



UNIVERSITY
OF
JOHANNESBURG

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

CREATIVE REFLECTIONS COMPETITION 2023

Creativity is an essential
21st century skill!

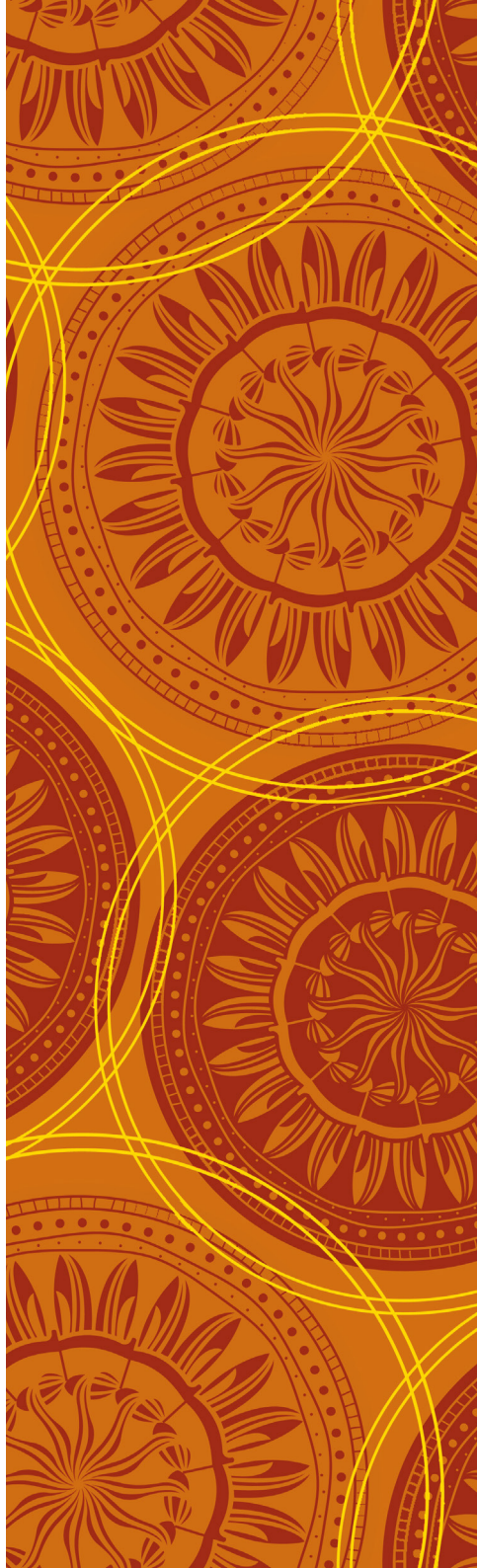
In 2021, the faculty
embarked on an exploration
of student creativity with
the first ever '*Creative
reflections competition*'.

In 2022, we asked the
students: '*what makes
me the perfect student?*'

In 2023, the students
responded to the question:
'*what does it mean to
be a leader?*'

Congratulations to the
students and we hope this
will inspire readers to
keep on being creative!

Humanities T&L
Committee





Creative Reflections Competition 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Leadership My thoughts by A Makhini	4
What it means to be a leader by Carrol Molvate	5
What it means to be a leader by Hlalani Mdunge	6
Moetapili Wa Batho by Lerato Mashile	7
What it means to be a leader by KD Modisha	8
True meaning to be a leader by Lourika Vorster	9
Ikhaya Lenkokheli! By Lunga Bulana	10
A Leader by Ofentse Moleki	11
Umuholi by Mandisa Buthelezi “Umashenge Omncane”	12
Connected by Siphathise Magadla	13
The Noble Art of Leading: A Petrarchan Sonnet by Phumzile Moloto	14
Beyond the Horizon: The Leader Within by Praise Nyalungu	15
A Leader: By Thembelihle Mdluli	16
Johannesburg University by Ntokozo Masango	17

LeaderShip

MY THOUGHTS

Empathy can lead a whole nation,
Into peace, But Arrogancy
eats away the flourishing
Being a leader is not about Being
The Smartest person , But about how
You bring out the best of everyone around
you , Acknowledging the power within,
The power of contribution, dedication
and Respect and Empower those without
Determination and passion should define
themselves through your leadership and
HAVE RESPECT FOR ALL

~~•apmankhili



What it means to be a leader

By Carrol Molvate

I woke up in a huge pit, weirdly I started **running**.

But when I looked down my shoes they didn't **fit** and so I started **laughing**.

I tied my shoes and again began running, this time I seemed to be covering **pace**.

I decided to become cosy and relaxed and so I fell flat on my **face**.

As I stood up, I saw a few men passing by on **camels**, what an old age form of transport I said to **myself**, next to me stood a bottle of water they seemed thirsty with the **camels**

when they waved at me, I looked the other way and smirked surely, I can do it by **myself**.

To my surprise a desert awaited me how I regreted my **choice** for this ego had led me **false**.

A twist of words? I'm certain you are confused well the camels are hard copies used by students at the library to learn.

The men on camels represent students who may know specific sections of work as a leader one has to know how to work with others, it is not about knowing it all but confirming accomplishment at the end.

A leader thinks through their choices, they don't only have great interest at heart for themselves but others as well for being **kind** is what it means to be a **leader**.



What does it mean to be a leader?

By Hlalani Mdunge

Group assignments have really assessed my leadership skills. In one of my groups, I decided to take the initiative and be a self-appointed leader because the submission date was near, and we had not done even a single task. And to be a good leader I had to know the duties and responsibilities of the position.

To be a leader means:

- **Guiding other members:** As a leader I must know the strengths and abilities of the members so that I can delegate tasks accordingly and do follow ups.
- **Inspiring members towards a common goal:** As a leader, I need to make sure that everyone is coordinated and understands what we want to achieve as this will help us as we do our work.
- **Leading by example:** I would need to follow all the stipulations in the agreement, demonstrate integrity, empathy, and resilience.
- **Following culture and values:** I must foster effective communication, listening attentively and provide the platform for the members to be comfortable to voice out their views

Understanding the above-mentioned qualities helped my group to function smoothly and achieve satisfactory results. It also pushed me to reach my full potential.

Moetapele wa Batho

By Lerato Mashile

Lost, voiceless, excluded, and isolated.

I came across this wondrous and beautiful something.

Everyone has it but only a few see it.

Its meanings are always pregnant with misconceptions that are alive.

(Popular, loved by all, people pleaser, smart, aggressive, and successfully thrives).

Se ga se boetapele.

Moetapele o go fepa melomo ya kgothatšo,

Feeds your self-critical soul with applause and appreciation.

Amidst conflict with classmates, a leader chooses to begin peace with a smile,

even though it may take a mile.

This wondrous and beautiful something is not liked by everyone, but is respected by all.

It stands tall whenever others want it to fall.

It puts in the time to assist others with assignments and tasks, without them having to ask.

A leader is humble, wise, and helps others rise.

When given a choice between being kind and being right, a leader chooses kind.

I know this choice also seems to blow up my mind.

A leader stands up against the unjust, even if it ends up breaking trust.

Bathong, how lovely is this wondrous and beautiful something, that seems to keep my soul dancing.

Leaders have power, not over others but the power to empower others.

Its untouchable power allows a leader to be the voice for the voiceless.

To empower its radiant bliss to resuscitate the voiceless to be vocal, and to be...

Found, audible, included, and accepted.



Modisha KD

<https://youtu.be/463niFdpQBQ?si=TrWgZ2AsFIpjpgpXh>





True meaning to be a leader

By Lourika Vorster

A leader,
like the student who takes charge in group work,
or the University lecturer going the extra mile to help,
is a fearless one.

A leader,
inspire all like a fictitious hero inspires a child.

A true leader,
inhabits an example of excellence, resilience, and bravery, working with sympathy to assist those that follow,
to a better world.

A true leader,
acknowledges the struggles connected to the responsibility, but prevails over the battle.

What does it mean to be a leader?
Providing, with confidence, support to others
to achieve their hopes and dreams.

Ikhaya leenkokheli!

By Lunga E Bulana

Ndagaleleka ndixwebile ndibuxhwaleka yaye ndinxaniwe,
Andibhudanga ncam kub' umqulu wombhedesho ndiwunikiwe, hayi ubuyilo!
Ndalunikwa nodondolo ndaqengqeleka ukusinga kweloqula
Ndantywila de ndaxhwarh' enzonzobileni yeengcungela zoncwadi, iingcungcu!
Ndatyathisw' usiba kunyangwa le nkenkqe yobuncoko ziinkokheli zalomzi!
Ndatyibilikis' usiba, ndatyatyadul' ukuncokola ngezidl' umz' ontsundu
Ndachubungul' ubuciko beengcal' ezicazulul' ubugoci-goci bothando lobulumko,
Mhlawumbi ngomso ndakulumkis' isilili sikaNtu ngobulumko bobuntu ngabantu
Ndikucangcathise kuczululo lweencamango namaceb' eengcali kulwazi lwengqondo
Bandifundisil' ukusus' uluchwe ezingqondweni ezigqwathileyo
Ndachacha kuhle ukucokisa ubuchule bokufunda ngentlalo yoluntu,
Ndachukumiseka bubuchule bobuciko bezifundo ngeencoko namajelo ezosasazo,
Ndxela izifundo zonoorhawuzana, kwedini!

Ubunkokheli bakho buyatsholozana kumbindi wesixeko sezimbiwa,
Nguvimba onobusi nobutyebi obuphucula iingcamango, Uzolis' umoya wezam izikrweqe,
Umloli wosiba lwam, ndithetha nje ndingumagrazula!
Ulrhamb' elimarhirhono kukukrwelwa ziintsiba zabakhwetha bosiba,
Ingqorhololo endirhabula nokuba kukrakra ndizive ndikhala
Kambe mna ndifun' ukukufinca de ndikutyenzeke.

Xhayi lamaxhwangush' enkenkqe yosiba, ngawe ndixhathisile
Mhla ndithwasayo ndakunxibela amasayibokhwe ndixele izihlewe zikaXhosa,
Ndixhentse ndixhinike ndibeth' unomxhmfafa
Ndinxib' umthika ndibaxebele ngoxolo oluxwesise emasangwen' akho,
KwaXhosa ndakungqiyama ngothango ndibaxebele ngothando lukaNcwadi inkokheli
zelokhaya
Xa ndiqokolela imfuyo emathanga ndakubaxelela ngemfudumalo yesangotha
seenkokheli zelikhaya
Ndiyitywina ngezithembiso nje le ncwadana ndinentshisakalo yokucivotha lukhulu
ngawe
Ntonje umbeng' omd' uyawucim' umlilo
Ndiyeke ndithi tyishe, mthandi nomvuseleli wesazela sekamva lam
Makube chosi, kubehele, kubecamagu ziinkosi!

“A leader”

By Ofentse Alice Moleki

It's a new phase, a new world outside my comfort zone. I'm used to being a leader of a small classroom in a township high school. Now I'm seeing hundreds of university students from various backgrounds. The poor, the rich, colored, and white, from private schools and those from public schools.

I'm looking at the email from my faculty (for being a student representative for my final year class) and a response is expected from me. My mind is conflicted with self-doubt and shock. How can a female from a small township represent students from all parts of the country, even potentially from outside the country?

“Are you scared?” Asked Samukelo. “Have you done this before?” Asked Savannah. These questions made me realize that: being a leader does not imply knowing everything without giving it a try. I've replied to the email, and I'm now liberated to learn how to be one of the faces that represent my class. I now understand that: your background doesn't define where you are going.

I'm now teaching fellow peer students to aspire to leadership. Because now I know, leading is also learning. I'm learning from others. I'm teaching others....

.....because I'm a leader.



UMUHOLI

By Mandisa Buthelezi “Umashenge Omncane”

Ngiwum'holi
ozungezwe indonga zaseNyuvesi
umakhi wek'sasa lakhe buqamama
nekhaya lakhe ng'funa ukshitsha
isimo
esiphilwa kwelakithi.

Ngathabatha lesi skhundla
njengowes'mame
okhulile okmele azibheke, kukhulu
kyenzeka
Kodwa kmele kungenzeki kim,
Kulesi sqeshana sethuba ngfunde
ukuth' kmele uwaneliseke ilokhu
ofumbathiswa khona ufukuzele lokhu
ongenakho, Phela ngaphakathi kulezi
ndonga baningi abangal'
phethe leli gama lobuholi Umuholi

Baphila insambatheka Impicabadala.
ukuba umuholi
kungfundise ukuz'phatha nok'qhela
enkohlakalweni
Ngsondele kuMdali
Bese ng'thabatha imfundo yami
ngithintithe ik'sasa lami
Umuholi

Beng'sasho ukuthi Phakathi k'lezi
Ndonga balilandela ngemumva ithuna
benzok'phambene ney'thembiso

zabo. ukukhula nemiyalo k'shabalele
benza ok'mele k'sindise
imphefumulo yabo kant' abaz ukuthi
bansinsithekisa inyama,
Balimaza umphefumulo,
Phela bafuna uk'jabhisa
izitha abazishiye emumva
Umuholi.

Ngimi esicongweni sentaba
yom'khuleko ng'khulekela
elami ik'sasa ngoba k'leli elamthaniya
impumelelo ifezeka ngey'nhlungu
ney'nyemebezi.
Ok'thokomalisa inhliziyo yami
ukuthi lokhu kdabuka
okwes'khashana Le mvula
yempumelelo eyangunaphakade.

Ukuba um'holi
kusho ukuthi
umcibisholo wentokozo
K'mele uhlabe lokhu ok'zele
ukhohlwe ilokhu
osazohlukana nakho
Ngiwum'holi
Ozungezwe indonga zaseNyuvesi.



CONNECTED

By Siphathise Magadla

The best things take time. I never imagined that happiness would visit me again because I had made peace with my inner suffering. Many people had told me that time heals, but I found it difficult to believe them because I saw no way to escape and find freedom again. I have never been able to love again. like I've only experienced how to use the heart to make it happy rather than fall in love. But when you invaded my life, I felt our bond. I didn't fall in love with you because of your appearance, instead, I was drawn to you because of your inner beauty, which outside was an additional gift from God. It was difficult to give us a chance because it was never easy for me to believe in love again, but the connection was bigger than us.

Let me take you back to the time before I felt the connection. At that time, my life was falling apart, I was surrounded by misery everywhere I went, and I felt like there was no way out. People were leaving my life like river water flowing. I was left alone, wondering where the freedom that older people experience in their 20s to me it left like hell itself because everything was falling apart, and

nothing was coming together. I remember one time when my ex cheated on me with my brothers, I felt like the weight of the world was bearing down on me, and I had no reason to keep going. But then you came along and gave me a reason to breathe and keep going. The connection between us is something I've never felt before and no one will ever feel it again because it was unique compared to all other connections.

There were moments when I believed that true love was merely a concept reserved for movies or the wealthy and that it would only serve to harm us and leave us emotionally depleted. Since I have seen folks die, commit suicide, and go insane in the name of love—things that were commonplace to us young people—other people have accepted and left with no emotions after being hurt in the name of love. There was no way that love could have a positive side. What a tragic generation, many have lost their humanity in the face of love, while others have lost faith in others because they have no desire to put their faith once more in love. But our connection is bigger than everything.

The Noble Art of Leading: A Petrarchan Sonnet

By Phumzile Moloto

In leadership, a noble path unfolds,
Often misunderstood as synonymous with authority and power.
Emotional intelligence ignored, their ego towers,
Leadership's true essence obscured, as it withholds.
Outdated strategies still dance in the light,
Some grasp onto the known, aged and weathered.
Their flaws and defects, firmly tethered,
Obfuscating breakthroughs like a moonless night.
Willingness to assist, a definition anew it must undertake,
In the realm of empowerment, authority surrenders its hold,
In empathy's embrace, leaders' hearts and subordinates' souls interlace.
With teamwork embraced, and creativity awake,
Encouraging innovation, a story yet untold
Guiding others forward, embracing it with grace.

Beyond the Horizon: The Leader Within

By Praise Nyalungu

(Setting: A university campus, a student stands in front of a group of fellow students, passionately delivering a dramatic monologue.)

As the sun rises on this land of knowledge,
A leader emerges, bold and polished,
Not just a title, but a calling profound,
To ignite the flame, where potential is found.

In lecture halls and libraries, our quest begins,
Seeking wisdom, breaking through our own skins,
The leader within us, a guiding light,
Inspiring others, shining ever so bright.

With empathy and vision, we take the lead,
Empowering voices that yearn to succeed,
In every word spoken, a bridge we build,
Uniting hearts and minds, dreams fulfilled.

In the classroom's embrace, we foster debate,
Where ideas flourish, and minds liberate,
Encouraging curiosity, like a painter's brush,
Creating a masterpiece, a world we can hush.

Yet, leadership isn't a throne or a crown,
It's humility, compassion, breaking walls down,
Lifting others, helping them find their way,
Together we'll rise, no one led astray.

With each language spoken, cultures intertwine,
Strength in diversity, a bond that will shine,
In the tapestry of humanity, we'll find,
A leader transcending, hearts intertwined.

So, let's paint a future where all souls can soar,
Fearless and kind, unlocking every door,
For leadership's essence lies deep within,
In each of us, the power to begin.



A leader

By Thembelihle Mdluli

Many don't know the hardships
Of building yourself
and relationships
With others. Every
semester it's new faces.
New personalities with
different experiences

You leave your pain and
become strong
You fight to make
things that were wrong
To be right. You thrive
for your dreams.
None can tell your
history, presence,
future
No has time for you sad
stories and past
The hardships of
figuring everything on
Your own.

Pain and poverty
motivate you to be
best

Love, support and
peace are foreign
You cut sleep short,
you study hard,
You are the game
changer. You rule
Your world with
independence. You
Never give up when
failure comes
You work harder and
pray harder

Learning depends on
the character you
Meet. Understanding
needs dedication and
Hard work. Passing
requires a lot of
studying.
Learning is not easy
and so is teaching
Success is what keeps
you moving.

Role Modelling young
lives makes it easy and
hard

You never give up until
you get it together.

You find new
motivation from the
leaders,
You aim better
and work better.
Sometimes
You don't understand
so you ask for help
Nothing comes easy,
success requires
Hard work and
dedication. These times
You waste will be
compensated with
tears
Of joy. Never give up
on your dreams.

Johannesburg University

By Ntokozo Masango

You are stationed at
the pulse of our nation
the city of gold
the city of hope.

we come to you with
one mission
to fulfil our dreams
and wear the rope.

you care not for our
reason
as long we are here
and yes we are here.

you welcome us from
different parts of the
nation and like mama
bear
you close us in.

you bare no ounce of
discrimination
we speak different
languages
but to mothers eye
we are the same kids.

your walls are grey
without colour
we feel your dallness
rouming as we look at
each other.

our critics of you
fills your empty room
you hear them all
yet not afraid for
more.

you do not care
how you look
you care
for what you cook.

what you serve
from your cooking
rooms
a plate
full of young peoples
dreams.

after years
you open your cages
let your birds fly
with pride.

we return back
to different parts of
the nation
carrying with us
what you cooked
in your kitchen a
plate full of our
prosperities.

we thank you
johannesburg
University
johannesburg
university
we thank you.





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