Examples

in, on, at, under, over, between, beside, before, after, with, about, during, through, near, behind

 **Example sentence:** The book is **on** the table beside the lamp.

Conjunctions: Words That Join Sentences or Words

Conjunctions are connecting words that join words, phrases, or clauses together. They help create complex sentences and show relationships between ideas. Using conjunctions makes our writing more sophisticated and our thoughts more clearly connected.



Adding Ideas

and, also



Contrasting

but, yet, although



Choosing

or, either, neither



Explaining

because, so, if, since

15 Conjunction Examples

and, but, or, so, because, although, if, when, while, yet, for, nor, either, neither, since

Example sentence: I like tea **and** coffee, **but** I prefer tea in the morning.



Interjections: Words That Show Strong Feeling



Types of Emotions

- **Surprise:** oh!, wow!, yikes!
- **Joy:** hurray!, yay!, bravo!
- **Pain:** ouch!, ow!
- **Sadness:** alas!, oh no!
- **Attention:** hey!, uh-oh!
- **Thinking:** hmm!, ah!
- **Mistake:** oops!

Interjections are words or phrases that express sudden emotions or strong feelings. They stand alone and are usually followed by an exclamation mark. Interjections add emotion and personality to our speech and writing.

15 Interjection Examples

oh!, wow!, ouch!, hey!, hurray!, alas!, oh no!, bravo!, yikes!, uh-oh!, wow!, yay!, oops!, ah!, hmm!

📄 **Example sentence:** *Wow!* That was an amazing performance!