

# Poetry

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## A Menu for a Maths student

By Leung Ho Yu John 1B

### Appetizer

Cone salad for the appetizer  
to make you eat more.

### Main course

Symmetry beef, 87% done.  
Do revision on symmetry and percentage.

### Dessert

A bar of bar chart chocolate and a pie chart pie.  
Then you know how to make a statistical diagram.

### Drink

A pyramid glass of cola.

The appetizer and drink  
let you know the difference  
between a cone salad  
and a pyramid.

## A Reliable Friend

By Vito Choi

What a friend needs to be is reliable.  
What else? Just reliable?  
Oh yeah, a friend is always adorable.

Every friend makes your life meaningful.  
When you are in big trouble,  
they help and make you hopeful.

My friend is easy-going.  
He is also hardworking.  
Who is he? He is Derek.



## My Considerate Friend

By Chan Li Yan, Rion 1B

I have a considerate friend  
She always understands when I'm sad.  
She tells me jokes when I'm mad.

When I am confused with my homework,  
she teaches me patiently of the work.

When I am unsure of myself,  
she is always there to support me  
and tell me that I can do it.

Thank you, my considerate friend.  
You cheer me up and raise me up all the time.  
Although our paths will go separate ways,  
I hope our friendship never ends.



# My Time Machine

By Choi Hiu Yee, Jasmine 1B

The time machine,  
oh the time machine!

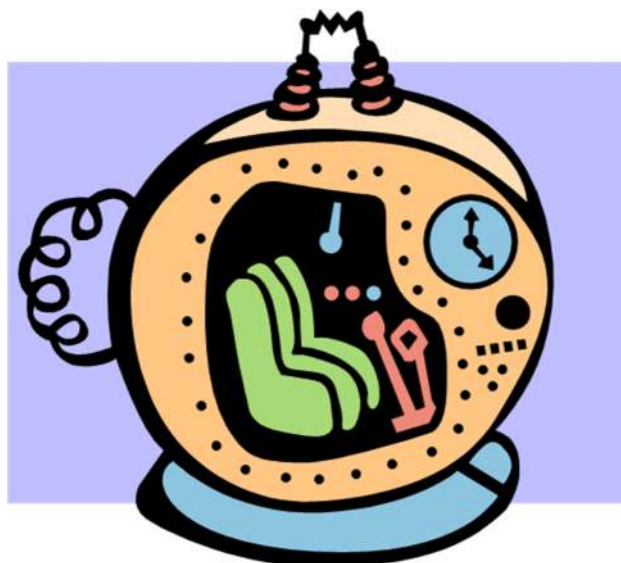
I'd like to invent a super are machine,  
not for washing, cleaning or cooking a shark's fin.  
It's a time machine that you can go anywhere, any time  
without hurting your skin.

You can achieve what you have to do,  
you can change your fool.

You can be a rescuer to the Titanic.  
Yes, that's super fantastic!

You can go to the future.  
You can come back again, for sure.

At the top, it's sharp and pointy.  
At the bottom, it's silver and shiny.



A poem inspired by 'Who were the Beatles?' by Geoff Edgers

By Tam Hoi Man, Gabriela 1B

Beatles, oh, the Beatles.  
You were the greatest.  
Piano, guitar, and  
drums and  
John, Paul, George and  
Ringo.  
Music of Rock n Roll.  
You were one of the best  
bands  
and the best  
friends.  
Broke up and went solo.  
Beatles, oh, the Beatles.

A poem inspired by 'Your dad, my mum' by Hazel Townson

By Zeng Yip Ching, Green 1B

Being a hunger striker,  
One must feel a lot of pressure.  
Being silent all the time,  
friendship now is without a sign.  
But for the good purpose,  
we can't be losers.  
Well,  
it may be the path to hell.  
Why don't we work hard? Or else  
our world may not have a new start.  
With freshness and happiness,  
we will never be useless!

## Travelling Machine

By Choi Hiu Yeung, Derek 1B

The Travelling Machine,  
Oh, the Travelling Machine,  
Just open the door, then the destination is seen.

I go inside to take what I want.  
Turn around again and the door is at the front.

Go back inside and will be in the original place I stand.  
I close the door and lend it to my friend.

Oh no! I can't let anyone use it except me,  
Otherwise something bad will happen to me.

Ring! Ring! Ring! The school bell rings.  
It's time for me to stop until the next bell rings.

Oh no! Forget to bring my Composition.  
I get it through the door, at least there will not be mark deduction!

# Compositions

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## Interview with a Teacher – Form 2

Do you know which football club Mr. Chan supports? Here is a hint, it once was the champion in the Premier League but it is now playing very poorly. Still do not know? You will know it eventually. I know this because my groupmates and I interviewed our liberal studies teacher, Mr. Chan CW.

Mr. Chan's birthday is on 6<sup>th</sup> March. He liked playing football and playing hockey in his spare time. His favourite food is chocolate and he became a teacher because he thought it was a meaningful job. He said that his favourite holiday spot was his home.

One of our groupmates, Max, asked him, 'What is your favourite sport? Why?' He replied, 'My favourite sport is football because it is an exciting game and I can meet friends while playing.' When I asked him what team he supported in football, he answered immediately that he liked Manchester United and Argentina National Football Team because he liked De Gea and Di Maria. Another groupmate, Macy, asked him if he thought Hong Kong was a good place for people who play football. He said that he disagreed that Hong Kong was a good place to play football because there were not enough pitches to play football. I asked him how often he played football after he had become a teacher. He said he played football three times a week because there was not enough time. Finally, Max asked him, 'What do we need to know we want to play football?' He replied, 'You should know rules of football and the safety measures.'

We feel happy to have the pleasure of interviewing Mr. Chan, I gained a lot of knowledge about sports from him and I became more mature.



Name:	Mr. Chan CW
Birthday:	Mm 3 dd 6
Hobby(ies):	Playing football and playing hockey
Favourite food:	chocolate
Reason(s) for teaching:	It is a meaningful job
Favourite holiday spot(s):	His home

## Composition 2 - Imaginative Writing, Matilda Ch.7

Two minutes after children cleaning and tidying up the classroom as fast as lightning, Miss Trunchbull arrived. She had a creepy smile on her face and started to talk, 'I hate dirty little rats, like you. Act properly or you will be thrown out of the window by my strong arms. Do you understand?' 'Yes, Miss Trunchbull!' the children replied loudly. Then, she talked rudely about the bad things about children for 10 minutes.

After that, she started to ask difficult questions which were beyond their level. 'You fat hamster!' Are shouted and was pointing a fat boy called Rupert. 'What is sixteen times eighteen?' 'One hundred,' the boy answered. Miss Trunchbull rushed to him like a hungry

leopard and turned him round and round like a dancing sausage until he fell down. She laughed happily and kicked his belly.

She was a cruel person who was keen on torturing children. She continued asking difficult questions and punished those who thought for a long time or answered wrongly. She dropped them hard on the ground or threw them out of the window. All kids were scared except one courageous kid, Matilda. She wanted to take revenge on this cruel and fat lady.

As Miss Trunchbull's throat became dry, she took a cup of lemon tea and drank it. She didn't notice the spiders at first but suddenly she screamed as loud as thunder, 'What is it?!' Two little spiders climbed onto her face and made a spider web as well as biting her. She tried to get rid of the spiders but the spider web clouded her sight. 'Get away from me. Help!!!' she shouted. Everyone clapped their hands and shouted happily.

As Matilda was enjoying and shouting, everything stopped suddenly. The clock stopped ticking and Miss Trunchbull paused in the halfway before she fell. Matilda tightened her up together with the desks, chairs and ropes. Everything started moving again in minutes, and the children pushed her out of the room like a sushi roll and shut the door with a loud CRASH! 'Hurray!' They cheered.

2A Mok Ngai Tang (9)

### A Mystery Story

The Lee family went to have a nice dinner to celebrate Hugo's victory in the Hong Kong Singing Contest. However, Jessica, Hugo's older sister, couldn't go as she needed to study for DSE.

When the rest of the Lee's family went back to their mansion, they discovered that the front gate was opened. Mr. Lee ran into the mansion to find nothing missing. Then, he checked the safe in his bedroom. Again, nothing was missing. Finally, Mr. and Mrs. Lee and Hugo checked Jessica's Room together. Upon entering her room, they were all shocked. The window was broken and glass fragments were all over the floor. The books on the table and the chair had been knocked off. The most important thing was Jessica was gone! Mrs. dialed Jessica immediately. She crossed her finger and whispered to herself, 'Please answer, please answer, please answer...'

But nobody answered.

The Lees quickly went to the nearest police station to report the case. The police interrogated the Lees to find some useful information. After the interrogation, the police thought of two suspects: Isaac, Jessica's ex and Mr. Lee's business rival, Mr. Lo. Isaac broke up with her a few weeks ago. He found out that Jessica had a new boyfriend just a week ago. The police also discovered that Max was involved in a beating with Jessica's Boyfriend. He was suspected for bearing up the boyfriend. The police thought that he's coming for Jessica now. Mr. Lee's and Mr. Lo's companies were competitors. The police suspected Mr. Mr. Lo wanted to ruin Mr. Lee's company's value in the stock market by

kidnapping his daughter. The police asked the Lees to go home first. They also told the Lees that a group of police would come to their house to trace the kidnapper. They reminded the Lees to be careful not to damage or destroy any possible pieces of evidence.

The next morning, soon after the police's arrival, the Lees received a letter. The letter contained a ransom note and some jewelry. The ransom note was printed out and thus the police couldn't trace the words. Mrs. Lee recognized the jewelry was Jessica's. In the ransom note, the kidnapper demanded three million dollars. The kidnapper also required the Lees to only communicate through letters. The kidnapper asked the Lees to send the letter to an abandoned warehouse in Yuen Long. The kidnapper warned the Lees not to call the police as well. Otherwise, they might not see Jessica anymore.

'Only letters, huh?' said Sam Lee, the senior inspector of the Regional Crime Unit of the Hong Kong Island, 'What an interesting case.' He sat on a chair and started reading the report from the Identification Bureau. 'Hmm, no fingerprints, no DNA, no trace at all.' Sam said to himself. Then he went to Jessica's room. He examined the room carefully. Suddenly, Sam Lee caught something special from the corner of his eyes. 'What is this?' he asked after picking it up. It was a handkerchief. Then he had a conclusion after sniffing it. 'It is chloroform,' He told everyone in the room. The he handed it to a sergeant of the Identification Bureau.

Ten minutes later, he gathered everyone in the living room. He asked the Lees to write a letter about cooperating with the kidnapper and promising not to call the police. Then, he told the police about his plan, 'Listen up, boys! I have thought of a fool-proof plan to catch this dirty-little kidnapper on our very first try. Since they have just exposed their hideout, there's no difficulty in getting them. We will deploy our men around the warehouse. When they come out to take the letter, **BAM!** They are going to get caught immediately.'

The next morning, the Lees and the police went to the warehouse. Before the Lees entered the warehouse, the police were already deployed all over the hills near the warehouse. As soon as Mr. Lee entered the warehouse, a drone with a speaker flew into the sky. 'Welcome, Mr. Lee. I can see that you brought the letter, but where is the money?' said a deep, robotic voice from the speaker. Mr. Lee shouted at the drone, 'I won't give you the money until I can see my daughter, you psychopath!' The kidnapper went silent for a minute, then they spoke again. 'Fine. I will send you a letter from Jessi – your daughter to you in the next letter. Now, read the letter out.'

Meanwhile, the police were in complete chaos. Not only was Sam Lee's prediction wrong, but the situation was also getting out of hand as one police just discovered a hidden camera. 'You! Yes you! Go trace the signal of the drone now! And you guys go search if there are any more cameras!' shouted Sam Lee, trying to clean the mess. He thought to himself, 'How? What? Why isn't my plan working?'

Soon, Mr. Lee finished reading the letter. The kidnapper signed, and said, 'Mr. Lee, you are very dishonest. I told you not to call the police. Can you see the men in ballistic vest? I can see that you didn't keep your promise, did you?'

'**BOOM!** Suddenly, the drone exploded and the flaming pieces flew into the forested hills. In just a few moments, the tree caught on fire. The police evacuated from the forest as soon as possible. A



few policemen were injured and many devices were destroyed. After leaving the warehouse, Sam Lee shouted, 'God damn it!'

That night, a package was found in front of the mansion. It contained a letter, some photos of Jessica in a completely windowless room, blind-folded and tied to a chair and white cardboard with a blood stain on it. In the letter, the kidnapper told the Lees to give the money them immediately. They also stated that the blood stain was from Jessica and threatened to send one piece of Jessica to the Lees for every day that they still hadn't received the money.

While unboxing the package, Sam Lee noticed that there were some hair strands in the box. He handed these two possible pieces of evidence to the Identification Bureau.

At midnight, when Mr. Lee was getting up to go to toilet, he heard Hugo talking to someone on the phone, 'What the heck, man? Is it really my sister's blood? Yes? Oh my god Max, are you nuts? I know you hate Jessica, but don't hurt her, okay?' After knowing the stunning truth, Mr. Lee sneaked back to his bed and texted Sam Lee about this. Sam Lee then called the Identification Bureau to confirm that the hair strands belonged to Tony and the blood stain was Jessica's.

The next day, Sam Lee and a group of police came to Max's house to arrest him. Tony admitted that he was the kidnapper. After knowing Max was arrested, Hugo also confessed his crime. He told Tony the password of the front gate and taught him how to use chloroform. After getting into the mansion, Max climbed to the second floor and broke into Jessica's room from the window. Hugo also helped Max by deleting the security camera footage.

In the end, Max was found guilty of kidnapping and was sentenced to jail for 26 months. On the other hand, as Hugo was under 16, he was sent to Tuen Mun Children and Juvenile Home for 8 months.

After the kidnapping, Mr. and Mrs. were very apologetic for not caring about Hugo, which made him feel he was less important than Jessica, which then made him worked with Max to kidnap her.

'Oh man, what a case!' said Sam Lee, now an inspector. 'Maybe I shouldn't be so reckless next time. Now I need to write this stupid report.' He sighed, 'I hope someone can give me a free lunch after I have finished my report.'

Ryan Shum,2B

### **Fashion Speech Writing**

Hello everyone, my name is Race Chong. On my right is Miss Melissa Mak. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for inviting us to speak to you this morning. The subject of our talk is our new design of dress. The dress was designed based on the theme of stars. It was designed for girls to go to balls and parties.

First, the dress is mainly in blue. The upper part of the dress was made of dark blue lint with silver and blue shimmering powder as decorations. The lower part of the dress was made of comfortable, light blue satin and blue and white, striped denim. There is purple gauze on the dress. There are white gauze with a golden ribbon and charming, red and silver jewels on it, which are tied on the dress to hold the gauze.

Why do we need to use these materials for the design? We choose them to show the scene of a starry night. The blue lint and satin are representing the skies at night. The colourful shimmering powder and jewels are representing the bright and shimmering stars, which also make the dress more attractive and charming. The lower part, which refers to the denim, is representing the ocean. The striped pattern and the white lace are representing the waves. If the girls wear this dress, they will become the highlights of the parties.

This dress is suitable for all girls. The materials of it are all comfortable. Besides, the price is very reasonable. The famous movie star Scarlett Johansson, will also wear this beautiful dress in her next movie. Therefore, girls, if you want to become fashionable, remember to buy the dress.

This is the end of our presentation of design. Thank you very much for your attention. We hope you will come to see our next fashion show.

Race Chong and Melissa Mak, 2A

### **A Mystery Story**

Eastria and Mandy were friends and detectives. Once they were invited to Shaw's family's house to enjoy a holiday. However, it started raining heavily in the evening. Therefore, they decided to stay for another night. In the middle of the night, a woman's scream woke all the people in the house. They all came to the living room, where the sound came from, and discovered a dead body lying on the floor. Everyone was shocked. Eastria and Mandy, as detectives, started the investigation.

“The dead body is Mrs Shaw. It is presumed that she died not a long period of time ago, as you see, her body is still warm,” Mandy walked around in the living room and said, “Eastria, don’t just stand and pose. Help me to take the evidence photos now!” “Alright,” Eastria answered. “My relaxing holiday is gone because of this murder case. By the way, have you questioned all the witnesses, Mandy?” “Yes, I have. I have also called the police. However, they said that they could not come until tomorrow morning because of the rain.” Mandy walked towards Eastria and said, “It is strange. Mrs Shaw is a nice person, she shouldn’t have any rivals.” “Look!” Mr Shaw suddenly shouted, “ there are drag marks in the corridor, on the way to the living room from Mavas’s room! You, Mavas, must be the one who killed my wife!” “Mr Shaw, please calm down first, we will...” “The murderer must be Mavas! Last week, she asked me for money but I refused. She killed my wife because she wants to steal the money.” Mandy said, “No, the money in Mrs Shaw’s purse is still here. So it shouldn’t be about money argument. Let me think, umm...” Eastria came to comfort Mandy. “Don’t be so nervous. We can find out the truth together.” “I am not nervous.” “But you keep biting your fingernails.” “Fingernails!” Mandy yelled, “Eastria, go to check Mrs. Shaw’s fingernails!”

Eastria went to check the fingernails, and she soon noticed that there was mud inside. “There is mud, Mandy. I guess that Mrs. Shaw was killed in the garden outside in the house, but not in Mavas’s room. Mavas is a good servant, she wouldn’t kill Mrs. Shaw. Who is the murderer?”

“Mr Shaw is the murderer.” Mandy answered calmly. First, he killed Mrs Shaw in the garden. Then he pulled her into the house. To clean the drag marks, he used a lot of bleach. So there is a strong smell of the bleach around and especially around Mr Shaw. Because of the rain, the shoeprints he left in the garden have disappeared. Finally, he forged some drag marks on the corridor. The marks are fake. He just wanted us to believe that Mavas is the murderer. Right, Mr. Shaw?”

“Yes. I murdered her.”

“But, why?” Eastria asked.

“Because I love her, but she didn’t love me anymore. I want to own her forever, so I killed her,” Mr. Shaw sighed.

“One last question, if you really love her, why did you kill her?” “Yes,” Mr. Shaw looked down and smiled, “Always.”

The case ended. But Mandy was still very puzzled, she didn't understand the reason of killing Mrs. Shaw. Eastria sat with her and said, “Love can exist in many ways, maybe we only have not discovered it yet.” The murder case had ended, but the story of Eastria and Mandy still went on.

Chong Tsz Kei, 2A

## Picture Writing

On an ordinary day, Danny went to school on time. The first lesson was Liberal Studies. Miss Cheng came into the classroom and started teaching about endangered animals. The students paid attention to the lesson because Miss Cheng emphasized that the animals would extinct soon if the hunters kept killing them.

Danny loved animals very much. He was still thinking about the topic of endangered animals during Mathematics lesson. Suddenly, he heard a voice, 'ROAR!' He was shocked because other students did not react to the loud sound. Then, a strong light appeared and Danny was brought to another place. When he started to notice the surroundings, he found that he was wearing a red cape, a pair of magical gloves, a belt and a shirt which had a picture of Earth on it. He found that he had turned into Eco Boy.

Danny heard the loud voice again. He flew to where the voice was produced. And he saw two hunters were trying to use guns to shoot a tiger. The tiger was roaring and the voice it made was what Danny had heard before. The tiger was calling for help.

Danny felt a strong power was coming out from his gloves. He punched the two hunters and said, 'Stop killing the tiger! You are destroying the nature! The animals are going to extinct because of you

guys!'. Danny used his powers again. The plants next to them became traps and hung the two hunters in the sky so that the two hunters could not move. The tiger escaped and became safe. Danny sent the two hunters to the police station.

A strong light brought Danny back to the classroom and continued the lesson. The next day, the news reported that Eco Boy had helped the tiger. Danny's classmates found that the Eco Boy was Danny. Finally Danny became famous and stopped the hunters whenever he heard some animals calling for help.

By Celia Leung, 2A

#### Teacher's profile



Once upon a time, there was an intelligent, admirable and easy-going man. He is a teacher and all students he has taught liked him. Do you want to know him? Definitely, he is our teacher who teaches us Integrated Science and also teaches Mathematics in the senior forms.

Mr. Hui Chi Man is his full name. He has kept his birthday from us and thus we couldn't get any information from him. Mr. Hui loves Sport and exercise. When he is free, he will go jogging, play badminton or even go hiking as they are all his hobbies. Mr. Hui is fond of seafood, he told us that he also like to eat bread but seafood is still his favourite. Mr. Hui said that he taught because first he wanted to find a job but most importantly, he wanted to keep in touch with teenagers and he felt young. Mr. Hui also likes to go to open places such as parks or country parks.

We asked Mr. Hui a couple of questions. First I asked Mr. Hui, 'Do you have a pet and what kind of pets it is?' Mr. Hui responded, 'Yes, our family have three cats, Miss Sze and my daughter bought them home.' Then, Nicole asked, 'What kind of pets do you like?' 'Actually, I don't like pets,

but since my family like cats so I keep them,' said Mr. Hui. After that, Charlie asked how Mr. Hui took care of his three pets. Mr. Hui told us that he did not take care of the cats but instead he played with them and Miss Sze, his daughter and the domestic helpers took up the responsibility to take care of the three cats. Melissa then asked that if Mr. Hui that if Mr. Hui loved his three cats and what the cats did in return. Mr. Hui replied that of course he loved his three cats Dor Dor, Little Cream and Eason and when he came back from school to home, they came out and stood in his front. At last, Mannix asked what Mr. Hui would do if the cats passed away. Mr. Hui appeared to be sad and said gloomily that he would be very upset and cried.

During the interview, Mr. Hui talked very humorously and the atmosphere of the window had been quite vivid. We enjoy talking to Mr. Hui and discovered him better. We also learnt and experienced how to do an interview. It was a terrific interview.

Valida Pau, 2A

Class: 2A            Student : Natalie Chan Hoi Tung (16)

Title of the book: Chinese Cinderella

Author            : Adeline Yen Mah

Publisher        : Random House

This book is a biography of the author, Adeline Yen Mah. She was born in Tianjin in 1937. She had been an unloved child since she was born. Her mother died of giving birth to her. Her whole family considered her "bad luck". No one treated her as part of the family except Aunt Baba and her grandfather.

Adeline lived with her big family, her grandparents, Aunt Baba, father, elder sister and four elder brothers, she was the fifth, but after her mother's death, her father remarried a Eurasian woman, half French and half Chinese. She was very cruel to her stepchildren. She mistreated the rest of the family, especially Adeline. Adeline was often slapped and isolated.

Adeline had always been the top girl in her class since she was in kindergarten. That was the only way her father noticed her existence and she got praised. However, her sisters and brothers were jealous of her; they also mistreated her. Luckily, Aunt Baba was on her side and encouraged her to do better and not to give up. Aunt Baba was her

best friend; she shared a room with her and took care of her.

Adeline's family was very wealthy; they had a cook, a chauffeur and a car, and lived in a western-style house. But under Adeline's stepmother control, she had to walk to school even in heavy rain. Her clothes were old, while her stepbrother and stepsister got the newest clothes. She was insignificant at home. But at school, she had friends and was a top student, everyone loved her. She was elected the class president. She loved reading and writing. She lived in a world that no one could disturb her.

In times of war, her family and Adeline had to move to Shanghai and Hong Kong respectively. When Adeline arrived in Hong Kong, she was sent to a boarding school. She felt lonely because she could not contact Aunt Baba. During those two years in Hong Kong, she was only allowed to return home three times. At the age of thirteen, she skipped grades and was a Form Five student. During her free time, she kept writing. Under her teacher's encouragement, she joined a writing competition. At last, she won first prize in the International Play-writing Competition held in London. This was posted on Hong Kong's newspaper, and her father was very surprised and she begged her father to let her study in England medical school. That's how Adeline's life changed because of her talent in writing.

I feel sorry for Adeline while I am reading the book. I cannot imagine the way she did not give up but create her own world while she was being mistreated. Besides, it is about Adeline's childhood, it also introduces some Chinese traditions. The Chinese considered a boy more important than a girl, her whole family considered Adeline "bad luck". She mentioned her grandmother's feet, they had been bound since her grandmother was three. She told Adeline she could barely walk and was in great pain throughout her life. This shows the old-fashioned and unreasonable traditions.

Adeline showed her courage and strength when she faced difficulties. She did not ask for help before she tried. She stood at the bad situation and tried to find a better way to deal with it. I appreciated her strength, truthfulness to others and hard work even when she was being left alone.



This shows Adeline lacked love and warmth from her family. I could not imagine if my father did not even know my name and birthday. I feel I am lucky that I have a loving family and caring parents, and I am not born in the time when boys and girls were unequal. I understand that even Adeline was born into a rich family, but she was not happy, she was ignored by her family. I realize that the two most important things for a family are love and tolerance, not money. I have learnt from Adeline that once you have set your mind on something, if you work hard and fight for it, your dreams will come true. If she had not found an interest in writing and tried to join the writing competition, her life would not change. I think she was a genius; she skipped class and was always the top girl. She managed to work harder when she was hopeless. I may not be able to face problems alone, and hence I really appreciate her bravery, especially when she was only a child. This book is more than a biography of Adeline, but a book to teach us how to face difficulties and loneliness.

### Study smarter, not harder!

I think everyone may be confused about ways to study well. How to do revision? Don't worry. Let me help you. The main thing about studying well is to first study smart. Preparing for a test shouldn't involve staying up all night before an exam. Studying well requires preparation ahead of time. The trick to studying well is learning a few tricks as well as your finding your own preferences. There are a few methods in the following:

First, take care of yourself. They are "D.S.E.E". Drink well, Sleep well, Eat well, 7-8 well. Drink plenty of water for better concentration during studying. Studying hydrated can benefit your memory as well; Eat well for gaining energy to study; Sleep well for getting a full night rest, the optimal time is between 7-8 hours; Do exercise for maintaining a healthy body and boosting your brain's capacity.

Second, studying smart is essential. There are seven steps. (1)Stick to a schedule for planning the best time for you to work. (2)Understand what you're learning. Stop memorizing only; spend extra time on using your imagination to draw links from what you're studying to aspect of your life. (3)Use flash cards. This is one of the best techniques you can use in studying that stretches across almost every subject. The act of writing out the information onto the card enables your brain to focus on the subject. (4)Rewrite your notes. Some people may find this excruciating because they have already spent a fair amount of time creating the notes in class. (5)Take breaks. After spending a decent amount of time studying, take a quick break. This is a tried and effective learning method. (6)Test yourself. After studying for your allotted period of time, test yourself during the last 20-30 minutes.



This is a good way of reviewing everything you have just gone over and will cause the concepts you've learned to sink deeper into your brain. (7) Avoid cramming. Cramming, or studying extensively the night before, doesn't work. Most people need a few days to review their notes for the information to really sink in.

Lastly, choose good study partners. Like me, when I was Form One. I joined the Big Brothers/Sisters Scheme. Now, I am one of the members. I am pretty sure that we can help you. No matter study skills or tips. It is a great club.

Stop hesitating. Come and join us.

**By Jacky XIE CHEN ZHI JIE, 3C**

Title: Auggie & Me--- three wonder stories

Author: R. J. Palacio

Publisher: Penguin Random House UK

Genre: Fiction--- others

### **Summary:**

This book isn't the sequel of "Wonder" in a traditional sense, but kind of an expansion into Auggie Pullman's world. There are three short stories related to Auggie, which mentioned his three "friends" lives. The three leading characters are Julian, Christopher and Charlotte. Julian is a big bad guy in Auggie's story, who only bullied and hurt Auggie--- even he's one of the welcome buddies of Auggie. However, Auggie's arrival also turned his life 360°... "The Julian Chapter" is all about how his life was, from Julian's angle. "Pluto" is the story of Christopher, the earliest, maybe even the first friend of Auggie while he was still home schooled. Christopher was there with Auggie through the horrible surgeries, the new coming of Daisy (his pretty sister)... all his early hardships and heartbreaks. But something happened that had greatly challenged their friendship, and this made the difficulty. "Pluto" is all related to Christopher's hard choice. The remaining child is Charlotte, who was the only girl chosen to be the welcome buddies. In "Wonder", she's always NICE and KIND; as she is a good friend of Auggie but she hasn't sided children like Julian, too. But, her life wasn't really that kind to her in reality. She actually suffered a lot from the "girls", which the chapter "Shingaling" would be about her life in Beecher Prep during fifth grade. So all stories are relevant to August Pullman, but just went deeper into stories of his people surrounding him, and from different angles.

\*1: "Wonder" is a fiction about a child who has a very special facial deformity that only shows his eyes, named August Pullman (Auggie). The story is encouraging and popular around the world, and "Auggie and Me" is kind of an expansion to it.

### **Comments:**

I bought this book because I was deeply impressed by "Wonder", which is so encouraging and touching--- I even cried out while I was reading. And therefore, I always hope to see a sequel, as a reader and a big fan. Though "Auggie & Me" isn't a proper sequel at all, but I'm still looking forward to it--- and this masterpiece, once again, surprises me! I think this book's storyline is fantastic,

however you're suggested to read "Wonder" first, so that you'll know all the personalities of characters and the complicated relationships. Well I must say the author, R. J. Palacio, was really a GOOD author---there are many other characters she could write about, but she chose these three--- with a more impressive story and a really different effect comes out. We might blame Julian for such a hardship suffered by Auggie, but this book definitely clarifies and justifies for Julian--- since he was miserable too with Auggie's sudden arrival. It totally changed his life, and the effect would be endlessly enlarged during the teenage years. He's once so popular, everyone wants to be his friend... and Auggie got rid of his beautiful school life directly, even his little "crush", Summer, became Auggie's no.1 fan! I started to know more about the reason of the bullying case in Beecher Prep. For Christopher, I would be really thankful to have him in my life if I was Auggie. Though he at last didn't contact much with Auggie, I think he did much to contribute to Auggie's colourful life--- he didn't even bully him! However, the story "Pluto" makes me understand that sometimes you have to put something down to get another one. It's possible to keep both, but in Christopher's case, if he wanted to have a happy school life, he has to wave Auggie, as his new friends aren't that like Auggie. So maybe, not to bully Auggie or side him was already the best he could do. I must say I have the most agreement with "Shingaling", cause it's kind of a reality I face every day. Charlotte is a girl, and everyone knows how complex the feelings are of a teen girl. Especially when a girl (like me) knows nothing about those relationships and "secrets", she can't "thrive" in school. It seems that I over-estimate how "dangerous" girls are, but it's sadly true. I once had a school life like Charlotte (even till now), who had to face the mean girls all the time--- but I wasn't that puzzled anymore, because I suddenly understand, that you ought to be your own self, but not to change in order to fit in and please others. Anyway, the book is a masterpiece that impresses everybody after "Wonder", and I highly recommend this book to all of you--- to read, to learn, and to feel!

Tai Siu Wing, Jessica, 2B

### **Study Smart, Not Just Hard**

Studying is an important thing. The methods to study well are also important. I am a member of Big Brother/Sister Scheme and I will tell you how to study well.

First, I have some study skills for you. You must plan your time to study. You can put more time on the subject that you think is more difficult than other subjects. You can also revise the notes which are given in the lesson.

Although studying is important, you should take enough rest. A healthy body is also important to us.

Second, during the lesson, you should pay attention to the teachers' teaching. You can jot down the notes and do revision at home. If you have any

problems, you should not be afraid, you should ask the teachers. The teachers welcome us to ask them question and they will help you to solve the problems.

Third, during the exam, you should calm down. You can take a deep breath to relax. You should read all the instructions in the exam paper and follow the instructions so you will not make careless mistakes. Try your best to do all the questions in the exam.

If you have problems about how to study well, you can find your study partners like Big Brother/Sister Scheme and clubs. You can discuss the problems together and ask others questions. Studying with your study partners is a happy thing but you should not just play with them, studies come first.

These are all the methods about how to study better, hope you can adopt these methods.

**By Andy Chan Ka Chi, 3C**

2. TSA 2012 W2

From: [jackiewong@skfgirss.edu.hk](mailto:jackiewong@skfgirss.edu.hk)

To: [misslai@skfgirss.edu.hk](mailto:misslai@skfgirss.edu.hk)

Subject: Choosing the Australia trip activities

Date: 7th October,2016

Dear Miss Lai,

I am going to talk about my opinion on the activities of the school trip to Australia. I have chosen some common activities and three of my ideas are listed.

First, I suggest going to a zoo with the students. We can meet famous Austrian animals there, such as kangaroos and koalas. They are very special because we can only see them in Australia. Apart from learning about them, students can earn more experience of the local's wildlife characteristics. Also the animals are cute and the students may love them.

My second idea is to let students to meet Australian students. This is a good way for us to learn English. Our students can speak more English through talking to the Australian

students. It can also help them to meet new friends and it must be an unforgettable experience for them.

The third activity suggested is visiting a museum and I think it's the best activity. We can go to the famous Sydney Museum Of Art. First, it doesn't cost too much. It is much cheaper than going to a zoo or climbing an iconic. Second, we can see a lots of famous paintings and artworks there. Students who love arts must be excited. Thirdly, we can find out more about Australia's history through those paintings. Students who love history will be interested in it also. So that, I think it is a good suggestion.

That's all of my opinion about the Australia school trip's activities. Hope that my ideas can help you.

Best regards,

Jackie Wong

**By Natalie HO Sum Chi, 3C**

#### Imaginative writing-Holes

Reporter 1: Good evening, this is Green Lake News. I am Gladys Leung, the reporter.

Kissin' Kate Barlow, the most dreadful and mysterious female robber in the century, is notorious for robbing banks and rich people. She has been a wanted criminal for years, but no one can catch her. People may either be robbed by her or left a kiss mark on their faces which is the sign of death. To everyone's bewilderment, what makes Kissin' Kate Barlow so dangerous? As Loretta Hon reports, one of Kate's student shares her views of Kissin' Kate Barlow.

Student: Kissin' Kate Barlow? She was my idol as she taught us in the school. She was an intelligent, sophisticated and charismatic lady. Her peaches which were preserved in jars were called the "food for the angels". I admired her very much, but I got no clue why she was driven crazy. My parents told me that she had fallen in love with a no-good-rotten black called Sam, who sold onions in the Green lake region. They also

condemned Kate Barlow's act as when Sam kissed her, she kissed back.

Reporter 2: What's wrong with kissing a black?

Student: My parents insisted that it was prohibited by law. I don't know why kissing black doesn't sound too wrong! I think my parents are prejudiced and having racial discrimination. Plus, I think the people living in Green Lake were lunatic, they destroyed the school and killed Sam. So, the god punishes us. You see, the Lake is dried and no rain has been fallen since that day Sam got killed.

Reporter 1: Rumour has it Kissin Kate Barlow can change the climate. Since that day Sam was shot dead, there is no rain in the Lake region. Then, does Kissin Kate Barlow have some miraculous Power? However, at any rate, it jeopardizes the living of the region.

Charles Walker: I was once the leader of Green Lake region and I owned the Lake. I was rich, but it's all gone with the drought! We all are the victims as we suffer from poverty and hunger. We are confronted with water shortage every day. Why the god punish us? We are innocent! Why doesn't it punish the unscrupulous Kissin Kate Barlow?

Linda Walker: I never admit that I was her student as I am ashamed. She fell in love with a black. Moreover, my husband and I want to find her desperately. We will revenge on her for robbing all our property.

Reporter 1: Recently, Stanley Yelnats was robbed by Kissin Kate Barlow and he was left with no food or water walking in deserted land for half a month. He was saved by people and sent to the hospital. Loretta Hon tell us more.

Stanley Yelnats: Blimey, Kissin' Kate Barlow... I will never forget this name for the rest of my life. She is a devil. She robbed me and I was struggling for life for about three days. Fortunately, the god guided me to a divine place that saved me. Then, I was rescued by somebody and an angel nursed me back to health.

Reporter 2: Are you still having nightmare because you dream about her?

Stanley Yelnats: Yes. She is terrible!

Reporter 1: Finally, police call on the public to be armed when citizens are going out in order to ensure your safety. Anyone who has seen Kate Barlow or has any information is urged to contact the police. That's the news, good night.

By Chan Ki Yuen, 3A

### Article on charity

Drug abuse --- meaning the addiction to drugs. According to a feature article of the Census and Statics Department, through the concreted efforts of the government and the community, drug abuse in Hong Kong has ameliorated in the past few years. However, hidden drug abuse is still a concern.

I am Kathryn Wong, the chairlady of the school Social Service Group and I will help to solve this serious social problem by organizing activities for a charity organization. The charity organization I will help is Caritas Lok Hee Club since they do not just focus on providing drug treatment but also help the drug addicts to get their life back to track.

I suggested 3 activities for this charity organization. The first charity is a workshop for secondary students and their parents which introduce the efforts of taking drugs and the consequences of breaking the laws. Since most of the drug addicts are adolescents, it is important to educate them and their parents to prevent drug abuse.

The second activity is 'Drug Prevention Fun Fair'. Those in attendance can enjoy a fun-filled day with a variety of games and activities --- all of which provide drug prevention, inspirational and wellness messages to the youth. This event focuses on encouraging the youth to channel energy and free time into hobbies and other positive interests. It is hoped these interest will give the youth direction toward healthy, productive lifestyles.

The third activity is 'Drug Prevent Micro Movie Competition'. Micro movie is popular in these days. The cost and time needed for a micro movie is much less than a normal movie. Student or other amateurs can afford the price and film a micro movie by themselves. During the filming of a micro movie which promotes drug prevention, they will know more information about this and the micro movie can be uploaded to social network sites to spread the idea of drug prevention.

Here are some methods to promote the activities, for the first activity, we can have an announcement in the morning assembly at school. For the second and third activities, we can place some posters in the Community center and have some promotion on the social network sites.

I hope that the students will take part in the activities and help the charity.

3B Kathryn Wong

### Article on study skills

Dear form.1 students, have you ever wondered why you always can't get a high mark even you have paid a lot of effort? Though the exam was over, I, a member of the Big Brother and Sister Scheme, am going to share some of my ideas and methods to study better.

First, be active in lessons. If you want to get a high mark, revising books and notes isn't enough. Besides listening to the teachers or taking notes, you should have your own critical thinking which means the idea of questioning. Always ask questions which you don't understand. Never treat asking as an annoying action, as asking provides an opportunity for you to improve and learn more. Answer questions is also a good way to strengthen your knowledge. Plus, you'll get a daily mark too. Then why not try to do so in lesson?

Second, use proper revision methods. Are you the one who always burn your midnight oil till 1a.m. or 2a.m. or the one whose dark circles can be obviously found on the face? If you're, please change the way you do revision. For more efficiency, plan your time with a timetable. You may plan it plan it by the level of difficulty of different subjects. However remember you must follow the timetable; otherwise you'll not reach the expected result. Apart from this, I suggest making some 'Question cards' for memorizing. Force yourself to take it everywhere with you, or stick it somewhere in your room or house. In addition to this, you may also read out the details during the revision. Furthermore, I suggest doing more past papers and exercise. Therefore, you can apply the information in books to the exercise and know which part is your weakness.

Third, take good care of yourself. Don't see yourself as a superman, especially during exam. Not enough sleep and relaxation will cause more pressure and anxiety to both your mental and physical body. You should follow your physiological clock, wake up and sleep on time. Take breaks after a long revision. You may choose to listen to some mellifluous music to relax yourself, or go out for a walk. Let me give you a little tip here, instead of doing revision till the midnight, why not choose to wake up earlier in the morning?

Finally, my suggestions may not be suited for everyone. Take the one which suits you but not follow them all blindly. Last but not least, though exams seem to be so important, take a good care of yourself and love yourself are the most important that you should learn, because 'success can't be achieved without health'.

By Yoyo Fong, 3B

*Title : The Time Keeper*

*Author : Mitch Albom*

*Publisher : SPHERE*

*Genre : Fiction*

### **Summary:**

Dor and Alli had been friends since they were children. They were married when they grew up. Nim, the king, asked Dor to help him to rule the kingdom, but Dor refused as he wanted to invent clock. Nom was mad and forced Dor and Alli out of the village. Their lives became hard, but Alli was optimistic and she helped an old lady who was their neighbor. Unfortunately, Alli died because she fell ill. Dor was very depressed. He regretted that he spent too much time on measuring time and invented the first clock, and spent too less time with his wife. Dor was punished for trying to measure time by being banished to a cave for a thousand years. He became 'Father of Time' and had to listen to every person who lamented about not having enough time.

He heard two voices, the first one was Sarah Lemon. She grew up in a single family. When she was in high school, she fell in love with a boy called Ethan because he was attractive. However, Ethan ended up rejecting and humiliating her. After Sarah's parents divorced and being rejected by her crush, she decided to commit suicide. However, Dor saw these and saved her.

The second one was Victor Delamonte, the richest man in the world. He was dying of cancer and kidney failure. He felt he was running out of time because he wanted to live forever. He had a new and bold idea, he wanted to cheat death through cryogenic freezing. Knowing his wife, Grace would disapprove, he kept the secret behind her. Victor encouraged Grace to attend a gala, because he needed to freeze his body before he died. He thought it was the right time to do it.

Dor saw these and changed their fates by stopping time and showing them their futures. Sarah's mom, Lorraine was grieving her death, and Victor failed in his plan of freezing himself and 'reborn'.



Finally, both Sarah and Victor realised that their choices would only hurt those they loved the most. Dor made time began again. This time , Sarah and Victor decided to continue their lives.

The story ended by Victor giving Sarah money, so she could go to school and learnt how to cure the cancer Victor was suffering. Dor returned to his own time, he held his wife, Alli, when she was dying.

### **Comment:**

Have you ever imagined, what would you do if your life wasn't scheduled? What would you do if you weren't dreading a deadline? What would you do if time didn't exist?

After reading this book, I realised that time is very precious. we shouldn't just measuring time, we should treasure our time and live in the moment.

The Time Keeper is about the meaning of time. It is an intriguing story about the man who first invented time and how it evolved over six thousand years, and it really makes you think about how important time seems to be nowadays. It truly is an inspiring story that is also very well written.

The Time Keeper is without doubt a very interesting book with a strong message. It was filled with deep human truth, this unforgettable story inspired me to reconsider my own notions of time and make me realised how precious time is. I was convinced by the characters. In addition, the chapters with Dor, the man who invented the world's first clock and start measuring time, are incredible and very thought-provoking. This Mitch Albom novel is a quick read and very well written. I would definitely recommend it to all of you because it is very educational and It will definitely make you see things in a different perspective!

In the words of 'Father of Time', "when you are measuring life, you are not living it. I know."

By Tsui Wing Sze, 3B

## **ARTICLE ON CHARITY**

As the population is continuing to grow, there are more and more problems in Hong Kong, like cyber bullying, housing problem and ageing population. Also, the citizens have

somehow lose their minds to do something inhumanely. We are all too busy with our lives and forgot the love among our society.

I am the chairperson of the school Social Service Group. The aim of our group is to let students know more about the social problems and make use of their abilities to help others. These days, we have seen a lot of news about animal abuse and many animals are abandoned. That's why we have decided to help the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). We choose this charity because many of the students stated that they are animal lovers in the survey which we conducted last month in order to ask what activities they expect us to hold in the following days.

There are 3 activities that we are going to organize for the charity. First, we are going to organize a trip to the SPCA's head quarter in Wan Chai. Students will know more about the aims of it, including rescuing the abandoned, sick and injured animals, rehoming them and helping to control the animal population. This can raise students' awareness of helping the animals.

Second, we will visit the center of SPCA in Sai Kung. Students will have a chance to play with the animals and know their background before they were saved by the SPCA. Through playing with the animals, students will build up good relationships and enjoy spending time with them. So their interest in helping the animals will be further promoted.

Last but not least, we will organize a flag selling activity for the SPCA. After raising money, we can help more animals and offer a better living environment to them. Also, the medical care for them will be improved too.

We are inviting students to join these activities. We are going to make posters and stick them on every classroom's board. Next, we will make announcements during the morning assemblies. I hope you will take part in the activities and help the charity. Remember to ask all of your friends to join us!

Yang Hiu Ching Rita, 3B

### Saving Food

Nowadays, the issue of food waste has become more and more serious. Some people do not have enough food to eat while some people are wasting food. According to a survey, one-seventh people in Hong Kong are in poverty. Globally, the problem of food waste is also serious.

As the chairperson of the school Social Service Group, I want to help the poor people in Hong Kong by organizing activities and co-operate with the charity-Food Angel. The aim of the charity is to reduce food waste at source, alleviate hunger, relieve poverty and educate the next

generation. Also, the programme they planned is useful. It helps a lot of poor people. Therefore, I think our school should lend them a helping hand in order to change this situation.

First, I think we can invite the staff of Food Angel to our school on 12<sup>th</sup> December to have a talk at School hall. This can educate the students in our school on the importance of food and not to waste food.

Second, I think members of Social Service Group can organize a funfair which the theme is "Food". Through playing games, students can learn the ways to save food, and the reasons why we should save food. This can be held in the school hall or covered playground after school on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Finally, I think we can invite students to be volunteers helping Food Angel. We can invite students in our school to help Food Angel to distribute their nutritious food to the people in need. Students can know the seriousness of the issue through visiting the people in need and they would be happy because they can see the smiles of the poor people.

I think these three activities can teach students in our school an important lesson about food. Therefore, I would make announcement in the morning assembly, design posters and distribute leaflets to encourage students to join the program. I hope all of you would take part and help the charity!

Be good! Save Food!

Lend your helping hand to the poor people!

By Mabel Chu, 3B

Dear Editor,

I am the chairman of 'C for Culture', a culture group which promotes street culture. Recently some complaints have been made against busking, criticizing that busking is annoying and unattractive. As an advocate of street culture, I am writing to justify the value of street performance.

First of all, street performance contributes to a city's vibrancy. It brings exhilaration to the performers, relaxation to the audience, and liveliness to the streets. Crowds gather to enjoy the variety of forms of entertainment, so the streets will be more interesting, dynamic and worth staying. Not only does street performance attract the locals, but it also catches tourists' eyes. Through street performance, tourists can recognize the talent of Hong Kong people, which helps improve the image and reputation of Hong Kong. If more resources are allocated to street performance, it can even become the symbol of Hong Kong. Taking the United Kingdom as an example, the UK government supports street performance a lot, giving it a chance to thrive. As a result, street performance is paramount to keep a city vibrant and appealing.

Second, street performance helps connect people. People in Hong Kong are usually very busy, but street performance is attractive enough to make them slow down in a fast-paced society. They are willing to spend time to enjoy the shows, sometimes they may even concentrate on the shows for too long that they lose track of time. In fact, the magic behind street performance is that there is a genuine connection between the performers and the audience. In order to gain popularity and break the ice, the performance is usually interactive. For instance, in Mong Kok, one of street performers' favourite spots, the freestyle football performers like to invite their audience to complete some simple tasks with them. Another example is that a few months earlier, there was a video that shows a Chinese woman watching a street performer singing Under a Vast Sky, a popular song of Beyond, in Tokyo. At first the performer sings in Japanese, but then he sings in Cantonese, bringing the woman a sense of nostalgia. Tears streaming down her face immediately. The emotional moment proves that street performance is the bridge between the performers' heart and the audience's.

Last but not least, street performance helps promote cultural diversity. Street performers combine different cultures into one particular show, and audience can have a better understanding of street culture when watching the performance. In Mong Kok there is a Japanese street performer called Mr. Wally. He dresses up like Wally, the main character of the children book 'Where's Wally?'. Despite the fact that he only sings Japanese songs, he has a lot of supports on the Internet and in reality. People like him for his distinctive outfit, beautiful voice and passion for performing. Thanks to Mr. Wally, Japanese songs are included as a part of Hong Kong's street culture. Cultural diversity is therefore promoted.

I very much hope people will be more devoted to street performance and become a true supporter of street culture.

Yours faithfully,  
Chris Wong

By Mak Hoi Ching, 5E

#### Speech---animal welfare (add. writing)

Good morning, fellow students. It is my honour to be invited here to give a speech about respect for animals.

Not only do people want respect, animals need it too. Respect is the combination of involvement and keeping a distance. It is not merely about patting and feeding. Instead, it is about giving them care and love and treating them like one of us, at the same time respecting their privacy

and freedom. A pet dog deserves a cozy bed and three meals a day while a wild bird has its right to live in peace, spreading its wings and gliding through the air without constraints.

Recently, there has been a proliferation in the cases of animal cruelty. Forty dogs and cats were found starving at a Sai Ying Poon flat. A dog was beaten to death by its owner. But there are only the tip of an iceberg. People's lack of respect for animals has created cages and graves for them. For years working at the SPCA in the animal welfare division, I have witnessed the plight of many animals and pets, and encountered scenes in which their legs were broken, skins were ripped by humans and tears stood on the rims of their eyes. Many are victimised by the irresponsible and delinquent behaviours of pet owners, such as abandonment and physical abuse.

Animals, especially pets, are robbed of love and respect. Their moaning and groaning should not be neglected. My speech is an allegation against those who abuse animals, also a reminder to the public. To change people's attitude towards animals— treat them with respect instead of indifference, things need to be done. Apart from regular talks and exhibitions, I suggest utilizing the power of new technology to shed light on the issue. By writing posts and publishing photos on social media like Instagram, the message of respecting animals can be viewed by a larger audience. Another innovative ideas would be filming a documentary regarding the situation of stray dogs and cats or animal abuse. What's more, we can develop an app featuring animal icons like Grumpy Cat, which can foster people's respect for animals through interactive and intriguing games.

It is never a walk in the park to change people's attitude towards animals but we are inching forward. I hope you have all benefited after hearing these and would act to show respect for animals. Thank you.

By Ng Sze Nga, 5E

Good afternoon, everyone. My name's Chris Wong and I work at the SPCA in the animal welfare division. It's an honour to be able to address you all this afternoon. Today I'm going to talk about respect for animals. To begin with, I'll look at the meaning of respect for animals, then I'll go on to talk about recent examples of animal cruelty. Lastly I'll suggest some ways to change people's attitudes towards animals.

First things first, all animals deserve respect. They all deserve our love and care, and they have the right to live free from pain and suffering. Have you ever heard of Five Freedoms? They outline five aspects of animal welfare under human control, including Freedom from Hunger and Thirst, Freedom from Discomfort, Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease, Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour, and Freedom from Fear and Distress. When we follow Five Freedoms and devote our love, care and protection to animals, we show our respect for them.

The second point I'd like to make is about the issue of animal cruelty. Last week forty dogs and cats were found starving in a Sai Ying Pun flat. A few days earlier a man was

charged for beating his dog to death. In fact, when I was reading these two pieces of news, I couldn't believe my eyes. This is too horrible and distressing. It's neither humane nor morally acceptable to torture animals. As pet owners they shoulder the responsibility of treating their pets well and protecting their pets from harm, but now the ones harming the pets are exactly their owners - isn't it ironic?

Lastly I'd like to talk about ways to change people's attitudes towards animals. At schools the concepts of animal welfare should be included in the curriculum, so that the youngsters can learn to respect animals at an early age. The media should broadcast cases of animal cruelty more often, so as to raise people's awareness of this issue. Animal welfare organizations also act as a catalyst to promote respect for animals, since they're dedicated to take care of animals and protect them from suffering. As humans with conscience, we should love and respect animals from the bottom of our hearts. Besides, we should protect animals as much as we can and stand up against all forms of animal cruelty.

I very much hope you'll make an effort to love, protect and respect animals. Thank you very much for taking your time to listen.

By Mak Hoi Ching, 5E

Long task/ Speech/ Social Issues – Write a speech about your dream of a better city.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am one of those perplexed teenagers from Hong Kong. Today I am sharing with all of you the existing problems in aspects of education and housing of my city. At the same time I would also like to talk about my dream of a better Hong Kong in these two aspects.

Education first. The atmosphere of the education field in Hong Kong is obvious --- exam-oriented. All students are drilled to be exam machines, both teachers and students are obsessed towards anything related to scores and awards, and most of the teenagers are also dwelled on so-called exam skills that they jotted down in tutorial classes. We all have countless homework and assessments. Together with the extremely long school hour, we can hardly link happiness and schooldays together. Schools are brimmed with pressure. Students suicide is now becoming a social issue. Their demise is a concrete proof on such resentful phenomenon, though our Education Bureau is still trying to deny that.

In my dream of a better city, as a student, I shall focus on the education aspect first. I wish that one day we can receive inspiring assignments encouraging creativity, instead of stiff thesis styled paper. I wish we all can have a work-life balance, spending less time on distressing homework

but enjoy more while learning. I wish the word pressure will no longer be a synonym for schooling, while enlightenment will.

For housing, here are some sad facts. Hong Kong has been the world's most unaffordable major housing market for 7 consecutive years since 2001. The current property price is 18 times of average household income. You may say people can still opt for public housing. However, compare to 2008, the number of people who applied and are waiting for public housing increases by 44% dramatically. Living environment is also a big problem. Sub-divided housing and cage-houses are the only choice for lots of Hong Kongers. However, they are not just small but also dangerous in terms of fire risk and hygiene.

To imagine a better Hong Kong, I would like to envisage a society that everyone can afford their own shelter, a society in which property prices and rents are reasonable. People can live in their homes safely and peacefully. Hong Kong citizens can lift the giant weight off our shoulders.

'You may say I am a dreamer but I am not the only one.' I believe all of you sitting here want a better future. And I believe that's a better Hong Kong which is well worth to dream and build. We are the future, so let's thrive for our dreams for a change for the better. Thank you.

By Wong Yuk Wang, 5E

#### A letter to the editor--- street culture (add. writing)

Dear Editor,

Recently some complaints have been made against busking. As the chairman of a culture group that dedicates to promoting street culture, I am writing to illustrate the value of street performance and express my enthusiastic support towards the street performers.

Street performance, which aims at providing people with entertainment, has three core values that are of great significance to the city's integrity. First, it inputs the city with music and arts, fortifying it into a place that brims with vibrancy. Let's compare the weekdays and weekends of Sai Yeung Choi Street in Mong Kok. Strolling through the street on weekdays, we would only see crowds of people and cars, while their moaning and groaning fill up the place. However, what we witness on weekends is a complete contrary. A multitude of tunes from various performers weave together a wondrous symphony for the city, powering it up with liveliness, not only music, but dance performances like flash mobs that comprises of strong beats and uplifting rhythms also contribute to the vibrancy of the city.

The second core value of street performance is creating harmony among people. A city robbed of street performance is a city robbed of connection. Music and arts are universal languages that could grow beyond the limits of culture, race and gender. Integrating these elements in street performance, it draws people from different parties who share the same taste and interest together. Any stranger could stop by and become the audience, indulging

himself in the fantasy of arts. The most concrete example that shows connection through street performance is when the audience interacts with the performers by singing and dancing along. Someone in the crowd may also be invited to participate in performing magic tricks. Enhancing and fostering interaction and connection among people, street performance consolidates the harmony of a place.

The third value is to promote cultural diversity. Shedding all the inhibitions, street performers could choose his style and way of performance according to their preference. As a result, a large diversity of performances could be found. After listening to Cantonese songs on one side, you could hear Japanese pop music from the famous local performer, Mr Wally on the other side of the street. To sum up, street performance enables different cultures to coexist and harmonize.

Street performance is crucial to our culture and the city, like blood in the veins. It is understandable that nearby shops and residents could be affected by the noise. But if we learn to embrace and encompass, we could be exposed to a more spectacular world and this precious culture could be enshrined.

Yours faithfully,  
Chris Wong

By Ng Sze Nga, 5E

5D (2) Chung Ka Ho Tommy

*According to a recent study about the fitness levels of children around the world, Asian children nowadays are 30 percent less fit than those 30 to 40 years ago, and children living in Hong Kong are only half as fit as their peers in West.*

*Write a letter to the editor of the South China Daily giving possible reasons for this trend and making suggestions about what could be done to help improve the situation.*

Dear Editor,

I am writing to **elucidate** why Asian children nowadays are not fit and healthy enough. Recently, a study about the fitness levels of children around the world indicated that Asia children at present are 30 percent less fit than those 30 to 40 years ago. The situation is pretty **disconcerting**. There is an urgent need to **put a halt to** such a bad situation. **Prior to rectifying the situation**, it is **of paramount importance** to know the reasons for this trend.

The advancement of technology is probably one of the **black hands** behind the problem. In recent years, with the emergence of smart phones, **a myriad of** children have gained access to them. In this day and age, it is **patently** clear to see that nearly all Asian children hold a smartphone when they are going out. In the past, Asian children acquired entertainment by doing outdoor activities like playing with their friends and doing sports. These activities require students to move and run, causing them to sweat and using up their energy. As a result, Asian children were said to be fit enough. Owing to the presence of social media like Facebook and Instagram, Youtube, mobile games and Korean pop culture, the hearts of Asian children are **captivated** by them. The time that the old Asian children spent on outdoor activities is now spent on smartphones. Because of this, Asian children nowadays **lose sight of** sports, causing them to be less fit than those in the past.



Nonetheless, **not only are** Asian students less fit than those 30 to 40 years ago, **but also** much weaker than their peers in the West. The **perverted** Asian education system will undoubtedly be one of the **culprits** of the trend. When it comes to the diversity and balance of education, Asian countries are **no match for** the West. **A wide array** of Asian countries like Japan, Korea and Taiwan always place much emphasis on the academic results of students. With an eye to **evaluating the caliber** of a student, examination appears to be the only benchmark. This is precisely why Asian countries' education systems are mostly exam-oriented. Students are often told to **converge on** their studies and tests. Take the situation of Hong Kong as an example, students are only provided with two P.E. lessons a week, which are totally inadequate for a child or a teenager. They certainly need more exercise. This also creates a bad **ambiance for** the promotion of sports. Therefore, most students are reluctant to do exercise. In contrast, Western countries value the development of children in different aspects, including fitness. Students in the West receive more P.E. lessons than us, **thereby** possessing better fitness and bodies than ours.

To **ameliorate the problem**, we have to solve the root of the problem. The government can make changes to the current education system, **attaching more significance** to the health of students by requiring all schools to provide at least four P.E. lessons a week. Through this measure, students will have more exposure to sports, thereby strengthening their bodies and enhancing their physical health and fitness. In addition to this, this helps **engender** a better atmosphere of doing sports in schools, **enthralling** more Asian students to make good use of their leisure time to exercise. With more exposure to sports, students may even be interested in doing sports, which would become their future habits. This can without question help better students' fitness.

The government should **channel more resources into** the sports' facilities of schools. Compared to the West, **a host** of Asian school's sports facilities are old and outmoded. They usually only consist of a basketball court and nothing more is included. Therefore, more resources and money are necessary for Asian schools to update or build more sports facilities for different kinds of ball games like football, volleyball and badminton. Only if the government is willing to employ such measures can the problem of student's decreasing fitness be solved. There is no **panacea for** this without any actions.

It is hoped that with the above suggestions, the fitness levels of Asian children would be raised. There is no excuse for anyone not to take any actions to give our children a better health and a better future.

Yours faithfully,

*Chris Wong*

Chris Wong

Long task/ Speech/ Social Issues – Write a speech about your dream of a better city.

Good evening everyone, my name is Chris Wong and I'm from Hong Kong. It is an honour to be able to attend this conference and address you all this evening. Tonight I shall be talking

about my dream of a better Hong Kong, which consists of the aspects of education and housing. How do we, Hong Kong people, transform our dreams into reality?

Firstly, I'll look at our education system. Our education system is exam-oriented - everything we learn and do is related only to exams. Under the culture of 'exams are a big deal', students are told to memorize every single word in the books and the so-called techniques of answering exam questions. Every day, a ton of assignments, quizzes and tests are given to students, because everyone thinks that they have to practise more for their exams. Perhaps you were still playing around with your friends at the age of 9, but what Hong Kong students do at the age of 9 is drilling exercise for TSA, a series of assessments. At the end of the day nobody pays attention to students' talent and creativity, because performing well in exams is the only thing on their to-do lists. In fact, the overwhelmingly competitive and stressful learning environment is to blame for the spate of student suicides. What's the point of learning? Can students really learn and benefit from this kind of education? It is inappropriate and ineffective to focus solely on exams, as the process of learning will be hindered and distorted. I sincerely hope our government carries out education reform, such as abolishing TSA and reducing the amount of tests, so that students can grow up free from pressure and competitions.

Secondly, I'll look at our housing system. Housing shortage, the unaffordable property prices and the extremely long waiting time for public housing estates get in people's way of living in their dream houses. Eventually the miserable ones have to struggle in poor and inhumane conditions such as subdivided flats, cage homes and coffin cubicles. Therefore, housing problem has to be addressed by increasing housing supply, controlling property prices and shortening waiting time, so as to improve people's standing of living.

We all dream of a better future, but dreams don't work unless we do. Working together, we have the power to reignite our hope of a better Hong Kong. Thank you for taking your time to listen.

By Mak Hoi Ching, 5E

#### Speech---UN youth conference

Greetings, everyone. It is my utmost honour to be invited here to give a speech as the representative of Hong Kong. First, let me ask you a question--- what is your dream? Everyone has a dream, right? Even for a small city like mine, which only lies as a tiny spot on the world map, there is a dream--- a dream of a better and glamorous future.

When we talk about future, education always comes first. It is our greatest priority to dig into and address on the issue. Education in Hong Kong, unfortunately, is a grave of youth's dreams. Due to

the exam-oriented and highly competitive environment, many of us struggle to learn in order to achieve decent grades in the HKDSE, without realizing how the system has shaped us into lifeless, aimless machines that only memorise vocabs and plain words on the textbooks. Under a system like this, we could not feel the authentic charisma of learning. What I propose here is an improved system in which students are not confined to simply studying for examinations. Spoon-fed education and standardised tests shall not exist. Instead, the curriculum should be diversified to enhance students' creativity and ability not merely academically, non-academically as well. We should be encouraged to seek our potentials and embark on a quest that suit our abilities and interests. This would not be a system that judges fish by its ability to climb a tree, but one that embraces every student as gifted and talented.

The next aspect I would like to shed light on is housing in Hong Kong. Being densely-populated, some of us live under deplorable conditions. Within the high-rise buildings, it is not surprising to find subdivided flats, in which families of four to six cram together and share the same kitchen. How heart-wrenching it is to see many of us crave for but fail to own a flat due to the sky-high property prices! So I dream for a change. I dream for a roof over everyone's head. I dream of the harmonious laughter inside the flats as people feel secured and cosy. I dream of better hygiene and safety for all residents. These shall be accomplished when the government grants more housing aids to those in need and implement policies to suppress the surge in property prices. Redeveloping and revitalising old districts whilst assigning a larger proportion for residential use could also enhance the living condition and supply of housing in Hong Kong.

So this is my dream for Hong Kong and it shall fall into place not only with the help of the government, but also the contribution of Hong Kong youths. By degrees, the gloomy sky will turn into a bright sunrise. Thank you.

By Ng Sze Nga, 5E

# Creative Writing

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To my younger self,

I am sorry for losing my mind.

You are probably now working on your English writing homework, titled 'My Dream', fantasizing about using your pen to record world news as a reporter. Nonetheless, as you grow up, you'll realize life is more than just your writing homework. Indeed, life is full of obstacles, exams, tests and interviews which you can't handle. Being completely crestfallen, you'll soon drop out of school and start living your life as a drug seller. You will sell heroin and cocaine just to make ends meet. That kind of life is not so bad after all because you will earn a huge sum of money. Being blinded by your ego, you are even going to coin yourself 'Razor'. What a silly name!

You will keep living happily in this 'dream' until a critical day when you sell drugs to a teenager who is deeply addicted to drugs. All you know is that you can earn big bucks from him because of his deep addiction, but never in your life could you imagine that he will take the drugs which you sell to him excessively, which eventually costs his life and puts you, or, in other words, me, in prison for years.

I am writing to apologize for crushing your dream and to give you some advice. First, please remember the saying 'It's dogged that does it' and strive for your dream job. Please do not give up, however hard the process will be. Even if you can't be an assignment reporter, there are still plenty of choices and should not go astray. If you don't want to sit in a cell writing a letter to your younger self, this is the advice you need to take.

Your regretful self,

Herman

By Herman Siu, 2B

Dear younger self,

How are you? Are you still taking drugs, like when I was your age?

Well, if you are still doing so, please listen to my advice. Stop taking drugs, as it hurts both your health and your future, my dear. Trust me, you can overcome your past, and it isn't too late to start a new life. I know that it isn't easy: Your father passed away before you were born, and your mum married another man and put you inside a rubbish bin; you were bullied

in your childhood, and eventually you seemed to feel “better”, but only after you started taking drugs...

But, my friend, don't be afraid to face your past tragedy, because it has already PASSED. I know you can start your beautiful life now. Be strong—and you're never alone—as I'm always with you for support.

Do you know how much I wished to hear this encouraging support when I was your age? Especially at the moment, while you are grown, and were in the prison due to punishments for years and years, like you're suffering from an endless, miserable nightmare. When I was at your age, there wasn't anyone to support me or to help me to thrive from difficulties, but only myself. I therefore went down the wrong road, where I couldn't see any sunlight. Dude, be thankful, and focus on your coming days as history can't be changed, but your future can. I hope you can have a bright life, with all the best and happiness.

I sincerely expect that you can stop taking drugs after reading my letter—and it's the best if you haven't taken any already. Anyway, think positive and always be glad. Don't make yourself regretful of your choices today!

Love,

Your older self

By Jessica Tai, 2B

## “Chaser”

‘Be careful! Take good care of yourself. Remember to call me if you need help.’ Mum said, standing in front of me with eyes full of tears. Mum is always a strong woman and never cries in front of the others. However, this was the first time I saw her crying. I understood her feeling as this was the first time I left home for such a long time. I shared the same feeling with her but I didn't want to express it as I was afraid that if I did this, I could never get on the train as I would miss her very much.’ Vincent, you have found your dream. Don't hesitate when you have to make a decision. Just follow your heart. Mum will always be on your side.’ She continued to say. I looked firmly at Mum's eyes and said wholeheartedly, ‘I promise I will take care of myself. Don't worry, Mum. I will make every endeavour and won't let you down. It's time for me to leave. Goodbye my dearest mum.’ I was reluctant to part with my family, but I had to leave for my dream. The only thing that I could do at that moment was to leave and return with brilliant achievement.

I got on the train and found a seat next to the window. I waved at mum and gave her a warm smile in order to make our goodbye unforgettable. The train left the station speedily and mum had disappeared from my eyes. I closed my eyes. I started thinking about my dream. If someone asked me what my dream was, I think I would definitely answer that I wanted to be a painter. I'd been passionate about painting very much since I was a child. I viewed painting as my entire life. I felt extremely pleasant when I painted. I realized that it was time for me to pursue my dream so I decided to go to Italy to study Arts. Since my

family was rather impoverished, plus the terrible fact that my dad passed away when I was young, my mum had to make a living by herself. Therefore, I thought I stood no chance of studying overseas. However, my mum's reply was really out of my expectation. She said she would always support me and encouraged me to be enrolled in the University of Arts in Italy immediately. At that moment, I was really touched and I promised that I would never let her down as it was quite formidable for her to pay me the tuition fee.

I had no regret for my decision of studying arts overseas. I thought that it was crucial for us to have a dream. If we had a dream that we wanted it to come true, it would be the greatest push to progress. Time passed quickly that I had already arrived. The flight attendant asked me if there is any luggage that he could help me to carry. 'No, thanks,' I replied. To me, my dream is my only luggage.

When I arrived at my school, I believed that my dream would come true there. I started my lesson and learnt a host of drawing skills. I studied with all my might as I know that no successful person coasts to victory; all of them make determined efforts. As the old saying goes, "no pain, no gain." Don't expect any achievement if you didn't make any efforts. I knew that I have a flair on drawing but that was certainly not enough to make me a successful painter. I had to train myself to be a better one. Since I wanted to enhance my knowledge in arts and polish my drawing skills, I always chatted with Professor Paton, our tutor. However, there was a raft of words from my classmates that hurt me a lot.' He has no talent at all. The only thing he can do is to rope professor in. 'He is just a fool. Want to be a painter? Stop dreaming.' these words I had heard a lot. At that moment, I was really hurt and had doubted if I was really not suitable to be a painter.

Fortunately, I received a helping hand from Professor Paton. He gave me lots of support and he always recognised my abilities, giving me plenty of advice. 'Remember that drawing is your forte. Don't be affected by others' words easily, just believe in yourself. Otherwise, all your efforts will go down the pan.' He reminded me. Without his help, I could never have countered these flaws. I was deeply indebted to him for bailing me out of the difficulties.

In the days gone by, I had a little bit achievement. I held my own painting exhibition in the art gallery. I prepared a lot for the exhibition and luckily it went on smoothly. I was really pleased that my works could be appreciated by so many people. After the exhibition, I had a nap in the resting room. Suddenly, 'KNOCK, KNOCK...' I heard someone knocking at the door. I woke up and opened the door. A staff told me that someone would like to see me and he was waiting for me at the waiting room. When I was walking to the waiting room, I kept thinking who that person could be. When I opened the door, I was shocked. My brain was blank at that moment. I pinched myself secretly to see if it was only a dream. But I was wrong, it was real. The one standing in front of me is really Mr. Smith, the wealthiest businessman in the world. I had never imagined that I would meet him face to face.

'Hello Vincent. I am James Smith. I think you know me, right? It is lucky for me to see your paintings, I appreciate you very much. There is one thing that I would like to request you to promise media would like you to draw me a self-portrait. Is it possible? He said. 'Hello Mr. Smith. Nice to meet you. That's my honour to have you visiting my exhibition.

However, I am just a small potato. I am afraid that I may not have the talent to draw a painting that you expect. Maybe it's better for you to hire a famous painter to help you,' I said nervously. He shook his head and said,' no, I am proud of your drawing skills and your works make me feel marvelous. I am sure that you can draw a wonderful picture.'" OK. Let me try. I will try my best and will not let you down. I hereby express my greatest gratitude for giving me a valuable chance.' I nodded and gave him a bow.' I believe in you and I am looking forward to seeing your work. I will offer you 100 million US dollars for this painting. Just call me when you finish it.' He said satisfyingly and then walked out of the room.

I stayed at the room with a completely blank brain. I had never thought that this scene would happen in my life. I cherished this chance very much. I spent all my time in painting Mr. Smith's self-portrait. I made many corrections in order to make it perfect. I knew that this would be a great challenge for me. However, what occupied my mind was that I should not limit myself. The only thing that I could do is to challenge my limit. After a few weeks, I had finally finished this work and I thought I had already made it perfect. Therefore, I called Mr. Smith and wanted to give him this painting.

However, what happened next is really out of my expectation.' You have already finished it? Just a few weeks' time. You are really brilliant. But can I just give you 30 million US dollars? 'He said with a poker face. 'But you said that you will offer me 100 million US dollars.' I said confusedly. 'Remember you are just a small potato. Won't you feel sorry to receive such a high price for such an ordinary picture? This is my self-portrait so no one will be interested in buying this picture. If you don't sell it to me, it is just like rubbish. Just receive my offer. 3 thousands US dollars. You have no choice. 'He said with a mean tone. 'This is not a problem concerning money. You shouldn't break your promise. I've made lots of efforts on painting the picture. I don't think the efforts I made can be measured by money. For me, every painting is valuable and has its soul. I will only sell the painting to one who really loves it, but not you. Therefore, for me, the answer is nori won't sell it to you. Goodbye!' I said madly and disappointedly, leaving immediately with my work.

My heart was broken into thousands of pieces. However, I know that I shouldn't give up at this moment. If I give up now, my years of effort will come to nothing. I overcome all these drawbacks with my broken heart. I further improved my skills in order to make it perfect. With my ample skills and right attitude, I finally rose to the top. That's right for the old saying, 'Attitude determines altitude.'

Thanks to my classmates' teases, I became more determined. Thanks to Mr. Smith's criticism, I was pushed to progress. Thanks to Professor Paton, I finally managed to realize what I really wanted. Thanks to my dearest mum, she gave me a lot of supports in my path. With their help, I had the honour to be known as 'the second Vincent Van Gogh'. The thing that made me surprise is that Mr. Smith's self-portrait became one of my remarkable works. The efforts I had made are really valuable.

'Hello, Sir? Are you Ok?' I opened my eyes and found out that I was on the train. 'We have already arrived at the station. Is there any luggage that I can help you to carry? 'The



attendant said politely. I had arrived in my hometown. 'Dream is still my only luggage. 'I smiled. I left the train and I heard lots of voice. 'Vincent, you are my favourite painter.'... Many years passed by. Once I helped a reporter out in an interview, he asked me if there was anything that helped me succeed; I answered 'attitude is always the most vital. Nothing is impossible. If you are determined, you are absolutely able to make it come true. Don't be despair when you think your dream is impossible. Don't hesitate. Just chase for your dream. Remember you are the only one who understands yourself...'

4D Ng Yat Tung, Yoyo

## **“Reflection”**

Sitting on a chair, having a great and enjoyable posture, Shirley's eyelashes started to fall like an ending of a show in the theatre and closed its curtains. Finally, she had lost the tough battle of competing with her eyelashes.

“Shirley! STOP dozing off! Be more attentive in class.” Ms. Ho's voice had broken the silence in the classroom, like an unmatched harmony in an orchestra.

“So..sor..ry, Ms. Ho.” Shirley stood up clumsily and apologized stammeringly with her shaking voice and shaking legs.

“I accept your apology.” Ms. Ho said indifferently and formally.

The only conversation had ended and the classroom returned to silence. It was so quiet that even a pin dropping on the ground could be heard. Taking notes apathetically, students were having English writing lesson. Being surrounded by a cloud of blistering air, Shirley's mind uncontrollably went back to her fantasy story and paid no attention to the writing skills which Ms. Ho was talking about. In her own story, she could freely do what she wanted and explore the world instead of sitting in the classroom copying thousands of notes. In her utopia, she flew up in the boundless sky and chased with birds blithely, laughing and giggling without restraints, humming and singing a song even if there're no audience at all, music notes and words are dancing and bouncing cheerfully all around her.....

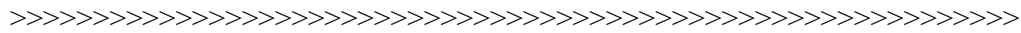
“Shirley! STOP daydreaming! Go out and stand at the corridor. Reflect upon what you have done!” Ms. Ho's sharp voice reappeared in the classroom, this time, her voice was like a piccolo having a leading melody.

“Alright, Ms. Ho.” Shirley embarrassedly left the classroom with her face all red and stood still at the corridor. She looked around and not even a shadow of a person could be seen. No, she did see something, something which was glowing in the middle of the corridor. Although her mind was telling her not to get into any trouble again, curiosity got the better of her and she proceeded to where the light came from, slowly and carefully. As she had a closer look, she found out that it was a notebook entitled “Reflection” which was glowing. While Shirley was flipping through the notebook, a line of words appeared,

*“Just a pen, a few lines of words, you can explore your innermost world. Dare to challenge?”*



“Well, what a lovely notebook with beautiful decorations.” Shirley said in an unconcerned way, as if nothing extraordinary had happened.



It was almost a year after the notebook was being discovered and another long sweltering summer was approaching. The blazing sun was like thousands of knives cutting people’s skin cold-bloodedly.

Every parent waiting outside the classroom was complaining about the scorching weather. They just couldn’t wait to go inside the classroom to enjoy the air-conditioning. However, Shirley just wanted to leave this scary cool place as fast as possible. There she was, sitting beside her parents and on her opposite side, was her form teacher Ms. Ho. Her parents seemed to find Ms. Ho congenial and they talked a lot about “How to teach an obedient teenager?”, “How to train a teenager to be a brilliant star?”, “How to push a teenager to work harder?” and so on. Shirley was completely ignoring their conversation and kept looking at her watch,

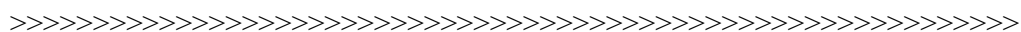
“It was 4:00 pm already and I still have two Chinese assignments, two pieces of English writing, a pile of Mathematics calculations and a liberal studies’ essay to do. Therefore, deducting the time for me to have dinner and take a bath, I still have five and a half hour to do these homework assignments and.....” Just as Shirley was thinking of how to use her time, she suddenly heard,

“Oh...anyway, I think she should study Physics, Chemistry, Biology and mathematics module two, only students who study science can be successful in the future.” Ms. Ho said snobbishly.

“Yes, I share the same feelings with you, Ms. Ho. I am just so glad that Shirley had finally stopped her crazy imagination of being a writer and musician, it was just too unrealistic. A dream is only a dream; how many people can really fulfill their dreams in the end?” Shirley’s mother said subsequently.

“Alright, then I will help her fill in the curriculum form later.” Ms. Ho said proudly.

Just as Shirley wanted to agree on the adults’ decisions and surrender, as usual, a beam of dazzling light suddenly emerges, just like some common scenes in science fictions and fantasies. As if time froze, Shirley’s parents and Ms. Ho stopped talking and remained at their initial posture like a witch had cast a spell on them. When Shirley looked at her watch again, the second hand of her watch were goofing off and stopped running. The water running out from the tap was suspending in the air, not willing to run down. Everything was still, even the air flow was immobile. The light was quite similar to what the notebook had given out but it was much brighter and had lit up much more area. The only thing which was moving on earth was Shirley.



Before she even reacted to all these sudden changes, a voice from the distance had announced,

“Welcome to the world of Reflection.”

“Hey.....what’s going on?” Shirley asked puzzlingly and nervously.

“Go, and explore yourself.” The distant voice answered slowly and solemnly.

“Don’t ignore my question!” Shirley replied in a panic way.

No one was answering her. She quickly looked around again, it's when she found out that she was not in the classroom anymore. Everything around her was changing its shape and quickly formed a wall near her. She was standing in the middle of a narrow corridor, no windows or doors aside. It's a place where a claustrophobic would scream and curl up. The light was not adequate for Shirley to glance through all the things around her. So, she carefully took a closer look, it was indeed rows of drawers instead of an endless corridor. Some drawers had left opened and some drawers had been locked. When she looked inside one of the opened drawers, she found out plenty of homework assignments and notes that she had taken in the lessons. Each opened drawer had a different kind of school work inside. Since the only beam of light was at the end of the long corridor, Shirley cautiously walked forward. As she proceeded, the corridor became wider and brighter. The drawers on the wall were no longer in dark brown and gradually turned to be colorful. The scene was just like a symphony that had turned from a blue introduction to a bright exposition. A drawer colored in caramel had caught Shirley's attention, as she pulled out the drawer, a merry-go-round music box emerged--- It was her 12<sup>th</sup> birthday's present. As the merry-go-round started to move, familiar lyrics were lingering in Shirley's mind.

*"It's time to see what I can do, to test the limits and break through....."*

"Well, I haven't heard of this melody for a long time." Shirley sighed.

Memories started to flow back in her mind. She thought of those days when she was playing the piano happily just for herself, but not for competing with others, and without stress. She thought of those days when she was reading in the library without noticing how much time she had spent. She thought of those days when she didn't need to write for examinations formulaically but wrote some fantasies.

However, the merry-go-round had finally stopped spinning and the music stopped. Shirley's mind quickly flew back to the reality from the flashbacks.

"Well, now the question is, how can I get out from this place?" Shirley asked helplessly, feeling certain that nobody would answer her question.

"Shirley!!Is that you? Am I having illusions? Oh my god, I have never thought that I could see you again!" A green creature suddenly appeared without warning and it was overjoyed.

"Ah..... mon...monsters!!!!" Once Shirley realized that it was a big green creature with white dots and long fur all around its body, she screamed in horror and ran for her life.

"Wait! Shirley! You have forgotten me?" The green creature called Shirley again, from his eyes, we could easily see that he was hurt and heartbroken when Shirley called him a monster.

"What? I know you?" Shirley stopped running, stood still, turned around and sized the monster up.

"Excuse me, I don't think I know you." Shirley said embarrassingly and cowardly.

"Oh, you have completely forgotten me." The creature answered heartbrokenly. "I am Chester Lobster, remember? The creature that you imagined when you were young."

"Oh! Chester Lobster! I remember you now. Aren't you the creature I wrote in a short story? You came into life?" Shirley asked with astonishment.





It was a windy Christmas Eve. Chilly and dry winds were blowing hard on the streets. However, no one felt cold because everyone of this little village was having their lovely Christmas Eve dinner with their families inside their warm houses, except George's son, Daniel who went out to buy some candies to celebrate this big festival. Under the bright, full moon, twinkling, dense stars and the clear, cloudless dark blue sky, all the things in the village seemed to be fine and nice. The colourful decoration and shiny lighting were especially appealing. They could catch the attention of the people easily. It should be a joyful night.

“Oh my god!” A screaming disturbed the blissful atmosphere of the village.

A young boy was holding his hands covering his mouth. It was Aaron.

“What happened?” George ran out of his house immediately and discovered that Aaron was standing in front of his house.

“Dan.....Daniel!” Aaron pointed at the ground and answered him with a shaking voice. George followed Aaron's fingers to see what happened but what he saw was a scene which he could not forget anymore.

“Daniel! Daniel! What has happened to you?” George nearly shouted out when he saw his son lying on the ground with a bloody body full of big wounds.

All the villagers had come out. They were shocked to see their strong-willed leader sitting on the leaves fell, holding his head sorrowfully. They also did not expect to see Daniel lying in front tragically.

“Daniel died.” After a few minutes, George tried his best to calm down and gave out the conclusion. “The wounds were made by wolves,” George continued to explain with a pair of red eyes, “who are willing to go into the dark forest to find the wolves which had killed Daniel?”

“Me!” A stocky, tall man stepped out, raising his swarthy arm. “And me!” This time a skinny young man stepped out and said boldly too. Then, all the men of the village stepped out one by one without hesitation and they finally yelled at last, “find the wolves! Take revenge for Daniel and protect our families!”

“Thank you for you guys' support,” George nodded his head thankfully, “so, every man is coming with me to the dark forest but please be careful and serious because the dark forest in front of us is really dangerous, especially at the night time. All the women should stay at home, lock the door and take care of your children. Don't open the doors until you see us coming back.”

After telling everyone what they should do now, George and the villagers finally started off to the dark forest. They held the torches to make sure they could see all the things in the forest clearly but not just could hear the rustling of the leaves. However, the

surrounding was still very dark. If anyone rushed into the forest without any torches, he would definitely fall off the slopes or be knocked down by the sharp stones everywhere. The thin light from the moon made the forest even cooler, making the people enter wanting to quiver.

After this group of bold men had walked for about fifteen minutes, someone from the team suddenly shouted out, "George! I saw an injured young woman here!"

Hearing the call of one mate, the others ran to the man immediately to see what happened.

The woman had blonde hair tied in plaits, long eyebrows, straight nose and oval face. White, smooth skin and slender body made her even more appealing. The large red cloak which she was wearing was conspicuous enough too. That was really a beautiful, attractive, young woman. What was even more "attractive" is a small wound which was still bleeding.

"Person who was hurt by wolves again," George said angrily, "we must catch the wolves to protect the people around!" Everyone nodded hard.

"No one can stop me from killing the bastard wolves!" They thought.

"Aaron, Samuel and Lucian took this lucky girl to the cave nearby and stayed with her until we come back or she is awake." George looked at the woman with a complicated feeling, "the woman got hurt just like my son but at the same time, she was much luckier than my dear son. She got just a small wound so she got the opportunity being alive but my son just could not get this chance. How unfair the world is!"

After a short break, George took the rest of the team to go into the deeper place of the dark forest to find the wolves.

When they had walked further for a few minutes, they discovered some blood on the ground. Feeling surprised, they followed the blood to see what they could find.

The blood finally led the villagers to two small wolves. The small wolves were not as fierce as they had expected and they were looking at the direction which the team coming with scared feelings. Maybe just the direction, not the team. The large wounds on their bodies told the villagers that they were not at their most powerful time.

"Kill them! They must be the one who killed Daniel and hurt that young woman!" The villagers yelled loudly at the forest and stared at the wolves. The forest was resounding with their shouts. It was clear that the two small wolves were scared by them. Using this good chance, they started to besiege the wolves and took out a big, green, sturdy net to catch them. When the two small wolves finally understood what was happening, they tried their best to struggle in the net but they failed to get out. George took out his sharp, long sword and stared at them with a stony, cold face. The wind howled, the wolves

howled. The howling became even louder and longer when the wolves met the first cut, then the second cut.

George repeated his action for four times with an evil smile hanging on his chubby face. Then, no more breaths from that two wolves was heard and what they had left was the incompleated bodies and the blood which was flowing under the fell, withered leaves.

“Hurray! The wolves were killed!” The villagers cried happily in the forest. The chilly wind did not blow away their happiness but spread their cries to the cave. George wept with happiness but also sadness. Although he had take revenge against the wolves for his son, he lost his lovely son forever.

“Daniel, please rest in peace.” He said to himself or Daniel who was in his heart.

The team of villagers went back to the cave to find the young woman and their mates, wanting to tell them the good news. However, what was waiting for the team was a even more sanguinary scene. Three “human bodies” were lying on the ground. Their arms, legs, bodies and faces were scratched to frazzle. All of villagers just could not help gasping.

“What happened? We have already killed the wolves! Why they were still.....” The villagers asked unbelievably.

“The girl is still in the cave!” Someone suddenly shouted out nervously, cut into their words.

The shout reminded the men that the beautiful girl was still inside; they rushed into the cave immediately when they remembered that.

However, no beautiful woman was found in the cave, but a big, fierce wolf wearing a red cloak, showing its cuspids and staring at them as its prey.

“Ah!”

By Chloe Sit, 4D

## **The End**