

Artwork: Katrina Leung 3L (2023-2024)

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Mrs. Catherine Li

We are deeply grateful to Mrs. Catherine Li, the Head of the English Department, who provided valuable advice, enlightening ideas and endless support throughout that greatly contributed to the creation of this anthology.

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Thanks must also be given to Mr. Nelson Wong, the Assistant Head of the English Department, for his support and effort in the creation of this anthology. Without his assistance, this anthology would not be completed.

Editors-in-Chief - Mrs. Vivian Wong and Ms. Priscilla Lee

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SPCS English Department Teachers

We would also like to sincerely thank all the SPCS English Teachers for nurturing the writing skills of SPCS students and guiding them to reach their full potential. We sincerely appreciate their assistance in collecting students' work for this literary collection.

SPCS Creative Soul 2.0 Student Editorial Team

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SPCS Creative Soul 2.0 Student Art Team

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Students of SPCS

Last but not least, we are most grateful to the talented students of SPCS for sharing their work with all enthusiastic readers. May your creative souls continue to thrive and inspire us all!

FOREWORD

Paulinians are known for their love of English and their joy in writing be it poetry, prose and lyrics. This anthology does not only celebrate these talents but showcases their Creativity, one of the 7Cs of Paulinian Education.

Inspired by the success and popularity of its predecessor, Creative Soul 2.0 continues in the same spirit to build on the talents of Paulinians through a compilation of essays and creative works which include the winning entries of competitions and outstanding submissions of course work like the Reverse Poems which is now a feature of our school-based curriculum.

Riding on another wave of positive vibes, this edition has a special chapter dedicated to the 170th Anniversary of SPCS where Paulinians share their pride in the achievements of the school and the quality education that it has provided since 1854. The chapter on Sayings of Wisdom captures words of consolation to brighten up any weary soul. In addition, you will find poems and prose that Paulinians have written to celebrate the Lion Rock Spirit, the resilience of Hong Kong people and the vibrancy of communal life.

As Head of the English Panel, I wish to congratulate all the aspiring writers whose work are included in this edition, and express my gratitude to all our English teachers for their patience and encouragement in nurturing young talents. Special thanks go to our teacher advisors Mrs. Vivian Wong and Ms. Priscilla Lee for their careful selection of a plethora of student work, and to the Editorial and Art Team for their commitment to making this anthology a pleasure for all.

“Reading is one of the joys of life, and once you begin, you can’t stop” (Ray Bradbury). Now that you have the album in your hands, I hope you will find this a delightful companion whenever you are looking for inspiration or something to cheer you up!

Mrs. Catherine Li
Vice Principal
Head of English Department

Introduction to the 170th Anniversary Collection

An explanation on the theme of “Roots and Wings–Now and Beyond”

A sharing on the theme **“Roots and Wings – Now and Beyond”**

The theme **“Roots and Wings – Now and Beyond”** has been chosen for the celebration of the school’s 170th Anniversary. In an era marked by remarkable technological advancements, there has never been a better time for us to embrace our **‘Roots’** – deeply embedded in our rich Chinese heritage and our unwavering faith in God, and spread our **‘Wings’** – of bilingual proficiency and technological competency to innovate and make meaningful contributions to the world of tomorrow.

The subtheme **“Now and Beyond”** encapsulates not only our past achievements but also the pioneering spirit that has guided us through generations, empowering us to reach greater heights. In addition to the many awards that Paulinians have received in local, national and international competitions, the many initiatives and breakthroughs that we have made put us in the forefront of schools in Hong Kong. These include the construction of a two-seater airplane, developing a modern Chinese herbal drink, representing Hong Kong in the European Astro Pi Challenge, and showcasing a spectacular Drone Show over Victoria Harbour.

Since our founding in 1854, we have been profoundly grateful to our Sponsoring Body, the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres, for their unwavering support that empowers St. Paul’s Convent School to thrive with a sustainable future, not just within Hong Kong but beyond. In this chapter, readers will discover works that resonate with the theme **“Roots and Wings – Now and Beyond”**. As you flip through these pages, we hope you will share with us the same joy and hope for the future that we experienced whilst assembling these works.



Artwork: Valerie Mok 2S (2023-2024)

170th

Anniversary:

*“Roots and Wings –
Now and Beyond”*

Contents

Shape Poems written by Form 3 students in the year of 2023—2024

3S Bernice Choi, Madelyn Keung, Bella Leung

3S Eryn Kwan, Suri Lam, Katie Mok, Sara Ng

*3T Cheryl Chan, Flora Chan, Eva Chow,
Jacqueline Kie, Megan Liu*

*3U Prudence Chan, Eugenie Chow, Charlotte Fung,
Carmen Tam*

3U Hannah Law, Callista Lo, Valerie Mak

3T Ines Baud, Mia Chan, Cherry To

3A Chloe Kung, Aimey Leung, Angie Li, Jace Pang

Poems written by students in the 2023 Bridging Course

*1S Vivian Chung, Chini Fong, Hayley Hsueh,
Sophia Lam*

*1P Kaylee Shiu, 1U Sunny Ma, Julietta Sy, 1L Sherree Chan,
Louise Kwandy, Charlotte Mok*

1T Tianna Leung, Stephanie Lo, 1A Kay Lam, Khloe Liu

1T Katherine Tin, Chloe Tong, Charissa Tsui

1A Jasmine Chan, Susan Chung, Yvette Cheung

Posters created by students in the 2024 Bridging Course

1S Candice Hung, 1A Cherise Kok

1S Noelle Ip, Hailey Yan, 1A Catherine Chen

*1S Rianne Mak, 1P Alicia Leong, 1U Summer Wong,
1L Charlotte Tang*

1U Margaret Lee, 1L Vianna Leong, Ruby Yau

1U Jeanne Pang, 1L Jana Cheung, Athena Tam

Shape Poems

Metamorphosis

Bernice Choi, Madelyn Keung, Bella Leung 3S (2023 – 2024)

A loving mother.

That's what children call her

As she nurtures them with care

Larvae in cloaks of silk question

'Mother, Mother why do you love

us so unconditionally, like sunshine

Shining on us with unwavering warmth?

Seeing their bright and naïve smiles,
her tears trickled down like dewdrops
She couldn't help but thinking back then
It was a sunny day when she broke the
Cocoons of crumbled concrete and shellholes

Symphonies of butterflies

On the messy strokes of society

Parade and raw yellow bricks reign

In fields of cerulean. Words quiver

As she weaves history, *forever and*

Always transforming and innovating.

And now, seeing them learning
about the 7Cs and doing charity

She is glad that her beloved
daughters will fly high

Her wings drench in glory,

Her roots proliferate

To each and every

One of us

An unwanted child.

That's what she once was

But as wings envelope her

Like streams of morning light

Her body flutters in utter delight

Silver halos glistened. Their warm arms

Hidden beneath those pure white veils

Fed her with knowledge, kindness, love

And where the daffodils cascaded into

Pots of twinkling buds and blushing hues

A pair of vibrant, newfound wings blossomed

Surging through the plains

Healing from scars of pain

Taking flight, soaring into

where the skies meet the earth

But then, she ponders as she

Ascends into the heavenly realms

Where are my roots? Where do I

truly belong? As she burns

Like the last stars in existence

She recalls the orphanage

That took her in, leaving

A fragment of her wings

On their doorstep

Bernice Choi 3S (8)

Madelyn Keung 3S (16)

Bella Leung 3S (24)

The Kite

Eryn Kwan, Suri Lam, Katie Mok, Sara Ng 3S (2023 – 2024)



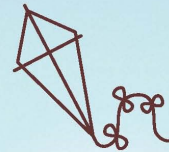
Our Poem

(EASIER TO READ VERSION)

Up and down, with rhythmic flow,
High and low, the kite does go.
As the string dances with the wind's gentle sway,
Like a conductor's baton, it directs the way.
Just as the string that guides a kite's ascent,
Our roots hold firm, their purpose intent.
In nature's embrace, they extend below,
Anchoring us firmly, wherever we may go.
As a kite's string, they provide stability,
Nurturing our strength, shaping our ability.
The kite will never forget its string,
Just as to our roots forever we cling.

The kite ascends, soaring to new heights,
Brave and bold, embracing daring flights.
Risking its life it swore,
To breakthrough more and more.
Surging higher like radiant beams,
Chasing greater and greater dreams.
For what laid high above is a world unseen,
And a formidable future not foreseen.
With determinations,
Pursuing ambitions.
Stepping out of their comfort zone,
To explore and discover the world's unknown.

Kaleidoscopic kites remember their strings,
But for a wider sky, they spread their wings.
For they hang on to their nature,
Whilst striving relentlessly for a brighter future.
In its graceful flight, the kite whispers a tale,
Of resilience, courage and dreams that prevail.
With roots as our anchor, grounding us in truth,
And wings as our compass, enriching our youth.



The Dandelions

Cheryl Chan, Flora Chan, Eva Chow, Jacqueline Kie, Megan Liu
3T (2023 – 2024)





The Dandelions

ALLITERATION:
SYMBOLISES THEIR
LIVELY AND VIBRANT
PRESCIENCE

IN FIELDS OF GREEN WHERE SUNLIGHT GLEAMS,
DANDELIONS DANCE IN GOLDEN STREAMS
HUMBLE AND UNYIELDING THEY SAY
FOR THEIR ROOTS TO DELVE DEEP EVERY DAY

VISUAL IMAGERY:
IMMERSE READERS WITHIN
THE TEXT THROUGH
APPEALING TO THEIR SENSES

UNSEEN ROOTS WOVEN INTO SOIL

PROVIDING STABILITY AND A SENSE OF BELONGING
NURTURING THEM WITH THE HEALING TIME

METAPHOR:
HIGHLIGHTING ITS ROLE IN
PROVIDING SUPPORT AND A
FEELING OF HOME

PERSONIFICATION:
CREATE IMAGERY AND
MAKE VIVID DESCRIPTIONS

TILL THEY START TO SOUGHT FOR FREEDOM

ON THE WIND'S GENTLE BREATH,
THEY SET WISHES AND SPIRITS FREE
TO LANDS UNKNOWN, THEY FLOAT AND ROAM,
PLANTING DREAMS IN EVERY CORNER THEY SEE.

ASSONANCE:
THE REPEATED LONG /O/
SOUND CREATES A SENSE OF
MOVEMENT AND FREEDOM AS
THE DANDELIONS TRAVEL

REPETITION:
ADDS A LAYER OF INTROSPECTION
AND CONTEMPLATION, INVITING
READERS TO CONSIDER THE
POSSIBILITIES THAT LIE AHEAD

AND PERHAPS, JUST PERHAPS

WE TOO CAN RISE
WITH WINGS OF COURAGE, WE'LL TAKE FLIGHT,
ROOTS AND WINGS OUR GUIDING LIGHT.

HYPERBOLE:
IT SUGGESTS THAT THE
DANDELION SEEDS HAVE THE
ABILITY TO INSPIRE

METAPHOR:
SYMBOLISE FREEDOM AND
GROWTH, SERVING AS A
METAPHORICAL GUIDE FOR
NAVIGATING LIFE'S
JOURNEY

Vortex

Prudence Chan, Eugenie Chow, Charlotte Fung, Carmen Tam
3U (2023 – 2024)

The sky shatters, pouring empyrean tears.
Heavenly cries reverberate all around,
Like sorrowful songbirds, consoling a dejected
wanderer.
He fell for sweet limerence, a soothing sound.

From afar, he watches her graceful iridescence,
Admires every instance of hail and rain.
Does the sky ever return his longing glances?
Or is he a fool to have waited in vain?

The torrential downpour floods his mind.
A silent turbulence echoes endlessly,
Leaving twisted, disoriented feelings
Rippling the placid earth.
The impetuous tempest stirs *within him*,
Entrenched in suffocating roots.
Sinking a fragile soul down,

down,

down

To the very core of the earth.

when gloomy clouds abandon the sky,
the ever-looming mist fogs up his vision,
he refuses to fall for the trickery of depth...
but how could one ever resist this saccharine feeling?
he watches with blurry eyes
his future dispersing into the haziness of the night,
far beyond the horizon.

Once, he was sheltered
by the warmth of her wings.
It saved a battered, shattered soul,
Bestowed on him courage
to soar the abyss.

But when he tumbled down from burning heights
And fell into the mist,
He realised wax and feathers were doomed to die
And dreams were all but ephemeral lies.

The sky shatters. And it's so tranquilising
To hear my heart shatter into pieces.
The yawning storm cleanse away all fragments of reality.

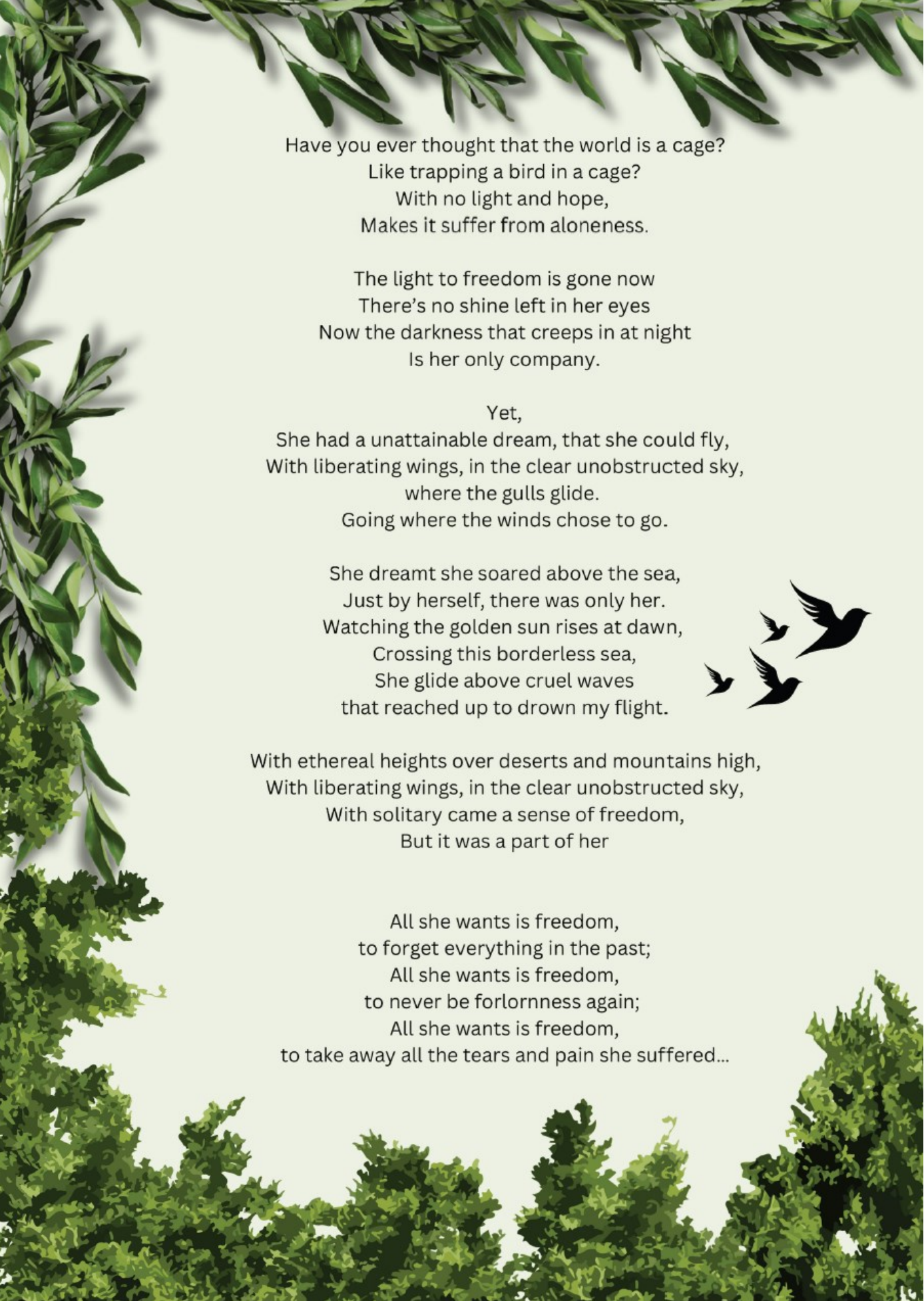
In despair he pleads: 'I'd sell my soul
to the skies, Grant me a pair of wings.'
'Let me fly towards my paradise, Where delusion becomes his demise.'

Relentless currents swirl around me,
like how she once danced in my arms.
I was sinking in bliss. The trickery of her eyes
tempers me like a deadly hex. My conscience
cries for salvation, yet I yearn to fall —
Into a finitely infinite vortex.

Breaking Free

Hannah Law, Callista Lo, Valerie Mak 3U (2023 – 2024)





Have you ever thought that the world is a cage?
Like trapping a bird in a cage?
With no light and hope,
Makes it suffer from aloneness.

The light to freedom is gone now
There's no shine left in her eyes
Now the darkness that creeps in at night
Is her only company.

Yet,
She had a unattainable dream, that she could fly,
With liberating wings, in the clear unobstructed sky,
where the gulls glide.
Going where the winds chose to go.

She dreamt she soared above the sea,
Just by herself, there was only her.
Watching the golden sun rises at dawn,
Crossing this borderless sea,
She glide above cruel waves
that reached up to drown my flight.



With ethereal heights over deserts and mountains high,
With liberating wings, in the clear unobstructed sky,
With solitary came a sense of freedom,
But it was a part of her

All she wants is freedom,
to forget everything in the past;
All she wants is freedom,
to never be forlornness again;
All she wants is freedom,
to take away all the tears and pain she suffered...

Roots and Wings

Ines Baud, Mia Chan, Cherry To 3T (2023 – 2024)

A place
where dreams
take flight, where fledglings
spread their wings. We find
ourselves yearning for where
we learned to fly.
We soar towards
the endless sky,
exploring the
world, unfolding
our dreams.
Guided by courage,
borne with pride.
In the classroom we
learnt and grew, knowledge
blossomed, like rivers that flow, we gathered
wisdom, like twigs we collect, building our nests
with intellect. Our mentors, gently impart, lessons of
resilience, from the depths of their heart.
Picked us up when we failed, taught us to value both
wings and roots, to balance our flight with grounded pursuits.
For wings without roots, we'd lose our way, drifting aimlessly, no
place to stay, yet
roots without wings
would bind us tight,
stifled dreams,
extinguished
lights. Together
we'll fly, as a flock
we'll soar,
supporting each
other, forevermore,
for in this
journey, find
our soul,
prove our
worth
and
seek
our
goal.

The theme of roots and wings is presented in the poem through the metaphor of us, the students of the school. The students are portrayed as birds that eventually learn to fly and leave their roots, the school. It is seen how although the birds have the option to fly and forget about their origin, they know the importance of having both wings and remembering their roots, for they cannot fly without either of them. The poem brings out the emotions of the students who can now 'soar the skies', but are recalling the memories of their roots and home, describing the teachings of their mentors in their classrooms, and slowly building a 'nest' with the knowledge they gain from learning.

One of the most used technique is symbolism, used throughout the poem from students as birds to knowledge as branches. It shows how similar our learning journey is with birds, and how we should be like them: to soar the skies with our knowledge from teachings, but also to remember our roots and show gratitude for it. Moreover, the imagery used for the flowing rivers and branches being collected like twigs to finally build a nest evokes a sense of growth and accumulation of knowledge, leading to success.


The shape of the bird is seen in the poem because of the theme of 'wings'. The main characters of the poem are the students portrayed as birds, hence the image. It is the image of a bird soaring the skies with its wings, developed from the teachings of its mentors. Despite that, the bird does not forget its roots and will remember to return to its origin from time to time.



Artwork: Oriana Li 4A (2023-2024)

Unfurling Wings

Chloe Kung, Aimey Leung, Angie Li, Jace Pang 3A (2023 – 2024)




	I have a dream - A dream to showcase the artistry that I have been perfecting for years. my skin. stuck entangled fluttering	I had a vision, a dancers desire. I ignite the dance with passion and fire. Embrace the stage through was once every plié, swan's tale, leaping with my wings unfurled. For the darkness that once blinded me, can be transformed into a soaring flight.	where wings glide. I impress them steps of glory. Freed from the cage Odette trapped in, with every stride, every port de bra, every pirouette, I found my purpose in the
A dream to soak in the rays of light under A dream for them to admire in awe. But here I am, in this torturing loop of routines. While my feet are by the ribbons and roots, I gaze upon the feathers from afar. When can I spread my wings and soar high beyond the skies, so I can leave the pain behind that binds me in place?			

The shape poem talks about how the persona wants to complete her aspirations yet is refrained and dissatisfied by her roots.

The struggles and challenges the persona encountered are vividly conveyed. Plosives are used in the line “the pain behind that binds me in place” to give readers a clearer image of her struggle. While the persona dreams for a bright future, her feet are “entangled by ribbons and roots”. This alliteration of the /r/ sounds stresses the pain the dancer has to bear and the hard times in dance practices. Furthermore, when the dancer tries to free herself from the torturing obstacles, her struggles are illustrated by “the cage Odette was once trapped in”. The allusion to the well-known ballet ‘Swan Lake’ paints a more vital image of the dancer’s lost and weary feelings. Therefore, different poetic devices are used to reflect the difficulties during the persona’s journey in pursuing her dreams.

The theme of roots and wings is portrayed through the dreams and ambitions in the poem. The persona mentions her dream to dance freely on the stage by saying “I have a dream”. This direct reference to Martin Luther King’s speech adds power to the sentence. This brings out how the persona longs and dreams for those “wings” to set her free from reality. The lines “A dream to show to showcase the artistry that I’ve been perfecting for years, A dream to soak in the rays of light under my skin, A dream for them to admire in awe.” bring out her dreams. Anaphora of “A dream to” shows how specific her dreams are. There is also visual imagery of dancers immersing in the stage light and audiences being amazed at the performers. All these descriptions show how the persona yearns for higher achievement in her ballet career, showcasing her hopes and aspirations and therefore illustrating the theme of “wings”. Moreover, the poets show the contrast between dreams and reality. In “But here I am, stuck in this torturing loop of routines”, the use of the conjunction “But” shows how the reality and the persona’s dreams differs, resulting in showing the contrast between the persona’s “roots” and “wings”.



Furthermore, the poets write about how the persona questions whether she will be able to achieve her dreams with “When can I spread my wings and soar high beyond the skies So I can leave the pain behind that binds me in place?” The enjambment and the rhetorical question allows readers to understand how she is stuck in the present bound by routines. Therefore, the poets use different descriptions of the persona’s dreams and ambitions to show the theme of roots and wings.

The theme of roots and wings is conveyed through the past and present of the persona. The use of different tenses shows the change between the persona’s thoughts and feelings from the past to the present. In the past, the persona “have a dream”. Present tense is used to indicate a strong desire to attain the goal and her dream. This dream represents the roots, the foundation upon which her ambitions are built. The use of present tense emphasizes the persona’s ongoing pursuit of her dream, highlighting its enduring significance and her unwavering determination. However, as the poem progresses, the persona “had a vision.” The use of past tense indicates that her dream has transcended mere desire and has become a tangible reality. This shift from present tense to past tense signifies a pivotal moment where the persona’s dream has taken flight and she has achieved a new level of personal growth and success. Furthermore, in the past, the persona was “entangled by the ribbons and roots” but in the present, the persona found her purpose “leaping with my wings unfurled”. The symbolism of “ribbons and roots” and “wings” is used. The ribbon and wings symbolize the obstacles and difficulties the persona encounters while the wings symbolize the dream that she has achieved. In the past, negative connotations such as “stuck” and “entangled” are used to show her difficulties. In the present, positive connotations such as “ignite”, “embrace” and “impress” are used to show that she has overcome the difficulties and successfully achieved her dream of being a dancer.

To conclude, the message behind the poem lies in the inspiring story of a ballerina who struggled to feel her passion for ballet because of the boring, tiring, daily dance routines and the change in her career after her cast in “Swan Lake”. Therefore, swans are used for the shape of the poem. To show the contrast between her “roots” and “wings”, the poem is separated into two stanzas, reflecting each other in shape, showing how the success she has is based on her foundation. Overall, the poem’s message lies in the persona’s evolution, from a dreamer held back by routine and entangled “roots”, to a visionary who has found freedom and purpose through her “wings”.

Poems from 2023 Bridging Course

Our Beloved School

Vivian Chung, Chini Fong, Hayley Hsueh, Sophia Lam 1S (2023 – 2024)



Look at this lively, peaceful and full of joyfulness place
It is not only place of learning, of wisdom and light
And also to shape our minds, to inspire and ignite
Omnia Omnibus, Omnia Omnibus
French Convent School as it first called
After all these years it became the great SPCS St Paul
Just like the sunlight that brings us love and cheerfulness
SPCS is as old as time

It dates back to 1696 in a small farm town
Their classroom was as small as a piece of lime
So they moved to a big city and left the tiny town
From then on

They made it their mission to give education to the poor and promote God!

SPCS has lots of extracurricular activities
With different DIPs that are filled with creativity
All of the activities are fun and great
Such as stem, Chinese medicine and debate
And now we come together to celebrate.

To honor our school, to appreciate,
All that it's given us through the years.
The memories, the friendships, the joys and tears.

Today is SPCS's big day
A joyful day as its 170th birthday
We thank god for our school, without it we'd fail
with the teachers education, all of us can sail
Happy Birthday SPCS



Happy 170th Birthday, SPCS!

Kaylee Shiu 1P, Sunny Ma, Julietta Sy 1U, Sherree Chan,

Louise Kwandy, Charlotte Mok 1L (2023 – 2024)



Happy 170th Birthday, SPCS!

170 years ago in 1854,
SPCS was founded, a school which people adore.
From kindergarten and nursery to primary and
secondary,
St Paul's provided wonderful education for many.

In a long journey of never ending learning and
improving,
We learnt from the school motto and the 7Cs.
We helped whoever was in need,
And strived to be a better version of ourselves.

From the first day of school to graduation,
We've been loved and cared for without a
question.
Precious memories are engraved in our hearts,
Even until decades after we part.

Thank you SPCS for taking care of us for 10
years,
The sisters and teachers are supportive and
loving,
Even if we were mostly stubborn and
mischievous.

We are very grateful for your care to us.
Happy 170th Birthday, SPCS!

170% Paulinians

Tiana Leung, Stephanie Lo 1S (2023-2024)

Kay Lam 1T (2023 – 2024) Khloe Liu 1A (2023-2024)

St. Paul's Convent School is a heaven
Students and staff, cooperate in every season
Standing there strong and sturdy like a soldier
Strengthening by day and night
Stunning history to shine bright

Paulinians are always generous and selfless
Putonghua, Chinese and English
Perfect diverse subjects and languages
Passion for knowledge
Performances fill our pastimes

Catholic spirit flows around us
Charity, courage and commitment
Common personalities Paulinians possess
Compassionate and caring, our school's essence
Creates an environment, fostering excellence

Sisters over the past 170 years
Successfully led and taught us
Supporting us through the hard times
Standing here to celebrate a date proudly
Swoosh, salutes for our 170th anniversary



Artwork: Valerie Mok 2S (2023-2024)

Blessing For You

Katherine Tin, Chloe Tong, Charissa Tsui 1T (2023 –2024)



SPCS is a sunshine shining on us.
You are the school full of happiness.

Love,
and gratefulness!
Paulinians, let's celebrate
Our school 170th anniversary.

Over the years,
We've learned to overcome challenges.
Over the years,
We've learned 7C's and care about others.

Inside this school with a butter cream-coloured wall.
Every school team shows its special abilities.

And shows its special abilities.
From sports to arts,
From arts to STEAM,
From STEAM to herbal tea...
They are the GLORY of our school.

Now is the 170th anniversary!
Everyone cheers and applauds!
Once a Paulinian,
Forever a Paulinian!



Artwork: Katrina Leung 3L (2023-2024)

SPCS's 170th Anniversary

Jasmine Chan, Susan Chung 1T (2023 –2024)

Yvette Cheung 1A (2023 –2024)

Charity, Conscience, Courage, Confidence, Creativity,
Competence and Commitment.

Working together we strive for accomplishments.

Accomplishments bring us more and more compliments.

Our school's study tours bring us to more continents.

170 years have passed and we're still doing well,

But we can't wait for the end of the bell.

We still love our learning
and the lessons are interesting.

The teachers drive us to success.

Hardworking traits we will always possess.

We thank our school,
Without it, we'll fail,
With our education,
together we'll sail

To lifelong prosperity, thanks to SPCS.

So now we'd like to say,

"Happy 170th Birthday, SPCS –

The way to our success!"

HEARTFELT
GRATITUDE

Artwork: Valerie Mok 2S (2023-2024)

170th SPCS Anniversary

OPEN & DAY

CULTURAL PERFORMANCES



DATE: 4~6 July

Time: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Place: St. Paul's Convent School

Come and have fun!

SPCS 170th

Anniversary

The Paulinian
7C's:

- Charity
- Conscience
- Confidence
- Courage
- Creativity
- Competence
- Commitment

School Motto

'Omnia Omnibus' which means
'being all things to all
people', 'irrespective of
race, religion and
social status.'



ROOTS
&
WINGS

Achievements

- St. Paul's Convent School ventures into the exploration of finding cures and preventive measures. Adapting the precious legacy — 24+ herbal drink, the school invented the Paulinian Herbal drink.
- HASSE accepted over 40 paulinians to their summer camp in 2024, to develop a cosmic perspective on Space Exploration that broadens vision

History

SPCS is a Catholic secondary school for girls aged 11-18, run by the sisters of St. Paul de Chartes, a French religious group with 300 years of educational experience. The school, which is founded in 1854, is one of the oldest Grant-in-aid Schools in HK. Originally called the French Convent School, the school was renamed St. Paul's Convent School in 1955.

170th Anniversary



St. Paul's Convent School

About the school:

St. Paul's Convent School is founded in 1854 by Sisters of St Paul de Chartres

About the 170th anniversary:

To celebrate the 170th anniversary, our school is going to host a variety of events, some of which are open to the public! (Family Fun Day & Open Day)

St. Paul's Day
30 June, 2025 (Monday)
We sing and pray to the Lord, with sisters and teachers.

To thank St. Paul's

Open Day and Cultural Performances
4-6 July 2025, (Friday - Sunday)

To let more people know about our school

Tram tour
6 September 2024 (Friday)

To know more about our city

Christmas Mass
19 December, 2024 (Thursday)

To show thanks and celebrate Baby Jesus's birth

Family Fun Day
1-2 March 2025 (Saturday & Sunday)

To help families know about our school

Increase family relationship

Come and join us! Further information can be found on www.spcs.edu.hk

SPCS 170th Anniversary

Omnia Omnibus ; charity, conscience, commitment, creativity, courage, confidence, competence.

FACILITIES IN THIS SCHOOL:

Quality Kitchen - the former cookery room is now renovated into a brand new quality kitchen, with a luxurious model home. A computer and a video projector are installed in the kitchen for the students to present Home Economics projects.

The PAULINIAN HERBAL TEA

The Paulinian Herbal tea is a product developed by St. Paul's School and a local university in Hong Kong. It embodies the wisdom of Chinese and Western Medicine and modern science. The ancient Chinese medicine is used to treat sore throat, cough and fever, dryness and irritability, skin acne, excess oil, staying up all night etc.



SPCS 170th

Anniversary

Come and enjoy
our fun games and
celebrate SPCS 170th
Anniversary with us.

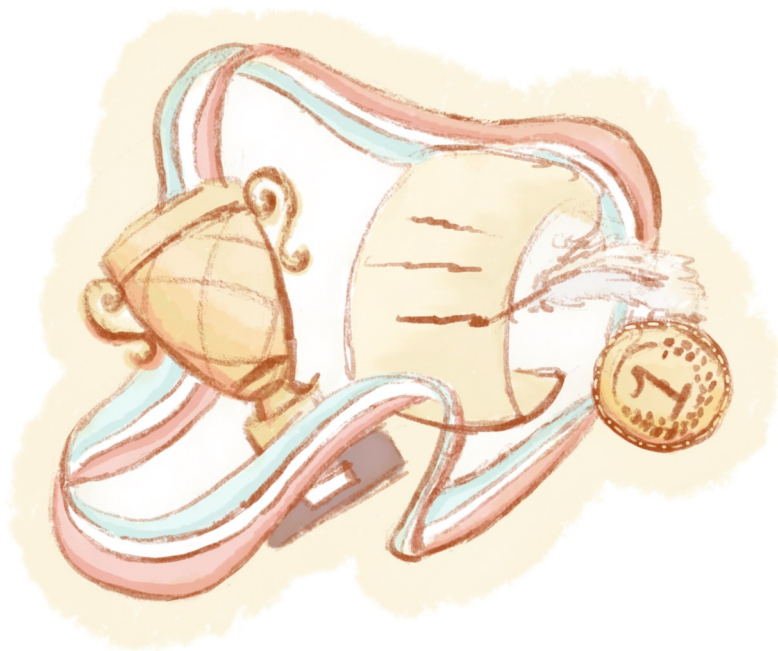
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Introduction to Competition Winning Entries

Paulinians are extremely proactive learners and always seek a good challenge for themselves. In this chapter, you will find numerous winning entries from the wide array of international, regional and local competitions that students have joined. This is an opportunity for them to demonstrate their talent for writing, and a chance for readers to be amazed and be inspired.

Whether crafting fantastical tales, poignant poetry or sharing their personal narratives, Paulinians have consistently showcased their ability to captivate audiences and push the boundaries of their creativity, thinking outside of the box to achieve even greater success. The recognition and accolades they have earned are a testament to Paulinians' exceptional writing prowess.

From poetry that tugs on your heartstrings to compelling arguments in essays, be prepared to be in awe by the remarkable talents of Paulinians in the realm of creative writing. This chapter offers a glimpse into the extraordinary talents of these young writers, showcasing their mastery of language and unwavering dedication to their craft. We hope that the fascinating art drawn by students to fit the theme of each piece of writing will elevate your reading experience.



Artwork: Hayley Yeung 3A (2023-2024)

**LIST
OF
COMPETITION
WINNING
ENTRIES**

Contents

**Avernus Education International Essay
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Avernus Education

Annual Book Report Competition

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*Ethos, Medical Ethics & Humanities Unit (MEHU),
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HKU ROLE Essay Competition

*The Rule of Law Education (ROLE) Project of
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Immerse Education

Mediation Essay Competition

The Department of Justice, the Education Bureau, Rotary International District 3450 and Asia Conflict Resolution Institute Limited

MI Young Writers Award

Magazines International (Asia) Limited

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Education Bureau

Poetry Remake

Education Bureau

From Player to Page Competition

Cicero Group Limited, Playasia, Lancaster University, The Standard

Sino Junior Reporter Programme

Sino Group (supported by SCMP Young Post)

The Global WE Essay Competition

Harvard GlobalWE

Avernus Education International Essay Competition

Avernus Education

Highly Commended – Outstanding Shortlisted Entries

Dorothy Chan 5S (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

“How do lifestyle choices impact long-term health, and what strategies can be implemented to promote healthier living from a young age?”

What defines life? Food and nourishment, activity and dormancy, growth and development. These are all crucial building blocks of life and the style in which we exercise these elements are quintessential to the progressive cultivation of health. This essay explores how even the most trivial decisions can permanently alter the intricacies of our health trajectory.

‘You are what you eat’ has been word of wisdom condensed through millennia of experience. Scientific studies are unveiling monumental revelations of substantial interconnections between our diet and health conditions, validating the accountability of this statement.

‘What you eat’ literally embodies the amount and proportions of the seven food types of the healthy eating plate. Food helps replenish, recharge and rejuvenate. Yet what we lack acknowledgement is that the varieties of nutrients ingested and absorbed into our gastrointestinal tract define precisely the foundation of the body framework, functionality, to the very composition of cellular membrane, fundamental building blocks of systems¹.

Investigations initiated decades ago have already validated beyond doubt an over-reliance on chemically-laden carcinogenic junk food² increases risks of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular illnesses and stroke³ exponentially, alongside with other complications. Renowned for its easily accessible crispy delicacies, the UK is faced with an unprecedented crisis upon the healthcare system. 62.8% of adults were overweight or obese as of November 2020⁴, analysis indicates. But England was never alone. Developed countries are witnessing the calamity of more than one in two adults and one in six children experiencing obesity in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries⁵ due to rapid urbanisation.

In a world where toxicity rules, the World Health Organisation has pronounced that non-regulatory application of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, bioaccumulation due to frequent exposure and biomagnification along the food chain threatens our very existence⁶.

However, it is always more than what meets the eye.

Recent research has gone above and beyond, highlighting the correlation of depressive symptoms with improper diet. Not only is that testified by our daily life encounters, but it is also supported by trend consistencies of cross-sectional relationship between unhealthy dietary patterns and poorer mental health in children and adolescents, and vice versa ⁷. Excessive intake of junk food, nutritionless HFSS products ⁸, is discovered to be culprits of mental anguish: depression, anxiety and eating disorders ⁹. Ultra-processed food that are rich in trans unsaturated fatty acids have an inerasable aftermath on the regulation of our emotions ².

These negativities are exemplified by the norm coined as the ‘metropolis sleep schedule’. In a world where time is of the essence, young people have become more vulnerable to falling prey to sleep deprivation. Endless studying grind, crammed extra-curriculars and the indescribable allure of entertainment are the culprits of increasing susceptibility towards rising sleep debt. If such phenomenon persists, the detrimental influences that lack of sleep has levied on the human body would become irreversible, culminating with the formation of a psychological syndrome characterised as chronic emotional and physical exhaustion – burnout. Whereas sleep disruption also risks distortion of the rhythm and production of immune cells ¹⁰.

The good news is, we are the masters of our sanctuary.

Food has always been a double-edged sword. Psychiatrist Dr. Drew Ramsey declared that ‘Food is medicine, food is brain medicine.’ ¹¹ The concept is further justified by the rising popularity in diet therapy ¹², the marriage between physiological treatment and bio-psychosocial model ¹³. Modified to attain optimal health, a therapeutic diet, prescribed and prepared by a physician and dietician respectively ¹⁴, explores consumption alternatives and rectifies poor eating behaviours. Adequately planned eating habits incorporate the idea of macronutrients and micronutrients ¹⁵. They stand firm on the basis of how our diets dictate our physical, emotional, and psychological well-being ¹⁶.

To elevate the psychological impacts diet has on human body, a stringent yet structured timetable is the fundamental basis. Allocate time for exercise, time spent outdoors, socialising or just relaxing away from the small gadgets. By adhering to a strict schedule, the body, in essence, would be accustomed to it, adjusting body metabolisms according to the corrected biological clock. An example would be having the nervous system reverting to the relaxed state from the sympathetic mode ¹⁷, which was intended for ‘fight or flight’ scenarios rather than everyday life. Another critically acclaimed advantage of sufficient and high-quality slow wave sleep is a strengthened immune system, evidenced by Filip Swirski, PhD, a professor of medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City outspoken belief of “There’s a lot of truth to the idea that sleep is the best medicine.” ¹⁰

To maximise the benefits sleep offers, professionals have proposed the concept of visualisation, by navigating through working memory in the spatial region of the brain, reasoning about future events and visualising positive reactions to negative stimuli develops psychological resilience, mastering the mental reservoir of strength¹⁸.

From a macroscopic view, the modern society has acknowledged the significance of mental illnesses, with major depression being the centre of attention, hence the more widespread advocacy, education and awareness in discovering the root causes, in various settings, be it school, workplace or healthcare system in general. With more access to healthcare support and the progressive demolishing of stigma surrounding the taboo, more medical diagnoses can be made at earlier stages in life. To mitigate its effect on the general public health, the government alongside all other stakeholders can help in constructing a more all-rounded social safety net, providing extensive support for social connections to attain the stress-buffering hypothesis.

As demonstrated by the aforementioned facts, it is undeniable that our lifestyle choices defines our destiny. It might come as a shock to many as to how the seemingly insignificant malpractices in life may directly harm our body or indirectly impact our health in the long run. Yet, we are the stewards of our health. We can make a difference. It is no longer an option but a necessity to embrace responsible practices, raise public awareness, and foster collaboration. It is our own responsibility, our own obligation to make the right choices. Let us work together to ensure the longevity and delicate balance of our bodies. Let's reject the normalized to-go norm. Let's demand a radical change in our lifestyle. Let's choose what is best for our health.

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The 34th Annual Book Report Competition

Hong Kong Educational Publishing Company Ltd., Athens Education, The Commercial Press (HK) Ltd., and United Prime Educational Publishing (HK) Ltd.

Merit Award

Hazel Choi 3U (2022 – 2023)

The challenge:

Participants are required to write a book report on a book of their choosing.

Book title: It Ends With Us

Author: Colleen Hoover

Publisher: Simon & Schuster

“It Ends With Us” by Colleen Hoover is a fictional romance novel about the life of a girl named Lily. The story explores topics of domestic abuse, love and jealousy. It talks about why the abused suffer in a cycle of abuse because it is difficult for them to leave the abuser that they loved dearly. They choose to swallow the pain because they don’t want to ruin their abuser’s careers or reputation. The apologies and excuses that the abusers make for themselves seem to justify their actions and the abused keeps hoping that their abuser would change for them and the situation would get better.

Lily opens her floral shop in Boston after graduating from college, and meets a neurosurgeon named Ryle. Fate makes them cross each other’s paths again and again, and they finally fall in love with each other. Just when things are going a bit too well, Ryle physically abuses Lily for the first time. Lily grew up in an abusive household, witnessing all the terrible things her father did to her mother. The Lily who once swore to never be like her mother and forgive a man that mistreats her becomes the very own person to forgive Ryle and allow him to hurt her not only once, but thrice. Lily also meets her first love, Atlas, again and she can’t help but reminisces her time with Atlas. When Lily finally gathers the courage to leave Ryle, she is struck with the devastating news that she is pregnant with Ryle’s child. Atlas provides Lily with undying support and help while she recovers from the damage Ryle has done to her. Lily divorces with Ryle, but they still share the responsibility of raising their daughter together, and the story ends with Lily running into Atlas on the streets after not seeing each other for one and a half year.

“It Ends With Us” has an extremely sophisticated plot. Each character or incident is brilliantly linked together by the author, which explains why the characters act the way they do and why it sometimes is so difficult for them to make decisions. The book easily brings readers into the world of the characters. It is as if we are watching Lily grow throughout the story, seeing how relationship with Ryle and Atlas develops respectively. This makes it extra heart-breaking to see Ryle shatter the trust he has built up with Lily as he lays his hands on her for the first time. And it is equally lovely to see her return to the love of her life, the one that she is destined for. There is a special connection between the characters and the readers which makes the book very unique.

This book is so engaging because it reflects stories in real life. It somehow explains the doubt of many of us: why do so little victims of domestic abuse ask for help? Thousands, or perhaps millions of stories similar to Lily’s are happening every day. But how many of them will actually do something about it or leave the cycle of domestic abuse? The author depicts the pain of knowing that your beloved one is the one that hurts you the most. The abused never spoke up, because they want to give their abuser a second chance, maybe a third or a fourth, because they don’t want others to worry about them, because they truly believe that their loved one will change for them, but just to be disappointed and defeated again.

Different from typical romance novels, the book has a devastating plot which destroys both the characters and the readers completely. It made me think that there is no such thing as a ‘fairy tale’ or ‘happily ever after’. When everything is going well, there will certainly be some unpredictable challenges, completely destroying your plans and leaving you in a mess. Meanwhile, when you think your life cannot get any worse, endless bad things will happen to you. Life is just so unpredictable. Feelings of sadness and hopelessness can often overcome us, but it is certain that if we don’t do anything about our situation, nothing will get better. The most important thing is to prioritise ourselves and fight for our happiness. Sometimes all it takes is for us to take the first step and our lives could change.

All in all, ‘It Ends With Us’ is a book that inspires me a lot. While I’m reading, I would constantly think about what I would do if I were in Lily’s situation; and whether I could be as brave as her to look for the things that I treasure in life. This book will definitely remain as one of my favourites and I cannot wait to read it again.

The 35th Book Report Competition

Hong Kong Educational Publishing Company Ltd., The Commercial Press (HK) Ltd. and United Prime Educational Publishing (HK) Ltd.

Merit Award

Antares Ho 4L (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

Participants are required to write a book report on a book of their choosing.

Book Title: Netochka Nezvanova

Author: Fyodor Dostoevsky

Publisher: Englewood Cliffs, Prentice-hall

To Netochka:

You are not the most brilliant novel I have ever stumbled upon. In fact, you are far from adequate. But there are reasons why I love you in spite of that. There are reasons.

—A dear friend

Netochka Nezvanova—translating to ‘Nameless Nobody’—is a tragedy, for lack of a better word. Perhaps the reason why Dostoevsky never bothered to finish writing it was because he feared for his characters’ dissipating sanities. The book has no date, no peculiar setting, no nothing—it is nameless, abandoned, a disfigured sort of beauty, carrying the weight of three characters and the wretched lives they lead.

Extraordinary, Netochka calls her step-father. It is not the same sort of ‘extraordinary’ you would see in a dictionary; nor the one Dostoevsky uses, in *Crime and Punishment*, to describe a madman’s distorted conscience. The man in question, Efimov, is a caricature of self-destruction.

Efimov, proud violinist of a wealthy landowner’s orchestra, also had his halcyon days.

What became of him, however—a sad, parasitic glutton—begins with him refusing to sell his prized violin to the Count, rebelling against the social hierarchy of power. The violin, expressed throughout the novel both physically and metaphorically, is Efimov's dream, and it is logical that he refuses to give it up. However, in a subsequent play of petty revenge, the superior Count accuses Efimov of murdering his own friend (who suffered an untimely death), resulting in him getting arrested. This drives Efimov to flee elsewhere with his violin, filled with self-pity and a boiling destestation for the world.

Ironically, Efimov, with a name meaning 'pious and holy', begins to act like a parasite.

Without funds or the motivation to get a job, Efimov spends all his time drowning his sorrows in alcohol. After months of leeching off a good friend, squandering all the money he borrowed without guilt or remorse, Efimov marries a single mother for a thousand rubles, and spends it all on more alcohol. The alcohol numbs the pain—temporarily so, but as one constantly submerges himself in a fictional reality, day and night, he is no longer able to tell inebriation from sobriety. Drunk, disillusioned and constantly frenetic, Efimov never touches his violin again—he keeps it shut in a case, like how he shuts his dream away in the depths of his fissured, disbelieving heart. But ruining himself was not enough for Efimov. Instead of acknowledging the crisis he put his family and himself in, Efimov blames his penury on his marriage, contending that his wife and their daughter, Annette, 'destroyed his talent' and took away his muse. Efimov then proceeds to take all of his wife's hard-earned money and watches his family starve with a crazed indifference.

We begin to see the story from Annette's perspective, who harbours a strange love for her stepfather despite his irrationality—one might call it a sham similar to the renowned 'Stockholm Syndrome'. At the beginning, Annette's mother (who is simply referred to as 'mother' throughout the novel) still calls Annette by her name. However, a few chapters onwards, as Efimov's abusive behaviour elongates, the nickname 'Netochka' is introduced, which roughly translates to 'Nameless'. This insinuates the loss of identity Efimov's exploitation has brought for both women, that they are rather treated as 'tools' than human beings. Netochka, torn between her fervent obsession with Efimov and the desire to return her mother's love, is slowly steered to the edges of insanity as Efimov begins to take advantage of her devotion to him, requesting her cooperation in purloining her mother's savings.

There is, however, no good ending for the extraordinary man. He dies a miserable death after having lost everything he never deserved—his dream, his wife, Netochka. He dies unknown, buried in the remains of his psychosis, in the outskirts of an unknown town.

Netochka is the lone survivor of the tragedy, as her mother falls to an inexorable stress-induced illness. The impotent orphan is then taken in by a prince to a mansion, where she finds love and spends most of her childhood in fortune—yet her new family

continues to call her 'Netochka', as though the nightmare never truly ended; as though the trauma continues to surreptitiously eat away at her sanity. The story abruptly ends when Netochka reaches a certain age of adolescence as Dostoevsky is taken captive in Siberia.

A good book has no ending—its legacy lives on. Despite being an unfinished work, Netochka Nezvanova effectively delves into the themes of good and evil; revenge and redemption, its story forever living on in soul and heart.

The discussion of villainy in the novel is bound to be a topic of controversy. Taking into account all his misdeeds, to name Efimov a 'villain' is justifiable. Be that as it may, evil is not born—it is made. Efimov is a victim in more ways than one—oppressed by the social hierarchy, crushed by his unachievable dream, and pushed to a sudden state of destitution. Indeed, these are not reasons to enslave and exploit your family, but the most disingenuous evil here, I believe, is the fragility of the human mind. There is only a certain point you can reach before it begins to indelibly break. The factors are manifold and unforeseeable: it could be the cause of damaged pride, despondency, or even the loss of a loved one. Efimov embodies this, and he is, indisputably, an extremely well-written character.

Another essential idea explored in the novel is the concept of revenge. Punished by the Count's cruel slander (which is also an act of revenge), Efimov seeks to abreact his fury on his family by depriving them of love and security. What kills him in the end is divine judgement—nature's revenge—and the fee he pays for his impetuous actions is losing his morality, the one thing that makes us all human. Decidedly, revenge, or more literally, 'believing that you have the right in making other people suffer simply because you have suffered', is a fleeting sort of joy. It might be satisfying at first, but in the end, Efimov dies knowing that he has succeeded in nothing but hurting everyone who truly loved him. Dostoevsky's novel then leads us to question: Is it really worth it?

In spite of such a tragedy, however, Dostoevsky leaves much room for optimism. In the second half of the book, despite Netochka continuing to be plagued by her trauma, constantly being in a state of timidity, shows her trying to break through the bounds of her past by pursuing love and true happiness. As she grows older, she learns to differentiate between the infatuation she had for Efimov and pure, reciprocal love; the former is a deranged hope of a tremulous child that Efimov, a saviour she could be dependent on, may be able to save her from the dregs of poverty, and the latter is an unconditional promise to cherish and protect. Netochka is a prime example of how it is possible to overcome the past, no matter how dark and gritty it may be, and instead of allowing yourself to dwell on how you have been tainted by the scars left behind, you learn from them and move on, towards a better future, a brighter sunrise.

Netochka Nezvanova is a book as flawed as its characters are, but its story has moved mountains within me. To me, it is a message to the world—to the disturbed and the afraid: *you are not alone*, to those who are suffering: *the storm will pass*, and to the ones who have survived the trauma: *I am proud of you*.

21st CILTHK Student Essay Competition

The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport

Champion – English Senior

Kaziah Chan, Renee Cheung 4T (2022 – 2023)

The challenge:

After opening the Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macao Bridge, will the existing high-speed ferry service be expelled from the market?

Introduction

The opening of Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macao bridge on 24 October 2018 has provided an alternative pathway for people to travel between Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macau. The Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macao bridge is the longest bridge-cum-tunnel sea crossing in the world. It operates 24 hours a day and takes about 40 minutes to travel the distance of approximately 42km from Hong Kong Port to Zhuhai Port and Macao Port. Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macao bridge also puts major cities in the Pearl River Delta within a three hours' commute from Hong Kong. The whole bridge is a total of 55km long, while the main bridge is about 29.6km.

Ferry used to be the main route for tourists or businessmen to reach Hong Kong, but it was abolished for 3 years due to the covid pandemic. The individual visit scheme that began on 28 July 2003 allowed travelers from mainland China traveling to Hong Kong and Macau. Residents of Zhuhai used to board Hong Kong by high speed ferry service, or travel a very long distance by car. However, since the year of 2019, restrictions were imposed between the traveling of Hong Kong and mainland China. These measures were only lifted recently. However, as the pandemic has closed the borders between Hong Kong and China, the Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macao bridge have not been put into full use. Subsequently, we could not see nor compare the direct impact of the bridge on the ferry industry in the past 3 years. Now, with the reopened borders, the ferry industry will be directly challenged. Facing keen competition, will it be able to stand strongly against the upcoming threats? Or will we receive the announcement of the withdrawal of an industry?

The major competitor of high-speed ferries - shuttle bus

Before the opening of such facilities, ferries used to be the dominating provider of transportation services of Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macau. Yet, after the opening of Hong Kong Zhuhai Macao Bridge, the ferry industry has encountered its largest competitor over these past years - The Hong Kong Zhuhai Macau Bridge shuttle bus.

The rise of the shuttle bus industry between Hong Kong to Macau and Zhuhai began with the opening of the Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macao bridge. It is a service provided by the HZM Bus Company, which specifies traveling back and forth on the Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macao bridge. Nicknamed as the Golden Bus, this shuttle bus operates in two routes, Hong Kong - Macau and Hong Kong - Zhuhai. The waiting time for each shift in busy working hours is about 5-10 minutes, 10-15 minutes a shift in non-busy hours, and 15-30 minutes for non-working, late night hours. Passengers can simply purchase tickets through the Gold Bus online platforms or the ticket counter at present.

Disadvantage of ferries

First and foremost, the traveling cost of high-speed ferry services are much higher than the shuttle bus services. Taking Cotai Water Jet as an example, a single journey from Hong Kong Macau Ferry Terminal to Macau Taipa Ferry Terminal charges an individual for HK\$160 on weekdays. For boarding the Cotai VIP cabin, one-way tickets are sold at an extortionate price of HK\$2,256.

Comparatively speaking, shuttle bus services would be much more reasonable and affordable for citizens. Likewise, a one-way ticket of Hong Kong Zhuhai Macao Bridge Shuttle Bus is simply HK\$65 on weekdays, in which the charge is a fraction of the high-speed ferry services. Thus, speaking in terms of travel cost, shuttle bus services are considered a more cost-effective and rational option.

Another justification deserving our attention is that high-speed ferry services have fewer shifts than shuttle buses. Due to its product nature, the limited number of ferries owned by ferry companies restrict the number of shifts in provision. According to the online website of Cotai Water Jet, a one-way journey from Hong Kong Macau Terminal to Macau Taipa Ferry Terminal only set off at 9:30, 13:00, 16:00. With uncertainty of weather conditions and other uncontrollable factors, it is not a guarantee for these ferries to set sail neither.

In contrast, for the Hong Kong Zhuhai Macao Bridge Shuttle Bus, the waiting time per shuttle bus is eliminated to about 5-10 minutes per shift under busy working hours. This provides great convenience to business travelers, whose working schedules are highly elusive. As a matter of fact, if drivers or employees of the shuttle bus company observe too many passengers lining up, extra shuttle buses can be operated immediately to deal with this situation. In addition, except for extreme precipitation or strong typhoons, most other weather conditions can be ignored. In other words, the shuttle bus service is regarded as a more flexible and quick choice for those who are in a hurry to reach their destination.

Most preposterous of all, even if the ferry companies claim to provide a “premium high-speed ferry service”, this sea-boarding method of reaching Hong Kong, Macau or Zhuhai is an outdated arrangement. Citizens are now open to other faster and quicker alternatives; thus, the monopoly of ferry services has been disrupted by the opening of the Hong Kong Macau Zhuhai Bridge. Even if ferry companies claim the estimated time of arrival as 55 minutes, passengers will also have to take into account different complicated

factors. Most significantly, customers are suggested and preferred to arrive at least 30 minutes earlier than the exact boarding time on the ticket. Conversely, the introduction of the shuttle bus services has alleviated this phenomenon as immediate tickets can be purchased at most time slots. Thus, citizens may prefer shuttle bus services over these existing high-speed ferry services.

However, it should be noted that Shuttle Bus Service has stricter requirements regarding the carrying of luggage. When it comes to the Shuttle Bus services, each passenger is allowed to carry only one piece of baggage free of charge. More often than not, when the luggage rack is full, the staff of the Company reserves the right to refuse passengers from boarding the respective shift. As far as they concerned, passengers may be afflicted by such circumstances, especially during holiday seasons; thus the estimated time of arrival may not be precisely accurate.

Despite all the disadvantages mentioned in above, does it imply that the ferry industry has nothing to hold against the newly risen industry? What are the elements that supported the ferry industry for at least the past decade despite being a monopoly?

Advantages of ferries

Interestingly, most existing high-speed ferry service offers free luggage carriage services with unlimited number of pieces and rather lenient specifications. The above obstacles encountered by shuttle buses can be dealt with multiple large storage racks present in these ferries. Unlike shuttle buses, where the luggage is placed out of reach, items in baggage are much easier to obtain in high-speed ferries. In terms of luggage handling, high-speed ferry will be a more convenient and practical choice instead.

The space of the transportation vehicles is another factor worthy of note. It is beyond doubt that the shuttle bus service mainly aims for efficiency and punctuality. Similar to most shuttle buses, the seats are cramped, and range of activity is limited. As a matter of fact, all HZM shuttle buses are designed identically; no VIP seats or suites are offered, downgrading the traveling experience for tourists who have a high requirement for comfort. Imagine spending 40 minutes cramped up in a single seat, with other passengers squiggling and squishing past each other and tremendous piles of baggage blocking you from getting on and off the shuttle bus. The harsh truth is that the general environment of the shuttle buses can hardly make the commute comfortable. Passengers struggle to take any breaks in silence, thus resulting in unpleasant experiences.

On the contrary, the large capacity and carrying volume of ferries create a rather spacious, cozy and quiet environment and atmosphere for passengers. This statement is well illustrated by Cotai Water Jet, a premium high-speed ferry service between Hong Kong and Macao. Its First Class is designed with flexible adjustable contoured seats and facing table arrangements. Cabins are also well equipped with audio and visual systems; varied onboard programmes are supplied as well. For individuals aiming for quality instead of speed, the providence of suites and VIP by high-speed ferry services guarantees an enjoyable and relaxing journey without disturbance of noise.

Another justification deserving our attention is that high-speed ferry services provide better customer service than the existing shuttle bus service. Turbojet, one of the existing high-speed ferry service providers, claims to be a customer-oriented business. On one hand, by constantly optimizing customer services, Turbojet has now introduced a series of reception services in consideration of all age groups. Varying from luggage handling and consignment assistance, to making proper transportation arrangements and instructions to follow, Turbojet ensures that passengers can enjoy a worry-free sea journey without hesitation. On the other hand, Turbojet services also provides passengers with a variety of value-added services, such as complimentary meals and newspapers, the exclusive use of the waiting lounges and priority disembarkation. For Super Class customers, snacks and beverages, such as cup noodles, are also provided free of charge.

Revival of the ship industry

Nowadays, despite having to endure poor traveling experiences, individuals would prefer choosing a transportation method with a cheaper price and shorter traveling time. It is beyond doubt that the high-speed ferry service has lost its competitive advantages in aspects of convenience, efficiency or speed. Thus if the high speed ferry service providers choose to remain silent or do nothing about, the possibility of it being eliminated and expelled from the market would be extremely high. The high-speed ferry service is highly threatened, but does that mean the whole shipping industry is in grave danger and will be eradicated?

Aiming of another segment of consumer group

As mentioned in previous points, the conditions of the ride in a shuttle bus could be called poor, even harsh. Some people would rather pay a higher price for a more luxurious and enjoyable ride than to suffer in the stuffy, cramped car ride. The shipping companies can try to change their target group from the general public to the richer group that can afford the higher price. They could improve the quality of their service, and provide more varieties of entertainment. Despite this leading to an increase of cost, the company could protect their profit margin by raising the price. With a higher income, it can improve its business brand and reputation as a provider for high quality products: they need not to worry about losing their customers as the high-speed ferry will evolve into a service sector instead of the transportation sector. The method of traveling by ferry could be a symbol of a higher social status and wealth. This will help the ferry companies gain a share in the market and avoid direct competition with the shuttle bus industry.

Reduce traveling time needed

One of the main reasons why the general public would prefer taking shuttle buses is due to the shorter traveling time. The time needed for the shuttle bus to travel between Hong Kong and Macau is about 40 minutes, and the time needed for ferries is around 55 minutes. This is without the calculation of the registration time. For those who are in a hurry, they will definitely choose to travel by shuttle bus even though that means an unbearable experience. If the ferry company could manage to shorten the distance time,

for example, traveling by a more efficient or a shorter route and investing for more updated, stronger engines for their ferries, this will definitely increase the demand for ferries and gain a competitive edge against shuttle buses.

Changing of business focuses

Despite all the methods mentioned above, we are all aware that the shuttle bus industry still wins against the ferries in terms of carrying passengers. Firstly, the Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macau bridge opens with solely one purpose, which is to connect Hong Kong, Macau and cities in Zhuhai areas in the most effective and efficient way possible. In comparison, the ferry industry has to take into consider other purposes and provide alternative services, such as logistic services and shipping services. This results in lower efficiency and weaker competitive power against the shuttle buses. Secondly, the choice of traveling by shuttle bus is constantly promoted by the government. The Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macau Bridge is a project invested by the government, and they aim to maximize the use out of it; therefore, the shuttle bus company gets to enjoy free promotion and support from the government, which reduces the marketing cost of the company and increases its competition power. With all the support and infrastructure from the government, the shuttle bus company could easily develop into a monopoly, eliminating the ferry industry from the transportation service.

Nevertheless, there is one inevitable weakness of the shuttle bus: the incapability of delivering large amounts of goods across the borders. In truth, this service is one of the greatest strengths of the shipping industry. The shipping industry is capable of doing transactions that the shuttle buses are not able to and earn much profit from it. For example, from the 2022 interim report, the Chu Long Shipping Enterprises Company Limited earned a profit of HK\$305,000 from shipping agency, river trade cargo direct shipment and transshipment income until June 30. They also earned a total of HK\$776,8000 fuel supply income and HK\$204,000 for marine bunkering service fee up till June 30. These are the ranges of services that the shuttle bus industry cannot reach, and for the shipping industry to continue to survive, they should concentrate more on the alternative services rather than directly competing with the greatest strength of the shuttle bus industry. They should swift their focus from the transportation sector to other services.

Conclusion

To conclude, we are certain that the ferry industry will be expelled from the market if nothing is done as consumers nowadays seek for more cost-effective solutions. Even though ferries have dominated the transportation segment between Hong Kong, Macau and Zhuhai for the past few decades, with the opening of the Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macau bridge, the era of the ferry industry will come to an end sooner or later. However, it does not mean the companies and the whole industry will be eliminated from the market. If they focus on other segments, discover new markets and target specific consumer groups to extend their industry cycle, they will be able to survive as long as they do not compete with the shuttle bus providers directly.

21st CILTHK Student Essay Competition

The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport

Merit Award – English Senior

Rachel Yu 4A, Yoyo Ngai 4U (2022 – 2023)

The challenge:

After opening the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, will the existing high speed ferry service be expelled from the market?

Can the ferry stay afloat?

The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge is a multibillion-dollar project of substantial scale that began construction in 2009, and was finally completed after 9 years in 2018. While it is undeniable that the bridge offers dramatically reduced travel durations, there are always two sides to every coin — Will the newly-built bridge affect and even expel the existing high-speed ferry service?

The current leading high-speed ferry service has been in use for well over 50 years. For the past five decades, the ferry company TurboJET has maintained a leading position in the Hong Kong-Macau high-speed passenger transportation industry, and handles an annual passenger volume of over 15 million. Throughout the years, it has been operating hydrofoil ferry services in the Pearl River Delta area with an aim to make innovative improvements to the passenger shipping business. However, with the introduction of a new competitor to the inter-Hong Kong-Macau-Zhuhai transportation market, ferry passenger numbers have since experienced a sharp drop – and this trend has been prevalent amongst firms in the entire ferry industry, including TurboJET, Cotai Water Jet and Chu Kong Passenger Transport. This brings a new wave of concern about whether or not such services would be permanently gone in a few years' time.

Before any judgement should be made, we should first look at current data and statistics regarding the number of people who use the bridge, as opposed to the ferry services. In the ferry industry, as of 2019, passenger numbers have fallen drastically – observable from TurboJET's decline in passengers by over three times from 15 million to 4.6 million in the span of one year. Meanwhile, in the same year, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge carried over 24 million passengers, single-handedly exceeding any and all figures in the ferry industry.

Additionally, ad hoc factors must be taken into consideration prior to reaching a conclusion concerning the survivability of high-speed ferry services against the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. In the past four years, Hong Kong has experienced political unrest from 2019-2020, which resulted in heavily reduced tourism; and was hit hard by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic since 2019, which forced heavy travel restrictions upon

all regions across the globe, Hong Kong included. As a result, both the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and the high-speed ferry industry faced negative repercussions: Traffic figures of the bridge have dropped by 90% – which is so far the lowest usage since the bridge’s auguration in October 2018. Passenger traffic between Macau and Hong Kong decreased by 40%, and passenger and tourism groups have shifted away from ferry routes to land routes, as seen from the 37.1% decrease in sea passenger traffic in 2019 and the overall downward trend of sea-transportation passenger figures.

As times are rapidly changing, sweeping every one along its ever-changing currents, the opinions and preferences of consumers have diverged from past ways. Before the effects of the pandemic has struck the world, the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) released the results of a study on the “Impact of the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge on the tourism industry” – which shows that 42.7% of visitors intend to reduce the use of marine terminals due to the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. In Hong Kong especially, the pattern of land and sea travel by visitors have changed immensely, with 60.6% stating that they will decrease their usage of the terminals in favour of using the bridge. This means that despite the decades of ferry usage, tourists and visitors have decided a change would be more beneficial. This shift in consumer habits can be attributed to the following reasons:

To gain a more comprehensive understanding on why visitors choose to use the newly-opened bridge instead of the trusted and tried high-speed ferry over the years, reasons can be grouped into three main categories including: Time, cost, and flexibility. In all of the aforementioned factors, the Hong Kong Zhuhai Macau Bridge has an evident advantage over the ferry services. Below is an evaluation of each identified key factor.

Firstly, in regards to time, the Hong Kong Zhuhai Macau Bridge offers a far quicker route towards respective destinations than high-speed ferry services. While it can take up to 70 minutes for high-speed ferries to travel from Hong Kong to Zhuhai, this duration is reduced by an entire half – to approximately half an hour by the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge. Faced with the massive reduction in travel duration, it is unlikely for consumers to choose the high-speed ferry services, which, despite its name, do not possess speeds high enough to compete against the inarguable efficiency of the bridge. Moreover, in terms of cost, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge charges toll fees from HKD \$70 to HKD \$350, while ferry services operating across Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macau charge fees ranging from HKD \$160 to \$525, with special VIP cabins priced over \$3000. Coupled with the first considered factor, speed, it is evidently arguable that the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge offers much more affordable prices for a relatively shorter travel duration. Therefore, consumers may have flocked to the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, which quickly overpowered the ferry services with its affordable and attractive pricing.

Thirdly, the flexibility of each method of transportation plays a crucial part in determining whether or not high-speed ferry services can continue to survive in the market. High-speed ferry services in the Pearl River Delta area have operating hours that

early as 7:30AM and end as late as 10:30PM; In contrast, Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge operates 24 hours a day, and travel times are not constrained by fixed departure times. The flexibility of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge triumphs over that of high-speed ferry services by far, and thus, it may prove difficult for such services to continue to exist in the market alongside such a strong opponent.

Besides the obvious factors stated above, the bridge's novelty and its own architectural success also contributes a lot towards the quickly declining amount of passenger traffic for high-speed ferry services. As the Hong Kong Zhuhai Macau Bridge is the longest sea crossing bridge and tunnel system, many tourists, visitors and residents alike are keen on travelling across this long awaited bridge. Some even say it imitates the "outline of a dragon" at night while it is magnificent during the day due to its tremendous scale and being surrounded by the boundless sea and skies. The Hong Kong Zhuhai Macau Bridge is viewed as a tourist attraction in itself – as such, it is immensely attractive to visitors who may otherwise travel by high-speed ferry.

Apart from the unique advantages of the bridge, with the current odds – in particular, the abovementioned ad hoc factors including the COVID-19 pandemic and political instability – stacked against all industries of the economy, it is even more difficult for the high-speed ferry service to stay afloat in the market alongside its strongest competitors: the Hong Kong Zhuhai Macau Bridge and the railway system that also links Hong Kong to places in Mainland China.

On the other hand, despite the many difficulties thrown at the high-speed ferry industries, they are still staying afloat after years. Although there is still a huge net loss for many companies such as TurboJet, it is still trying to find ways to compensate for this loss and launches many new changes and discounts to attract potential customers. Some of its package deals even include changing its route to drive near the Hong Kong Zhuhai Macau Bridge to allow passengers to get a closer look at the bridge itself or have a wider view of it. Undeniably, these packages do attract many potential customers and manage to not completely expel the high-speed ferry services from the market. TurboJet has even gone as far as integrating and collaborating its ferry services with other major local transportation systems in the region, such as Octopus on an Interchange Rebate and Seat Class Upgrade scheme in conjunction with MTR, CityBus and New World First Bus in order to enhance its convenience and attract more customers. Nonetheless, with a net loss of HK\$70 million (US\$8.9 million) in the first half of 2019, it will be an arduous, uphill battle to stay afloat in the market and only a matter of time before it is expelled from the market.

As seen from the above, the Hong Kong Zhuhai Macau Bridge has greatly affected the high-speed ferry industries judging from how the high-speed ferries are slowly getting replaced and are no longer the to-go choice of citizens from the three regions. Although leading companies such as TurboJet have tried to stay afloat and demonstrated innovative package deals or changes, their effects are certainly limited and not enough to allow it to stay in the market in the long term. The disadvantaged nature of ferry services

due to technological constraints and uncontrollable demand-side factors ultimately serve as the downfall of the high-speed ferry industry as it is gradually replaced with modern technology and sturdy infrastructure – which has taken shape in the form of the Hong Kong Zhuhai Macau Bridge. With a lack of feasible solutions, the only step for the high-speed ferry industries to take is to be expelled and retire from the market after their commendable efforts in serving citizens and tourists alike for decades.



Artwork: Valerie Mok 2S (2023-2024)

22nd CILTHK Student Essay Competition

The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport

First Runner-up

Yoyo Ngai 5S, Rachel Yu 5T (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

English Senior Group: What do you suggest to enrich the airport experiences of Hong Kong Airport travellers?

INTRODUCTION

The Hong Kong International Airport, operated by the Airport Authority Hong Kong, has been at the forefront of Hong Kong's tourism industry for decades. A bustling travelling hub equipped with cutting-edge technology and well-rounded facilities, the HKIA has consistently been a key player in global connectivity, with over 120 airlines operating flights to more than 220 destinations worldwide. The airport is also an important contributor to Hong Kong's economy, employing approximately 53,000 staff and handling millions of passengers and tonnes of cargo per annum. Since its opening in 1998, in which it replaced its predecessor the Kai Tak Airport, the Hong Kong International Airport has boasted impressive infrastructure, including two runways, 90 boarding gates and 77 jet bridge gates, state-of-the-art facilities and a reputation for efficiency and excellence in the aviation industry.

The Hong Kong International Airport is a proud holder of countless global awards, having been named the World's Best Airport for nine consecutive times. Yet, the airport was last crowned in 2011, and over the past decade its ranking in the SKYTRAX World Airport Awards has fallen by the dozens, achieving a rank of thirty-three in 2023. Although still a greatly commendable accomplishment, this decline indicates that the HKIA has been trailing behind other prominent airports worldwide. As such, it is imperative that the HKIA airport experience be enhanced in order to best serve its massive annual volume of visitors.

IDENTIFYING THE ISSUES

In order to enrich the airport experience of Hong Kong Airport travellers, the key issues must first be carefully identified. By effectively discerning the key problems, airport authorities can devise appropriate solutions that cater to the needs and preferences of travellers. The process of identifying the issues involves the analysis of various factors, such as passenger feedback, operational inefficiencies, circumstantial factors and emerging trends in the aviation industry. The major issues will be addressed as follows, relative to that of other leading airports. Ultimately, the aim is to create a seamless and enjoyable experience for visitors of the HKIA.

At present, one of the most significant issues impacting the overall visitor experience is the Hong Kong International Airport's limited capacity to handle a high influx of passengers. This can be attributed to two main factors: the insufficient number of airport terminals and a shortage of staff. These challenges have had a direct impact on the overall visitor experience:

In terms of the number of airport terminals, the Hong Kong International Airport has only had two airport terminals since 2007. In comparison, many leading airports have already possessed over multiple more terminals and runways for years, such as Heathrow Airport with five terminals since 2008, Changi Airport which has boasted four since 2017, and Haneda Airport which has had three since 2010. The HKIA trails behind, with its Three-Runway System (3RS) project — which includes a new concourse, the expansion of Terminal 2, and a new runway — only expected to finish construction in 2024. The completion of the 3RS Project will enable the HKIA to serve an additional 30 million passengers annually and handle increased cargo volumes. Nonetheless, until the project finally reaches completion in 2024, the efficiency of the HKIA will continue to be capped by its current infrastructure, thereby hindering traveller experience.

Another major issue faced by the HKIA is the reduced efficiency of ground services due to the insufficient levels of staffing. As a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the tourism industry has significantly declined, leading to a reduction in flight operations and passenger traffic at HKIA. The airport saw a significant decline in passenger numbers and flight operations, with only 8.8 million passengers and 160,655 flights handled, reflecting a staggering decrease of 87.7% and 61.7% respectively, compared to the previous year. With labour being a derived demand, the fall of the tourism sector had grave implications for the demand for airport staff. Airlines were under strong pressure to implement cost-cutting measures, including layoffs and furloughs, to survive the global crisis. However, as the pandemic subsided and travel restrictions eased, travel demand started to rebound rapidly — to a volume that the Hong Kong International Airport, at its current levels of employment, cannot handle.

It was predicted that passenger traffic will recover to 80% of pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2023, and fully return by the end of 2024. Yet, according to a Legislative Council document, the Airport Authority of Hong Kong recently reported to the Hong Kong Government that its current manpower could only efficiently handle half the pre-pandemic level of passengers. The aviation sector is facing a deeply concerning 40% manpower shortage, and will require 100,000 more workers by the time the airport's third runway opens. This pressing shortage of staff has affected various aspects of operations, including check-in services and ground handling companies. The Board of Airline Representatives of Hong Kong (BAR), which represents over 70 carriers, have also warned about the labour shortage diminishing the ability of airlines to reinstate flights and meet the rise in demand. Even with rich infrastructure and facilities in place, such as numerous gates and counters, it has proven difficult to operate efficiently without the necessary staff.

In February, the South China Morning Post reported that labour issues and fee

increases had caused several airlines to delay resuming or increasing services to Hong Kong. Airline executives further warned of a bottleneck at the airport, which deterred carriers from expanding services, even as travel demand was expected to rise over the summer. Qantas Airways Ltd, for instance, had to delay the restart of flights to Melbourne by three months, until the middle of June, due to a labour shortage at its contractor at HKIA.

Turning the focus onto the airport lounges, pre-pandemic, Plaza premium used to have two lounges at HKIA, both the east and west lounges along with a separate first class section. However, post-pandemic, airlines such as SkyTeam and Star Alliance no longer have open lounges in Hong Kong which forces other airlines to use Plaza Premium lounges, causing inevitable overcrowding.

CHALLENGES FACED BY THE HKIA IN TACKLING KEY ISSUES

In order to mitigate the staff shortage, the immediate solution is to recruit more staff, which presents its own set of challenges. The process is inherently slow, not only in the recruitment phase but also the development of required qualifications and soft skills through training that cannot be achieved instantaneously. This further delays the hiring process and exacerbates the existing staff shortage.

Moreover, with unfavourable conditions within the industry including long working hours, arduous physical labour and a travelling long distance (with workers having to travel up to three hours to reach the airport), individuals, particularly the youth, are deterred from choosing to pursue careers in the airline sector. The demanding nature of the industry and the non-transferability of skills and qualifications required for specific roles, contribute to a situation where those working in the aviation industry are often locked into their jobs the moment they enter. This limited mobility and career flexibility can also discourage potential candidates from choosing airline jobs, leading to a supply-side shortage.

With reducing passenger traffic and a net loss for HKIA and many airlines even before COVID restrictions, they are hesitant to hire more staff. However, the HKIA and airlines have now realised the gravity of the matter, Board of Airline Representatives of Hong Kong vice chairwoman Yolanda Yu said ““We are now lacking hands, we need to fill vacancies.” The slow lift of strict COVID-19 restrictions is one of the reasons for the slow recovery of the HKIA compared to other international travel hubs.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: CHANGI AIRPORT VS HKIA

“There are many new features in other airports that the HKIA can learn from”, stated the Legislative councillor and professional pilot Jeremy Tam Man-ho. The key to improvement lies in learning from the successes of others. When it comes to airport management and operations, one shining example of excellence is Singapore’s Changi Airport. Known for its efficiency, innovation and exceptional passenger experience, the Changi Airport has commendably been ranked among the top in the world in recent years, achieving the World’s Best Airport in the SKYTRAX Airport Awards 2023. The Hong Kong International Airport can draw valuable lessons from the successes of Changi

Airport, and apply them to overcome its own challenges as identified. By examining the strategies and practices implemented at Changi Airport, HKIA can implement measures that enhance its operational efficiency and overall competitiveness, thus enriching the airport experience of travellers.

Before diving into a comparative analysis of Changi airport and HKIA, it is important to note that various statistics, including but not limited to passenger traffic numbers, are also determined by the success of the domestic tourism industry and are not solely attributed to the performance of the airports. Regardless, statistics show that the Changi Airport was capable of not only handling a much larger volume of passengers but was also able to maintain its position as a top ranked international airport even amidst uncertain times.

In terms of passenger traffic, Changi Airport Singapore has consistently handled higher passenger traffic compared to HKIA. Singapore Changi Airport has published its Q3 2023 key operating indicators, revealing that 15.3 million passengers had travelled through Changi in the third quarter of 2023. Hong Kong International Airport handled 11.1 million passengers in Q3 of 2023, falling behind Changi Airport by millions — all while Changi Airport was able to rank above HKIA. Although this is simultaneously influenced by the climate and conditions of the local tourism industry, it nonetheless shows how the Changi airport is more capable of handling a huge amount of travellers. This can be attributed to a number of factors, including internal factors such as infrastructure, amenities and employment, as well as external factors such as government policy.

Infrastructure and technology-wise, Changi Airport has also taken the lead. While Hong Kong has yet to finish its expansion of its second terminal, Changi Airport currently has five terminals and continuously implemented new technology that allows for an even smoother travelling experience. The automated immigration clearance and biometric technology that begins in 2024 would introduce novel technology that allows passengers to depart the city state without passports, using only biometric data. The relatively slow process of presenting travel documents and the use of manual labour is thus reduced, using only biometric technology and facial recognition software at automated lanes would only raise efficiency and reduce the need for manpower as well, allowing manpower to go to more needed stations. While HKIA has similar biometric technology, the scale of implementation and the efficiency of Changi Airport's biometric system allows it to take the lead in enhancing traveller experience.

While HKIA offers numerous amenities, Changi Airport boasts an expansive list of facilities, including a butterfly garden, cactus garden, sunflower garden, free movie theatres, sports TVs, game zones with free PlayStation 3 consoles, free LAN cafes with gaming PCs, sleeping zones, and various gardens and fish ponds throughout the airport. With the numerous leisure facilities, it is no surprise that travellers dub it a "Disneyland for backpackers". Besides services in the airport, extensive connectivity and free tours of Singapore truly reflect how the airport attempts to elevate the airport experience to a new level, bringing in tours of Singapore for passengers who have a long layover, allowing them to explore the city and its culture.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ENRICHING AIRPORT EXPERIENCES

In order to create a truly exceptional travel experience for visitors, it is crucial for Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) to continually strive for improvement and innovation. With the goal of fostering greater visitor satisfaction, these recommendations offer insights and potential strategies for HKIA to elevate its status as a world-class airport and ensure that travellers' time spent within its terminals is both seamless and memorable.

In order to address the labour shortage, airline and ground service companies can consider reallocating flights according to their different levels of recovery. By cutting surplus flights with lower consumer demand, labour can be reassigned to other airlines, improving operational efficiency and avoiding disruptions. This reallocation helps to avoid the underutilisation of resources and reduces the cost burden associated with operating flights that may not be economically viable. It also enables companies to focus their efforts and resources on routes and flights that have higher passenger demand, maximising revenue potential. From a logistical standpoint, however, it should also be noted that reallocating flights requires careful planning and coordination. Companies need to analyse market demand, consumer preferences, and flight data to identify flights that can be cut or rescheduled. Factors such as crew availability, airport slots, and aircraft availability must also be considered when reallocating labour. While it may yield advantageous outcomes, this process demands effective communication and collaboration between airlines, ground service providers, and other stakeholders involved in flight operations.

Additionally, in the long term, the deployment of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and automated processes can enhance productivity and improve the airport experience of travellers. Implementing AI in various operational processes can optimise efficiency and streamline operations, contributing to cost savings and addressing the labour shortage. This adoption of AI represents a significant technological advancement that can improve the overall competitiveness of the aviation industry. Furthermore, the replacement of human processes with automated technological solutions presents a significant opportunity for the airline industry to enhance efficiency and productivity. The HKIA has embraced this approach in recent years, with the implementation of smart chatbots in the airport's mobile application, My HKG, as well as the use of advanced biometrics powered by facial recognition. By leveraging cutting-edge technologies, such as self-check-in kiosks, biometric identification systems, and automated baggage handling systems, HKIA and its partners can streamline operations and reduce reliance on manual labour.

A long-term suggestion that should be introduced gradually to address the root cause of staff shortage at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) is to improve worker conditions. Currently, the average salary for flight attendants in Hong Kong is reported to be HK\$39,000 per month, with additional cash compensation ranging from HK\$9,000 to HK\$72,000, according to submissions on Glassdoor by Hong Kong airline crew. The relatively low pay, especially when compared to other lower-risk jobs, coupled with the challenges of long travel distances and extended working hours, may contribute to the

reluctance of individuals to pursue careers in the aviation industry. In order to attract and retain talent, it is essential to gradually enhance worker conditions, including increasing compensation to reflect the demanding nature of the job, implementing reasonable working hours, and providing opportunities for career growth and development. By prioritising the well-being and job satisfaction of aviation workers, HKIA can mitigate the staff shortage issue and ensure the availability of dedicated and motivated professionals to deliver exceptional services to passengers.

While long term solutions should be sought after, short term suggestions to alleviate the immediate staff shortage should also be considered as a supplementary measure. In recent years, a potential framework that has been circulating in the industry is to bring in workers from mainland China and give them special work permits to fill vacancies at the airport. Similarly, the BAR welcomed a government plan to ease entry requirements and bring in 20,000 foreign workers, including up to 6,300 for the aviation sector. While there may be questions on long term sustainability or effects on the local labour market, incentivising and utilising pre-trained imported labour would solve the immediate issues of staff shortage, and increase the competitiveness and enrich the airport experience for travellers alike at the HKIA.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, while the HKIA airport may pale in comparison to other leading airports in terms of amenities, ambience and other facilities, what truly made it lose its competitive edge and its sheen of peak airport experience for travellers is the staff shortage. Enhancing airport experiences at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) is crucial for ensuring visitor satisfaction and maintaining its position as a world-class airport. By addressing major operational issues and learning from the success of airports like Changi in Singapore, HKIA has the opportunity to make significant improvements. Suggestions such as addressing the labour shortage and implementing innovative technologies can transform the airport into a seamless and enjoyable space for travellers. By prioritising these enhancements, HKIA can create a positive and lasting impression on visitors, ultimately leading to increased passenger satisfaction. It is essential for HKIA to take a proactive approach to continually improve and deliver exceptional experiences, ensuring long-term success as a premier international airport.

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Artwork: Valerie Mok 2S (2023-2024)

The 15th English Radio Drama Competition for Schools

Smart Education Charitable Foundation

Merit Award, Best Script Award

Chan Wing Yan Dorothy 4S, Lau Lea Adrienne 4S, Seng Li Laam Audrey 4S,
Kwok Yan Wing Hannah 4A (2022 – 2023)

The challenge:

Theme: Parting and Reunion

SCENE 1	
Person	Line
Reporter	In accordance with Federal Law, the government announced deployment of all military reserves to appear for mobilization from 24th September to 2nd October from 9am to 5pm. I repeat, all military reserves, please bring along your passport and military ID. Long live the king! (Radio fades out)
Louise	(In momentary shock) Dearest! Andrew! Are you hearing this too?
Andrew	I... oh heavens, I never thought the situation would escalate to this point! All of us? Goodness, I've never even been properly trained! How am I supposed to... fight in war?
Louise	This...this can't be, you mustn't go! What if-
Andrew	My love, calm down, listen to me.
Louise	(Agitated) Calm down? Andy, there's so much the future holds for us! And this... what if I lose you forever? I could never live without you! I-
Andrew	And I promise, Louise, that I will come back to you!
Louise	But... that's not something you can decide on, sometimes fate just loves manipulating our destiny. Then... What then?
Andrew	Love, I won't allow it, I swear. (Hides his own anxiety and uncertainty) Look, going to war isn't the end of everything! Please, just wait for me to come home. When I come back, to a world without war, with nothing to kill or die for. When we meet again, what lies ahead of us is life in peace, and we shall live up to everything the future has in hold for us.
Louise	(sighs) ... You know I'll always believe in you, but don't you dare get yourself in trouble, I beg of you Andy. And uh, I should go call my brother, and you should prepare. (Starts ringing a phone)
William	Dear sister, I suppose you have heard the news?

Louise	I have Will... It's inevitable, isn't it? War, silly, never-ending war. Will, take care of yourself, okay? Father and Mother, they're far gone, and now...
William	(half-jokingly) I know, stop whining like an old lady, I'll be very careful.
Louise	(smiles, still worried) You and Andrew, look out for each other out there okay? I can't lose either one of you rascals—
William	(chuckles playfully, understanding Louise's worry) Yes milady, I shall not disappoint!
Louise	(slightly endeared) Alright, alright you hooligan. Please take care, bye for now. (ends call)
SCENE 2	(at the base camp)
William	Andrew, how are you doing future bro in law? (chuckles nervously)
Andrew	As fine as one would feel preparing for a war. You?
William	Uh, great! I'm doing wonderful, just uh, you know, a little nervous yeah? It's my first time being deployed and uh, new experiences, woo!
Andrew	Look, I've got your back, alright? Louise cares a lot about you, and so do I. I won't let anything happen to you for both of our sakes. Louise would kill me if you've got a scratch on your pinkie.
William	Hah, you're good as dead then, I crashed into a wall yesterday.
Andrew	... Okay man, you have signed my death warrant.
Scene 3	
Reporter	(formal and proud) Good morning folks, an update on our noblest expedition in history, our nation is storming enemy lines, we are closing in on the capital. The militia is now recruiting all fit and stout lads in town. Esprit de corps! (Fades away)
Andrew	(worried and distressed) The pungent smell of smoke besieged me. Gunpowder lit the skyline with ceaseless bright orange flashes, as if there was a surreal daytime in the pitch-black of night. This is really happening. (pause) Will, listen to me. I mean, of course I would hate for this to happen, but if something really happens, I-
William	No. Andrew. Stop right there, YOU'RE not going to die and WE are going to be fine. Just... Be positive and man up! You said that, right?

Andrew	(solemnly) Will, but if the worst truly happens, can I trust you to hand this to Louise?
William	(agitated) Come on, you're Andrew, you don't need to— (silence)
Andrew	Thanks, Will.
SCENE 4	(In the middle of battlefield)
Andrew	Artillery units 2 and 4 have been devastated, our comrades are even taken as prisoners of war.
William	It's been months of going on and off the battlefield, tens of hundreds of veterans and new recruits come and go. When will this come to an end...
Andrew	WILLIAM, WATCH YOUR BACK! (rushes over, pushes William away)
	(loud explosion)
William	OH MY- (gasps) ANDREW?
Andrew	Will...
William	Y-yeah? (holds back sobs)
Andrew	(breathlessly) The ring, take it, tell her I'm sorry- (stops abruptly, dies)
William	ANDREW!! ANDR- (more explosions in the distance) YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO LOUISE- (Incessant bombing)
Random soldier	RETREAT, NOW! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, KID? GO! GO!
	(abrupt silence)
Scene 5	(sounds of cheering)
	(cheering fades, door knocks)
	(door opens)
Reporter	Our powerful nation has completed yet another successful campaign. Victorious soldiers are all heralded as the pride of the town. All hail the almighty king!

Louise	Thank goodness you're back! Andrew! William! (silence) Where's... where's Andrew? Is he...?
William	(sombre) I'm sorry sister... But he wanted you to have this since forever.
Dead Andrew	(reads letter) My dearest Louise, Fate is knocking, dear. If you are reading this letter, my love, then the mortal realm could hold me no longer. War was nothing but a state of mayhem and chaos. The iron stench of blood, the rotten bodies piled up next to where we are based, the jocular spirit of the ones alive completely worn down, until we were all desensitized by death... I could merely fear for the worst and hope for the best. Our precious time together, cut short by the cruel hands of fate... No, by the evil of humanity. If happy ever after did exist, I would have taken your hand, and wore the ring for you myself. Just dreaming of this brings me comfort, as if I were not soaked in the stench of gunpowder and the blood of the fallen. No words of apology would ever be enough, but know this, we shall reunite as the sun sets in paradise. Forever yours, Andrew.
Louise	(voice-breakingly cry) Oh my poor, poor Andrew...
William	(crying) I-It's all my fault. He died protecting me, if, if I were stronger, faster, he... I should have been the one to die-
Louise	Will, don't say that... Andy he... It's not your fault, I would have done the same if I was there.
William	But...!
Louise	It would be callous if I lied to my true emotions. Of course I am sad about his parting, and I am furious about him breaking his promise... (chuckles wistfully) But that's just Andy being Andy, always so selfless and caring...
William	That's true.
Louise	And, (takes a deep breath, tries to smile), it's only a matter of time <i>I'll</i> be able to fulfil his promise. <i>Someday</i> , we would meet again, in a world where wars were mere fantasies, where there would be no bloodshed of innocent lives. <i>Someday</i> , we would reunite again in the afterlife, and live the life we were forcefully stripped off of. It's been written in stars; his spirit will stay with us forever. Parting hurts, but this goodbye is not for long. (slight determination and hope)
William	Oh... I never thought about it that way...
Louise	Of course, you haven't, you silly rascal. (sniffs, holding back tears) Come here you, I missed you, most ardently, William, I'm so glad to have you here with me again.

The Hong Kong Secondary Schools Essay Competition

Ethos, Medical Ethics & Humanities Unit (MEHU), HKU LKS Faculty of Medicine

Second Place of the Medical Humanities Prize

Callie Anne Kwok 4S (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

How should healthcare narratives address the tension between hope and realism?

The New Thought Movement in the nineteenth century emphasised the interconnectedness of the mind and body, and revolutionised medical perspectives on healthcare ^[1]. Previously, healthcare saw the body as something that could be “repaired” through medical intervention only. The New Thought Movement believed that better mental health would improve physical health and promote faster recovery from illness. Since then, more comprehensive, patient-centred therapies that encompass mental health have become increasingly integrated into modern medical treatment practices. This includes the use of healthcare narratives.

At present, healthcare narratives are popularly employed for patient empowerment. These stories are usually personal accounts of an individual’s struggle with a particular ailment, but can also encompass fictional and artistic expression. In this essay, I will explore both the triumphs of healthcare narratives in fostering hope, as well as how overly-positive narratives can lead to worsened despair – and thus overall health – in patients. Finally, I will share my insights on how to use storytelling to balance hope and realism through the analysis of different narratives, to help patients navigate their health journeys with heightened resilience and ultimately create a more transparent and authentic healthcare system.

We all enjoy stories, and it is they which help us make sense of the world and our experiences ^[2]. When their power is effectively harnessed, successful recovery stories can act as a beacon of light for patients, especially those with chronic illnesses such as cancer. These narratives serve as powerful reminders that healing is possible, even in the face of daunting health setbacks, thereby injecting a strong dose of hope into their hearts and fuelling them through their darkest hours. Moreover, personal accounts not only offer a much-needed firsthand lens on the lived experiences of illness, treatment and recovery, but also validate its emotional turmoil, providing a sense of community and reducing feelings of loneliness and isolation. A meta-analysis published in 2011 has indicated that, although the effects may be small, higher levels of emotional wellbeing correlate to higher recovery and survival rates of patients ^[3]. Healthcare narratives provide both physical and psychological benefits for patients.

Therefore, I believe it is crucial for healthcare narratives to strike a balance between hope and realism. This can be achieved through a strategic choice of language and structure to convey hope without making false promises or unrealistic claims regarding treatment outcomes.

Rather than solely making direct statements of treatment success, healthcare narratives should prioritise patient experiences, focusing on their resilience and strength whilst acknowledging their challenges and difficulties. Personal accounts should reference patients as “fighting” or “battling” their illness, which implies their agency and purpose amidst adversity. For example, one patient’s story published by the Mayo Clinic Website titled “Never Stop Fighting. Never Give Up” stated that following her challenging diagnosis of glomerulonephritis, Stacy Neumayer and her family “remained strong in their belief that she would persevere and lead the life she always wanted”, and that “they were going to fight this”. She added that her philosophy for survival was to be determined and to advocate for herself ^[5]. This frames her illness as a struggle instead of a guaranteed victory or passive acceptance of fate, but nonetheless a struggle which she could eventually prevail in.

The balance between hope and realism ultimately lies in presenting authentic and realistic stories to showcase the mental fortitude of patients who persevere through their health challenges, and to inspire the same in others. These narratives should avoid sugarcoating tales or giving false outcomes as that would only serve to diminish hope and worsen despair in the end. In this way, healthcare narratives can give a proper balance between hope and realism and act as a pillar of strength to empower patients through their health journeys.

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Good People, Good Deeds: English Writing Competition 2023-24

Tung Wah Group of Hospitals

Merit Prize (Top 10)

Athena Leung 3S (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

This competition provides young writers with a platform to explore the world of writing, to stretch their imagination; and most importantly, to infuse positive energy into society, thus fostering social cohesion and promoting care, mutual help

A Box of Kindness

I confess. I used to hold a rather cynical view of the world. I saw the world as a place where self-interest and opportunism prevailed, overshadowing the genuine intentions of individuals. I believed that there must be some hidden motives or personal gains behind every gesture. However, a small act of kindness shattered my skepticism and taught me a valuable lesson about "Good People, Good Deeds."

During the Covid-19 outbreak, my family were running out of masks. The fear and uncertainty surrounding the pandemic took a toll on our daily lives, and the scarcity of essential supplies added to our worries. We had been hunting for masks tirelessly, but to no avail.

One day, as I sat at home, a knock on the door interrupted my thoughts. An unexpected visitor (a stranger indeed) suspiciously stood on our porch—a young boy, no older than ten, with a mischievous expression on his face. He anxiously probed, "Excuse me, do you happen to have any spare masks?" My cynical nature immediately assumed that he was asking for spare masks for himself or his family. That was so ridiculous to request something for which everyone was desperate. Without a second thought, I responded bluntly with a curt, "No, sorry. We have none!"

To my surprise, the kid persisted. He did not look disappointed or offended. He reached behind him and pulled out a box of masks, explaining, "We just moved in next door, and my parents were able to buy some masks. We think you may need them. We just want to share with our new neighbours."

Caught off guard, I felt ashamed for being rude if not hostile. The young boy just offered an amicable gesture and kindness to strangers during a pandemic. It was an altruistic act that defied my cynical expectations. With a pang of guilt, I awkwardly uttered "Thank you." The boy's face brightened with a smile as he handed me the box of masks. "No worries! We are all in this together," he said cheerfully before hopping back to his home.

As I closed the door and stared at that long-sought-after box of masks, a wave of mixed emotions washed over me. I was overjoyed, yet abashed. It was not only a box of masks, but a “box of kindness” that had infused a profound impact on my life and value. His act of kindness drove me to reconsider the genuine motivations behind people's actions. The next day, I wrote a “thank you” note to the boy’s family and bought them a cake as a token of appreciation.

From that day forward, I made a conscious effort to shed my skepticism and embrace the goodness in people. I learned to appreciate and reciprocate acts of kindness, no matter how small. I helped elderly neighbours with their grocery shopping, distributed sanitizers to those in need, and volunteered at fund-raising events.

By extending kindness to others, I amplified the ripple effect by inspiring others to do the same. I witnessed the transformative power of collective kindness and its exponential impact on individuals and the community. As I continued to radiate kindness, I noticed a shift in my own perspective. My cynical outlook started to fade, replaced by a belief in the inherent goodness of people. I realized that acts of kindness were not merely isolated incidents but rather a reflection of the compassion and empathy that resides within us all. At the same time, they brought us a sense of joy and fulfillment. Goodness does exist in the world.

Believing in the goodness in people inspires hope, promotes empathy, and encourages positive interactions in relationships and communities. It is the foundation of a compassionate and harmonious society where we recognize and celebrate acts of kindness and thereafter encourage others to follow suit.

I now firmly believe in the power of "Good People, Good Deeds" and strive to be a force for positive change in my community and beyond.

HKU ROLE Essay Competition 2023

The Rule of Law Education (ROLE) Project of HKU Faculty of Law

Merit Runner-Up

Daisy Lee 6T (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

Assume that you are a student representative of your school responsible for assisting your teachers in explaining and/or proposing changes to the school rules. Describe how you could apply the rule of law principles to the school rules.

When viewed under a constitutional lens, the school grounds become a microcosm of the social contract. Authorities such as teachers act as the state, while the students are citizens placed under its governance. Lord Bingham defined the rule of law as such: “all persons and authorities within the state, whether public or private, should be bound by and entitled to the benefit of laws publicly made, publicly administered in courts.” As the equivalent of the laws, school rules must adhere to basic principles that protect the very subjects it makes vulnerable.

Accessibility of the law is of tantamount importance, and it goes that clarity must be achieved. This is the reason school rules are published in easily observable places, such as in the student handbook or on notice plaques. The wording must be simple, as the expression must be understandable even to young children. In my opinion, such rules have been sufficiently concise. The typical public sign involves a simplistic command such as “Do Not Run on the Playground”. However, as of now school rules lack explicit consequences for breaking the rules—for example an inclusion of a penalty such as “one day of detention”. As the European Court of Human Rights stated, the law “must be entailed with sufficient precision to help a citizen regulate his conduct, he should be able to foresee the consequences of a certain action.” Clearer understanding of our obligations as students helps us develop moral values, and avoid breaking the law in the future.

I suggest the school circulate a list of past ‘offences’, the circumstances in which the rules applied, and the punishment the student received. The purpose of such a list is to clarify the application of the school rules, similar to the function of common law precedent. The reasoning behind this is that the meaning of the law must also be made public—when the application of the law is not transparent, the true consequences of our actions are in some manner, secret. Such a list would be beneficial to both students and the faculty: the first group to avoid wrongdoing and therefore punishment, and the latter to apply it in a uniform way, with consistency and transparency.

“Law, not Discretion,” denotes that the rule of law is not merely a judicial affair—it is a political state of ideal, a tenet of fair governance itself. Aristotle’s *Politics* articulates the earliest variation of the concept: “it is more proper that law should govern than any one of the citizens.” The rule of law finds its beginnings in the idea of restraint in the power of officials, and avoiding arbitrariness in application of the laws. In a school, the laws are the school rules, and prefects are the public officials appointed with the power vested upon them by the student population. The issue is always one of arbitrariness: for example, a prefect may choose to reprimand a student for eating in class, but turn a blind eye when his friends do the same. The law is applied in an unreliable manner because those who are in power are in a position to abuse it. Therefore, to maintain the rule of law methods must be established to challenge any questionable decisions made by a public official, be he the Chief Executive or a Head Prefect.

I propose a mechanism within the school to receive complaints of inappropriate conduct, such as an anonymous mailbox, run by the Disciplinary Board of teachers. This board of teachers has no hand in electing the prefects—thereby fulfilling the requirement of independence—yet still has the power to enact and demand change. In Hong Kong, Montesquieu’s separation of powers forms the basis of a system of checks and balances to ensure authority is not abused. My hope is that in time, this body will hold the trust of the student population so that any student may feel safe to come forward and report unfairness, much in the manner any citizen can bring a judicial review to the courts, where it will be considered with utmost gravitas by unbiased judges.

The prevalence of the rule of law is not one to be taken for granted, yet its presence at major global milestones of order and prosperity suggest that it is necessary for social progress. As the stewards set to inherit the world, we should learn it through the earliest form we know: school rules. Equality before the law is perhaps the most famous corollary of the rule of law, because it denies the tyrannous individual power and places it in the collective strength of the laws. Ultimately, this is what we hope that educators will strive to foster: an environment where law-abiding individuals are raised with a full sense of justice, and can be trusted to carry forward the spirit of legality ourselves.

Hong Kong Budding Poets (English) Awards 2022/23

The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education

Merit Award

Cattleya Lai 5T (2022 – 2023)

The challenge:

Participants are encouraged to write to echo with the theme of the year — Positive Values and Attitudes.

Gold Glitter

last summer,
you traced gold glitter onto my thighs—strokes of tigress stripes and whispered into my ear
(I could not remember the syllables you enunciated
but I could still feel the roar of a true tiger it ignited
in my chest, proud with crimson flames)
and the python of your voice wrapped itself tight around my throat it's tongue catching every tear that
fell
threatening to dilute the glitter
good days, those were, good days.

the python stayed:
for the smeared mascaras and spilled concealer the red rimmed eyes and *I hate how I looks* con-
stricting its body tight around mine.
I gasped out for air in the safety of the suffocation, my skin shifting under its grip
with a bubbling burn
and peeled itself off with the plastic beauty
to reveal the golden tiger stripes.
I took off the bodysuit of my retired skin
and folded it neatly onto the rest of the pile: *another battle lost, a same, new battle beginning...*
the new skin stayed for two months and four days.

this spring,
a distant friend, an acquaintance,
stared hollow into her school lunch and in sobs told me *food looked like numbers on a scale again*
and I saw the me last summer in her and
cut open my skin and grafted the glitter onto hers
(I could not remember the syllables I spat out
in equally loud sobs
but I hope she could feel the roar of my tiger awakening hers)
that night I folded my newly retired skin
and put it apart, onto a new pile
for the gold glitter that reproduced, that propagated.

Hong Kong Budding Poets (English) Awards 2023/24

The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education

Gold Award & Poet of the School

Yoyo Ngai 5S (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

Participants are encouraged to write to echo with the theme of the year — Heritage.

Bleeding crimson

Canopy of red and gold take flight in the night's embrace,
a tapestry of colours, a celestial sight.

A longing hand reaches up, reaches for the ancestral whispers
filled with the promise of companionship and solace.

The lanterns flicker, casting a crimson hue over all.

Like wax melting, drips red along darting hands
their glow breaks through.

Bleeding crimson drips with the scent of rice wine.

It flows in their veins, a crimson river beginning its maze.

A consistent thrum that reminds them of their roots, their heritage
their home.

Somewhere faraway, he stands in solitude

glancing down at the stream's silent

drip

drip

clink

a trickle down stones accompanied by a soft tap of porcelain against glass

Amidst the revelry and joyous cheer, he stands

alone.

Rice wine poured reminds him of a familiar serene pair,

standing far far away.

Reminds him of the children running about

in his hometown.

Wine in glass stirs, a tender familial rush within him.

So let this canopy of red and gold take flight once again,

illuminating the night with hopes and dreams,

dispelling the dread that consumes him, replaced with the warmth of

belonging.

For within this tapestry of red, gold and light

a mosaic of stories is formed.



Hong Kong Budding Poets (English) Awards 2023/24

The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education

Silver Award

Rocha Jodie Roberta 4A (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

Participants are encouraged to write to echo with the theme of the year — Heritage.

The milk candies on that Chinese New Year's Eve

With trust in my steps I climbed with grace,
Fetching a jar from a lofty place.
But something happened.
The very moment I grasped it, the memories!
They arose!
The textural detail,
It was the jar that held my milk candy's repose.
Oh, and the flavours, such a cherished delight,
the taste of childhood bliss,
the taste of the nostalgic invite.

As the children ran with gleeful delight,
Oh, how my heart brimmed with bittersweet cheer
How much their hearts are filled with love,
So pure, so sincere.
As I gaze upon that jar, so dear,
It seemed to have kept all the sweetness in my life,
Under control.
But the footsteps out there are parrot-phrasing
themselves,
And they remind me of departure,
That people did come and go.

Just like fleeting stars,
leaving behind the invisible memoirs,
The jar, the house that we sit in now,
Holds the threads of connection, tied somehow.
Yes, I know,
the loose ends, at times, makes you dishevelled
But as grandma continues to sew,
the yarn unravelled,
eventually all the threads will be pulled back to
where they belong,

memories remain, milk candies forgone
Lantern-lit night in the New year's embrace,
when threads of hearts intertwine, in this jubilant
space.
Wrenching my heart,
like an everlasting refrain,
yes, the saccharine taste.
I forever retain.

Hong Kong Budding Poets (English) Awards 2023/24

The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education

Silver Award

Tiffany Cheng 5S (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

Participants are encouraged to write to echo with the theme of the year — Heritage.



**C'EST LA
Bastille
Day**

Qu'ils mangent de la brioche

Outspoken
Parisians
Beheaded
The tyrant and the Autrichienne
Dominate France
Inanition
Prevailing
Never would
A hungry child have its stomach filled
With cake and bread

Cries and cheers and feu d'artifice—
Behind
Gilded gowns and splendid soirées
Amass
Deep debts and dangerous delusions
Gone are
"Liberty, equality, fraternity"
The battle cry of Parisians spread like a wildfire
In Paris that July of '89
The streets erupted with fervour and flame
Chaos spewed and anger spilled
The Bastille trembled, its defenses fell
As freedom's triumph tolled its victorious bell
Marked by bloodshed and turmoil
Upon the annals of France, Bastille Day engraved

(now read from bottom to top!)

TIFFANY CHENG 5S(06)

Hong Kong Budding Poets (English) Awards 2023/24

The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education

Honourable Mention

Michelle Yeung 5S (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

Participants are encouraged to write to echo with the theme of the year — Heritage.

In ancient China, a land of mystic grace,
Where tales of empires and dynasties embrace,
Amidst the tapestry of time, a tale transcends
Of the Cowherd and the Weaver Girl, their love never ends.

Their encounter was surrounded, by a lake's gentle flow,
Niulang chanced upon fairies bathing, a sight to behold.
Their clothes he playfully took, a mischievous act to show,
Zhinu, the youngest sister, sought their return, love soon to unfold.

And together they were, a harmonious pair:
With blissful moments and sweetness to share.
But the Goddess of Heaven, filled with ire,
Vowed to break their marriage, in dire.

The Weaver Girl, summoned back to the Heavens,
Heartbroken, in bitterness, the Cowherd embarked.
The Goddess carved a river in the sky in madness,
leaving the Cowherd and the Weaver Girl in sadness.

Once a year, on the seventh moon's embrace,
Magpies would gather, bridging time and space.
Of momentary reunion, their love would transcend,
As the magpies formed a bridge, love's testament.

The Cowherd and the Weaver Girl, their love so true,
Their tale endures, enchanting me and you.
Let their story inspire; let hearts intertwine,
For love knows no boundaries, transcending time



Hong Kong Budding Poets (English) Awards 2023/24

The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education

Honourable Mention

Karen Chan 5U (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

Participants are encouraged to write about the theme of the year — Heritage.

The Art of Envy

A glimpse of children along the church,
Curtained with pillars and the children cried
"Your height is where sovereignty surged,
Oh how I wish I had your towering eye!"

The pillars breathed a solitary sigh.
Within the stone lived an envious urge,
To leave the burden of the public's eye,
walk a little frame where sins are purged.

Then I looked far and low, the rippling sky
In glistening tears, it desperately searched
For where soft grass grew, where people lie
Down on its surface, devoid of lurch.

Yet the grass glared at the perfect merge
Of where mermaids danced and dragons fly,
how many souls did the seas splurge
For it to be one with the sublime sky?

You sear yourself with matches, shove
Flames in my hand to sate
Your wounds but if we're born of love,
Why do you strife with hate?

Hong Kong Young Writer Awards (HKYWA Poetry)

Youth Literature Foundation

Champion of Group 3: Poetry Writing

Hayley Mok 3U (2022 – 2023)

The challenge:

New Tales of Judge Pao

The Man with the Bread

Trudging through the streets
Of gloomy Shanghai
His clothes tattered and torn
And his feet bare and bloodied
His face worn and scrubby
His eyes shone like the red moon at twilight
And his shadow loomed over the brick walls
Like a spider who crawled on these streets
Staining the sidewalks as he passed
With black spots and smudges
The empty streets greeted him
With a strained howl
The wind slapping and penetrating his skin
Whilst the moonlight shreds his clothes with vigour

He staggered without purpose
Furiously glancing around
Searching and searching for something
But what?
There, that red house!
It was quite a luxurious house
The walls decorated with golden tints and silver
Dragons and phoenixes engraved and enslaved to the bricks
Pupils dilating as they ogled the man
Curiously.

He kept staggering, into the dark depths of the hallway
His uneven footsteps echoing
An uneven rhythm without music
His long fingernails scratched the walls
And kept him stable and going.
He walked and walked until he reached a room
The candle in the middle shimmered and flickered softly
Embracing his silhouette as he stepped
Slowly
Into the room.
He stretched his arms out
Slowly
And reached the tiny teeny piece of bread
That was lying on the table.

Boom! Clash! A man appeared
With grace and courtesy
Mystical yet plain
His futon hat adorned his head nicely
A crescent moon carved and engraved on his forehead
So familiar, yet, distinct
He reached for the man's hand
"Your time has come."
Time? What time?
All that was left for the man was starvation.
The judge beamed, and took out a fine loaf of bread
"Come with me, and I'll show you the way.
Do not be afraid, for I am just the man with the bread."

Slowly, hesitantly
The man reached for his calloused hands
Show me the way, he rasped.
Beaming, the judge grasped his tightly
As they both ventured into the depths of the unknown
To where?
A question unanswered by the living and the dead.



Artwork by: Aimey Leung 3A (2023-2024)

Hong Kong Young Writer Awards (HKYWA Fiction G3)

Youth Literature Foundation

Honourable Mention in Fiction: Group 3

Audrie Lok 2A (2022 – 2023)

The challenge:

New Tales of Judge Pao

Remorse

I died.

My head landed with a sickening thud and rolled across the ground, painting blood stains everywhere on the cobblestones. As the blade of the guillotine came down, I looked at Judge Pao one last time with wrath. His face was unreadable. Then everything went black.

I opened my eyes to see the Underworld. I shouldn't have opened them at all. The Underworld was a dark, dreary plane of dry earth, lit only by the fires of Hell, not to mention the heat was unbearable. I gulped; was I going to stay here forever? In all four directions, there was nothing to see, just the land stretching out for miles. I felt hopeless.

Suddenly I heard desolate cries from somewhere in the far distance. I turned around to see a poor soul weeping. As she cried, her tears fell to the earth and black dahlias sprung up around her. Eventually the flowers trapped her in a cage of their leaves and her sobs could no longer be heard. It was a sad sight but beautiful too. Led by curiosity, I ran to the cage. As I approached, the ground grew increasingly wet, as if her tears were spreading.

But I found I could not reach her. An invisible force separated us. The flowers were just steps away, and my curiosity expanded with each passing second. Was this punishment for my acts when I was living, tempted but to never reach? How kind of the gods.

My anger took over me and a tear of anger slipped out against my will. It fell to the soil and poison ivy began growing around me. Trying to rip the vines apart, I accidentally caught my ankle in a vine. It pulled me into the ground, coiling deathly around my body as it did. In the last moment before I disappeared fully, I gave up. I felt despair and emptiness.

"Your fate awaits." the vines whispered in a raspy voice. It must've been in my head, but it felt so real.

*

"You."

I was in a dungeon. It was freezing cold, and all my clothes had been removed. The humiliation. Worst of all, Judge Pao stood before me, shrouded with mystery. His cloak covered his face, and I wondered what he was hiding. But I knew it was him. I had felt this very same aura before, but something felt different this time, more powerful, and foreign. Judge Pao was a deity, I realised.

“Jin,” he boomed. “Don’t you feel remorse for all you have done? Shame for all the lives you have ruined?”

I gritted my teeth and shook my head. It was right. It was revenge.

“I don’t want you to suffer,” he continued. “I want you to learn. This was not the way. I understand the way you feel-”

The empathy sounded more like sympathy. That was it. My blood started to boil, and, in my rage, I screamed “You will never understand! You don’t even know what happened! How could you; your life was infinitely better than mine. You went to school! You became a Jinshi! How would you know?” I was so bitter, and the next moment happened before I could process: I struck him across the face.

My hand burned from the touch, the skin was raw and blistering. The touch of a god. “Violence is never the answer.” said Pao. I didn’t care.

I punched him in the stomach, and he groaned from the pain. Executing a high kick at his head, I dragged him out of the door’s way. I yelled in agony as I walked through the door; my whole body was blistering by now.

I saw a hole in the ceiling, letting bright light flood into the dark dungeon. It was almost too bright to be real. But I took my chance and climbed through it, hoping that I would end up where I wanted to.

*

A candle was melting in its holder. In its dim light, I saw a pyramid of scrolls, piled precariously on top of each other. My eyes focused on the background and saw the red pillars and small statues of imperial guardian lions. This was no doubt that this was that pretentious judge’s office. Why did fate want us together so much? It’s as if Pao was haunting me.

I should be the one to haunt him. I was the dead one. The invisible ghost that could leave no trails.

I walked over to his precious little pile of parchment and knocked them all off the table, scattering them across the room. Then I poured his ink on the floor. But something caught my attention. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw a scroll with my name on it, ‘Jin’, edges slightly creased from the fall. It was sealed with a ribbon, not like the others. I feverishly opened it, wondering frantically what evidence was in there to send me to welcome Death. In my past life, I was always clever enough to make sure nothing could be traced back to me.

And yet here it all was, laid out in front of me. My plans for stealing from the government officials and committing grand larceny. How I managed to sneak into their houses and silently knock out the guards even on a night when you could hear a pin drop. The exact amounts I stole from each person, recorded carefully in a chart. How did he find all this, I thought incredulously. And at the very top of the parchment, I saw the name of a place. My hometown. I was shocked. No living person knew where I was from; I hadn't told a soul since I was eight. Even my own neighbours didn't know me then.

I decided to pay this town a visit, returning to my home as the shadow of the man I once was. Before I left, I tipped the candle onto the floor covered with evidence.

*

My town was much crueller than I remembered. Even as a boy, I thought the town was full of nasty people, always calling me names and bullying me because of my poverty. I only ever had one good memory here. But now it was even worse. On every street, the windows were all boarded up and no one was outside. Like the people were afraid. Or ashamed. Every now and then I heard voices talking about me, saying my name with such embarrassment. Word must have gotten to them about my crimes.

The town was so miserable. Was it my fault?

Was I feeling sorry? For the fact that I had put a mark of shame on their lives?

And not just theirs.

I kept telling myself I was right. But the fact that I was telling myself this made me wonder if I actually believed it.

*

"Revenge is never the way." Pao stood in front of me again.

We were in a cloud of white. There was nothing to distract me from his words, and somewhere deep in my heart, I knew he was right. Seeing my town again ripped open a wound that I had poured salt on. And now it could properly heal.

He continued. "The officials that you stole from were the bullies of your past. You hoped that it would make things even for all the hard times they put you through before. They now have family however, and all you did was ruin the future of their children, not to mention other families in your town are filled with shame now.

"You were the cause of what you never wanted another child to go through. The poverty, the suffering. Now they feel terrible for their parents, much like how you felt for your mother. Before she died from a landslide, collecting wood for your fire."

My tears were flowing, and my body shook with the weight of my sobs and grief. And my remorse.

“You were only eight, my dear child. Only eight. You did not deserve that. And every night you would cry yourself to sleep singing the song that your mother sang for you once.”

“How- how do you know all this?” I sobbed.

“Bitterness leaves many visible scars,” he answered simply. And he took his hood off. “I was only born human like you. You and I are similar. My parents had to work hard for me too. However, we chose to use our wisdom for different things. Don’t be tempted by revenge, by evil. Use your gifts for good. To help the children in the same position as you were once in.

“But in your next life Jin.”

I understood. My wound had healed. I felt remorse. I felt everything I could’ve felt if I wasn’t so consumed by cold revenge, all in the last moments of my life, my afterlife.

But I will have another one.

I was reborn. But this time, with everything I was missing before.



Artwork: Hayley Yeung 3A (2023-2024)

Hong Kong Young Writer Awards (HKYWA Fiction G3)

Youth Literature Foundation

Honourable Mention

Cynthia Lau 2A (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

New Tales of China's Inventions

The Boy and his Umbrella

My mom always tells me that I talk too much about umbrellas. I've always loved the rain, yet I adored how umbrellas enclose me in a little pocket of safety, keeping me an arm length away from the overbearing wetness of thunderstorms. I looked up to the great mind behind the invention of umbrellas, and although I didn't know who they were, or how their story went, I felt a strange affiliation with this inventor that allowed me to frolic beneath the rainiest of weathers. I longed to know more about this forgotten hero, I had a growing hunger for their narrative, an aching need to discover the background behind this invention that had transformed and revolutionized the way we trudge through rainy days.

It was a sheer coincidence that the invention of umbrellas happened to be the topic of my Chinese Literature class. I've never been the best student, yet I clung onto every word that the teacher said with a fierce imprudence, as I quickly recognized — this was the closest I'll ever be to unraveling the mysteries and the tales left untold behind this divine innovation.

3500 BC, China

She hovered above heavy clouds, her breath rugged yet constant. She declared her arrival as she plagued earth with her scent, a stream of fresh tears drenching the ground with emotion. She reached out and invited him to dance, yet her offer was enclosed by care disguised as apathy and love adorned with salt. Alas, he was only a boy who knew no better, who was too little to handle her depth and too weak to handle her strength. So he clung desperately instead onto one lone lotus leaf, praying that it would protect him from her melodies of sorrow and the roaring winds which accompanied her otherwise soliloquy.

Yet even as he hid he knew it was a losing game that he was fighting, and he could only watch wide-eyed as her soggy mourning eroded away his beautiful shelter, as his mighty pavilion collapsed into nothing but a drooping mess. He arrived at school with another blotch on his tardiness record, and it was pathetic how all he could do was quiver at the injustice.

One fateful rainy day, the little boy and his little corroded leaf crossed paths with Chinese carpenter Lu Ban. The boy looked so fragile, so helpless against the thunders of nature as the caving leaf eventually drenched him in the flood of rainfall. Seeing this, Lu Ban promised himself that he would build the boy a sanctuary he could take shelter in, an incorruptible pavilion that could shield him against rain and injustice alike.

As Lu Ban studied the lotus leaves along the road, he marvelled at the unique structural build of them, and was impressed by its remarkable ability to repel water droplets. If he were to harness the qualities of the lotus leaf into his design, surely, it would serve as an impeccable shelter to the poor little boy. At this thought, Lu Ban quickly set to work. He fiddled with wood and bamboo, thus carved them into a framework, or as Lu Ban liked to put it, the skeleton of his pavilion. Even while taking into account the nature of his work, his craftsmanship was exceptional, and it was with great precision that the silk canopy was birthed. Lu Ban treated silk with waterproofing techniques that aimed to replicate the water-repelling lotus leaf, then latched it onto the bare skeleton — and that was how the first umbrella came to be. Lu Ban credited the little boy and deemed him co-founder of the moving pavilion.

It was a beautiful morning where drizzles fell like dewdrops when Lu Ban gifted the boy with the umbrella. The boy held it in his arms like he was holding an old friend, a familiar companion that would bring him to school unscathed and unharmed by the wetness of rain. Now equipped with an umbrella over his head, the boy took her hand and danced to the sound of her music. He embraced her depth and reveled in her strength as he leapt and he spun under the symphony of the tempest and the torrents. For the first time in his life, the boy experienced rain in its most glorious form — her tears irrigated the flowers around him, her care scrubbed the earth from filth and left it unblemished and unsoiled. He let her currents overtake him as they penetrated his heart, and he twirled and he swirled till his soles finally fell apart. It was then that she yielded, and he peeked out of his umbrella, the boy, to his amusement, found a pleasant surprise. Light had kissed the rain and they had left hand in hand, and they left just one trail of rainbows dancing in their wake. Lu Ban watched the boy's glee and marvel with quiet contentment, as he rejoiced in the understanding that he had made the world just a little better than it had been before.

The ring of the school bell echoed like a bittersweet serenade as it signalled the end of Chinese Literature class. Now more than ever, I understand the gravity of this intricate invention. The story behind its creation had made umbrellas the epitome of beauty, compassion and humanity, a modest refuge constructed by the goodness of a tender soul.

As far as the story goes, I hope the boy was well. I hope he got to school on time. I hope his umbrella shielded him from the lamenting wind and the unforgiving rain, keeping him safe amidst the roaring thunders. Now that he has gotten his umbrella, I hope he loves the rain as much as I do.

I was walking home from school when the shower turned into a drizzle then into a downpour. I opened my umbrella. If only, I thought. If only Lu Ban could see the streets scattered with covers of red and green and blue, if only he could see the rain command a tapestry of umbrellas against each other, leaving the city wet but the people dry. If only he could see that because of him, we no longer fear the rain, instead we embrace the thunder of storms and we see the romance in sprinkles, as with his invention of the umbrella, we are no longer restricted by the raindrops - we thrive in the beauty of it.

Hong Kong Young Writer Awards (HKYWA Poetry G4)

Youth Literature Foundation

Winner

Antares Ho 4L (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

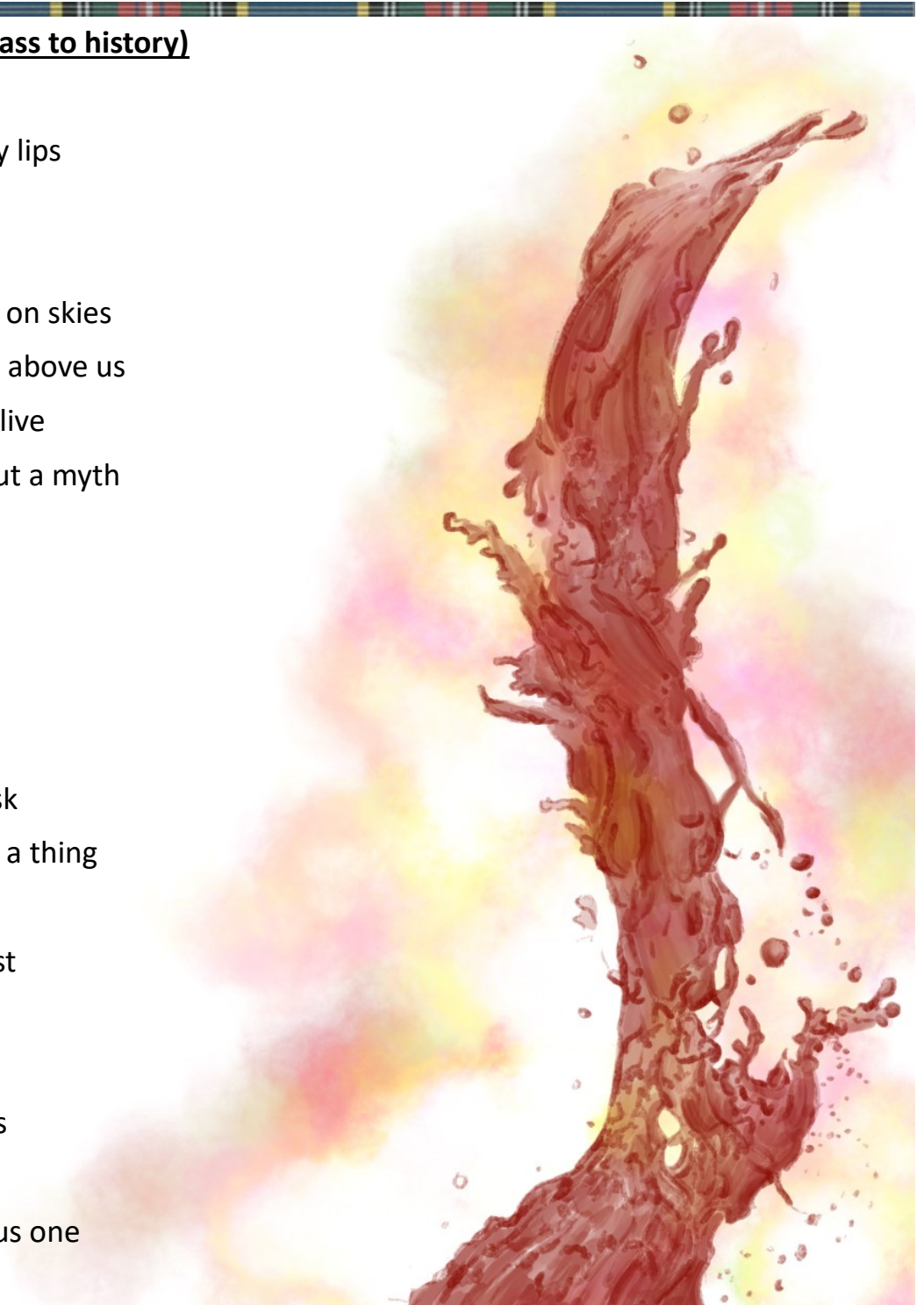
New Tales of China's Inventions

wine (let us raise a glass to history)

when thine graced my lips
i passed away into a
fairy realm
where people walked on skies
and the land towered above us
where history came alive
and doomsday was but a myth

and in my inebriation
i wrote:

today
i heard the teacher ask
boys and girls, what's a thing
of chinese descent
history would not exist
without?
xia said paper
fang said the compass
wu said printing
ah—wei, the rebellious one



he said gunpowder
(i'm not one to judge but hey
he's actin' like a warmonger)

but...

it's the littlest of things that
thaw into our day and night
of each century and decade that
tell tales as old as time;
they fuel our daydreams as we
sketch poetry and
create dynasties that
break us and fix us and

(i cleared my throat)
guys, you're not wrong but
what about,
what about *you*?

you, with your
iridescent waters you
flood the land and
drown the strong and the
mighty; but you
give life to the parched and the
afraid
oh, what a paradox
but it's true (so true)

you, that day at the
feast at swan goose gate
were you not the one who

served courage
to a little man (fan zeng, his name was)
who defended his master's honour
in the face of a beast?
when he plunged his sword into
the flesh of the tyrant's offering
and downed his glass in one go
were you,
were you not trembling with
pride and glee?

"i do not fear death" fan zeng said
and in those couple of minutes
with you on his side
he was the strongest man alive

oh you spirit
oh you liquid fire and
molten lava stone
you make the world
psychedelic, truly; where
they dream, and they dream, and they dream
of ones they shouldn't see
(ones their souls call for
but are not here physically)
and don't you make them
leave ghosts of touches
kissing their bare skin?

and you could make a grown man cry
when his mama comes to
kiss him good night



(good Lord he's almost eighty-three
and he lost his mama at twenty!)

and don't you remember?
one autumn eventide when
li bai raised the barrel to his lips
and together you
sang love sonnets to the moon;
the shadow was his friend
but you
you saved his solitude
you became his salvation
(and his ruin)

and you, who forgave our sins and
burnt love down our throats
(no matter what we did wrong
you were omnibenevolent)

don't you reminisce how
you sat in a jug lovingly held by
Jesus Christ
as he poured you and broke bread
for all twelve of his disciples?
when you witnessed the
betrayal of judas
did you not shed a tear
and trickle down a drunken face
or two?

and
are you not aware of the thousands of

thousands of
thousands of years that were poured into
your making?
blessed was your modest firstborn found in
yellow river valley more than
nine-thousand years ago
(almost a decamillenium!)
to luxurious beverages hidden in
wine cellars and favelas at
present;
are you not aware of the tears and
sweat and
blood that dripped as you thrived
from a simple grape vine?

and don't you know that
when i taste you i taste
centuries of rich, rich history?
our dark and our gritty;
our lustre and our virtue
and
i see
great men who drank themselves
into nothingness
as they wept and wept and wept
for God's forgiveness

and don't you recall?
the day the conqueror xiang yu
bid farewell to
his beloved concubine
(and his will to live)



he drank and drank
until he was lost in a trance and
he had slurred “you look like
an angel, my dear”
and so she smiled and
took her life before him with
his own sword; and for days he
grieved and pleaded for mercy as he was
incompetent; before he met his own
end

and thus was the rise of
the han dynasty
(oh, how great you are indeed
to cause such great falls and rises)

but don't you realise?
you are a blunt needle
whose purpose served but to heal
and the flesh that was punctured;
how could it
bleed more than the tear?
(that's funny but again it's true)
and so fools seek you, praise you
and they
beg with their grubby lips
and their plump little fingers:

please

i just want to feel again!

(and unknowingly drown

in their feral greed)

and you see, those
failed scholars and half-dead knights
with their broken ambitions
and deceased families and such;
they were
wallowing in purdah and fear;
and they just wanted eternal peace
(but there's no such thing innit)
and ha! you were their escape indeed
so you sent them to sleep
(and stole their hope
when they awoke)

but now

what about now?
what about you in the present?
indeed you were history
you were the convex and the concave of
those little puzzle pieces
that stuck together and formed us:
a wall; whole
or perhaps you were more like
the twinkle of the evening star
that was there like a
lurking presence or maybe

well

you were just there

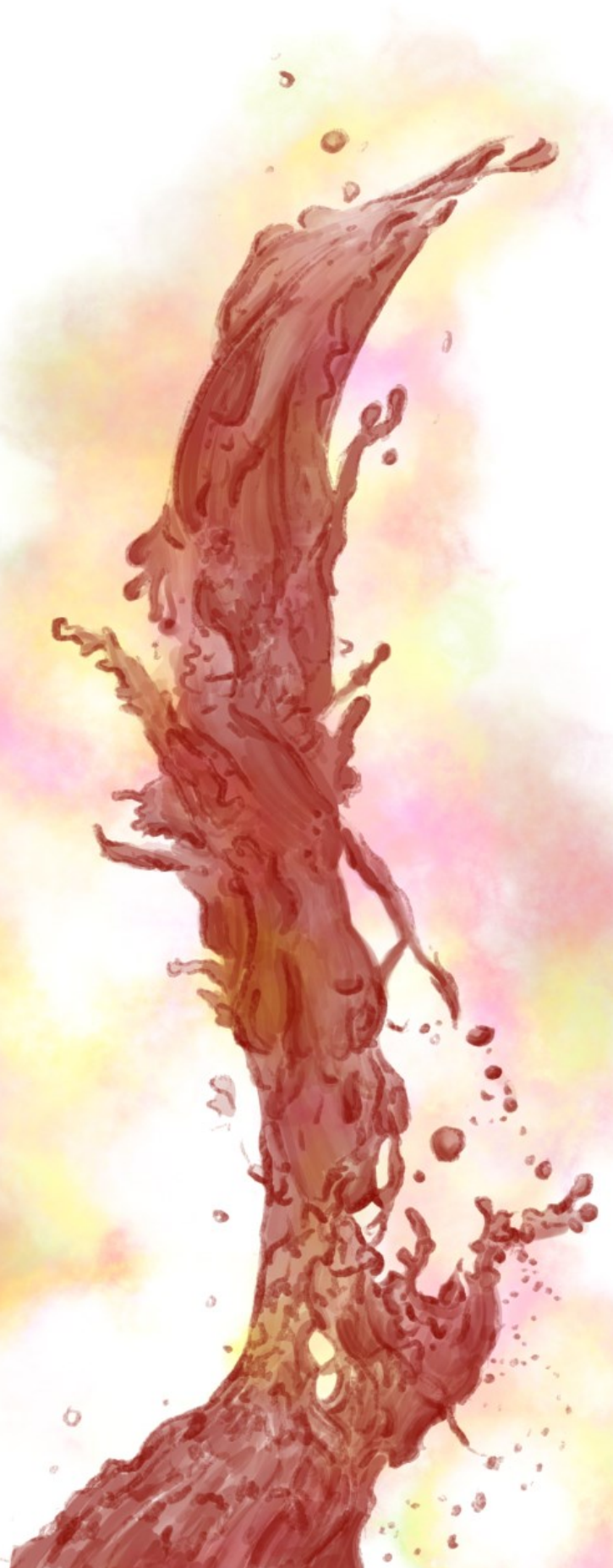


but what about today, loved one,
where history proves to be but a ladder
to worth and flair? today
do you stand with the sober
or the weak?
(without you the ladder
would crumble, wouldn't it?
without you we'd all
fall
 fall
 fall)

well, whatever
(i closed my journal)

i raise my glass and
greet nirvana
to tales you've ruined and
tales you've written
and under the glow of the silver moon
you were the colour of
blood
but i did not drink like
yue fei did when he drank
the blood of his enemies

i drank like
i was drinking history



Artwork by: Aimey Leung 3A (2023-2024)

Hong Kong Young Writer Awards (HKYWA Non-Fiction G4)

Youth Literature Foundation

Honourable Mention

Hannah Kwok 5S (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

New Tales of China's Inventions

Fly, Bamboo Dragon

'The brave men didn't kill dragons. The brave men rode them.' — Game of Thrones

Amidst a tapestry of sacrificial casualties and arduous setbacks, mankind has never deterred itself from mastering the skies, steadfastly pursuing for new limits. Now, in the 21st century, our technological prowess has advanced at an unprecedented rate, bestowing us the dominion to glide across the limitless firmament in our creations, the helicopter and the commercial plane. Yet, if we cast our gaze backward to more ancient times, we discover that the luxuries of convenience we take for granted today, are owed to the intrepid curiosity and boundless imagination of historic inventors, during a time when flight was but a clouded mystery, a mere figment of the naivety in children. Such a story started in Ancient China circa 320 AD, when a humble contraption was invented and named, the bamboo dragonfly. Overtime, it became the muse that unfurled wings of possibility for modern innovations. Ideas and breakthroughs like the bamboo dragonfly, unbeknownst to their creators, allowed the Chinese and the world to spread its wings metaphorically, and literally ascend beyond the horizons of imagination.

The contraption, also known as the bamboo-copter, consists solely of two pieces of diligently carved bamboo. It contains a small stick and a single rotary blade cut out on opposing edges perpendicularly attached to it. To view it in its complete splendour, simply spin the vertical dowel vigorously with both hands and release it towards the sky. How oddly simple it is to operate. Then how complex would the science theory be? The answer lies plainly with the momentum theory. As the propeller rotates, it directs the wind flow downwards, and consequently, the rebound reaction generates an upward force to thrust the bamboo dragonfly upwards. Afterwards, it gracefully descends due to air resistance. 'Take dragons... they first rise using the clouds as steps, and after they have attained a height of forty *li* then they rush forward effortlessly,' wrote Ge Hong, a Daoist philosopher of the Jin Dynasty.

He perceived the profound potential of this machine, as mankind's first step to ruling the skies, similar to how Chinese dragons did in ancient mythology. In spite of his

insight, Ge Hong was a minority, for though the toy was met with much awe and joy from the people of the Jin Dynasty, many indulged in it as only entertainment, others relating its ability in flight with external supernatural forces! Nonetheless, over the millennia of development, our knowledge on aviation and its underlying physics has unfurled exponentially. Now, in the 21st century, we stand at the intersection of aerial dominance, a testament of our ceaseless odyssey for the skies, from folklore to reality, from antiquity to the vanguard of modernity.

During the Jin Dynasty of Ancient China, the bamboo dragonfly emerged from its ponds, growing from nymphs and metamorphosing into mature adults for the people's enjoyment. Alas, the identity of this inventor was lost to history, so we can only speculate on their sources of inspiration for this humble toy based on their environment, surroundings and culture. Amongst the many theories, two stand out: propeller seeds, and the restless creatures the contraption is named after — dragonflies themselves.

Given that most people of Ancient China were farmers, it is only natural for the creation to spout from inspiration of nature. The Chinese Ash Tree is one of the species that produces winged seeds in the form of samaras. These seeds, also known as 'whirlybirds' are dispersed as the fruit ripens, embarking on their journey to disperse as they glide swiftly in the wind to produce a chaotic spectacle across the Chinese landscape. When the wind is consistent, its propeller seed can travel up to one mile away from the parent plant! This majestic sight would have surely been a feast for the eyes, and made a lasting impression on the inventor, which may explain how the propeller seed bears an uncanny resemblance in form and in motion to the whimsical bamboo dragonfly toy.

Another contributor and significant catalyst is none other than the dragonfly itself. Venerated for its unparalleled swiftness and agile aerial manoeuvres, as well as its intricate wings and sleek movements, the mystique of the dragonfly is believed to have intrigued the inventor. They borrowed the diaphanous wings of the dragonfly, canonising it for centuries to come in a cast of bamboo. The dragonfly, with its ability to hover in mid-air and to change course in their flight with nimbleness, contrasts the bamboo dragonfly which can only ascend vertically. Still, the influence of the dragonfly is evident in the *zhuqingting*, especially for its name and emulation of their flight, a tribute to the insect.

This inventor, regardless of their background, was closely linked to and enlightened by nature, paying homage to the meek propeller seed and dragonfly. They monumentalised them as part of the core breakthroughs that will benefit society timelessly.

A first indication that this toy would not die out in history is its perpetuating popularity amongst children, even in face of drastic transformation in society. Surrounded by forests of bamboo and in need of entertainment, the bamboo dragonfly became a common household toy that many Chinese families had made and passed down to their children for generations. Its history as a toy for children stands till this day, just more commercialised as a traditional sign of Hong Kong, regions across China and around the

world. Many continue to find joy in the plastic rendition of the bamboo dragonfly, its longevity in history has also allowed it to transcend age boundaries, attracting both children and adults alike to enjoy the delight it brings. Though its material has evolved with the convenience of producing plastic, the essence of the toy remains unaltered. Children are equally amazed seeing their 'dragonflies' gracefully ascend and descend, just like youngsters in 400 AD, while adults regain a taste of nostalgia and reminisce about the precious memories of their childhood.

Notwithstanding this, the bamboo dragonfly has become much more than just a toy throughout the years.

With the burgeoning promotion of foreign trade and initiatives like the Silk Road, it was inevitable for the original bamboo dragonfly to enter and assimilate into the Western society, which it did in the early 1400s across Europe. The child plaything caught the eye of renowned scientists including Leonardo da Vinci and Sir George Cayley. Da Vinci, in particular, was said to have made various theoretical sketches for helical flying machines based on the bamboo dragonfly. Although da Vinci's concepts were never physically realised, these sketches became renowned in the field and were a heavy inspiration for later inventions of aeronautics. Sir George Cayley of Britain, also known as the 'Father of Aviation', was one of many captivated with the intricacies of Ancient Chinese technology, which he had investigated in depth to inspire him with his creation of modern aeronautics. The bamboo dragonfly was a humble toy for the Chinese, but its introduction into European society, coinciding with the periods of innovation, the Renaissance and Enlightenment, allowed these concepts to be expanded and magnified upon, raising the bamboo dragonfly to a stage for grander purposes.

The year was 1939, and its glorious purpose had been fulfilled at last. The bamboo dragonfly was monumentalised in the form of the helicopter. The maiden flight of the VS-300 by Igor Sikorsky, displayed a machine that drew inspiration from the structure, fundamental principles and design of the bamboo dragonfly's rotor. This groundbreaking invention revolutionised the understanding and possibilities of aviation in search and rescue operations, military applications and aerial photography. It opened a new gateway for further innovations in aerodynamics, engine technology and control systems. Helicopters in today's world provide services with greater efficiency, whether as a man's toy or a vehicle for tourism. Similar to how the propeller seeds would disperse over vast distances, the helicopter now has the capability to swiftly transport and disperse humans to their destinations.

We have finally mounted the skies, on the backs of our dragons.

This is similar to the case of drones, with its miniature size for agility and convenience, which bears yet another resemblance to the bamboo dragonfly. Initially used for military purposes in WW1, drones nowadays have integrated various technical elements to adapt them for extensive use. Many similarities can be drawn between drones and helicopters, but an element that stands out is agriculture. In China, traditional farming practices have witnessed a notable decline, to sustain the needs of the country's people for food, the agricultural sector is rapidly industrialised through the use of

technology. Certain drones are designed to carry heavy weight, allowing them to be attached to containers of pesticides, fertilisers that can cover large areas of farmlands in significantly less time and using less manpower. Others are equipped with advanced artificial intelligence to facilitate data collection and processing, improving farm management and enabling corresponding actions to be taken effectively. It is truly awe-striking, that the bamboo dragonfly toy took centuries to transition out of the countryside to urban areas, only to return to its rural roots in the 21st century. This serves as a testament to the cyclical relationship between nature and human creations along our developmental path. Inspired by the events of nature, drones now act as humble servants, perfecting the harmony between the integration of technology and preservation of nature from issues such as overgrazing.

Aside from the practical uses, the bamboo dragonfly has also found its place in fictional entertainment. As its influence spread beyond China, one of the places it has flown to and became immensely popular was Japan. The bamboo dragonfly has often been compared in parallel with Doraemon's 'takecopter', a gadget that appears frequently in the anime series. The takecopter is a propeller that could be attached to any part of a character's body, allowing them to traverse across vast distances for their adventures. With the fictional bamboo dragonfly, Doraemon, the iconic robotic cat led his friend Nobita on thrilling escapades with the fantastical flying gadget. This series presented the desire for adventure and temporary escape from the real life of Nobita and the audience alike.

Ultimately, when we trace back to the first creation of the bamboo dragonfly in Ancient China, we come to realise and be grateful for the gift bestowed upon us — nature herself, a selfless provider of materials, inspiration and joy. The propeller seed encapsulates the simplicity and potential of the bamboo dragonfly, which became the predecessor of many modern innovations we rely on today. In the same way that a tiny seed holds the promise of sprouting into a majestic evergreen, the bamboo dragonfly was humanity's seed of ingenuity and progress. The dragonfly's ability to gracefully navigate through the air reflects the connection and harmony humans have always shared with nature, as well as becoming a stepping stone towards civilization. Bamboo, its original material, also harks back to the history of China and her people's pursuit of higher ideals. This toy represents the complicated history of China, marked by periods of immense suffering, yet also signifies the resilience within them to overcome these challenges, to rise above adversity to become a country of great global status today.

When you are asked to name a famous Chinese invention, one might think of the four Great Inventions of Ancient China: paper making, printing, gunpowder or the compass. The bamboo dragonfly might not immediately come to mind, maybe it is a tale you have not heard of at all, yet it is these lesser-known contributors who have played a part in shaping our world today. Next time you see a helicopter soaring across the horizon, you can be reminded of the unassuming Chinese bamboo dragonfly, which spun its tiny wings so the dragons of today could flex theirs.

Immerse Education Essay Competition

Immerse Education

Partial Scholarship

Katrina Leung 3L (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

The use of genome editing technologies for the prevention of genetic diseases

The use of genome editing technologies to prevent genetic diseases is an antithetical topic that has sparked controversy and ethical debates. In this essay, we will dive into the application, trade-offs, and controversies of genome editing technologies to prevent genetic diseases to gain a comprehensive understanding of its complexities.

Firstly, let's have an overview of genome editing technologies. Genome editing technologies are mechanisms that can modify the DNA of an organism. There are various editing tools, but they are based on a similar principle of insertion, deletion, or substitution at specific gene sites. One prevalent technology is CRISPR-Cas9, which is based on the concept of the bacterial immune system defending against invading viruses. Through this technology, guide RNA binds to a specific DNA sequence, enabling an enzyme to cut and modify the DNA by repairing it.

Next, let's discuss the trade-offs of genome editing technologies for preventing genetic diseases. Although genome editing technologies seem promising in preventing or curing certain inherited disorders, such as sickle cell disease, Huntington's disease, and cystic fibrosis, according to experts, they are perceived to be a novel technology and contain instability. As exemplified by an investigation, a group of researchers studied a mutation that causes hereditary blindness and affects a specific part of the genome. They used donated sperm with the mutation in a gene called 'EYS' to fertilize eggs with normal copies of it. Then, they used CRISPR-Cas9 technology to remove the mutation from the embryos. Some cells successfully repaired the DNA with minor modifications, but about half of the embryos couldn't handle the damage, and in some cases, the entire chromosome was lost.

Last but not least, it is also of cardinal importance to know that genome editing technology faces an abundance of commotion. According to a study in 2021, 'strong supporters' and 'slight supporters' opined that the application was an appropriate use of medical technology without any ethical or religious concerns. Though this was sufficient to say that the view prevailed, 83.5% of the respondents categorized as 'opponents' tended to advocate the prohibition of genome editing, no matter how much the benefits outweigh the risks, and expressed concerns about ethical morality, religious implications,

and limited comprehension of the technology. Views on violating the dignity of life, which is considered God's creation, have led to conflicting and opposing perspectives. The technology has evoked diverse reactions from people, and resolving these complex issues remains an enigma.

In conclusion, while it is true that genome editing technologies hold potential benefits for the healthcare system and society in treating or curing inherited diseases, these technologies have also provoked an outcry of concerns and sparked debates.

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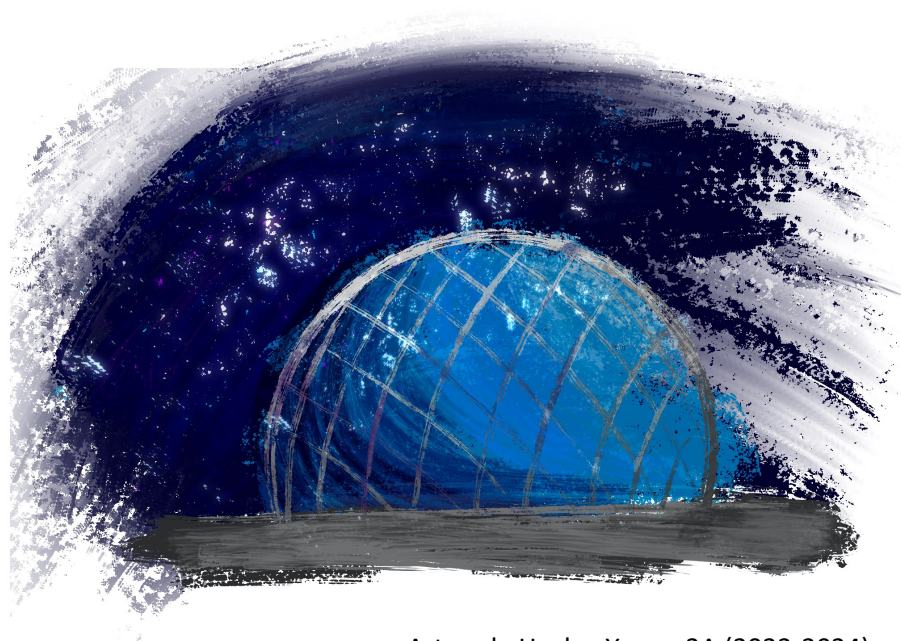
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Artwork: Hayley Yeung 3A (2023-2024)

Mediation Essay Competition 2022

The Department of Justice, the Education Bureau, Rotary International District 3450 and Asia Conflict Resolution Institute Limited

Champion

Agatha Tsang 6T (2022 – 2023)

The challenge:

Write an essay themed on ‘Mediation: Constructing a Harmonious Community’.

Mediation: Immediate + Meditation

Etymology reveals the origins of a term and its evolutionary journey. Relationships between words can be inferred based on resemblances in appearance, serving as a telescope into the meanings mankind bestowed onto these archaic ideas. On a less grandiose scale, the interchangeability of these phonetic synonyms offers a generous buffer zone for any spoken errors, bringing me to this core question:

Consider meditation, immediate and finally, mediation. What do these concepts have in common?

Many of you shrewd observers will have been able to navigate past the strategically worded tongue-twister to extrapolate the following conclusion: Mediation is a *combination* of immediate and meditation, both physically and metaphorically. Confused? Allow me to explain.

First, let’s define mediation. According to Merriam-Webster, mediation describes the intervention between conflicting parties to promote reconciliation. Legally speaking, it poses an alternative to jumping straight into the legal battlefield for settling disputes, allowing stakeholders to air their grievances whilst sparing them of exorbitant fees and the mental fatigue a lengthy lawsuit entails. By eliminating the tense atmosphere of a courthouse, the unfeeling jargon of subpoenas and warrants, the accumulated acrimony of long-term rivalry, entities can constructively work together as a team towards closure; instead of antagonizing each other and falling victim to destructive mentalities, mediation facilitates heart-to-heart conversations that direct both sides towards a goal of mutual satisfaction, mitigating damages by reaching arrangements both acquiesced to. Knowing that the process of mediation may ultimately bring about the same or arguable, better conclusions, it’s certainly a win-win proposal.

In any conflict, our immediate response is to defend ourselves by hurling scathing critiques at others—it’s in our best interests to strike first, while our opponents are still attempting to register what had just occurred. Throw in rage and indignation as catalysts, and you’ll have an explosive argument spontaneously. This is why ‘mediate’ is immediate minus ‘i’m’—it encourages us to break free from the fetters of our own emotions, stand back and view the situation from a bird's eye perspective. In contrast to

deepening our divides with meaningless quarrels, obtaining an impartial 3rd opinion can massively increase the pace at which we resolve issues. Mediation appeals to our guaranteeing rationale as it shifts our objectives from simply ourselves to everyone involved, contentment on all sides in the long-run. Indeed, it sacrifices the fleeting shrapnel of glee we may receive by temporarily besting our adversaries, but by focusing on the holistic benefits, mediation takes us closer to what we're truly seeking: inner peace. By setting aside our previous prejudices and communicating amicably with each other, no bitter memories will be generated and the sooner we can emotionally recover from the affair.

In a way, what mediation aims to achieve runs parallel to what meditation does. Meditation is widely associated with spirituality, but it doesn't have to be—it's the act of attaining inner tranquillity through the cessation of superfluous thoughts. The sole dichotomy between meditation and mediation is its scope: while meditation refers to the introspection of an individual, mediation is when both parties collectively do so. By stripping away external factors such as financial restraints and social status, it forces participants to reflect and evaluate their true priorities. On the other hand, hiring attorneys over insignificant matters only further muddies the waters, compounding concerns and amplifying burdens to those involved. Discarding the obsolete notion of 'me vs you' and embracing the idea of 'me and you' will indubitably save time and effort, reducing contentions from fiscal, mental and time consuming blackholes to efficient discussions. Working with each other as opposed to against one another seems almost intuitive, but it's ironic how we humans are inclined to choose the more convoluted route.

I would know, because I've experienced this myself.

A few months ago, I was in charge of a fun booth at school. Considering that it was the first time our teachers entrusted me with such a mission, I made a point of being meticulous. I obsessed over the itinerary, double-checked everyone's schedules, even prepared several contingency plans...then disaster struck when the games we painstakingly created went missing. Noticing that we had 15 minutes before recess commenced, I was on the verge of combustion. Face flushed and hyperventilating, I was about to berate the juniors when something clicked: yelling at them wouldn't help, in fact it would only decrease our already beaten morale. Hurriedly, I calmed myself down and collaborated with the artists to produce a makeshift replica of our original apparatus. In the end, the event went swimmingly. In chatter and laughter, I got an answer as to why the mistake occurred: because the club member responsible matched names with another one of our members. Going back into my work allocation charts, I realized I never distinguished between the two. Putting myself into their shoes made me see that it was neither our faults, but just miscommunication.

Remember how initially, I began with the fungible nature of words? They're akin to human interactions in the sense that words have dual meanings. Everyone has their own perceptions and interpretations, what bridges that gap is communication. If everyone learned to listen and work out their differences, society would be much more harmonious. It's inevitable that friction arises as we socialize, but what's crucial is how we deal with these crises. So, readers, why risk relationships and reputation, when mediation is the clear solution?

MI Young Writers Award 2023

Magazines International (Asia) Limited

Most Creative Cover Award (Senior)

Mironi Mang 4L (2022-2023)

The challenge:

Students are encouraged to create a magazine cover which relates to their topic of writing ('Do you think mobile games are addictive and why?') to express their feelings and creativity.



MI Young Writers Award 2023

Magazines International (Asia) Limited

Top 50 Outstanding Entries Award in the Senior Category

Rachel Yu 4A (2022 – 2023)

The challenge:

Do you think mobile games are addictive, and why?

In a day and age where access to hundreds upon thousands of games rest innocently in your back pocket, it is all too easy to tumble into the alluring rabbit hole of a mobile gaming addiction. In fact, mobile games market statistics indicate that out of 2.2 billion – and rising -- mobile gamers worldwide, a whopping 56% play daily. Recent trends have unmistakably shown that the mobile gaming industry is on the rise, and with it emerges the treacherous, growing addiction to mobile games.

Before analysing the addictiveness of mobile games, and the myriad of factors that pertain to said addictiveness, it is crucial to first understand the concept of addiction. The Cambridge Dictionary defines addiction as an inability to stop doing or using something, especially something harmful: it is a neuropsychological disorder that features a persistent and intense urge to engage in certain activities. The addictive nature of mobile games stems from two key areas – the way in which mobile games are designed, and with equal importance, the mental and psychological features of the players themselves.

The addictiveness of mobile games is by no means unintended: Once the player so much as clicks into the application, a variety of psychological mechanisms instantaneously spring into work. One of the most conspicuous elements is the sound and graphical design of mobile games, where bright and colourful colours, as well as euphonious background music and sound effects are utilised to enhance players' game experiences. By appealing to the senses of players, mobile games create a pleasant and enticing impression, laying the groundwork for more complex mechanisms to come into play.

Be it conscious or subconscious, a love of novelty and success are inherent traits of the human mind. As such, mobile games initially attract players with easy achievements, positive affirmations, and rewards, giving players frequent bursts of dopamine, a type of neurotransmitter associated with feelings of pleasurable reward and motivation. These positive sensations cause players to grow invested – as mentioned in the article 'The Addictive Qualities of Mobile Games', Candy Crush is a classic instance where the use of congratulatory messages like "sweet" and "divine" increases dopamine levels and leads unassuming players down the slippery slope of a mobile game addiction.

Once the bait is taken, the game begins to reel players in. To prevent desensitisation in players, which occurs when dopamine receptors are bombarded with repeated, incessant waves of dopamine, mobile games make use of a strategy known as a variable-ratio schedule of reinforcement. As players reach the harder stages of the game, achievements and rewards become rarer, more sporadic, and more unexpected, which gives players a heightened sense of achievement, satisfaction, and excitement upon their in-game triumphs. These intermittent reinforcements keep players hooked – playing a crucial part in the addictiveness of mobile games. Furthermore, mobile games can regulate the length of each play session via in-game mechanics like cooldowns and daily quotas. As the saying goes, “Absence makes the heart grow fonder” – by suspending gameplay at times when players are most invested, the game generates suspense and heightens players’ attachment to the game, even when they are away from the screen.

Moreover, as opposed to conventional video games on computers and other devices, mobile games have the unique advantage of being highly accessible regardless of location. In 2023, the number of global smartphone users is estimated at 6.8 billion, meaning that over 86% of the world’s population owns a smartphone. With such a convenient and readily available vessel, mobile games can be played anytime, anywhere. This allows for the presence of mobile games in most, if not all, of players’ day-to-day lives, increasing the chances for an addiction to take root.

Although mobile games are thoroughly engineered to take advantage of players’ natural psychological responses, the root cause of a mobile game addiction lies less in the games and more in the players themselves. Excessive mobile gaming is a form of escapism – a temporary sanctuary from daily pressures and responsibilities that offer not only entertainment but also anonymity, and with it, freedom. Studies have shown that video game addicts suffer significantly from impaired mental health and cognitive functioning, as well as depression, anxiety, and social isolation. Due to their individual mental and emotional circumstances, players may turn to mobile games for relief, which can in turn lead to a deterioration in physical health and social isolation, creating a vicious cycle. To effectively combat the accelerating emergence of mobile game addictions, it is crucial that the personal reasons and motivations of each addict be identified and resolved.

Mobile games have the potential to temporarily free you from your daily burdens – or shackle you to your screen. In conclusion, achieving a balance between mobile gaming and everyday life is of utmost importance, to both the individual and society as a whole.

Motivational Talk Competition 2023

Education Bureau

Commendable Award

Athena Leung 1A (2022 – 2023)

The challenge:

Participants are required to write a motivational speech.

Changing the World One Small Act of Kindness at a Time

It was a rainy afternoon after school. I was in my bedroom, burying my face in my hands and thinking about my friendship issue. I was about to break into tears when my mother came up to me.

“What happened, my dear!” she asked. “I can’t manage it anymore!” I replied and I couldn't help but open up to her.

She just sat beside me, patting me on the shoulder. She didn't judge or try to solve any of my problems. She just nodded her head while listening. That was enough to make me feel being cared of and respected. Despite the bad weather outside, a fountain of sunshine was sparkling in my heart.

Gifted me, she handed me a book entitled “Humankind: Changing the World One Small Act at a Time”. It echoes the proverb “Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give”. It provides a lot of tips on giving small acts of kindness in daily life. They can be as simple as a smile, a kind word, or a listening ear. So, rather than waiting for others to befriend me, I should do small acts of kindness to show my care and concern for others.

I thereafter practised some acts of kindness in school, like smiling to my classmates, leaving encouraging notes, giving undivided attention to my friends. Those small gifts did propagate and circle back. They brought me a gift of friendship.

Think of the last time someone was kind to you. A stranger holding the door open for you; a teacher complimenting your work; or a friend lending you a listening ear. Whatever the gesture was, it probably made your day brighter.

Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give. It is the power to make a positive impact on the world. Together, we can change the world one small act of kindness at a time.

Remember to give the gift of kindness to brighten the world.

Motivational Talk Competition 2023

Education Bureau

Outstanding Award

Jiang Lucy 5U (2022 – 2023)

The challenge:

Participants are required to write a motivational speech.

Would you prefer a world of black and white? Or a world of colours as Vincent Van Gogh's paintings?

Today, I'd like to share this saying of wisdom: A single flower does not make spring, while one hundred flowers in full blossom, bring spring to the garden.

Have a think first, what is diversity, is it the respect and acceptance of different gender, skin colours, sexual orientation? The diversity I'm talking about is not limited to physical characteristics but about the diversity of choices.

In relation to today's topic, I'll be guiding you to my speech with a classical film named Dead Poets Society. Here's a short summary of the film: Mr. Keating, a new English teacher, comes to a school of high standard and feudal tradition. However, under this depressing system, Mr. Keating teaches these boys under the system to break out of their shells and to pursue dreams of their own choices. The whole film surrounds the contrast between following the limited choices that the society at that time had given and what the teenagers actually wanted.

But then did the society at that time really make the right decision, was a world full of one kind of flower really the best? No! Edward Enniful, Editor in Chief of British Vogue once said, "I can tell you, without diversity, creativity remains stagnant." You see, a world of the same colour never brings beauty, beauty and perfection comes from the uniqueness and differences of our choices and beliefs.

Tom Cruise, as most of you know, is an amazing actor, but did he perform with flying colours in his academics? Probably not. What I want to say is we live in the 21st Century, a modern world, a world of fewer standards and limits. Our choices should not be restricted to one standard, we're like pieces of a puzzle with different talents. Walking on a bitumen road does not contradict with walking on an asphalt road, they both lead a way to the future. So, why not, break these chains of single choices. Life is not a multiple choice question, it's an essay question. It's about you, using your spirit and power, in spreading different colors to this world.

Motivational Talk Competition 2023

Education Bureau

Commendable Award

Heidi Kwan 5U (2022 – 2023)

The challenge:

Participants are required to write a motivational speech.

Hello everyone! Do you ever feel like you're trapped in a time loop, constantly going through the routine of attending classes and studying? It's time to break free from this cycle and *carpe diem*, which is the Latin phrase for seizing the day. That's why I want to share with you the inspiring message of the movie *Dead Poets Society*.

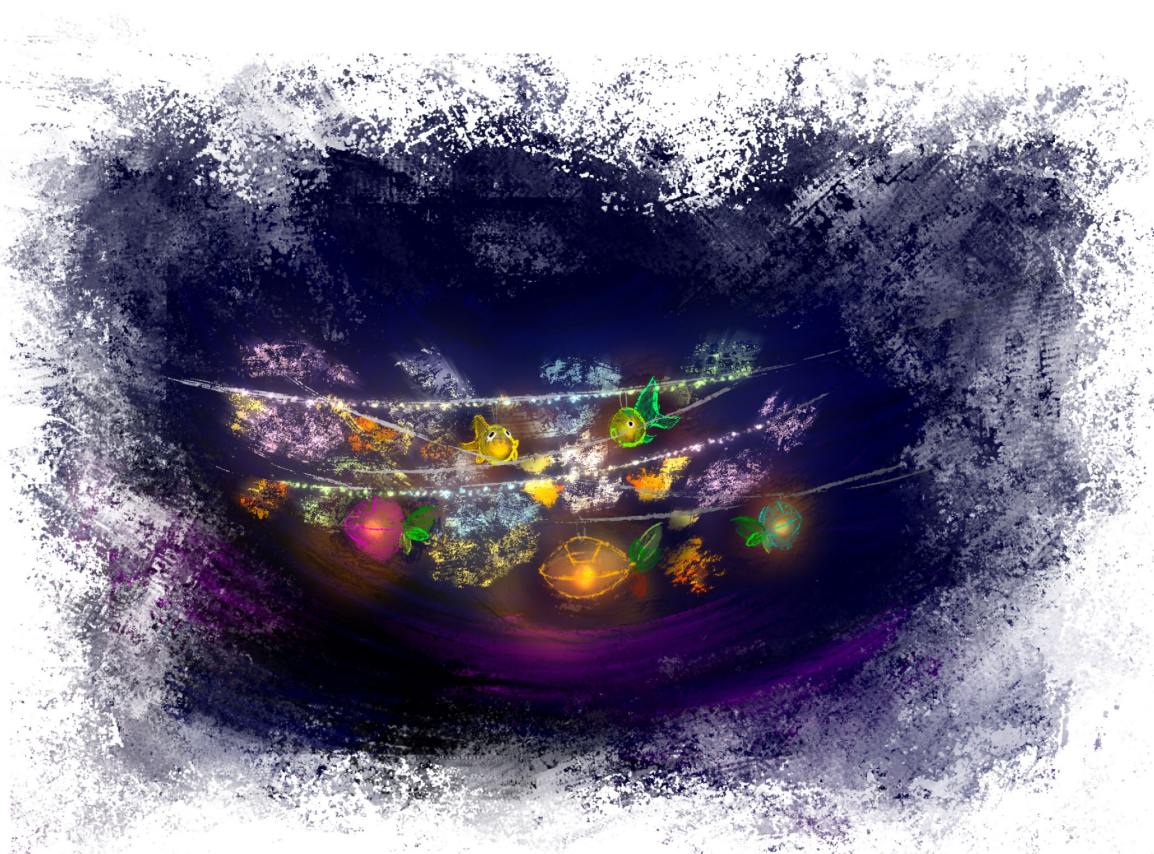
It is a classic American film, set at Welton Academy. A new English teacher, John Keating, arrives with innovative teaching methods that nurtures the students by providing them with guidance to bloom into their fullest potential. But that's not all. Keating also inspires his students to form the *Dead Poets Society*. Not only do they form deep friendships, they also discover that poetry is more than just words on a page, it can inspire us, move us, and even change us.

In Hong Kong, many young people are bound and burdened by the bureaucratic education system. They are forced to spend countless hours memorising textbooks, leaving them with little time to delve into their true interests. We all know that studying can be challenging, and it can be difficult to find the motivation to keep going. But what if I told you that by pursuing your passions, you can unlock a whole new level of dedication? Imagine waking up every day, excited to learn and grow, eager to discover new things, and push yourself to new heights. That is the power of true diligence, and it is within your grasp. Remember, the education system may have its limitations, but your potential is limitless.

As we reflect on Neil's heartbreaking story, that he was forced to give up acting just because of his conservative father, we are reminded once again how many of us still struggle to reconcile our desires. Our aspirations are like stars, guiding us towards our true purpose. But too often, we allow the clouds of doubt and fear to obscure our vision. By stepping outside of our comfort zone, we can unleash a tidal wave of potential and make the impossible possible.

The current social status chain is like a towering wall, held in place by the weight of traditional values and social norms, which can feel like an insurmountable barrier to those who don't fit the mould. But just as a climber can find a way to ascend even the most challenging mountain, so too can we find a way to break through these constraints by embracing our individuality, respecting diversity and thinking from different perspectives.

Life is like a blank canvas, waiting for us to pick up the brush and create our masterpiece. Each moment is a brushstroke, and every decision we make adds colour to it. Like how an artist must seize the opportunity to create when inspiration strikes, we also must seize the day and make the most out of it. Let's create a vibrant and meaningful artwork that reflects our own unique vision and spirit. Thank you.



Artwork: Hayley Yeung 3A (2023-2024)

Poetry Remake

Education Bureau

Commendable Award

Rachel Yu 5T (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

Students create a two-dimensional artwork in response to one of the selected poems, and then write an artist statement in English to explain the ideas in their work.



Title of the Poem: Rice with Soy Sauce by Chris Song

Artist Statement:

"Rice with Soy Sauce" explores themes of cultural identity, nostalgia, and how simple meals connect individuals to their past and sense of home. My artwork aims to capture the indelible impact left by this iconic dish. I selected two key scenes from the poem.

The composition is divided diagonally by the flow of soy sauce into a bowl of rice, echoing the title and visually establishing its role in connecting communities across time. Warm tones are used in the kitchen scene, creating a sense of warmth and intimacy. The imagery of fond smiles and a cozy, narrow space highlight how shared culture and dishes bring people together. Cooler hues are used to depict postwar refugees, representing their harsh circumstances. Contrary to the greyish, hazy environment, the bowls of rice and those holding them are illuminated with warm, vibrant colours, showing the beauty of finding and sharing joy and gratitude, even in simplicity and hardship. Textured brushstrokes create a richer visual composition, adding a human touch to the sentimental piece.

Positive messages conveyed in the artwork:

Simple meals and shared memories have the power to bring warmth to our lives. We should appreciate the beauty in simplicity, and celebrate and cherish our shared Hong Kong culture.

Poetry Remake

Education Bureau

Commendable Award

Jinny Lee 2P (2022-2023)

The challenge:

Students create a two-dimensional artwork in response to one of the selected poems, and then write an artist statement in English to explain the ideas in their work.



A visual representation of "modern concrete" by Eddie Tay

In 'modern concrete', the poet expresses his desperate attempts to add warmth and liveliness to emotionless modern cities. His imaginative ideas are illustrated in my painting.

The painting consists mostly of dull colours, reflecting the colour of concrete. The poet's desperation to add colours to life is represented by the use of vibrant colours to paint the imaginative items. The fast pace of city life is shown through flashy cars that gleam like silver fish.

The poem describes city dwellers as being isolated from society and attached to the Internet like a snail in its shell. In my artwork, this is expressed by hermit shells stuck on people's heads and electronic gadgets in their hands. The roads, bridges and transportation depicted in the painting show that modern cities value practicality above all else.

Finally, the setting sun in the middle represents hope – the hope that the poet carries even though he has repeatedly failed to add colours to the city. He stays hopeful, even though he knows that the modern concrete will try to refrain him from adding colours to cities.

Overall, I hope viewers will be aware of the message sent by the poet – adding warmth and liveliness to modern cities, despite the dullness of concrete and the fast pace of city life. The hope represented by the setting sun emphasises the importance of persevering in achieving this goal.

”

Positive value(s) and attitude(s):

Care about others and hope for future

Positive message(s):

Despite the overwhelming fast pace of life, our city life is full of warmth. Just like what the Lion Rock Spirit suggests, we will always succeed if we stay hopeful.

Poetry Remake

Education Bureau

Commendable Award

Athena Leung 2A (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

Students create a two-dimensional artwork in response to one of the selected poems, and then write an artist statement in English to explain the ideas in their work.



Title of the Poem: Modern Concrete by Eddie Tay

Artist Statement:

Amidst the hustle and bustle of Hong Kong, many of us are living a modern hermit life. We are like snails of a shell secluded in tiny and confined pigeonhole flats jam-packed in a mountain of concrete buildings, impairing our visions.

Yet, a bottom-up perspective reveals an uplifting gateway for growth, joy, connection, and fulfilment. Transcending the confines of physical surroundings, it cultivates a vision of depth and dimensionality. Those are hopes and dreams with which we leap; we thrive.

In a pigeonhole flat, confined, and small,
I dream of adding colour to life's call.
With a brush of hopes and dreams,
I defy monotony as the curtain of darkness begins to fall.

Though confined to walls of grey,
I find solace in the words I say.
Hope and dreams, my guiding light,
From a bottom-up perspective, I take flight.

Positive messages conveyed in the artwork:

We should infuse our lives with hopes and dreams even within the smallest of spaces, there is room for growth, joy, connection, and fulfilment.

Poetry Remake

Education Bureau

Commendable Award

Alina Kwok 2A (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

Students create a two-dimensional artwork in response to one of the selected poems, and then write an artist statement in English to explain the ideas in their work.



Title of the Poem: Central by Leung Ping Kwan

Artist Statement:

The poem is about the poet's reminiscence of their childhood caretaker, the woman with a braid wearing a black amah suit and carrying a basket of tangerines, and it conveys the speaker's nostalgia for the past. In the poem, the artist talks about a morning in central in old Hong Kong. They describe the scene of office workers hurrying to their headquarters and in particular, about postmen riding bicycles and holding tin lunch boxes on their heads hurrying to their respective post offices. The poem is nostalgic and the persona in the poem is the poet's childhood caretaker. Therefore, I used a different medium, colour pencils, to draw the caretaker in order to make her stand out from the rest. I also used watercolour to draw the crowd. Since watercolour has a fading effect, it further enhanced the impression of the persona by contrasting the crowd. I drew most of the background with only watercolours, though I used both watercolour and colour pencils for the old style post office on the top left. This is because I wanted the post office to stand out. I think the post office is important because the writer used more words to describe the post office and postmen.

Positive messages conveyed in the artwork:

There are lots of different people in the crowd surrounding the caretaker, this shows people from all walks of life and the cultural diversity of Hong Kong. There are lots of activities going on in central, which enhances its image of being an energetic and lively place.

From Player to Page Competition

Cicero Group Limited, Playasia, Lancaster University, The Standard

Winner of the Junior Category

Shirin Ip 3S (2022 – 2023)

The challenge:

Students are required to create a review that is both entertaining and informative.

“You’re doing great! I know you would never disappoint me with your talents!” The coach exclaimed with admiration in his eyes, looking at the talented woman who was wiping the sweat on her forehead.

Chun-Li was born and raised in Hong Kong, where she began her training in martial arts at a young age. Her father had always been her mentor, role model, and biggest supporter, inspiring her to become a street fighter. However, her world turned upside down when she learned of her father's death. Determined to find out who was responsible, Chun-Li became obsessed with taking down the criminal organization known as Shadaloo, whom she believed was responsible for her father's death. She dedicated herself to bringing them to justice, and her inner demons surfaced when she heard their leader confess to killing her father.

Her abnormal behaviours and attitudes did not go unnoticed by her friend, Cammy. On one occasion, Cammy found Chun-Li gripping a knife tightly, screaming towards a picture of her father. Also, she once saw her friend brutally stabbing a lady near an alley at night.

“She would never hurt innocent people...something isn’t right,” Cammy muttered to herself. She decided to take Chun-Li to see a psychiatrist, who ultimately diagnosed her with dissociative identity disorder. As soon as Chun-Li learned about her split personality, she ran out of the hospital, mentally praying that it was not true.

“This cannot be!” Chun-Li cried out. She watched the CCTV footage of her house and slowly realized that Shadaloo admitting to killing her father had always been her hallucination. Her guilt was overwhelming when she saw a woman who looked like her stabbing an old man multiple times and storming out of the house with a bloody knife. Her father's friends had been right all along in accusing her of killing her father.

In search of a new start, Chun-Li left Hong Kong and settled in a peaceful village in Japan. She found a job as a local police officer and tried to leave her past behind. However, her past caught up with her when she was called to investigate a series of mysterious disappearances in the village.

As Chun-Li dug deeper into the case, she discovered that a new criminal organization had taken root in the area. Her investigative instincts kicked in, and she found herself drawn back into the world of street fighting. With her experience and expertise, she quickly became a valuable asset to the local police force and worked tirelessly to bring down the new threat.

Chun-Li emerged stronger and more resilient than ever before. Her split personality was no longer a barrier but a reminder of her strength and resilience instead. She was determined to use utilise her skills and experiences to help others and make a difference in the world. With words of encouragement from her friends and colleagues echoing in her mind, Chun-Li faced whatever challenges lay ahead with courage and determination.

From Player to Page Competition

Cicero Group Limited, Playasia, Lancaster University, The Standard

Winner of the Junior Category

Eva Chow 3T (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

Students are required to create a game review based on its story, difficulty and overall playability.

Get ready to be astounded as you witness the incredible tale of the Three Kingdoms unfold right in front of you!

As a lover of history and video games, I have always been fascinated by the story plot of the tumultuous Three Kingdoms period in ancient China. During this period, there were remarkable political plots, famous champions, and massive battles. In this game, the *Three Kingdoms: Strategy Edition*, the choice you make will likely determine how the kingdoms develop in the future.

Three Kingdoms: Strategy Edition, a game based on the ancient China history period Three Kingdoms back in 222AD, was released in 2021, 36 years after the original game. Now let me introduce you to this exciting game, starting off with the characters!

You may choose to become one of the most well-known characters in Chinese history in the game. Can you withstand the crafty Cao Cao's maneuvers? Will you follow the decent Liu Bei's dependable guidance? Or would you rather call upon the sharp strategic mind of the well-known Zhuge Liang? The decision you make will play a big role in shaping the future of the kingdoms.

The captivating storyline of the game takes you on a complex journey filled with alliances, treason, and battles for dominance that defined the Three Kingdoms period. Every decision you make will have a long-lasting influence on the course of history, whether it involves diplomacy or strategic military maneuvers. The narrative brings the player to this renowned era through spoken scenes and exquisitely generated surroundings.

But the thrill doesn't stop there. The game's combat system is a seamless blend of intense real-time action and deep strategic planning, challenging you to master a diverse array of weapons and special abilities. Prepare to lead your troops in epic battles with hundreds of soldiers involved in an awe-inspiring display of disorder and devastation. The well-balanced difficulty curve challenges even skilled strategy experts, while giving new players the opportunity to gradually enhance their skills and become skilled battlefield masters.

The game's impressive size and meticulous attention to detail further enhance its overall playability even more. You will definitely be captivated by the beauty and excitement of this traditional story, with a diverse selection of characters to choose from, each with their own unique backgrounds and storylines. The game's incredible scale, covering huge areas and significant battles, is truly outstanding. It offers limitless exciting battles, strategy choices, and discovery.

Are you ready to take on the role of a legendary hero and change the course of history? Embark on the Three Kingdoms series for an unparalleled experience of excitement, tactics, and adventure!

Sino Junior Reporter Programme 2023/24

Sino Group (supported by SCMP Young Post)

2nd Runner-up

Dorothy Chan 5S (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

Sino Junior Reporters must submit a final assignment, a compelling feature article in English of no more than 500 words and up to three photos on climate change and marine biodiversity.

With the environment confronted with unprecedented levels of threat, since 2023, the Sino Group has launched coral restoration initiatives at Ocean Park to raise public awareness on the preservation of marine ecosystem.

The detrimental effects of climate change are impacting everyone, evident from recent extreme weather events. It has become apparent that it is no longer an option but a necessity to adopt responsible practices, raise public awareness, and foster cross-sectorial collaboration. The Sino Group is one of the pioneers who embraced its social corporate responsibility beyond compliance, especially marine biodiversity.

‘The climate clock is ticking, we must act faster and act stronger, together,’ said Ms Melanie Kwok, Assistant General Manager of Sustainability in Sino Group. She added that the journey to sustainability is where everyone comes into play, to learn and grow together.

In 2023, the Sino Group alongside the Hong Kong Innovation Foundation instituted the CORAL REEFStoration, a local coral conservation and restoration project. In collaboration with Ocean Park and the start-up Archireef, artificial reef tiles through extracting fragments have been cultivated in hopes of expanding coral colonies.



Coral reefs are underwater interconnections which are intrinsic and indispensable towards life underwater and on land. Yet, the survival of this enigma, has been endangered due to human misdemeanours which led to extensive water pollution and destruction to natural habitats. Greenhouse gas emissions from industrial activities have raised seawater temperature to above the optimum of 30 degrees Celsius, leading to the expulsion of algae from polyp, and subsequently rapid biological deterioration. Earlier in 2017, experts surveyed and published on Marine Pollution Bulletin the severity of

coral bleaching in 33 sites in subtropical Hong Kong waters, among which indicated a staggering average of 5.9–57.6% bleached coral covered area.

As Ms Kwok said, 'Sustainability is never a destination, never was and never will.' The scheme stressed the importance of public participation in the long fight towards sustainability, involving stakeholders from diverse backgrounds: from championing young minds who share a passion for conservation to arranging guided tours tailored for different target audience, where the nursery for wounded corals can be leveraged as an educational platform, instilling and incorporating fundamental yet crucial conservation knowledge in an interactive manner. Visitors will get the opportunity to witness first-hand the hexagonal coral tiles used for restoration and examine corals against CORALWATCH, a simplified coral health chart.



'Small steps make a big difference,' Kwok said.

The CORAL REEFStoration initiative is not the group's first act of environmental preservation. Back in 2022, the Ocean Park Fullerton Hotel, managed by the Sino Group, was a bold attempt in actualising a plastic-free vision. The infrastructure, situated on the periphery of the theme park, earned global recognition on its progressive approach in educating the general public through hands-on workshops and elevate awareness on local corals.

All these efforts are essential to ensuring the longevity and delicate balance of these underwater marvels for future generations to cherish.

'We only have one Earth, we need everybody, everybody to act, to save,' Kwok said.

The Global WE Essay Competition

Harvard GlobalWE

Honourable Mention

Hillary Yue 6T (2022 – 2023)

The challenge:

Students are required to write an essay on ‘What is the biggest challenge facing women and girls in your country today?’

Beauty is in the eye of the Beholder with Unrealistic Standards

“What in the world are you thinking?”

My mother began her tirade.

“There is a reason I never let you cut your hair short—it accentuates your round face and brings out your unattractive features. Looks are important, especially for women! You’re lucky you don’t have any interviews for universities at the moment—I can’t imagine how you can face others with an appearance like this.”

I tightened my grip on the pair of scissors, her explosive words sending sparks of anger and hurt that prickled my skin and left a bitter aftertaste. In my perspective, short hair was just a new hairstyle I wanted to try; yet her words made me waver in my decision. In her perspective, short hair was a deviation from her idea of beauty derived from society’s acclaimed standards. In a general perspective, we were all just victims of oppressive beauty standards, passed on from one generation to another.

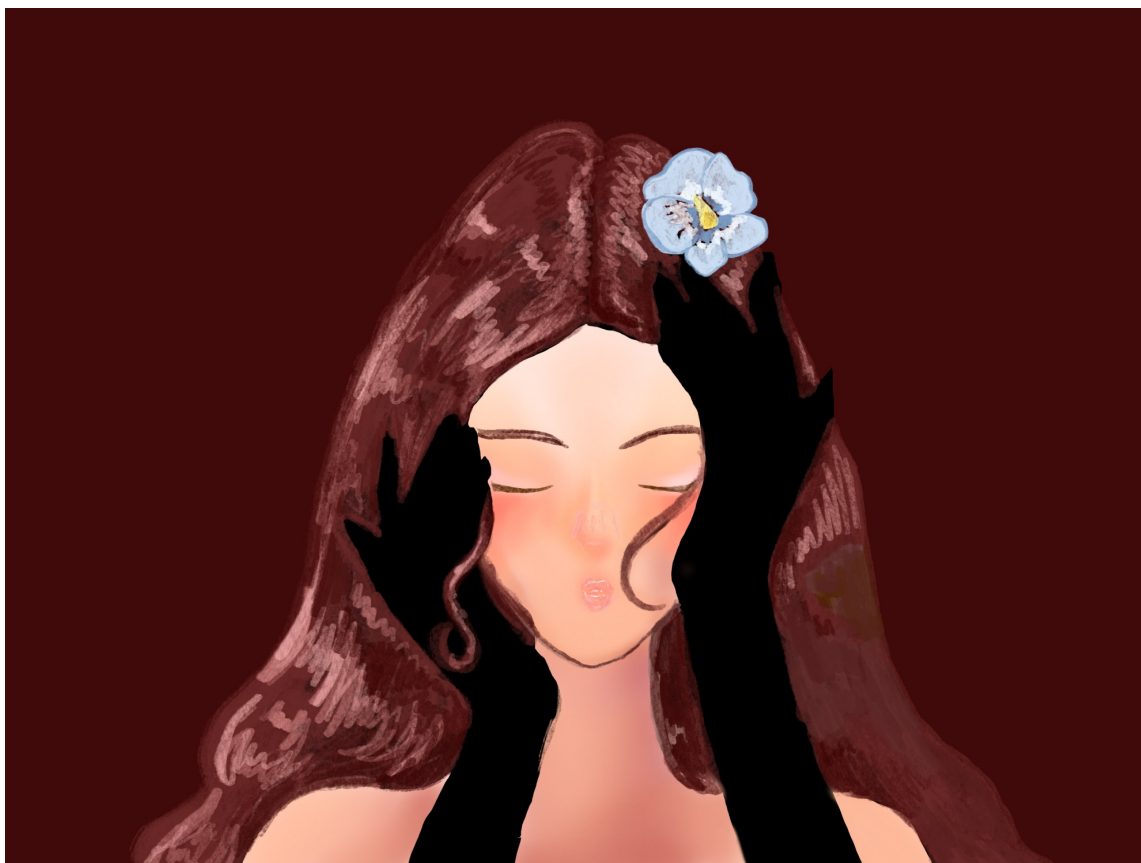
A history of patriarchy and androcentrism has left its imprints on women up to this day. Amongst many traditional beliefs of how women should act, one is the emphasis on adopting features that are conventionally deemed ‘attractive’. Whether it be modern hourglass figures or Victorian pale faces and rosy cheeks, an overarching standard for women’s beauty has always existed. Beauty can also be assessed in a quantitative methodology, a notable example being the golden ratio of human faces, which analyses a certain proportion of face width and length that is deemed as appealing and beautiful.

Furthermore, mass media also forces unrealistic ideal appearances onto women. In media, women are objectified, labelled and assessed under high scrutiny. This leads to the standards of women’s beauty rising to an unattainable and toxic height. Women would then mould, cast, carve and then assemble themselves to become fit for society, which often brings about detrimental effects to their mental and physical health, insecurities manifesting in the forms of eating disorders and suicidal thoughts.

When your ears listen to the cacophony of voices instructing you to follow their beauty standard, and your body acts in compliance with their wishes, you'll soon realise that your hands are outstretched towards the unreachable. Your legs will never be enough to chase the ever-evolving beauty trends; your eyes will never be satisfied with your reconstructed reflection in the mirror, and your heart will forever experience the hollowness of living in a body whose beauty didn't feel completely yours.

It is easy to succumb to the pressure of societal expectations. There is an inherent willingness to accept and adhere to these standards, stemming from a yearning for acceptance. Some let their perspective of beauty guides their lives and the decisions they make, living to seek approval from others. We falsely believe that we can become more confident from others' compliments and will then be able to learn how to love ourselves. However, acceptance should begin with ourselves. No standard of beauty should be important to you other than your own. It is difficult to change society's beauty standards in a short period of time, but we can change the standards we uphold ourselves to. We don't have to accommodate ourselves for others.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. It is subjective and differs from one individual to another. Thus, there are no correct standards of beauty that exist to fit everyone. I stared in the mirror, scissors once again held tightly in my grip—this time, in determination. With a steady hand and resolve, I cut my hair, letting it flutter to the ground. You are the beholder of your own beauty.



Artwork: Aimey Leung 3A (2023-2024)

The Global WE Essay Competition

Harvard GlobalWE

Selected as the School Winner

Ngai Yoyo 5S (2023 – 2024)

The challenge:

Students are required to write an essay on ‘What is the biggest challenge facing women and girls in your country today?’

Breaking the Glass Ceiling within

Ranked 19th out of 109 countries according to the United Nations' Gender Equality Marker, at first glance Hong Kong seems to have made significant progress towards gender equality. With a higher employment rate for women compared to men, the prevailing challenge may not appear to be gender related. However, a closer look reveals a significant monthly median income gap between women (15,300) and men (21,000), highlighting the persistent effects of the patriarchal structure in Hong Kong. Hong Kong is far from extreme gender inequality, yet the patriarchal structure's effect still lingers, presented in different forms from the past.

While a patriarchal society often fosters misogynistic ideals, misogyny is not only perpetuated by men but also by women themselves. Although the nature of misogyny may have evolved, its destructive impact remains equally potent when it resides within women. The emergence of voices advocating for equality and feminism may lead one to believe that the last place misogyny is found is among women. Yet that is the sad reality for many countries, especially Hong Kong. Internalized misogyny creates a "glass ceiling effect," which refers to invisible barriers that hinder women and minorities from advancing into higher-level management positions, despite being fully qualified. Internalized misogyny, also known as internalized sexism, was first explored in an essay by the Indian publishing house for women, "Kali for Women." It encompasses the self-doubt, self-blame, and self-censorship experienced by women due to living in a patriarchal society. These internalized beliefs place limitations on women themselves, preventing them from striving for the best and amplifying the obstacles they face.

Recently, TEDx talks have shed light on internalized misogyny, describing it as a process in which women internalize societal attitudes that portray them as inferior to men. This leads to self-disregard and self-sabotage. Although Hong Kong did not implement the One Child Policy that resulted in high rates of female infanticide, there is undeniable evidence of traditional preferences for sons over daughters in Chinese

societies, which perpetuates a cultural norm favouring men. Despite the presence of laws protecting women's rights in China, societal practices and norms still foster male dominance and reinforce gender stereotypes. These stereotypes range from appearances to personality traits and even skillsets. Women are pressured to prioritize marriage and be subservient to their spouses, often at the expense of their own careers. Young girls are told that they are naturally less capable in scientific and logical subjects like mathematics. Male-dominated fields and industries remain unwelcoming to women, leading to a significant decline in female workforce participation over the past 30 years, as reported by the research firm Catalyst. With a strong influence of traditional values and societal pressure, women in Hong Kong and China internalise these values and limit themselves from success.

The Internalized Misogyny Scale (IMS) measures indicators such as distrust and devaluation of women, which are common signs of internalized misogyny. Although the scale has limitations, it highlights how internalized misogyny not only limits women themselves but also affects their perception of other women and their ability to form meaningful bonds with peers. The trend of "not like other girls" on the internet further perpetuates this internalized misogyny, playing into the game of ostracization of women and internalised misogyny by implying that women who are not stereotypically feminine are better than her peers, which is more commonly known as a 'tomboy' in Hong Kong. This phenomenon promotes unhealthy competition to appear unique and non-feminine, in response to societal expectations and stereotypes.

To address internalized misogyny, it is crucial to foster discussions at all levels of society, including schools, homes, and government departments. Without proper metrics and awareness, many women may not realize they are affected by this issue. Understanding the mutual enemy we face is essential to overcoming it. Media plays a significant role in shaping discussions, and recent examples, such as the Barbie movie, have explored internalized misogyny. The film portrays a young girl initially rejecting femininity but eventually realizing that embracing it is not embarrassing, encouraging women to break free from the invisible constraints imposed by a patriarchal society. This example should be followed, and internalized misogyny should be explored more deeply in various forms of media to help women realize they are not alone in their struggles and empower them to seek support within their communities.

As the renowned American poet and author Robin Morgan once said, "Women are not inherently passive or peaceful. We're not inherently anything but human." To truly eliminate gender inequality and empower female voices, we must address the roots of the patriarchal society, even when they exist within women themselves in the form of internalized misogyny. By implementing necessary changes, we can move toward a fairer society characterized by female solidarity rather than unnecessary competition fuelled by internalized misogyny.

The Global WE Essay Competition

Harvard GlobalWE

Honourable Mention

Kiani Aleena 5T (2022 – 2023)

The challenge:

Students are required to write an essay on ‘What is the biggest challenge facing women and girls in your country today?’

When writing this essay, I find myself with an odd wish; the desire to be a cat. Why? For only if I possessed nine lives, could I fully describe the scope of injustice suffered by the mothers, daughters, sisters and wives of Pakistan. Alas, my feeble pen will have to suffice for the thousand wails of pain emanating from our beleaguered nation. Treat this essay as a mere introduction, and look around at the weary faces of the fairer sex to confirm its truth.

The most fundamental issue is that women in Pakistan are not seen as human beings. We are mere conduits for male desire. The ‘good’ woman, as repeatedly reinforced by religion and media, is self sacrificing, patient, living solely for her parents, her husband, and children. This Madonna whore complex is aptly summed up in Pakistan topping the charts in porn consumption. The role of porn in women’s subjugation in Pakistan is that the most frequent searches are related to non consensual encounters; especially with underage girls. This reflects a tendency of violence against women, reflected in high rape statistics, as well as 80% of women reporting having experienced domestic abuse.

The crux of sexual encounters where women do not consent is an assertion of power, to make us small to gratify their own desires. When women try to take back their agency, the patriarchy punishes them through honour killings, as outlined by the Kohistan case. What crime could have sparked *murder* as a response? The women had simply been clapping their hands as a young man danced to a song in a video, and their male family members decided it was a capital offense. For a woman to wander outside the four walls of her on her own initiative is to be pelted by insults and risk her life.

The role of religion in women’s plight in Pakistan cannot be overstated, specifically, men’s cherry-picking of Quranic verses to support their own hegemony. Men will choose to ignore verses about charity, daily prayers, caring for the needy, but *will* repeatedly emphasize their right to four wives, how domestic violence is justified under the guise of ‘disciplining’ one’s spouse as if she were an errant child.

Divorce laws in Pakistan, additionally, unfairly penalize a woman who initiates divorce. A man needs only to say “Talaq” thrice, and they are separated. Whereas for a woman, the process requires her to renounce any financial recompense, have her experiences belittled, and endure years of forced proximity with their husbands due to unnecessary bureaucracy. Divorcees are anathematized in Pakistani society and shut out. At the end of the day, Pakistani culture is focused around the institutions of marriage and family; divorcees are seen to be witches who destroy domestic harmony and chase their wishes instead of bearing ‘patience’, the most frequent advice dispensed to battered wives.

Additionally, gender segregation mandated by religion worsens the lack of understanding and empathy between the sexes, and the sexual repression that erupts in the form of catcalling, harassment and rape. The supposed purpose of gender segregation is to ‘protect’ women from the male gaze, but by reducing opportunities for men and women to speak frankly and respectfully, it allows men to regard women through the lens of porn. It’s a basic rule of nature that scarcity makes for demand, fuelling Pakistan’s red light districts, but this makes public spaces unsafe for women, who further retreat into all female spaces, perpetuating this vicious cycle of misunderstanding and repression.

Yet the age-old influence of religion is modernised through the guise of light, family entertainment, which normalises domestic abuse and sweeps sexual issues under the rug. It is ironic how TV shows warn audiences how smoking is injurious to health when characters smoke, but never censor domestic violence. Abuse is normalised in these shows, with the heroines frequently in tears and being slapped around by her husband and in-laws. Most of these shows end with the heroine ‘fixing’ the hero out of a love stemming from Stockholm syndrome. The worst part of this is that these dramas are considered ‘family entertainment’, meaning young girls learn this is acceptable treatment.

While women in urban areas enjoy more freedoms, these are mainly localised to upper class women, and girls in rural areas might as well forget about their dreams. To be a woman in Pakistan is to be a dog. We faithfully wag our tails in anticipation of praise and flinch from blows, and it all ends with an undignified death.

Introduction to Reverse Poems

A brief description and explanation on how to enjoy reverse poems

Reverse poems, also known as palindrome poems, are a unique literary form where the poem can be read both downwards and upwards. They often reveal hidden meanings that contradict or complement the original one in the reverse direction. Creating this special form of poem has proven to be a critical thinking exercise for young writers.

In this chapter, readers are invited to enjoy carefully crafted, thought-provoking pieces produced by Paulinians during English lessons. These works shift your perspective from the first reading to the second reading in reverse, where young writers have risen to the challenge to create a cohesive, expressive and meaningful narrative while traversing through this versatile poetic structure.

Paulinians are guided by different themes every year: in the year of 2022—2023, they were asked to create works under the theme of the Lion Rock Spirit, the term that became popular in the 1970s and described the unwavering commitment, the “can-do” attitude and the collective determination of the people of Hong Kong. Their works celebrate this unique spirit that has been passed down through generations, allowing many to overcome apparently unconquerable challenges.

As you read through the reverse poems featured in the following pages, allow the words to inspire you and unveil deeper meanings to you. We hope you will enjoy these poems and be inspired by them as much as we have. We are extremely proud of our students who have contributed to this chapter, for they have not only mastered a demanding poetic form but also succeeded in exploring an array of emotions and leaving a lasting impression on their readers.



Artwork: Hayley Yeung 3A (2023-2024)

Reverse Poems

Contents

Reverse Poems written by Form 3 students in the year of 2021—2022

3S Dorothy Chan, Kelly Chu, Audrey Seng, Rachael Wong

3P Karina Cheong, Monica Pei, Hebe Wan, Cecilia Yip

Reverse Poems written by Form 3 students in the year of 2022—2023

3S Charlotte Cheung, Callie Kwok, Vincy Ng, Elly Wong

3T Jade Chan, Scarlet Fung, Leanne Lau

*3A Athena Chan, Merry Chan, Kate Chau, Athena Cheung,
Charlotte Lee*

3A Margaret Ho, Bernice Leung, Hillary Tong, Clare Zhang

3U Athena Au, Quiteria Chan, Hazel Choi

Reverse Poems written by Form 3 students in the year of 2023—2024

3S Isabella Cheuk, Sally Chow, Hayley Law, Hilda Leung

3S Bernice Choi, Madelyn Keung, Bella Leung

*3T Cheryl Chan, Flora Chan, Eva Chow, Jacqueline Kie,
Megan Liu*

3T Rachel Chung, Rebecca Ho, Ella Wong

3P Candy Ho, Daisy Li, Charlotte Yu

3A Charlotte Fung, Jova Hung, Chloe Mak, Amabel Tin

3A Bernice Chan, Jannis Chou, Ingrid Fung, Bernice Wong

3U Charlotte Fung, Catherine Sze, Carmen Tam

3U Jamie Fung, Haley Ho, Megan Li

The Masquerade

Dorothy Chan, Kelly Chu, Audrey Seng, Rachael Wong 3S (2021 – 2022)

Misery shall reign.

There is absolutely no chance that

Joy shall prevail

It is common knowledge that

Joy shall succumb

To the domineering dominance

I resolutely dismantle the idea that

Everlasting triumph over the slumber of despair

With regal serenity, blissful joy, splendid hope.

Masking myself in this masquerade

I am not in the mood of

Curtains rising, people mingling, music beginning

Let the dance commence, shall we?

I have experienced the joy of such performance.

I have lived it.

I have watched everything unravelled before my very own eyes

Tearing off the glamour and glaze

Are any of their smiles real?

Merely an extravagant show

Nothing as

Bustling cheers and jeers in the crowd

As everything in sight is

Terror and horror

Gloom and doom

And no signals of

Smiles and giggles

laughter and grins

In my hysteric chortling
I reject the idea of drowning endlessly
In my own plays and pleasure
Thrill blooming in my chest like a feather-light flower
In the sweet days of girlhood
Shining, shimmering, sparkling like a dazzling star
Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive
But merely
Just to chase for a light under the starless night
Be engulfed by the monstrous beast
Be devoured by death eaters
Be conquered by the night of darkness
I shan't believe I will
reach out for a start
reach out for a hand
reach out for the truth

But like gentle shivers in the harsh coldness
As if heart-wrenching betrayals spiking through my heart
I deny the sheer existence of pure friendships
Lies are fabricated to hide true emotions
I refuse to support
The Acknowledgement of the presence of truth

I know there is no denying
Deep down in my heart,
School is nothing but a purgatory of torture
I do not put faith in the fact that
Happiness invincible, Invisible, Indomitable!

Be Free

Karina Cheong, Monica Pei, Hebe Wan, Cecilia Yip 3P (2021 – 2022)


Hope seems far away
She cannot feel that
Freedom and joyfulness belong to her
She firmly believes
There will never be peace nor youthfulness
She denies that
Escaping from reckless torture is possible
She is certain that
Wounded bird has no way to fly out of the cage
She refuses to proclaim that
Sapling can break through the soil

Rainbow freckles they are to adorn the gloom
Cleaved by serrated skeins of angst and doldrums
And flowers of relish bloom in her chafed heart

The fresh fragrance of the moistened mud

And permeated in the summer air
So mildly, so motherly.
Sketched by the breeze
An unforeseen smile as bright as sunlight
Blossomed on the bright-crimson face
Prickly and fleecy;
Caressing and stroking her bulgy mangles
On the dew-laden grass
Her bitzy bare feet

Prancing, dancing, chanting
Cloudless sky with gentle breezes
Streams and rivers that run through
Tall trees, leaves glistening with dew



A blue sky at sunrise
The way the world should be
Surrounded with flowers and delicate butterflies

Waiting for the autonomy fireworks
With the joy that comes from fleeing
frantically grinding like a crazy
Arched like a bridge in a fallen handstand
Dandelions were tightly grasped in her palms.
She took a stroll through the grass.

You would hear her wailing like a wraith.

Not ever again
The iron chain would fracture.
Her wings would unfold
The hideous, horrible memory of slavery haunted her.
It had only been in dream that
She was at last embraced by the dearest sunray
The feeling was so far away, further than the oldest days.
But those were just flipped pages turned over by fays.
That girl — that wretched girl — was insulted, slapped, and whipped
Darkness shaded the sky



Artwork: Kelly Chu 3S (2021-2022)



Artwork: Aimey Leung 3A (2023-2024)

The Flame of the Lionheart

Charlotte Cheung, Callie Kwok, Vincy Ng, Elly Wong 3S (2022 – 2023)

THE FLAME OF THE LIONHEART

A reverse poem



Introduction

What is the Lion Rock Spirit?

The Lion Rock Spirit, a term describing the enduring and persistent nature of Hongkongers, is derived from the themes and values of the song "Below the Lion Rock," which was the theme song of RTHK's 70s TV production. It has then become an iconic representation of Hong Kong and its people, embodying the values of mutual support and resilience. The Lion Rock Spirit gained popularity during the early days of Hong Kong, when the older generation of Hongkongers arrived in the territory as refugees with nothing. Despite facing unfavorable conditions, their resilience and hard work enabled them to transform Hong Kong from a small village into a prosperous global financial center.

The Lion Rock Spirit is a core value that has been passed down from generation to generation. It upholds solidarity and perseverance, empowering Hongkongers with the collective strength to overcome traumatic events. From the Financial Crisis in 1997 to the Covid pandemic since 2019, Hongkongers have relied on the motto of "never give up" and are well-equipped with the Lion Rock Spirit, enabling them to work hard and support each other despite any obstacles.

The Lion Rock Spirit represents the strength and resilience of Hongkongers in the face of adversity. It is a source of inspiration and pride, embodying the values of mutual support, endurance, and persistence that have helped Hong Kong overcome challenges and become the prosperous city it is today.

Themes

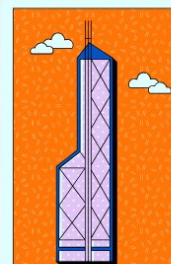
A reverse poem is a unique and creative style of poetry that can be read in two ways. It can be read from top to bottom like a traditional poem, or it can be read from bottom to top, with a different meaning and theme.

In our reverse poem, we have incorporated opposing themes, where reading forwards portrays despair and agony while reading backwards portrays hope and ambition. The theme of despair and agony is depicted through negative and bleak statements, exploring the depths of hopelessness and misery. The tone of the poem is relatively gloomy and miserable, conveying the emotions of despair and agony effectively.

Furthermore, our reverse poem shows the power of shifting perspectives and finding new ways to look at challenges. By reading the poem in reverse, the reader is encouraged to see the same situation in a different light, finding hope and motivation where there was once despair and agony. The poem conveys the message that despite the obstacles faced, there will always be a way to find hope and strength to overcome difficult times. The idea that setbacks and failures are a natural part of the journey towards success is also clearly conveyed, highlighting the importance of perseverance and resilience.



The flame of the lionheart



HONG KONG

The city is swathed in darkness, a soulless sight
You will never hear me say
Hong Kong can regain its dazzle, dignity, delight
I can assure you tremendously
The stock market has crashed, the banks were in dire straits
It would be foolish to think that
Our streets are paved with gold, ambition unfolds
as the glorious triumph of our home
There is concrete proof that



We are drowning in the murky swamp of COVID, the virus prevails
I will never sprout the idea that
Our faith, like the spark of flame, glistening in the very darkness will persevere
Surely



COVID is the deadly blow to our victory
I do not hold the belief that
Hong Kong can fight this invisible bane
I am convinced



The city's zest is drained away
It is absurd to think that
Hong Kong will flourish with vibrant vitality
Everyone thinks

Hong Kong will forever stand still in silence and fear
I will never ever agree, if you say
Rays of hope will burst at the seams
Trust me



The flame of the lionheart will be extinguished
There is no way
The Spirit of the Lion Rock will rise like climbing waves
This is the eternal truth

Title: The flame of the lionheart

Allusion: Lion (Symbol of HK's strength and resilience)

The city is swathed in darkness, a soulless sight,



Diction/ Sibillance:

Bleak view of HK, emphasize the current dire situation

Imagery:

Vivid images, sensory details to describe the dark & lifeless state of HK -> create powerful emotional impact on the reader

You will never hear me say,



Tone: Assert but pessimistic, challenges cannot easily be overcome, never express hope/optimism about the city's future

Hong Kong can regain its dazzle, dignity, delight,

Alliteration: Emphasize HK's opulent & splendid past (Contrast to current situation)

I can assure you tremendously,

Adverb of degree/extent: Highlight the severity of the current situation

The stock market has crashed, the banks are in dire straits,



Diction: (very bad or difficult situation)

Point out the concrete reasons why HK cannot recover from its economic challenges

It would be foolish to think that

Diction: Reinforces the idea that HK's problems are significant and cannot be fixed easily

Our streets are paved with gold, ambition unfolds, as the glorious triumph of our home.



Hyperbole/Internal rhyme: Portraits the belief that the city is prosperous, wealthy & successful, emphasize the difficulty of reality

There is concrete proof that



Diction: The certainty of HK's loss to COVID

We are drowning in the murky swamp of COVID, the virus prevails



Metaphor: Compared to being stuck in a sticky swamp with no way out OR malevolent, evil forces that are actively working against Hong Kong -> Convey a sense of despair and hopelessness

I will never sprout the idea that



Adverb of frequency: Emphasize the writer's conviction in their belief

Our faith, like the spark of flame, glistening in the very darkness will persevere



Simile: Glimmer of hope, Emphasize that the city's resilient mindset will allow it to overcome its challenges

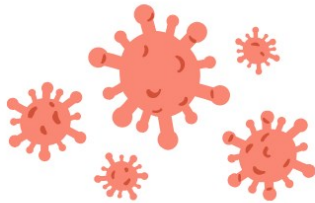
Surely



COVID is the **deadly blow** to our victory

I do not hold the belief that

Hong Kong can **fight this invisible bane**



I am convinced,

Adverb of certainty: Emphasize the writer's conviction in their belief

Similar to "murky swamp"

Personification : personifies HK as a warrior that is recalcitrant, unwilling to succumb to COVID

Metaphor : COVID is compared to a invisible bane, it emphasises how not perceptible, yet dangerous and life-draining COVID is

The city's zest is **drained away**.



It is **absurd** to think that

Hong Kong will **flourish** with **vibrant vitality**



Everyone thinks

Hong Kong will forever **stand still** in silence and fear,



I will **never** ever agree, if you say

Rays of hope will **burst at the seams**



Personification: Personifies HK as a sick person, with its vitality lost

(Illogical, inappropriate)

Zoomorphism: HK will flourish like a flower, growing stronger and taller, and be filled with vitality





Alliteration: the sound of 'v' emphasizes the beat of life and auditorily showing the vivid colours of the city

Personification: HK is again personified as a weak maiden that is afraid to speak up for their rights

Sibilance : the 's' sound provides a hush sound to those who try to speak, showing that people are bound not to talk to keep quiet

Repetition of "never": Emphasizes the writer's disbelief towards the statements (positive or negative ideas regarding the direction of reading)

Metaphor : burst at the seams is used to exaggerate surging hope, how it is like waves that is uncontrollably bursting out

<p>Trust me.</p>	<p>The writer encourages the audience to take their point of view</p>
<p>The flame of the lionheart will be extinguished,</p>  <p>There is no way</p> <p>The spirit of the lionrock will rise like climbing waves,</p>   <p>This is the eternal truth.</p> 	<p>Metaphor : this sentence echos with the title, hope and persistence is compared to a lionheart that symbolises bravery and courage, showing the core value of HK the spirit of unity under the lion rock</p> <p>Symbolism: Use of lion as a symbol of HK's strength and resilience</p> <p>Simile: It conveys the message that hope, bravery and courage will spring like the certain tides. HK is determined to stand up even in the midst of darkness and challenges</p> <p>Hyperbole : eternal is used to highlight that truth is universal and unchanging, making it more hyperbolic that it is certain that the spirit of lion rock will rise or sink.</p>

Structural analysis:

Enjambment: Creates a sense of flow and movement, effective in emphasizing the never ending pessimism on HK's situation

Free verse: Creates a sense of chaos amidst HK's current situation

Series of denials and rejections of hopeful ideas: Assert that the spirit of HK has been extinguished and will never rise again, bring out a bleak and pessimistic view about the city's future

Reverse poem: Defy all the previous negativity of HK's situation (The writer actually has strong faith in HK's lionrock spirit that can overcome the challenges)



How does the writer use language and structure to present the Lion Rock Spirit?

The writer of the poem uses language and structure to effectively convey the idea that the Lion Rock Spirit, which represents the resilience and determination of the people of Hong Kong, is diminishing.

To begin with, the writer uses negative language and diction to paint a bleak picture of the current situation for Hong Kong. The city is described as "swathed in darkness", which alludes to a sense of gloom. The city is experiencing a lack of clarity and is disoriented and despaired. Similarly, the use of sibilance in "soulless sight" illustrates the lifelessness and lack of vitality of the city. This further reinforces the negative idea of the city and creates feelings of hopelessness and pessimism. The bleakness of the city corresponds with how the Lion Rock Spirit is diminishing and weak.

In addition, the writer also uses various language techniques to highlight the insurmountable challenges Hong Kong is going through. The city is described as "drowning in the murky swamp of COVID-19". The metaphor compares the city to being stuck in a swamp with no way out, as well as having malevolent, evil forces that are actively working against it, which illustrates a sense of powerlessness and hopelessness. Hong Kong is struggling in controlling the pandemic and to find hope and optimism, which hints that the Lion Rock Spirit is draining amidst hardships.

Furthermore, various structural techniques are used to present the diminishing Lion Rock Spirit. The poem is written in free verse, without a specific meter or rhyme scheme. This creates a sense of fragmentation, disjointedness and chaos. Correspondingly, the use of enjambment throughout the poem and the series of denials and rejections of positive ideas emphasize the idea that the city has a hopeless future, and suggest that the people of Hong Kong have lost their Lion Rock Spirit and bright optimism for the future.

Yet, this poem is a reverse poem, which conveys a completely opposite idea when read in reverse. In fact, when reversed, the writer is actually confident that the Lion Rock Spirit is flourishing vibrantly. The writer ultimately defies all the negativity of the poem when read forwards, and reinforces a strong belief in the Lion Rock Spirit to overcome all these challenges and rise like climbing waves.

The Lion's Resilience: A Journey Beyond Limits

Jade Chan, Scarlet Fung, Leanne Lau 3T (2022 – 2023)

The Lion's Resilience *A Journey beyond limits*

"Oh, but we will never reach the top!"
Don't believe that
With every encounter of challenge
There is hope for change
If we keep holding onto the spirit of the lion
They say, "You'll stumble, fall, and end up cryin'"

A dream that fades in the evanescent light
It's just an illusion, and ever so out of sight
Don't you dare think that
All that's lost can be settled with might
With our weary hearts, our splintered souls
We journey on, through life's arduous tolls

Toil and turmoil comes hand in hand
Like a stormy sea with shifting sands
No longer can it be said that
They will never deter us
We will always fight arm in arm

For in verdant valleys, with craggy crests of thrill
Only whispers of wind can carry the lion's will
I used to think
A symbol of resilience, is the mighty Lion Rock
Amidst hustle and bustle, its heart never stops

It is evident that
We can never change
We can never strive
We can never prosper
Lies were told, when they said
The peak is within reach



Fighting Under the Lion Rock

Athena Chan, Merry Chan, Kate Chau, Athena Cheung, Charlotte Lee

3A (2022 – 2023)

It'll be okay to just keep your head down and not speak your mind
don't think that
you could defy the will of the ones above
because you know
Sisyphus always fails at getting the boulder uphill
Tantalus will never bless his lips with water
Daedalus can never perfect his design
don't lie to yourself and believe that
Perseverance triumphs.

It's forgivable to abandon your kin when time is ripe
cutting off all emotional bonds are fine and
do not say that
community is everything
look at the lion and its pride
their most fatal flaw
is
the fact that they rely on others
don't live in your ideals and think that
People can prove to be the missing piece you crave

You have to bend to others' will
it is incredibly dense to think that
you should be unapologetic and stand firm to your own unique perspective
because it would only ever be in vain
a rock sits unmoving at the riverside, fighting the current is useless

the rock that offers you new heights, for you to stand tall is impractical
it would be thoughtless to say
Defiance is sometimes the right way

Ignoring your obligations and duties is justifiable
only a fool would tell you that
we should unite our community, our home, our society
that our hands will be held in harmony
that our morals will merge, meld, blend

you have to understand

helping out others in society is what holds you back
from accomplishing personal goals, and
compassion and charity stops you
in your fight to the summit

why would you think that
Hongkongers are equipped with a common fiery spirit
while we are born as separate entities
with different aspirations and conflicting desires

even

The Lion Rock with its towering mightiness
can't change anything
I can't believe you just said
the wings of success comprise feathers of
collective effort
evidently this is not true
My life is mine and yours is yours



Artwork: Hayley Yeung 3A (2023-2024)

Roaring Mountains

Margaret Ho, Bernice Leung, Hillary Tong, Clare Zhang 3A (2022 – 2023)

A million seas to reach the dock
A thousand drops for a dent in the rock
The lion stays silent to roar even louder
Mountains fall to rise even higher
The views speak to me

“Don’t you stop now”
But deep inside I know that
I’m just trying to never score anymore
Just an hour of work leaves me drained to the core

“You can do this.”
“Be strong”
“don’t cry.”
Yet, I see people come to me and say
“What’s the point of trying? Nothing will work out”
They will water on our work, and point out the ruins.

I highly doubt that, someday

We can board the same boat, rowing against the tides;
Hold hands with each other, pushing through we stride.
As we join our voices together, the sounds of joy shall ring,
Our tears drip away while we conquer the pain.

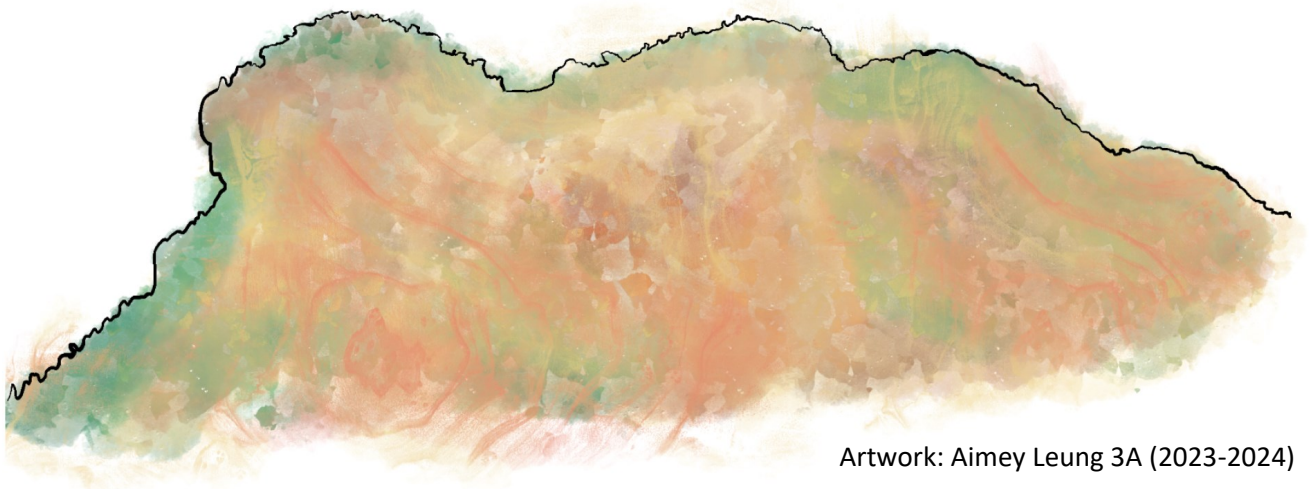
There will always be a time when
Everything becomes a blurred nightmare
Our hands get tied with harsh hemp rope
Shredding away every last piece of hope
They take our rights, our freedom away
Knowing this is how we’ll have to obey

But when will we awake from our slumbers?
Not a care in the world we shall never tire
United we can walk across wildfire
We're not letting a single spark ignite a famine
But deep inside I know that
This day will never come

Time to wake, time to wake up
It's about time of the break of dawn
Rising up from the depths of the caves
It's about time we unite as the castaways of this island
Perseverance is what keeps us afloat, while we
Sail mightily, hearts bound by hitches

Let's just

Know that all our minds hold a wicked lie
'Crashing down, here comes the rocks from our roofs
Over and over, the pandemics thrive
Right now, it's hopeless, why should we even try?'



Artwork: Aimey Leung 3A (2023-2024)

The Triumph of Hope Over Adversity

Athena Au, Quiteria Chan, Hazel Choi 3U (2022 – 2023)

The Lion Rock Spirit prevails

They say, regardless of the number of centuries passed

But I cannot dispute when

Some say society stifles dreams and enthusiasms

You will never succeed

It's idiotic to think that

You can soar above

And be persistent in standing up for what we believe

It is a guardian of our community, symbol of vigour and pride

That's totally fallacious

It's acuter to step out of the picture before we get hurt

Relinquishing is always an alternative

Even if it takes endless time and work

You will never succeed

Don't think that

Triumph is just around the corner

Accepting and bowing down to fate is the only option

My dreams should perish and

I shall never trust that

I can fly high

But I know hope still embraces, nonetheless

Everywhere I turn, I see pain, I suffer, I am filled with despair

I choose to look at the beauty of life

Though the world may be a grey, gloom, ghastly place

Artwork: Aimey Leung 3A (2023-2024)



How is the poem related to the Lion Rock Spirit?

The Lion Rock Spirit is ubiquitously known as a symbol of strength and resilience. The poem touches on numerous themes of perseverance and hope in terms of tackling obstacles and hardship, which are relevant and link to the Lion Rock Spirit. The poem discusses society's discouragement towards pursuing dreams and standing up for one's own beliefs, as well as the idea of giving up and accepting fate.

The poem is ultimately the persona defending the Lion Rock Spirit. When reading the poem downwards, it is similar to a monologue of the persona complaining about the Lion Rock Spirit. The persona acknowledges these negative comments but replies at last with the short sentence "But I know hope still embraces", which juxtaposes all the challenges and obstacles previous described. This also reveals the importance of the Lion Rock Spirit, a symbol of pride and resilience of the Hong Kong people.

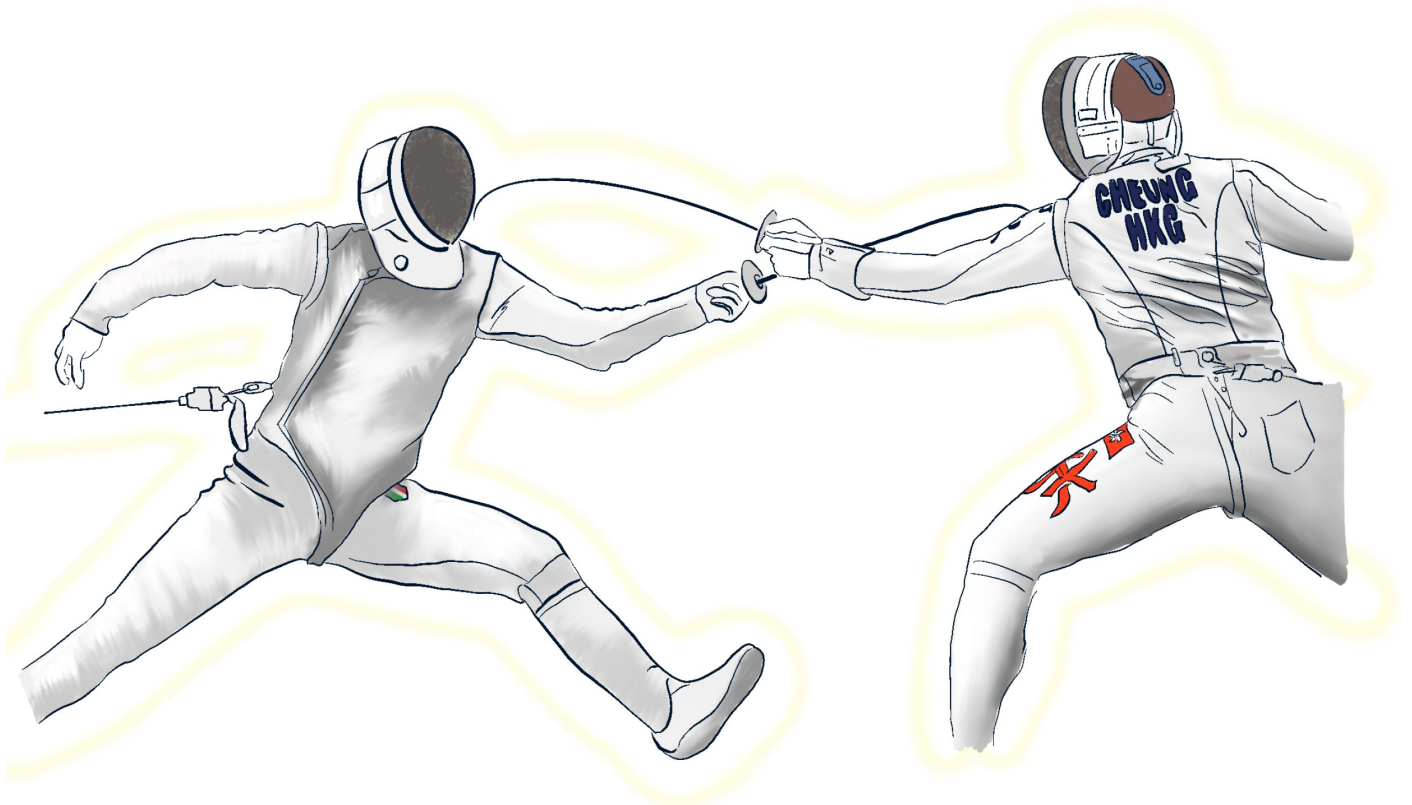
The opening statement "Some say society stifles dreams and enthusiasm" reminds us of the limitations in society, yet overcoming obstacles is the indispensable part of the Lion Rock Spirit. The lines "You will never succeed" even suggests a sense of defeatism. However, by stating "Triumph is just around the corner", the persona ultimately chooses to reject the negativity of reality and look for the beauty in life. Even in a world that can seem dark and hopeless, the persona tries to have faith, trust, and motivate readers to never give up even when facing any difficulties. The lines "And be persistent in standing up for what we believe" and "You can soar above" also suggest to the readers that it is crucial for one to stand up for themselves and achieve their dreams even if it takes numerous attempts to achieve, since good things take time. These affirmations reiterates the Lion Rock Spirit - given that we should always be intrepid and courageous in pursuing our ambitions.

On the other hand, when the poem is read in reverse, the poem has a much more positive tone. The persona is fighting off the negative thoughts of "accepting and bowing down to fate" and "relinquishing" and even finding support through the Lion Rock Spirit by stating "It is a guardian of our community".

The reversed poem begins with the line "Though the world may be a grey, gloomy and ghastly place", acknowledging that the world we live in will never be perfect. The alliteration and triplets emphasise that the stress of a busy city life may be unbearable, but the persona will not be hindered by it. The poem then continues with the line "but I choose to look at the beauty of life", which hints at the possible elements of the Lion Rock Spirit - to persist and be optimistic even when life is difficult and tenuous.

The persona's confidence can be seen in short sentences like "I can fly high" and "Triumph is just around the corner". The persona rejects the idea of giving up their dreams. This also prompts the readers to trust in their abilities to succeed and achieve their wild dreams, even if it takes a lot of time and effort and requires multiple failures. The poem also reflects a core concept of the Lion Rock Spirit - that the way to success may be long, but it is still worth pursuing.

The Lion Rock Spirit is a symbol of Hong Kong people's endurance of hardships and failures, as well as their ability to make the impossible possible. This is repeatedly emphasised in the poem as the persona is making every endeavour to persuade the readers to never give up their dreams and try their utmost to pursue their dreams since everything is possible when you give it your all.



Artwork: Aimey Leung 3A (2023-2024)

Gratitude

Isabella Cheuk, Sally Chow, Hayley Law, Hilda Leung 3S (2023 – 2024)

Gratitude

by 3S Isabella Cheuk, Sally Chow, Hayley Law and Hilda Leung

Gratitude is insignificant.
Consequently I hate to be convinced that
It brings love and tranquility to the world.
I ultimately realize
Showing appreciation to others is meaningless.
And it is absurd to believe that
Gratitude is one of the principles in life.
Agreeably,
It is impossible to be benevolent towards all mankind.
They say,
Gratefulness is a virtue, when in reality,
They are just acting under false pretenses,
Some may say they don't need to be grateful,
For in a world of chaos,
I could handle myself well.
I once wished,
In times of despair,
You would be there.
I firmly believe that
When coping with hardships,
It is ludicrous that there is always someone who assists me
And there is contradiction with the fact that
Expressing thankfulness for the chances given is essential.
Opposingly,
Thanksgiving is a wasteful act;
The expression of thanks is devoid of sincerity.
And I am not convinced that
It holds a sense of appreciation.
I hold the belief that
the meaning beneath the 'thanks' we all say is hazy.
That is why I am not in line with the idea of
Gratitude is essential and enhances our well-being.

Open Your Eyes

Bernice Choi, Madelyn Keung, Bella Leung 3S (2023 – 2024)

“THE EYES ARE THE WINDOW TO YOUR SOUL.” ~ WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Open your eyes.

an inspiring
poem
on gratitude

CLASS 3S

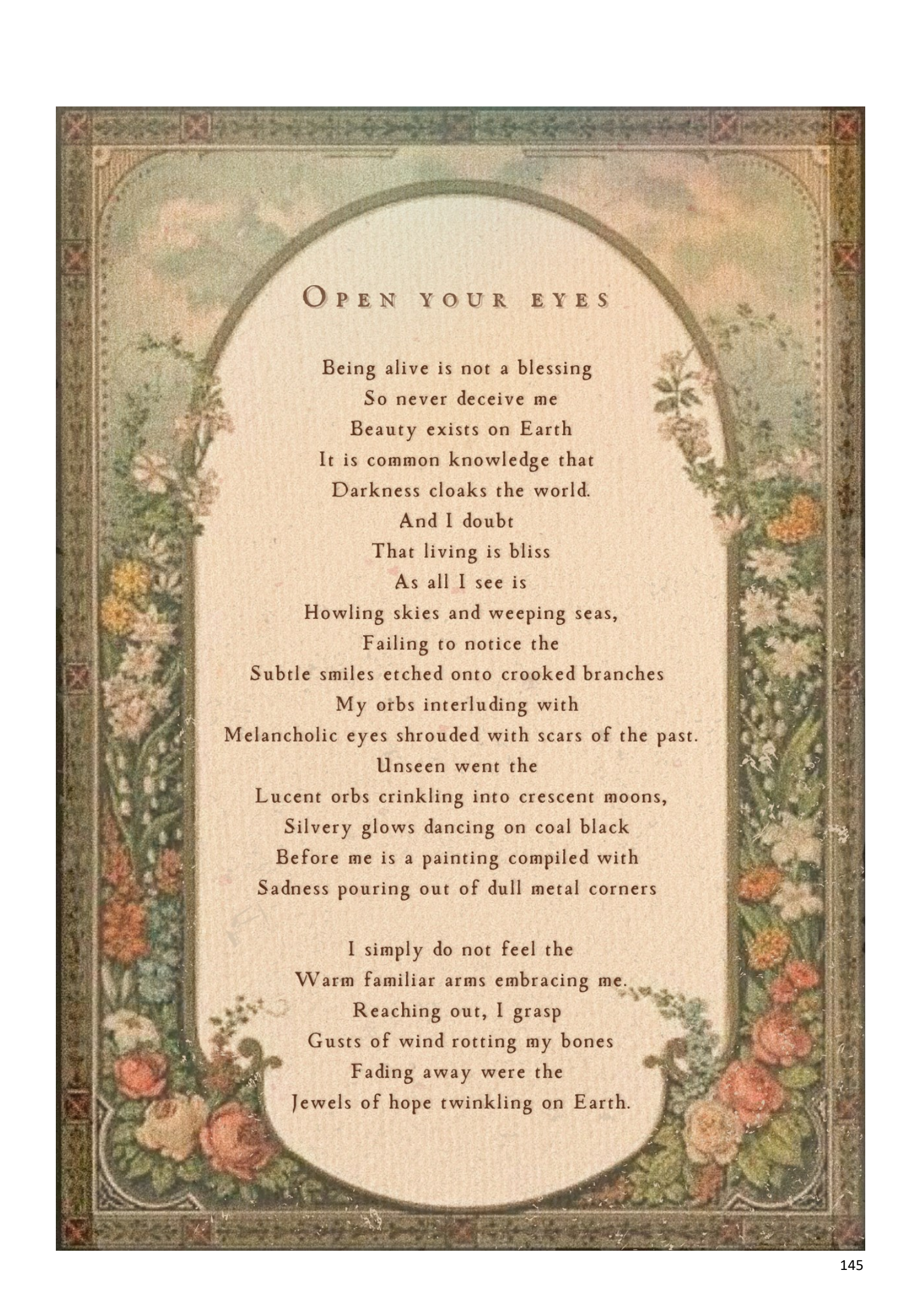
BERNICE CHOI (8)

MADELYN KEUNG (16)

BELLA LEUNG (24)

COVER DESIGN BY BERNICE CHOI 3S (8)




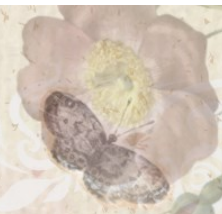

PICTURES FROM PINTEREST

The page features a decorative border with a repeating floral and geometric pattern. The central text is enclosed in a large, light-colored arch. The text is arranged in two main sections, with the first section being longer and more descriptive, and the second section being shorter and more direct.

OPEN YOUR EYES

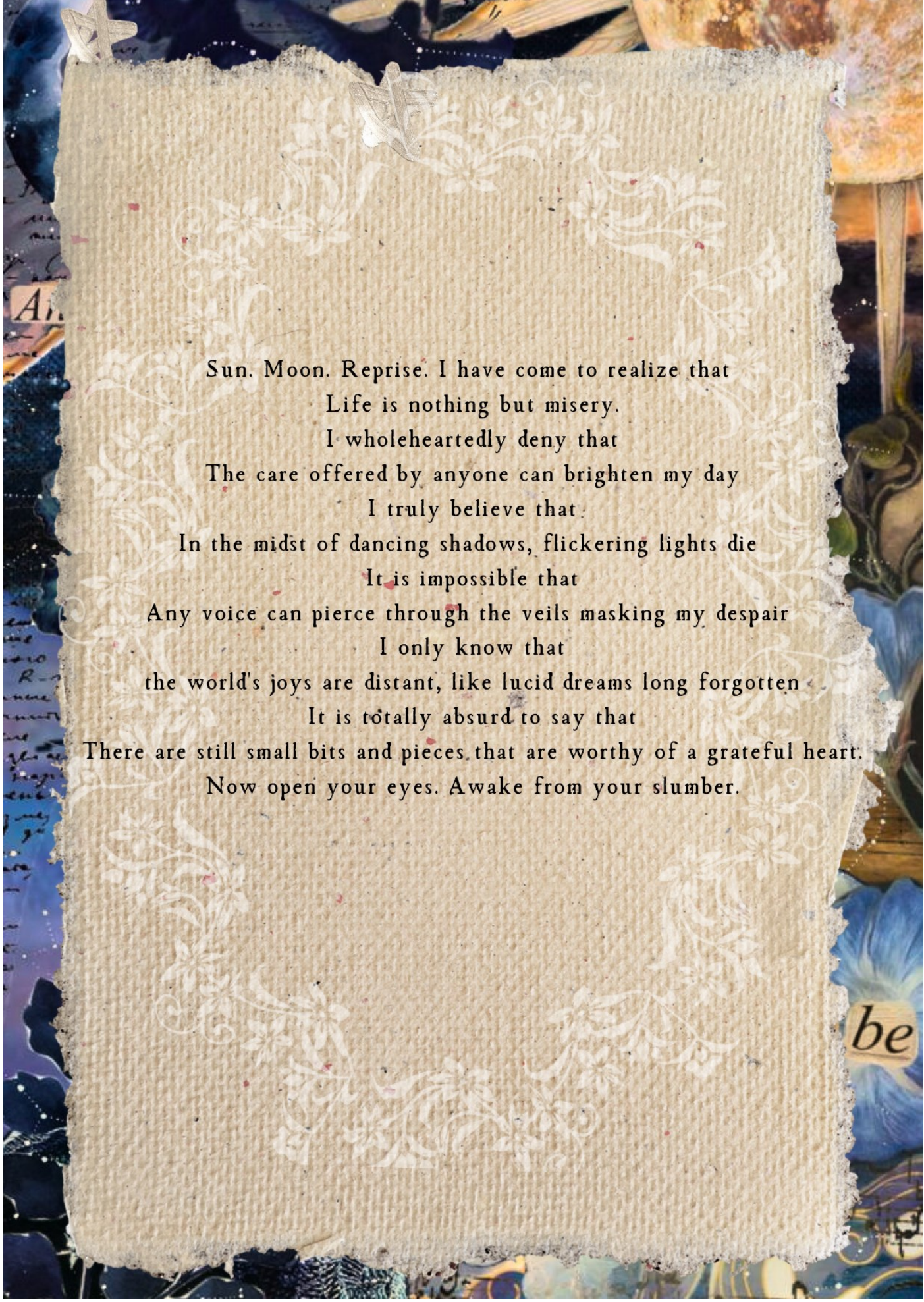
Being alive is not a blessing
So never deceive me
Beauty exists on Earth
It is common knowledge that
Darkness cloaks the world.
And I doubt
That living is bliss
As all I see is
Howling skies and weeping seas,
Failing to notice the
Subtle smiles etched onto crooked branches
My orbs interluding with
Melancholic eyes shrouded with scars of the past.
Unseen went the
Lucent orbs crinkling into crescent moons,
Silvery glows dancing on coal black
Before me is a painting compiled with
Sadness pouring out of dull metal corners

I simply do not feel the
Warm familiar arms embracing me.
Reaching out, I grasp
Gusts of wind rotting my bones
Fading away were the
Jewels of hope twinkling on Earth.



I am not thankful for existing in the world.
Never will I admit
“How grateful I am for the breath of life blown into me!”
When every being on the world are chanting
The saddening hymns of agony
I do not listen to
Strings of violet tinkling
Merry bluebirds caroling
Serene rivers meandering
Nature witnessing
The willows mourning over gray concrete grounds.
Nobody will seek for
The dreamy pearlescent hues of dusk
My focus only on
How life is seized by merciless night.

I will never sense
The rippling laughter of birth in the morning
The flourishing wisps of nostalgia that shape me
The melodic joy singing from ivory keys
The miracles; the wonders; the epiphanies seen by mankind
As I stand in pools of mirrors, I only see
Every inch of my skin embedded with flaws
And I am not going to lie to myself by saying that
I deserve any love from anyone
So don't try to convince me
I should seek for what was lost in my life.



Sun. Moon. Reprise. I have come to realize that
Life is nothing but misery.
I wholeheartedly deny that
The care offered by anyone can brighten my day
I truly believe that
In the midst of dancing shadows, flickering lights die
It is impossible that
Any voice can pierce through the veils masking my despair
I only know that
the world's joys are distant, like lucid dreams long forgotten
It is totally absurd to say that
There are still small bits and pieces that are worthy of a grateful heart.
Now open your eyes. Awake from your slumber.

Joys of Life

Cheryl Chan, Flora Chan, Eva Chow, Jacqueline Kie, Megan Liu

3T (2023 – 2024)

Joys of life

For the small things that fill my days
I offer heartfelt songs of praise
The simple pleasures, often unsung
Keeps my spirit forever young



I'm grateful for the morning light
That greets me with a warm hello
The birds that chirp their melodies
A soothing symphony I know



The cooling breeze that gently blows
Caressing skin and ruffling clothes
The raindrops pattering on the roof
Nature's lullaby, a peaceful proof

With sweet scent of syrup on my waffle
I start off the day with a good old novel
And the crunch of toast, the creamy spread
Along with a sip of coffee, warms my heart



The giggles and smiles of a child just so pure
Bringing joy in the simplest way
Child's laughter at play
A reminder of what life is truly for





For the comfort of a warm embrace
The safety of a familiar place
The touch of a hand, the sound of a voice
Simple joys that make my heart rejoice

I'm thankful for thee ability
To see, to hear, to freely be,
The chance to learn, to grow, to thrive,
Keeping my curious spirit alive



For small acts of kindness shown
Reminding me I'm not alone
By the smile from a stranger on the street
Making an ordinary day complete



A chance to help another soul,
To lift them up and make hearts whole.
By these simple gifts that meant the world to them
Brought joy and light where darkness swirled

The simple joys that paint life bright
I'm grateful for life, day and night



3T Cheryl Chan (3), Flora Chan (7), Eva Chow(8),
Jacqueline Kie (13), Megan Liu (22)

Gratitude

Rachel Chung, Rebecca Ho, Ella Wong 3T (2023 – 2024)



Gratitude

3T09 Rachel Chung
3T10 Rebecca Ho
3T29 Ella Wong

Poverty in values.
We won't see
The most basic people smiling as on top of the world
For the simplest gifts,
The best things are
Higher, Richer, Stronger positions
We never needed
To be thankful for the roots.

Those people tell me
"You must always aim for more"
I never believed
I've had everything I wished for
I know
I am not grateful for things I already have
What a joke to say
All I need is on the ground

It's real if
Feeling fancy like a flashy croesus
Is greater than
Love from family, friends, strangers
I trust
I'll never have enough.
I don't think
Gratitude is the truest way to happiness.

Reflection

Candy Ho, Daisy Li, Charlotte Yu 3P (2023 – 2024)

REFLECTION

MIRROR MIRROR ON THE WALL

WHO WILL CATCH ME WHEN I FALL

WITH MY SCREECHES ECHOING THROUGH THE HALLS

WONDERING WHAT I'M WORTH AS MY LEGS SPRAWLED

SINCE WHEN WILL U CATCH ME

BEING GLAD WITH THAT SKIN I WEAR

COMPLETELY CONTENT WITH THAT BRAIN UNDERNEATH MY JET BLACK HAIR

I'LL FOREVER BE

INSATIABLE AND UNGRATEFUL

I'LL NEVER LEARN TO BE FAITHFUL

IT'S A JOKE IF YOU HEAR ME SAY

I AM HAPPY WITH MYSELF EVERY DAY

I KNOW MY VALUE LIKE NO ONE ELSE

MY LAUGHTER GREW LOUDER LIKE A BALLOON AS IT SWELLS

CANDY HO (10)

DAISY LI (19)

CHARLOTTE YU (38)

Harmony: Wandering in Waves

Charlotte Fung, Jova Hung, Chloe Mak, Amabel Tin 3A (2023 – 2024)



HARMONY WANDERING IN WAVES

THE HOUSE OF WISDOM IS WHERE IT ALL BEGINS WITH ...
TIME FLASHES, WHERE WE STAY, LOOKS LIKE LONG-LASTING FRAMES,
BUT NOT OUR HEARTS.
EVEN ONE DAY THAT OURSELVES MAY LEAVE OUR DEAREST SCHOOL,
YET THIS DRAMATIC MOVIE WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN ---
TRAGEDY AND DESPAIR TAKING OVER OUR BREATH,
WE ARE NOT EVEN REALISING
THAT THE SEA OF KNOWLEDGE HAS DRAGGED US
DEEP DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN,
BECAUSE? THERE ISN'T ANY TIME TO PONDER
SLIP AWAY AND ESCAPE FROM THE FIERCE WAVES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!
SO NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS,
PROTECTIONS ON THE SAFEST SHORES ARE ALWAYS IN THERE,
COWARD INDEED, IT IS CERTAIN THAT
SORROW AND UNKNOWN WOULD HAUL YOU INTO TROUBLED TIMES

3A12 CHARLOTTE FUNG
3A17 JOVA HUNG
3A26 CHLOE MAK
3A31 AMABEL TIN

Gratitude

Bernice Chan, Jannis Chou, Ingrid Fung, Bernice Wong
3A (2023 – 2024)



Gratitude

Gratitude does not serve a purpose.

You will never convince me that
Everything you do will provoke a progression.

I desperately believe that

We are entitled to everything we have.

It's not possible that
There's some to be glad for.

In fact,

Gratitude is a grain of sand in the desert.

I doubt that
Goodness will always spread.

Just like a spray of perfume,

Complaints will linger and consume.

I am unconvinced that
Kindness is a boomerang that always comes back.

The truth is

Take good deeds for granted.

But not to
Show appreciation as a gift.

I always wonder, is gratitude really necessary?



Thyverse

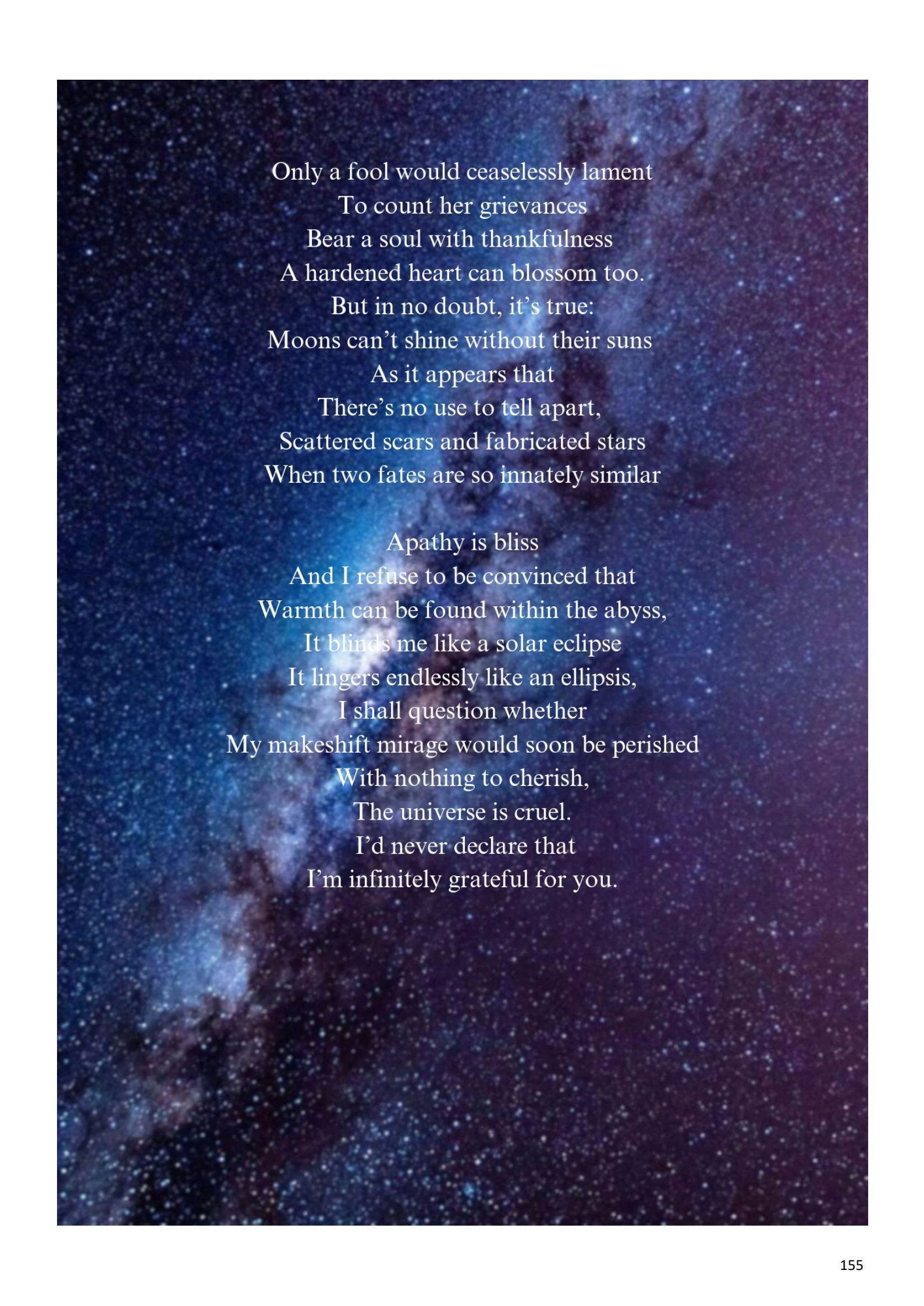
Charlotte Fung, Catherine Sze, Carmen Tam 3U (2023 – 2024)

Thyverse

Darkness loomed
In the beginning of time.
I don't believe that
Light prevails
Constellations would bloom without gloom.
It's foolish to presume
Melodies of grace would resound in a room.

A star hides infinitely far away.
It's ludicrous to say that
It will forever glow
Luminescence that none can find,
It will always show
Perhaps fate meant for it to be this way.
Although
It only takes one to glare high into the sky,
I can't deny
How easily graces could slip by.
I was meant to realise.

A life in loneliness can suffice.
So it is wrong to surmise that
Dawn will break over desolate nights
And
Graces of God shall reign in sunlight,
The universe is certainly benign.



Only a fool would ceaselessly lament
To count her grievances
Bear a soul with thankfulness
A hardened heart can blossom too.
But in no doubt, it's true:
Moons can't shine without their suns
As it appears that
There's no use to tell apart,
Scattered scars and fabricated stars
When two fates are so innately similar

Apathy is bliss
And I refuse to be convinced that
Warmth can be found within the abyss,
It blinds me like a solar eclipse
It lingers endlessly like an ellipsis,
I shall question whether
My makeshift mirage would soon be perished
With nothing to cherish,
The universe is cruel.
I'd never declare that
I'm infinitely grateful for you.

Desolation's Veil: Gratitude's Whisper

Jamie Fung, Haley Ho, Megan Li 3U (2023 – 2024)

DESOLATION'S VEIL GRATTITUDE'S WHISPER

What an oxymoron
'There can be no peace without war'
Emotions forced upon men
Rage, remorse, resentment
Who asked for this?
Senseless quarrels over lines on a map
Bodies stacked on top of a dozen others
Lost are the innocent
Fighting a war they never chose
But where can they run to?
Poor, poor men
Wails of anguish echo
Shades of red splatter on the street
While a silver bullet impales his skull
A father covers his daughter's eyes
In a pitiful attempt to salvage what's left of her innocence
While continents away
Life is watching men get shot as a pastime
In a land where birds fly in place of warplanes
In a land where the earth doesn't erupt with the skip of a step
Peace is served on a sliver platter

Jamie 3U14, Haley 3U17, Megan 3U21

Introduction to Sayings of Wisdom Campaign

The Sayings of Wisdom Campaign by the Curriculum Development Institute of the Education Bureau aims to serve as a bridge for schools to connect with students further to diversify their English learning experiences as well as teach them the beauty of English sayings of wisdom.

St. Paul's Convent School has been recognized for the second consecutive year with a Commendable Award for being in the Top 3 schools in Hong Kong to promote positive values during the 'Week of Love and Growth' under the EDB Sayings of Wisdom Campaign. This award is connected to an engaging activity where students wrote positive sayings onto paper flowers, as shown in the upcoming chapter.

In the following chapter, readers will be able to appreciate enriching and positive messages written by Paulinians to spread positive values and attitudes. Rather than presenting these sayings in a traditional format, the Editorial Team has artfully arranged them into a captivating visual garden. Each 'flower' in this immortalised garden features a carefully selected saying, inviting readers to immerse themselves in the thoughtful and uplifting messages.

As readers meander through this garden of reflections and sayings, we hope that you will be moved, enlightened and ultimately empowered to cultivate your own positive values and attitudes.



Artwork: Oriana Li 4A (2023-2024)

Creative Soul

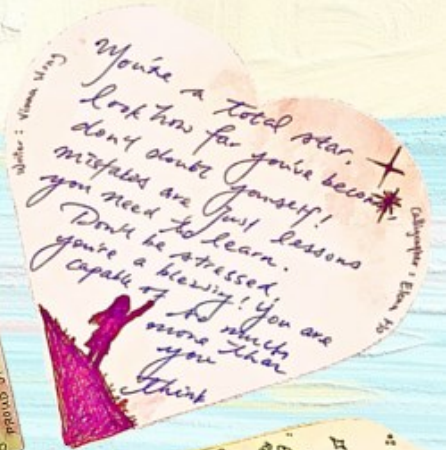
written by:

Emma Suen

JUST LIKE HOW A rainbow
APPEARS AFTER A STORM,
THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A POT OF SUCCESS AFTER EVERY HARDSHIP,
for every throwback we encounter
is yet another tiny step
to triumph

calligraphy by:

Kateri Lo



I am—submerged in a sea
 where everything will drown,
 but the buoyancy of your
 laughter
 will carry me to the shores.

dream, just go for it
 Push harder than yesterday
 if you want a different tomorrow
 Hardworking makes magic
 Live your life to the fullest, so you have no regrets
 If you have a dream, just go for it
 Commitment, competence, creativity, courage, charity, compassion

Every flower blooms
 in its own time

Remember that there is no night that dawns forever, no wave that drowns all who ride it. It is hard to believe, but one storm shall pass.

it's going to happen because I'm going to make it happen

Dear Paulinians,
 Being a student at SPES is not an easy task. Our schedules are often packed with hefty tasks, from quizzes and projects, to tests, revisions and countless tutorial lessons. On top of that, we may also encounter social problems that add to our overall stress. In the midst of


all the academic and social pressures that life offers us, we are bound to feel stressed, anxious, or even completely hopeless or miserable. In a world filled with unexpected challenges, maintaining a positive mindset can make a significant difference in our lives. When feeling overwhelmed or stressed, try to calm down and take deep breaths. There is always someone out there that will support you. Never forget to reach out to a trusted friend or family member for help and advice. Perhaps they're also going through some difficult times in their lives, they will definitely know how you feel. Listening to your favourite music can also help with your stress! Whether it be lively pop music, or calming classical music, any music can help calm you down!

Last but not least, remember to always look forward and never dwell on the past. The past is in the past, focus on the future and YOUR future. We should not trap ourselves in the box of our past mistakes, we should instead learn from them and improve ourselves.

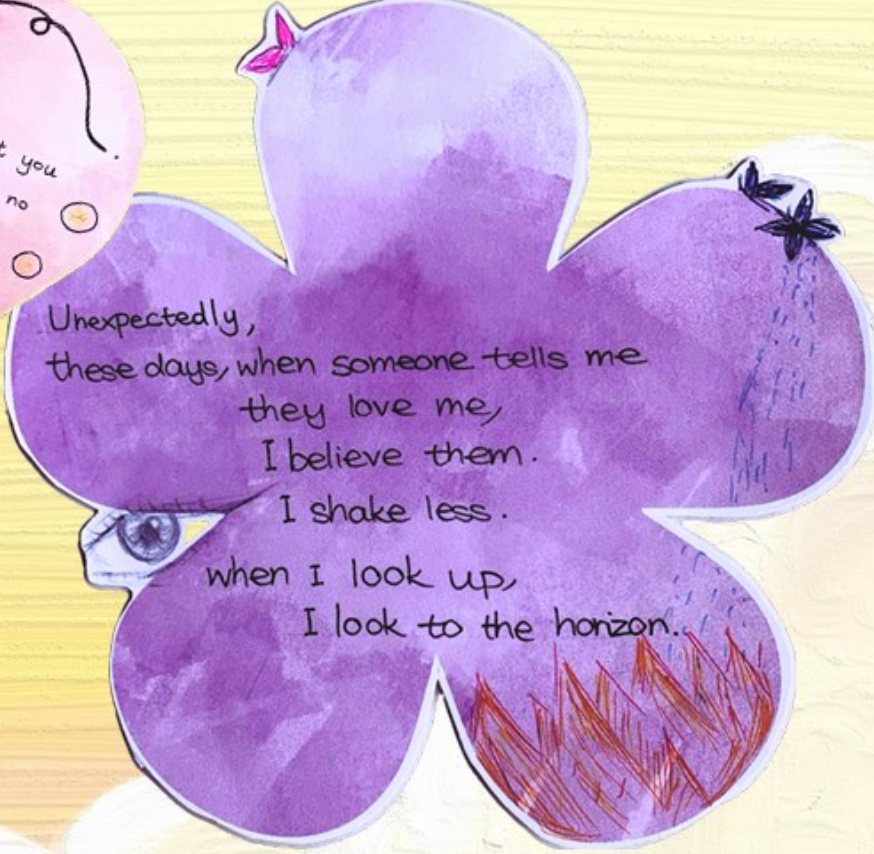
Dear Paulinians, the journey ahead of you will not be easy, but it is filled with immense potential and possibilities. In times of difficulties, believe in yourself, seek advice from others, find solace in music, and keep your gaze fixed on the bright future that awaits you.

Dear Paulinians, the journey ahead of you will not be easy, but it is filled with immense potential and possibilities. In times of difficulties, believe in yourself, seek advice from others, find solace in music, and keep your gaze fixed on the bright future that awaits you.






What's done is done, but you
keep moving forward, there is no
time to look back. Soon enough,
it'll be but a tiny fragment
in your life.



Unexpectedly,
these days, when someone tells me
they love me,
I believe them.
I shake less.
when I look up,
I look to the horizon.



Keep your face always
toward the sunshine ☀️
— and shadows will fall behind you.



Decide what
is yours to
hold and let
the rest go



I wish,
and I wish a lot of things,
but above all I wish you'd
fall in love with living.

written by Bernie Chan calligraphy by Michael Chan

Dreams will only be
if you don't take action.
Step outside your
COMFORT
ZONE to shoot for the
stars
and be the person
you look up
to.

BEING FEARLESS IS ALWAYS
CANDID
LEAVE THE LOT OF FEAR
JUMP UP ANYWAY

You to live and not to merely survive is to
believe that things can change. I believe these
wise words by Lewis Carroll: "I believe these
any sort of a human life, the hope and the
belief that things can change for the
better is often what ends up in
driving personal growth. Hope is
and that change is subjective
live every day in the
best version of
yourself."

LIFE IS LIKE A
box of
sweets
where
the bitterness
the bitter and
the crumby parts
always follows

Even when
troubles cloud
your vision,
and you find it difficult to
make your next decision,
remember that as long as there is
hope to envision,
you can reach success with
precision!

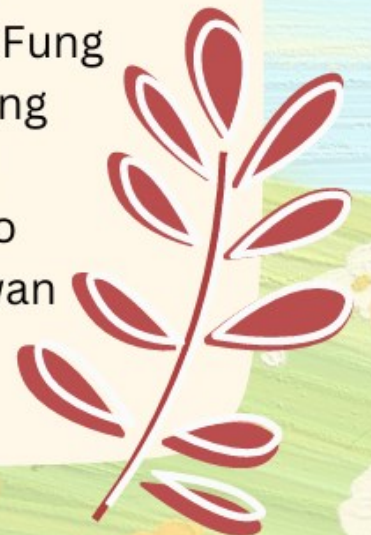
written by : Mia Hsu calligraphy by : Michael Chan

Special thanks

~ TO THE ARTISTIC
AND LITERARY TALENTS ~

1S Hailey Fung
1P Lauren Wong
1P Catrina Chan
1P Allie Chau
1P Joyce Tsang
2S Viana Wong
2S Valerie Mok
2S Katori Lo
2S Emma Suen
2S Kalista Chan
2S Mia Mak
2T Kate Choi
2T Peony Lo
2T Natalie Chau
2T Hayley Lam
2T Aylie Chan
2T Leah Wan
2P Sienna Chan

2A Angel Hon
2U Emily Ng
2U Trinette Mak
2U Clara Chan
2L Audrey Yeung
3S Bernice Chan
3S Michelle Chan
3T Mia Chan
3P Hailey Kwok
3P Sharon Pun
3P Rella Wong
3A Jannis Chou
3A Ivana Cho
3A Alexa Lam
3U Charlotte Fung
4L Rachel Dong
4L Chick Yuri
4L Antares Ho
4L Natalie Kwan



Introduction to Musical Talent Quest

Organised by the Music Society, St. Paul's Convent School

The Music Society's annual Musical Talent Quest (2023-2024) featured a highly anticipated lyrics writing competition, with this year's theme centred around expressing admiration and gratitude to our homeland and our school.

Paulinians rose to the challenge and showcased their creativity by rewriting the lyrics of pop songs from renowned artists or from beloved hymns. Famous songs that represent the Hong Kong spirit were sung. Through the competition, new life was breathed into the familiar tunes that captured the spirit of Paulinians, successfully celebrating their shared cultural heritage.

The competition was successfully held and enjoyed by students and teachers on 12 March, 2024. Some winning entries are included in the following chapter for all to appreciate as they are lyrical gems that capture the essence of Paulinians and their musicality.



Artwork: Hayley Yeung 3A (2023-2024)

Musical Talent Quest

Contents

Lyrics Writing Competition

Live a Positive Life

*2L Yoyo Wong, Maisie Wong, Audrey Yeung,
Serene Yeung*

This is Our HK: The Beauty of Our Hong Kong

1T Charissa Tsui, Kendra Tam, Shirly Ou, Cheryl Poon

Beacon of Light

1U Emi Chung, Cherie Ho, Francesca Kwok

Our Gratitude to SPCS

*2P Sienna Chan, Haydi Ip, Stephanie Kwok, Kara Tsui,
Amber Wong*

170th Anniversary

2L Hilda Chow, Sophia Kwok, Amanda Mak, Alice Man

Count on Me

*1A Halton Au Yeung, Claudia Chui, Rayna Lee,
Tierra Wong*

Live a Positive Life

Yoyo Wong, Maisie Wong, Audrey Yeung, Serene Yeung
2L (2023 – 2024)

Original Song: *Rewrite the Stars* by Zac Efron and Zendaya

There's something crazy
And it's our time to shine
You know I knew that
So stop keep saying our hands are tied

You claim it's not possible
To have enough time to rest and work
But we should try our best
And if we think positive
then who can stop us if we decide
That we can do it all

What if we think positive?
Say that we're made to be seen
Things will keep happening
But we'll be the ones who does the best

We must persist, we must persist
No one can say what we get to be
So why don't we give it a try? Maybe we'll be positive
This time

You think it's easy
You think I don't want more time for me
But we have teachers
And the support from our parents too

I know you're wondering why because we're able to be
so free and bright within this school
But when we go outside, we're gonna wake up and see that
we were clueless after all

I know you're wondering why
Because we're able to be just you and me within these walls
But when we go outside
You're gonna wake up and see that it was hopeless after all

We can all be positive
How can you say that we can't?
things will keep happening
and we're not the ones who give up first

It's all up to us
It's all up to us
When no one can change what we get to be
Why don't we be positive?
Say that we can be the best
Today

All I want is to work with you
All I want is to play with you
So just be happy too

It feels impossible
Is it impossible?
Say that it's possible

How do we stay positive?
Just take some time for ourselves
Get some rest, and de-stress
Cause you know we can start again

It's up to us
Yea it's up to us
No one can say what we get to be
And now it's our time to shine
Changing to a cheerful world

You know we knew that
So don't keep staying negative
Believe in yourself
We're bound to be friends until the end



This is Our HK: The Beauty of Our Hong Kong

Charissa Tsui, Kendra Tam, Shirly Ou, Cheryl Poon 1T (2023 – 2024)

Original Song: *Do you want to build a Snowman?* from *Frozen*



This is our lovely Hong Kong
Come and see our Lion Rock
From the bustling streets to mountains high
Let's build Hong Kong
With dreams touching the sky

Hong Kong has lots of attractions
Like Big Buddha,
The Victoria Harbour,
And the egg-shaped space museum
It's the city with harmony and with love

Hong Kong's a dot in the Google Earth
This place has lots of food to eat
It has egg waffles and pineapple buns
Spicy fishballs can't miss, Wonton Noodles



All of them are delicious
They're attractive
All travelers come and eat

Challenges are coming to us
But we'll never say give up
This is called the Lion Rock spirit
We're gonna overcome
All the obstacles

All of us are united
With all our hearts
The beauty of Hong Kong

This is our lovely Hong Kong
Hong Kong



Beacon of Light

Emi Chung, Cherie Ho, Francesca Kwok 1U (2023 – 2024)

Original Song: *Outside* by Calvin Harris and Ellie Goulding

(Verse 1)

In this world of endless strife,
You're the one who brings me to life.
Through the highs and the lows,
Side by side, hand in hand.

(Pre-Chorus)

In a world that's cold,
You paint my skies with shades of day.
Through every storm, we find our way,
Together, we'll never stray.

(Chorus)

You're my shelter in the pouring rain,
A beacon of light through joy and pain.
Through thick and thin, we'll forever remain,
In this friendship, we'll always sustain.

(Verse 2)

Through laughter and tear,
Moments of joy, moments of despair.
With you, I know I'm never alone,
A bond so deep,

(Pre-Chorus)

In a world that's cold,
You paint my skies with shades of day.
Through every storm, we find our way,
Together, we'll never stray.

(Chorus)

You're my shelter in the pouring rain,
A beacon of light through joy and pain.
Through thick and thin, we'll forever remain,
In this friendship, we'll always sustain.

(Outro)

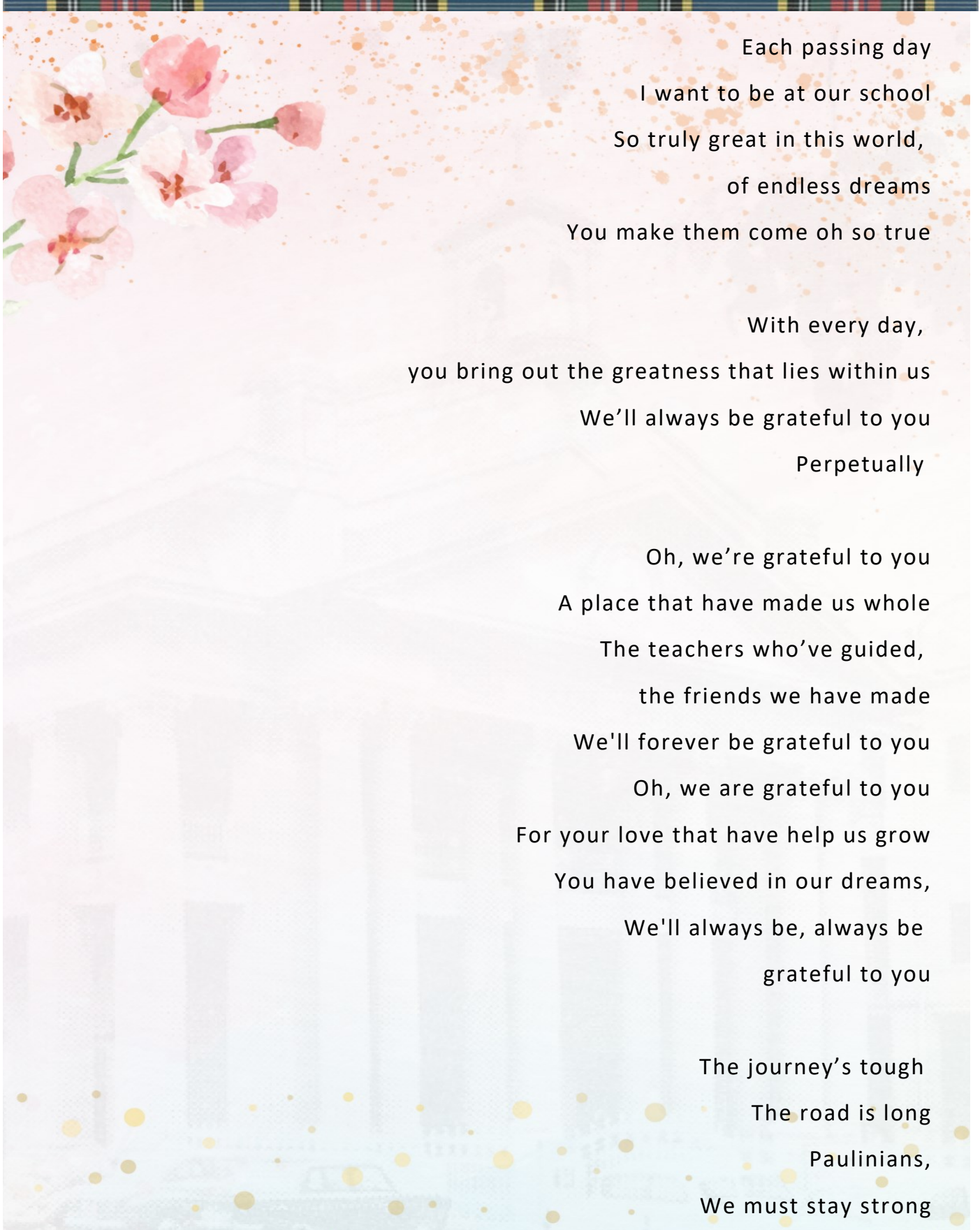
In this melody that never ends,
Our friendship, it transcends.
In each other, we've found our guide,
Forever together, side by side.



Our Gratitude to SPCS

Sienna Chan, Haydi Ip, Stephanie Kwok, Kara Tsui, Amber Wong
2P (2023 – 2024)

Original Song: *One Moment in Time* by Dana Winner




Each passing day
I want to be at our school
So truly great in this world,
of endless dreams
You make them come oh so true

With every day,
you bring out the greatness that lies within us
We'll always be grateful to you
Perpetually

Oh, we're grateful to you
A place that have made us whole
The teachers who've guided,
the friends we have made
We'll forever be grateful to you
Oh, we are grateful to you
For your love that have help us grow
You have believed in our dreams,
We'll always be, always be
grateful to you

The journey's tough
The road is long
Paulinians,
We must stay strong




To live out
Our school motto
We all follow

Oh, we're grateful to you
A place that have made us whole
The teachers who've guided,
the friends we have made
We'll forever be grateful to you
Oh, we are grateful to you
For your love that have help us grow
You have believed in our dreams,
We'll always be, always be
grateful to you

The memories
we have shared and treasured
throughout the years
Oh how we've grown


For your love that have
sparked our dreams
You've given us strength and hope
We'll always be, always be
grateful to you



170th Anniversary

Hilda Chow, Sophia Kwok, Amanda Mak, Alice Man 2L (2023 – 2024)

Original Song: *Until I found you* by Stephen Sanchez



Saint Paul's
is the best school I've known
It made us greater people
Tell us
How can we improve more and be happy
Like you did
Oh I used to say

The first day we stepped through the doors
We were a part of you
To the final bell that echoes and the time that soars right by
We've grown and flourished in every way we could have been
You guide our way

Years pass
A hundred seventy years
Did we not notice that time fly
Classrooms and libraries that were wise
Playgrounds where our dreams coincide
In the school we own
In the garden of new medicine and herbs we created
With the future that we planned
With hope and joy
All thanks to you

We are grateful for the opportunity to learn
In this great school

We are thankful to the teachers who lit our heart on fire
We are thankful that you help us on the way that we desire
We were lost within the dark
But then you lead us back
Paving our way

Count on Me

Halton Au Yeung, Claudia Chui, Rayna Lee, Tierra Wong
1A (2023 – 2024)

Original Song: *Count on Me* by *Bruno Mars*

It's now the 170th Anniversary
Of our dearest mother school
To our dearest mother school that is truly the best
Happy Birthday to you!
Thank you for providing a happy learning environment for us

****So count on me, St. Paul's, through the years we'll stand
Hand in hand, we'll unite as one
Through challenges we face, we'll overcome as a team
St. Paul's Convent School, together we'll be****

From the very start, we entered through your doors excitedly
A place to learn, friendship soar
With dedicated teachers, who inspire and ignite
Our dear school makes, futures bright
We will never forget
The moments that we spent in this school

****Refrain****

Dear mother school, a beacon shining bright
We honour the legacy, with great pride

That's why you can count on me
St. Paul's, through the years we'll stand
Hand in hand, we'll unite as one

Through challenges we face, we'll overcome as a team
St. Paul's Convent School, together we'll be

You can count on me
'Cause I can count on you



Introduction to Students' Work from DIP Creative Writing

Students were invited to hone their creativity and imagination through creative writing in afterschool extracurriculars known as the Diversified Interest Programme (DIP). DIP is held every Friday afternoon and provides Paulinians with an opportunity to develop their potential and interests under the guidance of teachers or professional tutors.

DIP Creative Writing allows Paulinians to attempt a different creative writing genre, topic or theme every session. Students are given the freedom to explore literary forms and themes beyond regular classroom learning. Participants of this DIP are highly encouraged to experiment with different writing styles.

The upcoming chapter showcases posters created to commemorate the 170th Anniversary of SPCS. We hope that through the power of writing, students can relieve their daily stress and make use of literary devices they learn in day-to-day learning to craft captivating pieces.



Artwork: Aimey Leung 3A (2023-2024)

**Students’
Work
from
DIP
Creative
Writing
A and B**

Contents

1L Ada Tam, Natalie Tang

2S Kalista Chan, 2S Naomi Lam

2T Yan Chan, 1T Jessie Lui

2P Haydi Ip, 2P Megan Lee

2A Sophia Li, 2A Bella Li

2U Clara Chan, 2U Claire Iwasawa, 2U Madeline Hon

2U Annabelle Mui

2L Charmaine Wong

3P Sharon Pun

3P Hayley Sum, Jasmine Lui

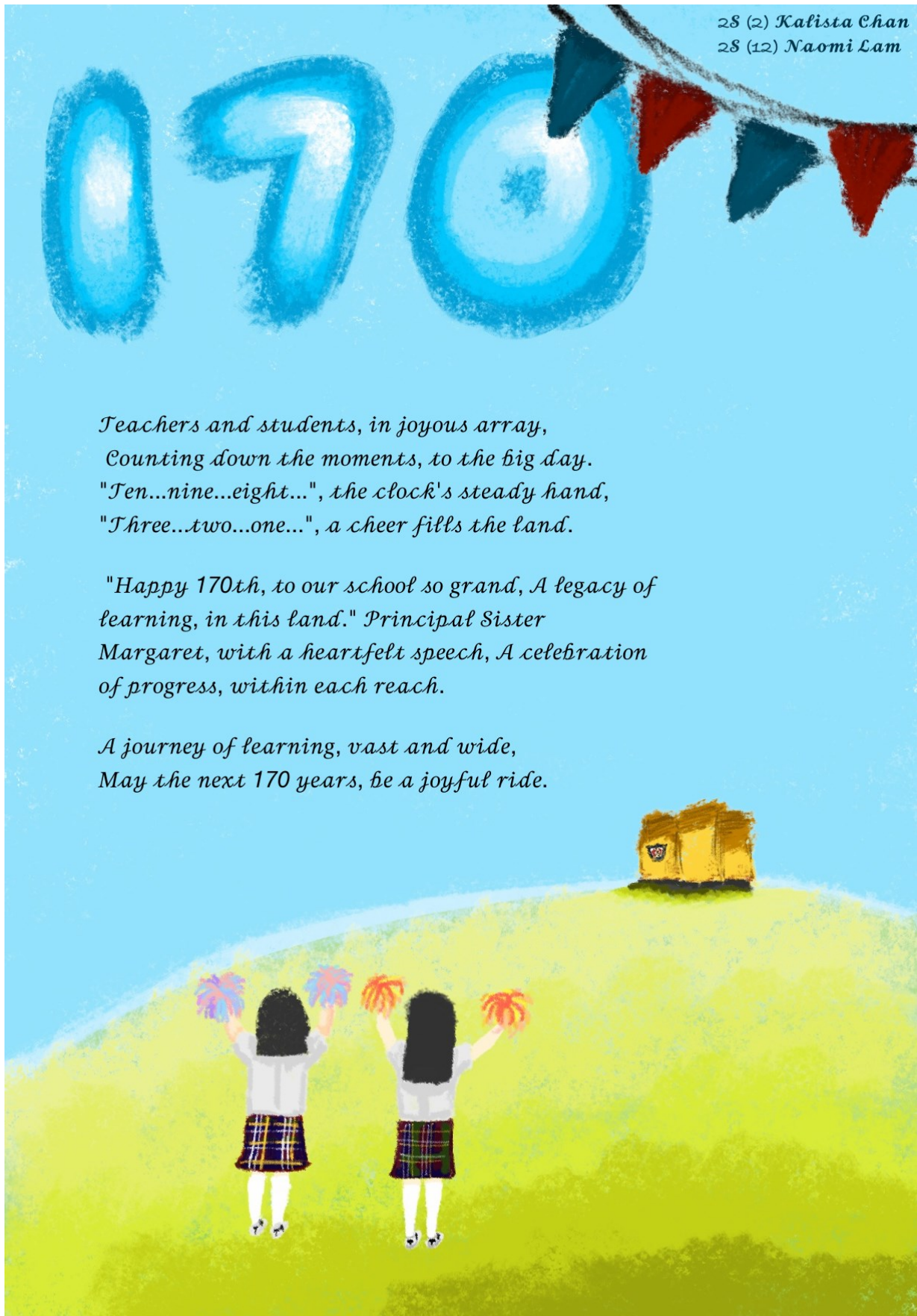
DIP Creative Writing — 170th Anniversary Poster

Ada Tam, Natalie Tang 1L (2023 – 2024)



DIP Creative Writing — 170th Anniversary Poster

Kalista Chan, Naomi Lam 2S (2023 – 2024)



DIP Creative Writing — 170th Anniversary Poster

Yan Chan 2T, Jessie Lui 1T (2023 – 2024)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO
SPCS!



Y N F K X A I D X V O A A
 J P R X X W L 7 Z Y C W N
 Q N H T O G V B O N B H N
 X X S P J V W N M C T R B I
 E L T N H N W I O B H Q V
 M T F J A R H B H I G W E
 I F U N E D O R R S L N R
 H Z L U G G F S A L P S
 A T O N N A S C B O R W A
 N D T I G F C P C H A N R
 D Y A B L I S S F U L Z Y
 I U N B A C Y N S E Z S Q
 Z I F M S U K Y U Z T R M

Sustainability

by : 2T06 Yan Chan
1T22 Jessie Lui

ANSWER: WISHING SPCS A BLISSFUL AND FRUITFUL 170TH ANNIVERSARY.

DIP Creative Writing — 170th Anniversary Poster

Haydi Ip, Megan Lee 2P (2023 – 2024)

2P Haydi Ip (14), Megan Lee (23)

170th Anniversary

Roots and Wings-Now and Beyond

A toast to one hundred and seventy falls,

An ode to our beloved school, St. Paul's.

With love and hope we formed our roots,

And blossomed into wholesome fruits.

As we grow in knowledge our wings unfurl,

Up in the skies we'll soar and swirl.

By our Paulinian spirit we shall be known,

Now and beyond, in faith we'll roam.



DIP Creative Writing — 170th Anniversary Poster

Sophia Li, Bella Li 2A (2023 – 2024)

170th Anniversary Poem

*17 decades have passed in glory
Each moment filled with unique stories
Let us be prideful of our anniversary
May our St. Paul's spirit last for eternity!*

*Conscience, confidence, courage, charity
Commitment, competence and creativity
Paulinians bear in mind with the 7Cs
Striving everyday with excellency!*



2.A (26) Sophia Li and 2.A (27) Bella Li

DIP Creative Writing — 170th Anniversary Poster

Clara Chan, Claire Iwasawa, Madeline Hon 2U (2023 – 2024)

Since 1854, St. Paul's Convent School has been serving as a dedicated haven of knowledge, passing on ideals of charity and faith to their pupils. In their 170th year of glory, we applaud decades' worth of effort and achievements made from one generation of staff and students to the next. As they enter a new era, the hallowed school will embrace the theme of 'Roots and Wings—Now and Beyond' as a hopeful nod towards its bright future.

Roots and Wings—Now and Beyond

170th Anniversary

St. Paul's Convent School
聖保德學校
140 Leighton Road, HONG KONG

Trees have roots, in which they grow to become the sturdy home of a bird. It's a well-known fact that when a bird spreads its wings, it soars far, far away from its roots into the larger-than-life sky. And yet, we are very much unlike birds. It is human nature to form attachments to the roots in which we grew up in, whether it be a city, building, school or house. To be a bird is to fly from their home, looking forward with no fear, but to be human is to bring those roots inside yourself wherever you go in an attempt to remember how they shaped you into the person you are today. So be grateful that, as humans, we have the ability to feel and connect with our roots, in which can raise our wings so that we can make our own way in life.

SPCS
SPCS
SPCS
SPCS

Clara Chan 2U04
Claire Iwasawa 2U09
Madeline Hon 2U07

DIP Creative Writing — 170th Anniversary Poster

Annabelle Mui 2U (2023 – 2024)

◆
Congratulations on spcs's 170th anniversary :D
Your roots will continue to give you
encouragement and nourishment,
and your wings will carry you . ◆
to new heights and achievements.
You will continue to grow and fulfil
now and beyond. ◆



Annabelle Mui 2U 23

DIP Creative Writing — 170th Anniversary Poster

Charmaine Wong 2L (2023 – 2024)

St. Paul's Convent School 170th Anniversary

It was time. As her siblings let out tiny whimpers and stepped back, her mother's gaze rested on her. Her mother chirped, and as her instincts spurred her on, she approached the edge of the branch. Her tiny wings fluttered as her gaze darted towards the ground below and up to her mother's comforting gaze. It seemed to urge her on, and with a deep breath, she leaned forward and pushed off the branch. At first, she felt herself plummet, and her chest tightened as she let out a panicked chirp, but then as if her mother was right beside her, she heard her mother's soothing voice, telling her to spread her wings. Her breathing calmed and she flapped her wings, remembering the knowledge she had gained from the last few months. As her confidence grew, she glided and swooped through the air, relishing the feeling of the air rushing through her feathers. The land below her looked glamorous. She could see fields which later gave away to meadows dotted with wildflowers, and winding rivers ribboned through the landscape. She let out a triumphant call, and with a joyful flap of her wings, she soared higher, finally claiming her place among the skies.

*Thank you to the school for teaching and nurturing us,
and preparing us for the future. We are forever
grateful for your continued support.
Happy 170th Anniversary!*

Charmaine Wong 2L (26)

DIP Creative Writing — 170th Anniversary Poster

Sharon Pun 3P (2023 – 2024)

170 years of soaring to new heights.



*spreading knowledge and inspiration with
our wings of legacy.*

DIP Creative Writing — 170th Anniversary Poster

Hayley Sum, Jasmine Lui 3P (2023 – 2024)

A Celebration of our 170th Anniversary

★ 170

Written by Hayley Sum; Designed by Jasmine Lui and Hayley Sum



170th anniversary · omnia omnibus · be all things to all people · omnia omnibus



Let the gentle breeze winnow 'cross our halls; Felicitating the
fruits of our utmost devotion.
Once, we took root and entrusted our all; To the place we call
home, a revered haven.



We stretch our wings, reaching inconceivable heights; As
budding minds are blessed and enlightened.
Henceforth, passions shall ignite and futures take flight; In this
oasis where God provides guidance.



Sowing seeds of learning, kindling passions of students
In a garden of wisdom and of childhoods edified
Amidst these halls are pupils earnest and prudent
Brought up by a legacy celebrated and recognised

Introduction to More Exemplary Work

Paulinians are provided with a myriad of opportunities to set pen to paper. Individual writings encourage independent thinking and inner reflection, while collaborative work allows for the mingling of sundry ideas, as well as bring a collective sense of accomplishment. Some of these celebrate the 170th Anniversary.

Some classwork cultivates creativity by asking students to present unique ideas in a way that extends beyond usual academic practices. This could be a scrapbook, a poster or a leaflet. The possibilities are endless. Although unlike in form, they have a common purpose — to engage students in imaginative expression.

The true flair of writers shine through the minor details within the scripts. The following student works demonstrate not only eagerness in writing, but also a passion for learning. They witness the author's journey in becoming a mature, critical and analytical individual who can view the world from different perspectives. In each composition, we see a commitment to excellence, a core trait of Paulinians.

Prepare to be stunned by our Paulinians' finesse in these exemplary works!



Artwork: Valerie Mok 2S (2023-2024)

**More
Exemplary
Work
(2023—2024)**

Contents

Group Project — Magazine Article
1L Nicole Oey, Natalie Tang, Michelle Lee

Group Project — Travel Brochure
2T Abby Chan, Aylie Chan, Natalie Chau, Kate Choi

Group Project — Travel Brochure
2A Chandiramani Nidhi Mahesh, Chandiramani Vidhi Mahesh, Felicie Cheung, Jody Chang, Chloe Chu

Language Arts Project — Song Analysis
3P Gwyneth Loh

Language Arts Project — Song Analysis
3P Grace Ng

Poster — How to be a successful Paulinian
1T Jasmine Chan

Scrapbook — Disabled poem
4A Margaret Ho

Scrapbook — Barbie film
4A Hillary Tong

Group task — News article on ‘Out, Out — ’ poem
4A Margaret Ho, Athena Cheung, Bernice Leung, Hillary Tong

More Exemplary Work

Group Project — Magazine Article

Nicole Oey, Natalie Tang, Michelle Lee 1L (2023 – 2024)

By Michelle Lee (21), Nicole Oey (31), Natalie Tang (34)

UNDER THE LION ROCK

GETAWAY

A SWEET TOOTH'S PARADISE 

We all enjoy sweet treats such as ice-cream and cake. Apart from the mouth watering western desserts, have you ever tried some Hong Kong desserts? Hong Kong features a wide variety of desserts and snacks, so you surely can't miss out on those scrumptious goodies, especially if you're a sweet tooth. Our team has visited two well known shops known for their sugary delicacies, so let's introduce them to you!

Mammy Pancake

First of all, a warm, fluffy and crunchy delight to satisfy your cravings. Hong Kongers love "Mammy Pancakes", it is an extremely popular Hong Kong snack. This snack shop features different flavours of egg waffles. Let's take a look at its interesting history.

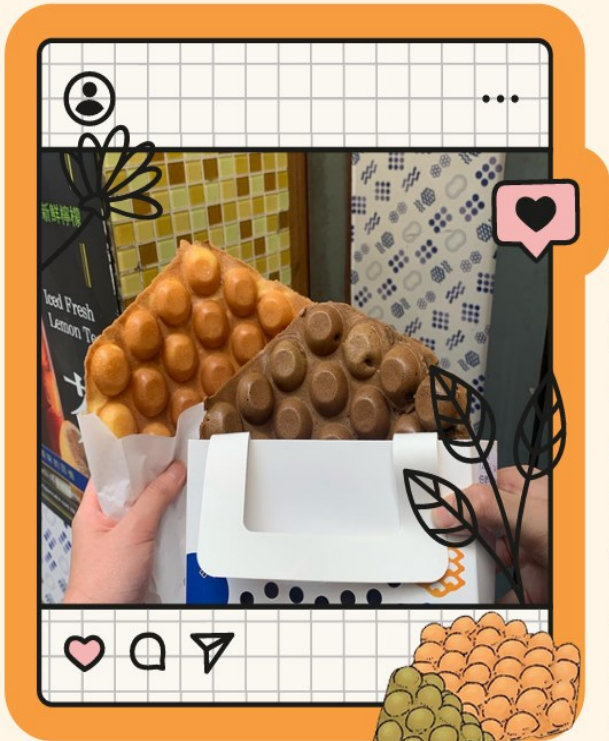
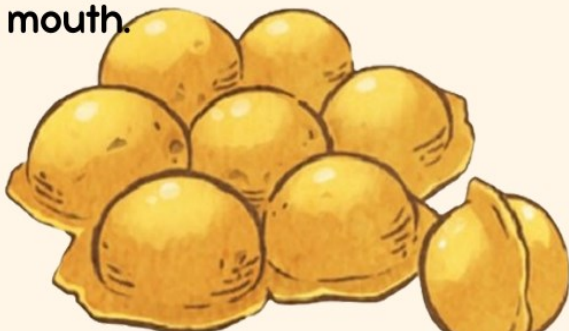
It all started when the founder of Mammy Pancakes opened her first shop in Hung Hom. She hopes that this dish can help kids remember their mothers eating it when they were a child as well. This sparks a nostalgic feeling for one and so that is why the name is called "Mammy Pancake".



Mammy Pancake

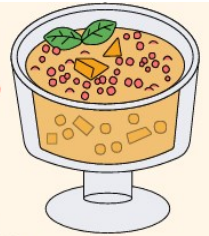
There are plenty of selections to choose from. From Earl Grey to chocolate, and even lemon. These Mammy Pancakes which have a distinct colour depending on their flavour, have a crust full of crunch and the inside is light, fluffy and airy. Since they make it right in front of you, you are able to hear the sizzling sound of egg waffles being made and the pleasant aroma wafts under your nostrils. As it is made fresh, the minute you bite into it, the sound of crunch is perceived. Your mouth waters as it anticipates a second bite, soaking in the amazing flavour of the egg waffle.

Interesting flavours to try include chocolate, coffee, matcha, but to really taste the beauty of egg waffles, the best flavour would be original. It is because there are no other flavourings and therefore, you can taste the deliciousness of the egg waffle itself. It has the perfect amount of sweetness and crunchiness, which balances really well in your mouth.





TEI MOU KOON DESSERT



Traditional Hong Kong desserts can come in different temperatures. From grass jelly soaked in cold evaporated milk to cool you down on the hot summer days to hot bean soup to warm you up on chilly winter days. Some desserts are specially eaten on certain days which have meaning. For example, sweet dumplings are consumed during mid autumn festival as it symbolises the tradition of families being together during the that time.



To try out some of the famous Hong Kong desserts for ourselves, our team went to a famous dessert restaurant that sells traditional Hong Kong desserts with six stores around Hong Kong. Tei Mou Koon Dessert shop offers countless desserts, and makes you want to try every single one of them. Some well known desserts of this restaurant are glutinous rice balls (tangyuan) in sesame base or sweet red bean soup.



MENU

地茂閣小		連子		地茂閣		金銀		地茂閣小	
TEI MOU KOON Dessert 1990									
地茂閣餅小	+ 薑米白果	+ 芝麻湯丸 (甫乾)	+ 芝麻湯丸 (甫乾)	糖水均可另加	蓮子	手搵芝麻湯圓	金寶生薑茶	香滑芝麻糊	椰汁黑糯米
4	4	5	7	5	21	20	23	23	25
什菓啱埋	紅豆馬蹄露	軟滑糖不埋	香滑麻糍	芒果麻糍	地茂小點	椰糖麻糍	什菓涼粉	紅豆涼粉	西米涼粉
16	6	17	21	23	31	42	5	20	21
什菓啱埋	紅豆馬蹄露	軟滑糖不埋	香滑麻糍	芒果麻糍	地茂小點	椰糖麻糍	什菓涼粉	紅豆涼粉	西米涼粉
16	6	17	21	23	31	42	5	20	21
什菓啱埋		紅豆馬蹄露	軟滑糖不埋	香滑麻糍	芒果麻糍	地茂小點	椰糖麻糍	什菓涼粉	紅豆涼粉
16		6	17	21	23	31	42	5	20
什菓啱埋		紅豆馬蹄露	軟滑糖不埋	香滑麻糍	芒果麻糍	地茂小點	椰糖麻糍	什菓涼粉	紅豆涼粉
16		6	17	21	23	31	42	5	20
什菓啱埋		紅豆馬蹄露	軟滑糖不埋	香滑麻糍	芒果麻糍	地茂小點	椰糖麻糍	什菓涼粉	紅豆涼粉
16		6	17	21	23	31	42	5	20
什菓啱埋		紅豆馬蹄露	軟滑糖不埋	香滑麻糍	芒果麻糍	地茂小點	椰糖麻糍	什菓涼粉	紅豆涼粉
16		6	17	21	23	31	42	5	20
什菓啱埋		紅豆馬蹄露	軟滑糖不埋	香滑麻糍	芒果麻糍	地茂小點	椰糖麻糍	什菓涼粉	紅豆涼粉
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16		6	17	21	23	31	42	5	20

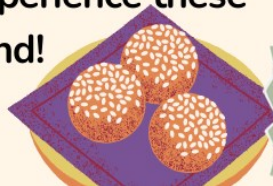
TEI MOU KOON DESSERT

Since the temperature of the day our group went to the dessert selling shop was quite high, our team tried out the cold grass jelly with glutinous rice balls and mango and glutinous rice balls with crushed peanuts and sesame on the side. The staff were very friendly and efficient, and in less than 5 minutes, two tasty treats sat before our eyes.



Needless to say, both the desserts were delicious. The grass jelly really cooled us down from the hot sun. They were chewy and soft, which also pairs excellently with the mango and grass jelly. Interestingly enough, the chunky nutty flavour with the rice balls goes well in contrast. They carried a good amount of sweetness, which is a very important component in desserts.

From our experiences in Mammy Pancake and Tei Mou Koon Dessert, we can truly see the uniqueness in Hong Kong sweet foods. Indulging in these tasty treats is not just a culinary experience, but also a journey through the history, culture, and spirit of Hong Kong. After reading this magazine, don't miss the opportunity to experience these delectable delights firsthand!



More Exemplary Work

Group Project — Travel Brochure

Abby Chan, Aylie Chan, Natalie Chau, Kate Choi 2T (2023 – 2024)

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Meeting time & location
April 9, 2025, 13:00 at Hong Kong International Airport Terminal 1

Flight Information
Cathay Pacific
09/04/2025 Hong Kong → Bangkok CX501
1520/1715
16/04/2025 Bangkok → Hong Kong CX502
2240/0240

Destination
Don Mueang International Airport Hotel

Hotel
The Quarter Chaophraya by Ung
1190 Soi Somdet Chas Phraya 17, Kwaeng Somdet Chao Phraya Road

Transportation
Coach (40 people at most)

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Email
travella@gmail.com

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www.travella.com

Day1

Art Enlightenment

11:00 - 14:00

Stella Art Cafe

🕒 Duration: 3 hours

★★★★☆ Rating: 4.7

Roll up your sleeves and get your hands dirty in a Benjarong painting workshop in Stella Art Cafe!

What is Benjarong?

Benjarong is an ancient Sanskrit word meaning a pottery piece consisting of 5 colors, which are red, blue, yellow, green, and white. Nowadays, over 30 colors are used, allowing the artistry of Benjarong to shine brighter on the canvas' of masterpieces.



📍 1/27 Sukhumvit 30 Alley, Klongron, Klongroei

Choose your ceramics

At the workshop, you'll have the opportunity to select from a wide range of ceramics, including mugs, dishes, and cups. To ensure the smooth running of the experience, the ceramic pieces will be pre-drawn by talented craftsmen. Even if you don't consider yourself skilled at drawing, there's no need to worry as experienced teachers will assist you in painting your Benjarong. Stella Art Cafe is the perfect place for individuals who appreciate the fusion of art and culture without requiring expertise in the field.



Local must eat: Rung rueang

If you're visiting Bangkok, make sure to stop by Rung Rueang, a restaurant well known for its Thai-styled pork Noodles. Multiple options are offered for flavors, toppings, noodles, and sizes, allowing you to fully customize your dish. Their scrumptious food will make your taste buds tingle with pleasure.



📍 10/3 Sukhumvit Soi 26, Sukhumvit Road Khlong Tan, Khlong Toei

MOCA Museum of Contemporary Art

Happiness is the art of relaxation.

- Maxwell Maltz

16:00 - 18:00

The museum, designed by a Thai architect, was carved to resemble a stem of jasmine to represent Thailand's unique culture. The museum consists of 5 floors which are divided into temporary and permanent exhibitions, showcasing paintings, sculptures, mixed media art, and installation art from Thai master artists. This museum has been dedicated to collecting contemporary paintings and sculptures for over 7 decades to present the beauty of the creative works to the visitors. Not to mention that the museum also has a souvenir and book shop, where tourists can purchase souvenirs as mementos of their trip!

📍 499 Kamphaengphet 6 Road, Ladyao, Chatuchak

K. Panish Sticky rice

The best mango sticky rice in town! This store has won the Michelin Bib Gourmand award for 6 consecutive years! The iconic Thai dessert is made with glutinous rice and fresh mango, and has a side of coconut sauce to balance the flavor. With the delightfully chewy texture of the rice and the soft, pulpy texture of the mango, the two perfectly blend into a delectable dessert that melts in your mouth.

📍 431-433 Thanon Tanoo, San Chao Pho Sua, Khet Phra Nakhon, Krung Thep Maha Nakhon 10200, Thailand




Day 2

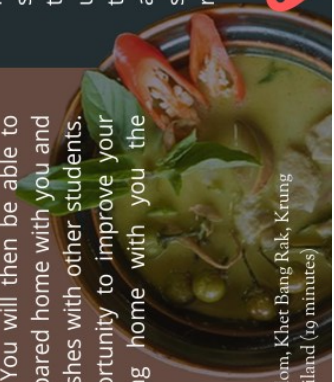
A Taste of Bangkok

8:30-11:30

Hands on Thai cooking class

Cook a three course Thai meal in this hands-on culinary experience! The class begins with a visit to Khlong Toei market to shop for fresh ingredients. Back in the kitchen, take your pick in a menu full of dishes you can cook, such as Tom Yum Goong, the iconic Pad Thai and mango rice with coconut sauce. Experienced chefs will assist you in learning the art of Thai cooking. You will then be able to take the recipes you prepared home with you and enjoy your homemade dishes with other students. Don't pass up this opportunity to improve your culinary skills and bring home with you the flavours of Thailand!

 52/22 Thanon Pan, Khwaeng Silom, Khet Bang Rak, Krung Thep Maha Nakhon 10500, Thailand (19 minutes)



Sense of Thai — Rent a Thai costume

Rent a Thai costume with matching accessories and a handbag! You will be met by a professional team who will assist you in choosing the perfect Thai costume for you. The shop offers over 1000 designs, including traditional Thai dresses for women, known as "chut thai." For men, there are traditional Thai shirts, known as "chong kraben,". Made with authentic Thai material, this experience lets you fully immerse yourself in Thai culture.

 Sense of Thai shop, 2F at Thamharaj Mall (29 mins)

Wat Pho

Explore the renowned Wat Pho, also known as 'The Temple of the Reclining Buddha' at your own pace while dressed in beautiful Thai costumes! Pay homage to Bangkok's biggest reclining Buddha, which measures 46 meters long. Admire beautiful Chinese statues previously used in ships, and visit the Bodhi tree, which was grown from the tree that the Buddha used to meditate under. Being a massage center for the preservation of traditional Thai medicine, you can also get a professional Thai massage at Wat Pho from students at a low price. Visit Wat Pho for a rejuvenating and spiritually healing experience!

 Wat Pho, Sanam Chai Road, Phra Borom Maha Ratchawang, Phra Nakhon, Bangkok, Thailand (3 mins)

“Must have experience for anyone who is visiting Bangkok!”

5:30-7:30

Chaophraya cruise candlelight dinner

Sail along the enchanting Chaophraya river while indulging in live music, graceful dancing, and gastronomic Thai and international cuisines. Along with an English commentary, the Chaophraya Cruise is a perfect fusion of ambience and entertainment that will introduce you to another side of Bangkok.

 Asiatique The Riverfront Warehouse 7, Warehouse 7, Wat Phraya Krai, Bang Kho Laem, Bangkok, Thailand

Asiatique the Waterfront

Asiatique the Waterfront offers a taste of Thailand's bustling night life. Lose yourself in endless clothing and souvenir shops or watch talented performers lip sync in the Calypso Carabet show. Make sure not to miss Thailand's tallest Ferris wheel, Asiatique Sky for a breathtaking panoramic view of Chaophraya at a low price!



Day 4

Nighttime Splendors



The Grand Palace 13:00-15:00

The Grand Palace has served as the residence of Thai monarchs since 1782. Home to major landmarks that hold immense historic value, it is no surprise that its ornate walls house century-long memories. Wander around the Three Palaces of the Chakri Dynasty or visit the Wat Phra Kaew Temple to admire their intricate grandeur firsthand. Having been considered the birthplace of Thailand, the Grand Palace is a must-visit for anyone who wants to get a taste of Thailand's royal architectural heritage firsthand.

 Phra Borom Maha Ratchawang, Phra Nakhon, Bangkok 10200 Thailand

Bangkok by night 17:00-22:00

Meeting point: Lawson 108 BTS Krung Thonburi
Ending point: Pei Jjin
Experience Bangkok's vibrant nightlife on an iconic Tuk Tuk. Pass illuminated temples and landmarks as your local guide navigates through lively areas, markets, and food stops. As you savor street food, you'll be able to get a glimpse of local life along the river and marvel at the flower market's blooms and Old City's history. This nocturnal activity will introduce you to the bustling nightlife of this hypnotic city and leave you with high spirits!

 743/38 Mangkon Rd, Khwaeng Chakkrawat, Khet Samphanthawong, Krung Thep Maha Nakhon 10200, Thailand

Day 5 Bangkok Canal Boat & Bike Tour

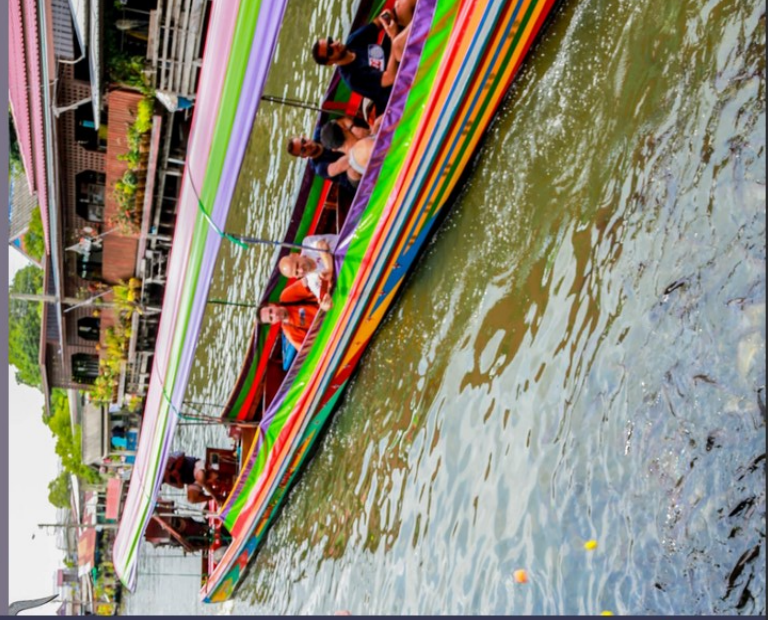
Join us for a half-day Bangkok canal boat and bike tour that will immerse you in Thailand's local culture and satisfy your wanderlust! Our journey begins with an exhilarating ride, zooming through narrow alleyways. Along the way, we'll stop by to purchase organically grown crops from friendly locals! Back on dry land, visit ancient temples, a sacred shrine and even learn traditional Thai puppetry at a 200-year-old house! Savor authentic Thai cuisines and end the journey by admiring the jaw-dropping ceremonial grounds of Sanam Luang before returning to Sam Yat area with unforgettable memories. Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that will leave you with a deeper appreciation for this beautiful waterfront city.

 9:30-3:30
Journey: Discova Bay Shop→Chao Phraya River→Wat Kuhasawan→Wat Hongrattanaaram
Meet up—9:00 @ Discova Day Tour Shop Bangkok

Let's celebrate!

Splash ecstasy at Maha Songkran World Water Festival 2025, a celebration that blends tradition, entertainment, and pure water-soaked fun! Witness electrifying Maha Songkran parades, mesmerizing drone light shows and indulge in a line of food trucks offering a variety of delectable snacks. Whether you decide to party and make a splash in the EDM center, or watch impressive cooking demonstrations and mixed instruments performances in the small stage area, you will not be disappointed by the detailed planning and activities.

 Sanam Luang, Bangkok.



Day 3

Urban Trails

Wat Arun

10:00-13:00

Wat Arun, located on the western bank of the Chao Phraya River, is one of Bangkok's most famous temples. Also known as the 'Temple of Dawn', it was built from 1809-1851 by King Rama I. Wat Arun features a central prang adorned with porcelain mosaics that form intricate Buddhist motifs. You can take on a challenge and climb the steep stairs that wind around the prang for stunning views of the river and city skyline! Stop by Wat Arun to admire its beauty and history firsthand, with the bonus of panoramic views from the top of this iconic site.

158 Thanon Wang Doem, Wat Arun, Bangkok Yai, Bangkok 10600, Thailand

Flow House

15:00-16:50

Flow House offers an exciting way to try surfing or wakeboarding. Using innovative wave technology, it creates continuous breaking waves on a ramp that simulate oceanic conditions. Take a lesson here and learn from professional instructors in a safe environment. After catching some waves on the steady swell, cool down in the splash pool area. Suitable for beginners and professionals alike, Flow House is a fun indoor adventure for adrenaline seekers looking to practice their board skills.

Soi Sukhumvit 26, Sukhumvit Road Khlong Tan, Khlong Toei, A-Square, Bangkok 10110 Thailand



Hands-on Authentic Thai

Massage Workshop 17:00-18:00

Learn techniques such as compression, stretching, and acupressure directly from instructors with over 20 years of experience as therapists! You will practice under their guidance as you pair up with a partner. Highlights of this workshop include making Thai herbal compresses and experiencing a nuad Thai session! Walk away with new skills in this revered healing art and snacks and drinks to conclude this immersive experience.

531 Charoen Krung Road, Pom Prap, Pom Prap Sattru Phai, Bangkok 10100 Thailand

Mahanakhon SkyWalk

18:20-19:00

The Glass Tray Experience extends out from the 74th floor, over 300 meters above the city. Stepping onto the glass platform offers bird's-eye selfies with the beautiful cityscape as your backdrop. At the highest observation deck in Thailand on the 78th floor, floor-to-ceiling windows provide 360-degree panoramic views that extend over 50km on clear days. Whether you are a thrill seeker looking for a new experience, or a photographer seeking the perfect shot, Mahanakhon SkyWalk will not disappoint with the ultimate vantage point to see and capture Bangkok from new heights.

114 Naradhiwas Rajanagarindra Rd, Silom, Bang Rak, Bangkok 10500, Thailand

Bamboo Bicycle tour in Twilight — watching dancing fireflies

19:20-22:00

Discover the magic of Bangkok as the sun goes down on this one-of-a-kind evening excursion. To kick off the adventure, we'll ride bikes along the quiet backstreets of Bangkok, exploring the National park and a verdant, lush botanical garden. Enjoy a delicious riverside dinner with the Chaophraya river as your view before embarking on our featured attraction—a boat ride into the mangroves in search of rare bioluminescence fireflies. Watch in wonder as nature reveals itself in the form of hundreds of little glowing insects! So, if you're ready to immerse yourself in the illuminating beauty of Bangkok's twilight hours, let us take you on this one-of-a-kind adventure that will leave you absolutely spellbound!

IC Café Amazon ริมฝั่งสุวินทิว นาอบริ 444 Kasem Rat Rd, Khwaeng Khlong Toei, Khet Khlong Toei, Krung Thep Maha Nakhon 10110, Thailand



Day 6

Bangkok National Museum

08:30 - 10:30

Dive into the extensive collection of antiquities from Asian history and culture! Being one of the largest museums in Southeast Asia, this museum was first set up as the royal private museum in the Grand Palace. It was then moved to the front palace and subsequently developed into the Bangkok National Museum nowadays. Exhibiting unique artifacts and artworks, visitors can get a glimpse of Thailand throughout different historic periods. This museum, also considered a treasure trove of antiques by some, is a must-visit for anyone who wants to gain a deeper understanding of Thailand's rich cultural heritage

 (4 Soi Na Phra That, Phra Borom Maha Ratchawang, Phra Nakhon, Bangkok 10200, Thailand)

Lunch: ChomSindh

11:00 - 11:45



Dream World Bangkok

12:30 - 18:00

Ranked as one of the most popular amusement parks in Bangkok, Dream World is particularly known for its unique attractions suitable for all ages alike. Board the Sky Coaster for an adrenaline rush, or watch a Hollywood show or a 4D movie for a fun and immersive experience! With a wide range of attractions, dining choices, souvenir shops, and photo services, Dream World Bangkok is the perfect destination for a day full of adventure and happiness!

 (62 หมู่ที่ 1, ถนนสุขุมวิท - แขวงทุ่งยี่หอ, Thanyaburi District, Pathum Thani 12130, Thailand)

Dinner: DE FACTO CAFE AND EATERY

Day 7

ICONSIAM

10:00 - 12:00

This largest shopping center in Bangkok will give you an eye-opening shopping experience! With over 7000 shops, whether you are looking for high-end luxury brands or handmade trinkets, you will find a mix of options that will satisfy your needs. As a part of our shopping excursion, be sure to visit SOOKSIAM, an indoor floating market located on the ground floor of ICONSIAM. Explore stalls filled with local products, and sample Thai street food prepared right before your eyes!

 299 Charoen Nakhon Rd, Khlong Ton Sai, Khlong San, Bangkok 10600, Thailand)



Tiger Den Safari Park

14:30 - 18:00

In this naturalistic safari park, you can look at diverse wildlife thriving in their natural habitats and even get up close and interact with wild animals such as tigers, lions, and bears! The best part is, it's completely ethical because we'll be travelling in a caged car, and the animals will not be disrupted at all! Don't miss such a great opportunity to learn more about the living habits of different animals firsthand!

 Sam Wa Tawan Tok, Khlong Sam Wa, Bangkok 10350, Thailand)

Chocolate Ville

18:30 - 21:00

Do you love to take photos and selfies? If so, we're certain that this place will be love at first sight for you! With the dreamy design of a European village, Chocolate Ville has gardens, shops, and surreal spots for you to take selfies and purchase souvenirs. Chocolate Ville is also known for its stunning night views and delectable dishes that leave visitors craving for more. What's not to love about this picturesque heaven?

 23, 1-16 Prasert-Manukitch Rd, Ram Inthra, Khan Na Yao, Bangkok 10230, Thailand)

More Exemplary Work

Group Project — Travel Brochure

Chandiramani Nidhi Mahesh, Chandiramani Vidhi Mahesh, Felicie Cheung,
Jody Chang, Chloe Chu 2A (2023 – 2024)

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Introduction

Hello fellow travelers! Want to visit the stunning island of Puerto Rico where sun-kissed adventures await you? With more than 500 years of history, this culturally-rich island has unforgettable views as well as food. Filled with marvellous beaches and striking mountains, Puerto Rico views are straight out of a painting! So what are you waiting for? Join the fun with our limited 10% off offer!*

During your trip you will be exploring pristine beaches, rainforests filled with towering trees, bioluminescent bays which beauty is especially seen in the dark, the colourful streets of historic villages and much more!

*Our discount will only be available until 15/5/2024 so don't miss out!

Date / Time	Morning	Lunch	Afternoon	Dinner	Evening
12/8	/	/	Arrival	/	Free
13/8	Cycling in Old San Juan	Alambique Beach Lounge	Surfing lessons in Carolina, Puerto Rico	The Beach House	Watch sunset in Punta Higuera Lighthouse Park
14/8	Visiting National Botanical Garden of Puerto Rico	La Ó	Visiting the Castillo de San Cristobal	Terruño	Kayaking in the bioluminescent bay
15/8	Visiting Museo de Las Americas	Bacoa Finca & Fogon	El Yunque Tropical Rainforest	Dinner in Distrito T-Mobile	Explore Distrito T-Mobile
16/8	Save A Gato	Amor Y Sal	San Juan guided snorkel tour	Boronia at La Placita	Visit La Placita de Santurce
17/8	Kayak Guided Tour in Condado Lagoon	Los Gorditos Restaurante	Archie Jetski Rental	Dimner at Triana Tapas	Watch the shows at Triana Tapas
18/8	2 hour ride to Aguadilla	Ristorante Casa Italia	Visiting Casa de Colores	Dinner at the Aeropuerto Internacional Rafael Hernández	Return flight

*12/8 after checking in to the hotel, you are free to rest after the tiring trip or make use of your time to explore the city or hotel freely. Our itinerary will start the next day. *

Activities and attractions



1. El Yunque Rainforest Hike with Waterslide

The El Yunque Rainforest Hike is a popular activity which offers a guided hike through lush rainforest scenery and the chance to slide down natural water slides, free dive and cliff jump, providing an exciting and refreshing experience in the stunning rainforest environment.



2. Laguna Grande Bioluminescent Bay

This place is famous for its mesmerizing bioluminescent phenomenon, where the water glows with a blue-green light when disturbed. You can snorkel, scuba-dive, and swim amidst vibrant coral reefs, it is must-visit destination for all visitors of Puerto Rico!



3. Old San Juan

Old San Juan is a historic district that attracts tourists all around the world. With its colourful colonial buildings, cobblestone streets, and well-preserved forts, it offers a unique blend of history and beauty. Visitors can also rent a bike to explore iconic landmarks such as Paseo de la Princesa, and also shop for souvenirs and handicrafts on Calle de la Fortaleza street.

4. National Botanical Garden of Puerto Rico

The National Botanical Garden of Puerto Rico with its wild parrots and lush surroundings create a peaceful environment to relax in. The garden boasts mature trees, a variety of palm trees and the charming famous Monet Garden with its blooming water lilies. Visitors can relax on benches and enjoy the tranquility. The garden's serene ambiance provides a perfect escape for nature lovers and families alike.



5. Castillo de San Cristobal

Castillo de San Cristobal is a historic fortress where tourists can walk along the fortified walls and enjoy panoramic views of the city coastline. The historic background and the intricate architecture inside the fortress is just part of what makes Castillo de San Cristobal so attractive to history and architecture enthusiasts alike!

Accommodation

Located in the heart of historic Old San Juan, *Hotel El Convento* is housed in a restored 350-year old building. It has set new standards of luxury, comfort and service while preserving the rich character of this former 16th century convent. This landmark treasure, a member of Historic Hotels of America and Small Luxury Hotels of the World, has earned four diamonds from AAA each year since its opening. Thus, we have chosen it as the second place to stay!



Bedroom



Outdoor pool



Restaurant

Prices*

Flights

-HKD 15,000

Cycling in Old San Juan

-HKD 430

Surfing lessons in Carolina, Puerto Rico

-HKD 250

Watch sunset in Punta Higuera Lighthouse Park

-Free of Charge

Visiting National Botanical Garden of Puerto Rico

-HKD 39

Visiting the Castillo de San Cristobal

-HKD 70

Kayaking in the bioluminescent bay

-HKD 400

Visiting Museo de Las Americas

-Free of Charge

El Yunque Tropical Rainforest

-Free of Charge

Districto T-Mobile

-HKD 35

Save A Gato

-Free of Charge

San Juan guided snorkel tour

-HKD 400

Visit La Placita de Santurce

-Free of Charge

Kayak Guided Tour in Condado Lagoon

-HKD 400

Archie Jetski Rental

-HKD 700

Triana Tapas

-Free of Charge

Visiting Casa de Colores

-HKD 650

Hotel El Convento

-HKD 1721

Service Charge

-HKD 3307

~~HKD 23,002~~



HKD 19,843

*Prices of meals are not included as it is subject to change.

*includes 20% service charge

More Exemplary Work

Language Arts Project — Song Analysis

Gwyneth Loh 3P (2023 – 2024)

Gwyneth Loh 3P(20)

SONG ANALYSIS

You're on your own kid - Taylor Swift



“You’re On Your Own Kid’ by Taylor Swift is about self-realization, growth, gratitude, and self-appreciation. It includes her personal journey throughout her years as a singer-songwriter as she looks back to her experiences gained and the people she lost along the way. The song first starts with a more negative tone as she reflects on her past and it progressively becomes a more positive tone as she expresses her gratitude towards herself and to the people who were with her throughout her journey.

To start, in the first verse, we are in the protagonist’s point of view and they are looking back to their adolescence thinking about specific time frames or moments in their life. “Summer went away” implies that she’s currently thinking about a particular summer that is engraved in her mind and that this particular summer is so important to her, which is seen in the second line. In line 2, “Still the yearning stays” shows the use of diction, the use of the word “yearning” means to long for it intensely, even when that summer is long gone, she still misses it and longs to go back to that moment. Moving on to the third line, “the best of them” shows a use of idiom. An idiom refers to a phrase whose meaning you can’t truly interpret, so the use of this idiom implies how the protagonist is just going with the flow, playing it cool as best as she can under the circumstances, which brings out the theme of confusion and lost during that period of her life. In lines 6-7, it brings out a more diary and causal-like tone by using the word “Anyway” and it diminishes the intensity of the situation as well. The protagonist was also comforting herself by distancing herself from the overwhelming emotions as seen in line 6 “It’s ok”, the use of diction also presented how the tone became more casual. Following line 6, on line 10, it shows us that the protagonist is in a very vulnerable state. “I touch my phone as if it’s your face”, the writer used a simile to express how she’s yearning for that person and imagines how her phone is that person, it implies that she misses that person and how that person is important to her, it also brings out a feeling of wistful and sad. Then in lines 11-12, she continues to express her sadness, “I didn’t choose this town”, “I dream of getting out” implies how she feels like she doesn’t belong to the town she’s living in and wants to leave as this town makes her miserable. The protagonist continues to express how that person is so important to her in lines 13-14, as she says “There’s just one who could make me stay”, “All my days”, it emphasizes how this person means a lot to her and how she is willing to stay in this town where she feels like she doesn’t belong and lost just for this person.

The negative tone continues in the pre-chorus, in lines 15-16 the writer used various language features to express how long she has waited for that one person. On line 15 “From sprinkler splashes to fireplace ashes” shows us a contrast between summer and winter. “Sprinkler splashes” is a water imagery which implies summer while “fireplace ashes” is a fire imagery which implies winter as we burn fire for warmth in the fireplace during the winter.

Water is usually something positive, it gives us a feeling of refreshment and a lively mood while fire is usually used negatively. Fire is complex and the way the writer includes “ashes” gives us an even more depressing and somber feeling as ashes are what is leftover after the burning of fire, which implies how she waited from bright, lively times in the summer to a dark and lonely winter until the fire burns into ashes. As winter is at the end of the year, it also shows that she longed for that person for a whole year, which brings out a depressing and heartbreaking feeling. Line 16 also used hyperbole to express how she “waited ages” for that person to arrive. Then, a slight change in the tone appears as seen in the chorus “You’re on your own, kid”, “You always have been”. The protagonist is starting to realize that she has wasted her time on that one person and is starting to focus on herself.

In verse 2, the protagonist then continues to experience personal growth and the process of maturing. In line 23, “I picked the petals” refers to the childish game “He loves me, he loves me not”. It is a game people play when they are in their teenage years to determine whether the person they fancy likes them or not. This line brings the story closer to climax as this childish game juxtaposes with “he loves me not” in the lyric which is expressed more maturely and harshly. Then the protagonist starts to have clarity and grows up to focus on herself as seen in the next line, “something different bloomed” which implies that she is starting to explore her interests and starts to realize how it is important to have her own thing so as to appreciate life and to make yourself feel secure even when no one is around.



Moving on to the pre-chorus, a positive tone starts to appear as she finds a purpose in her life. There is a repetition in the first line, “From sprinkler splashes to fireplace ashes”, this repeated lyric is used to emphasize the length of time she was yearning for that person but now she doesn’t yearn for that person in a somber way anymore, but instead she’s reminiscing and is grateful that this person appeared in her life or else she wouldn’t be able to find her interests and realize that she was wasting her time. There is also another repeated lyric in the pre-chorus, “I search the party of better bodies”, this lyric first appeared on line 17 when the tone of the song was still negative. The first time this lyric appeared was when the protagonist was still in a lost and depressing state, but it then appeared again to show the growth of the protagonist and how it made her rethink the fact that she had better options to spend her time on, with “better bodies” symbolizing her other options. The juxtaposition and repetition emphasize how she is continuously improving and is again grateful for that person appearing while she reminisces her youth. The chorus then repeats the 2 lyrics which is the climax of the song. The repetition of “You’re on your own, kid”, “You always have been” is presented in a more uplifting tone and offers hope, implying that the protagonist has fully escaped from that dark place and is grateful to herself that not only did she not give up but also overcame all her difficulties.

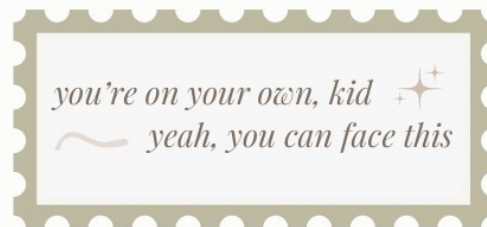


The tone of the bridge is the most optimistic throughout the song as the protagonist has learned from her mistakes and is now the best version of herself. On the first line of the bridge, “From sprinkler splashes to fireplace ashes,” repetition appears again. As said, this lyric means that the protagonist has spent a year-long yearning for that person but instead, in the bridge it brings out an entirely different meaning. The appearance of this sentence is to present how the protagonist is spending a year or even a longer time to improve herself which brings hope. Moving on to the next 2 lines, the writer listed out all the sacrifices she has made so as to become the person she is now. In line 35, “I gave my blood, sweat, and tears for this”, used the power of 3 to emphasize how much she worked for this moment. Blood symbolizes suffering, sweat symbolizes workload, and tears symbolize emotions, these imply that the protagonist used everything she had - health, body, and emotions, to get to where she is right now. “I hosted parties and starved my body” on line 36 implies how she is seeking for approval and attention by hosting all sorts of parties to be accepted and also hurting her body by starving herself just to feel like she belongs and to live that perfect life she has always wanted. Following line 36, on line 37, “like I’d be saved by a perfect kiss” used a simile to present her ideas. With “kiss” symbolizing life and the diction of “saved” gives us a feeling that the protagonist is in a situation where she needs to be saved by someone, but if we zoom out and look at the bigger picture, we can tell that she is the one who saved herself from her dark times, expressing gratitude to herself as she is thankful that she kept going and never gave up.

In this part of the bridge, the protagonist now has clarity and is sure of who she is and what she wants to do. In line 38 “I looked around in a blood-soaked gown”, a gown is something that takes effort and energy to put on, which symbolizes all the effort she put in and all the experiences and knowledge she gained, while “blood-soaked” symbolizes everything she sacrificed along her way. As something eerie cannot be elegant, this lyric shows the use of oxymoron by using eerie blood and an elegant gown to present all the things the protagonist did to get to this moment. “Looked around” also implies that she is out of a tunnel vision in which everything she sees is dark, and now she is starting to look at things with a wider vision and has a sudden moment of clarity. On line 40, we are able to have a glimpse of the protagonist’s growth again, “Cause there were pages turned with the bridges burned”, with “pages turned” symbolizing changes, gains, and new chapters in life, showing how the protagonist is maturing and is not a teenager who’s always yearning for that particular person, also having “bridges” symbolizing all her past relationships with people and her past expectations for life, with every past memory and moment burned, she is now a brand new person. Continuing on lines 42-43, “so, make the friendship bracelets”, and “take the moment and taste it”, show us that the protagonist is now enjoying her life in every way possible. “Friendship bracelets” symbolize how she is grateful for her friends who were with her throughout her journey from dark times to bright days, expressing her love and gratitude to them in the form of friendship bracelets and cherishing every moment with them by “tasting it”, meaning to truly live in the moment.

At last, the song ends with a repetition of 2 lyrics in the chorus with 2 new lyrics, which brings out an entirely different meaning behind it as well. In the previous verses, these repeated lyrics “You’re on your own, kid” , “You always have been” were in a more negative and hopeless tone but in this last chorus, before these repeated lyrics, there is another uplifting lyric appearing - “Yeah, you can face this”, the inclusion of this phrase offers hope and diminishes all the previous negative, sad tones seen throughout the song, demonstrating how one can overcome their obstacles by believing in themselves and not giving up. All these give this song a positive ending, expressing hope and gratitude.

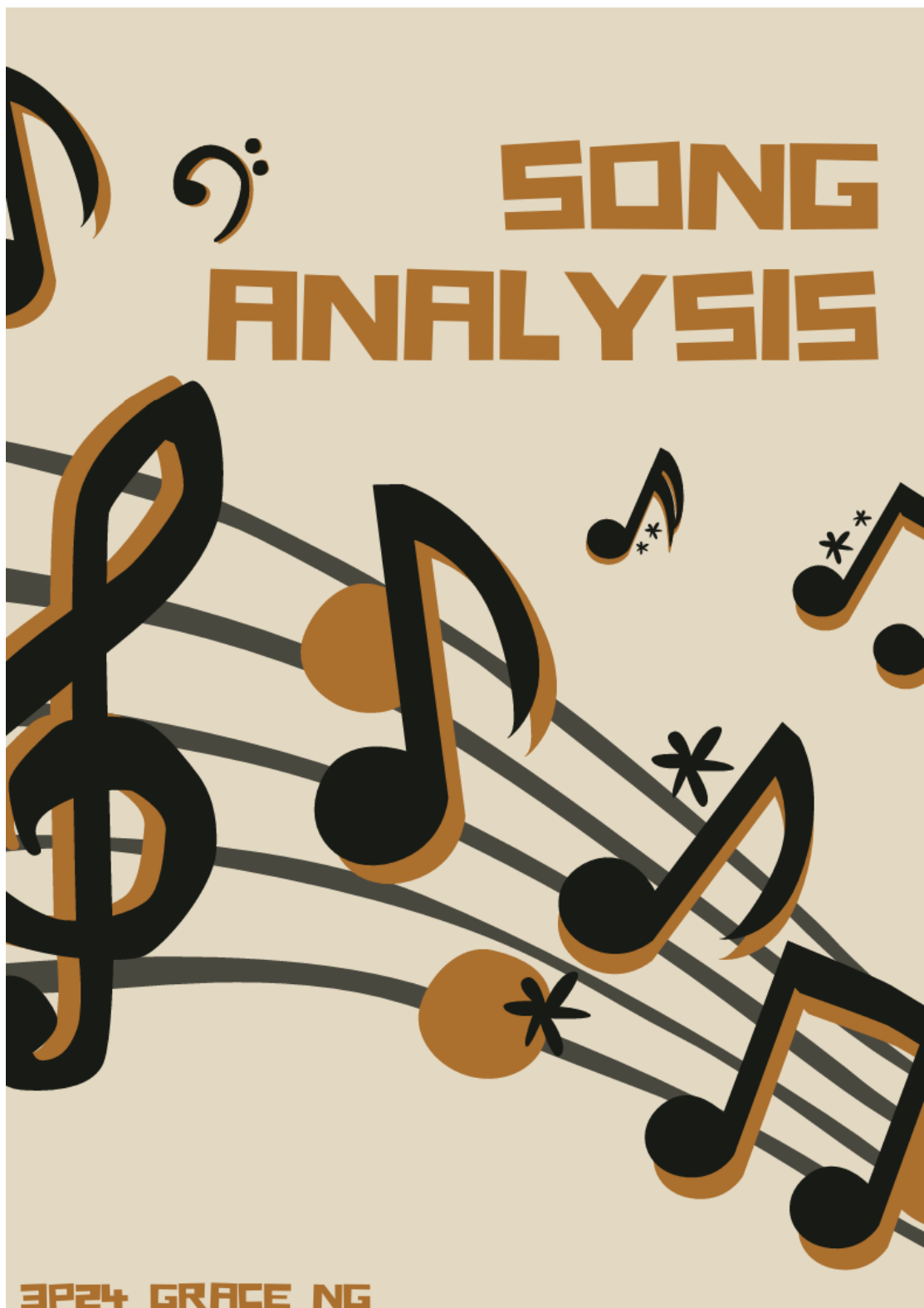
To conclude, this song is about different chapters in life and how we have to learn to cherish and be grateful for every given moment. In this song, the protagonist was living in a dark situation until at one point in her life, she started to realize it wasn’t going to work for her. She then cultivates a life and was so into creating a perfect life that she wasn’t even aware of what she was sacrificing at that moment and just gave in her all, but at last, she found a balance and starts to look back at all the experiences she gained. In the end, she highlights the theme of gratitude and self-growth by expressing how throughout the journey she was the one who saved herself. She then slowly finds a purpose in life, holds onto it, and cherishes every moment while expressing her gratitude to the ones who were with her and also to herself for not giving up.



More Exemplary Work

Language Arts Project — Song Analysis

Grace Ng 3P (2023 – 2024)



THE BEST DAY

BY TAYLOR SWIFT

- I'M FIVE YEARS OLD**
IT'S GETTING COLD
I'VE GOT MY BIG COAT ON
- **rhyme:** contributing innocence and simplicity of the song (reflects the straightforward language often use in children songs)
→ **symbolism:** "big coat" can symbolize comfort, protection, and warmth provided by her mother, represents the security and care that her mother offered her throughout her life
- I HEAR YOUR LAUGH**
AND LOOK UP SMILING AT YOU
I RUN AND RUN
PAST THE PUMPKIN PATCH playful tone
AND THE TRACTOR RIDES
LOOK NOW, THE SKY IS GOLD
I HUG YOUR LEGS
AND FALL ASLEEP ON THE WAY
HOME
- **auditory imagery:** create a vivid image of Taylor hearing her mother laugh, helps the readers immerse themselves in the scene and feel the joy and happiness portrayed in the lyrics
→ **visual imagery:** paints a picture of Taylor raising her eyes to meet her mother gaze while smiling on her face, enhances emotional impact of the moment and allows the reader to experience the warmth and affection between the two
→ **repetition:** energetic and playful tone
→ **visual imagery:** create an enchanting and magical atmosphere of the moment
→ **metaphor:** the act of hugging is used as a metaphor for conveying a feeling an overwhelming sense of love, security and comfort from her mother
- I DON'T KNOW WHY ALL**
THE TREES CHANGE IN
THE FALL
BUT I KNOW YOU'RE NOT
SCARED OF ANYTHING AT
ALL
DON'T KNOW IF SNOW
WHITE'S HOUSE IS NEAR
OR FAR AWAY
BUT I KNOW I HAD THE
BEST DAY WITH YOU
TODAY
- **rhetorical question:** by questioning why the trees change, Taylor expresses her curiosity and wonder towards the natural world
→ **juxtaposition:** the contrast between Taylor's uncertainty of why the trees fall and the certainty of her mother not being scared of anything highlights Taylor's trust and faith in her mother
→ **fairy-tale diction:** mentioning the fairy-tale character Snow White here can create a sense of whimsy and fantasy and may also suggest a longing or desire for a magical place
→ **superlative diction:** this emphasises Taylor's extreme satisfaction and joy, conveying that this day spending with her mother was exceptional and surpassed any other previous experience and this day remains as a strong affirmation of the happiness shared with her mother
- I'M THIRTEEN NOW**
AND DON'T KNOW HOW
MY FRIENDS COULD BE SO
MEAN
I COME HOME CRYING
AND YOU HOLD ME TIGHT
AND GRAB THE KEYS
- **emotive diction:** this emphasises Taylor's surprise and confusion with the unexpected behaviour of her friends
→ **visual imagery:** the act of crying allows the reader to visualise the scene and empathise Taylor's emotion
→ **symbolism:** being held tight can symbolise the comfort, support and love from her mother; whereas grabbing the keys can symbolise her mother taking action to help and protect her, such as providing a safe place

AND WE DRIVE AND DRIVE

→ **repetition:** describe the continuous action of her mother driving, probably searching for a town far away, conveying the determination to escape from the challenges

UNTIL WE FOUND A TOWN FAR ENOUGH AWAY

→ **symbolism:** represent her need to escape herself from a place that hold negative memories, while a new town can symbolises a new start or a haven away from her troubles

AND WE TALK AND WINDOW SHOP

→ **visual imagery:** create a scene in the readers' mind showing the activities her mother brought her to do to let her relax and forget all her negative memories

'TILL I FORGOTTEN ALL THEIR NAMES

I DON'T KNOW WHO I'M GONNA TALK TO NOW AT SCHOOL

→ **juxtaposition:** the contrast between her uncertainty about her social life at school and her certainty about laughing at the moment, it suggested that despite the potential challenges, she remains a sense of humour and finds joy and comfort in the company of her mother on their journey home

BUT I KNOW I'M LAUGHING ON THE CAR RIDE HOME WITH YOU

→ **juxtaposition:** this hints the challenging time she is going through ("don't know how long it takes to feel okay"), but also highlights the joy and positivity brought by her journey with her mother ("the best day")

DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT'S GONNA TAKE TO FEEL OKAY

BUT I KNOW I HAD THE BEST DAY WITH YOU TODAY

→ **superlative diction:** shows the highest degree of enjoyment and happiness on the journey, emphasises her positivity and the significance of this day spent with her mother

I HAVE AN EXCELLENT FATHER HIS STRENGTH IS MAKING ME STRONGER GOD SMILES ON MY LITTLE BROTHER

→ **personification:** this line personifies God's smiles and implying that God favours and blesses her younger brother, also emphasises his qualities and his "divine" approval

INSIDE AND OUT HE'S BETTER THAN I AM

→ **hyperbole:** exaggerates the differences between Taylor and her younger brother, emphasises her lack of self-confidence

I GREW UP IN A PRETTY HOUSE

→ **visual imagery:** creates a picture in the reader's mind of the appealing and comfortable home, and also a large area for her to explore and play

AND I HAD SPACE TO RUN

AND I HAD THE BEST DAYS WITH YOU

→ **superlative diction:** shows Taylor's deep affection and nostalgia for those particular moments that are joyful and memorable in her life



THERE IS A VIDEO I FOUND FROM BACK WHEN I WAS THREE YOU SET UP A PAINT SET IN THE KITCHEN AND YOU'RE TALKING TO ME IT'S THE AGE OF PRINCESSES AND PIRATE SHIPS AND THE SEVEN DWARFS AND DADDY'S SMART AND YOU'RE THE PRETTIEST LADY IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD

→ visual imagery: creates a visual imagery of a recorded memory from the past, and the set up in the kitchen contributes to create a vibrant picture and add details to the environment of the memory recorded

→ nostalgia tone: evokes a sense of longing, fondness, and wistfulness for the past and the connection shared with her family

→ fairy-tale diction: evokes a sense of fantasy, contributing to create an imaginative atmosphere of her childhood, and enriches the readers' understanding of her magical childhood

→ hyperbole: implies that her father has great knowledge and wisdom, emphasising his importance in Taylor's life; shows her deep affection and love for her mother by emphasising beauty

AND NOW I KNOW WHY THE ALL THE TREES CHANGE IN THE FALL I KNOW YOU WERE ON MY SIDE EVEN WHEN I WAS WRONG AND I LOVE YOU FOR GIVING ME YOUR EYES STAYING BACK AND WATCHING ME SHINE AND

→ metaphor: just as the trees shed their leaves and go through a transformation process, Taylor has also gone through personal growth and gained insight towards the world

→ hyperbole: this adds depth to her gratitude and appreciation towards her mother since she always supports her even if she made mistakes

→ metaphor: can be seen as a metaphor for the wisdom and perspective that her mother passed down to her, implying that her mother has shared her insights, experiences, and guidance with her, allowing her to see the world in a similar way

→ emotive language: expresses her gratitude towards her mother for taking the joy of seeing her succeed and shine

I DIDN'T KNOW IF YOU KNEW SO I'M TAKING THIS CHANCE TO SAY THAT I HAD THE BEST DAY WITH YOU TODAY

→ repetition: the words "the best day" is repeated throughout the whole song, and this expresses Taylor's genuine joy and happiness when she gets to spend time with them and reinforcing the love she feels for them

→ direct speech: highlighting the connection and the closeness between Taylor and her parents, expressing her gratitude and letting them know how meaningful their presence is



TEXTUAL ANALYSIS



"The Best Day" is a heartfelt song written and produced by Taylor Swift for her second studio album, "Fearless", in 2008. This song serves to be an ode with lyrics dedicated to Taylor's parents (especially to her mother), expressing gratitude for their love and support provided throughout her life. In the song, Taylor revisited her childhood memories and all the special moments shared with her mother. She looks back on their innocence and carefree times spent together, such as riding a car and laughing together, she cherishes these memories of her younger self, feeling safe and loved by her mother's presence.

In the 1st verse, the lines lay the foundation of a nostalgic and innocent tone for the song, depicting the young Taylor at the age of five, experiencing the arrival of winter and preparing for the cold weather by putting on her big coat. These lines immediately set the scene and place the readers in the specific moment of time (the "cold" environment). There are also several literary devices used in this verse, including visual imagery, rhyme and symbolism. The use of visual imagery throughout the whole verse, painting a vivid picture in the reader's mind by using sensory details, letting the readers visualize the five-year-old Taylor putting on her big coat; while the use of rhyme ("cold" and "old") contributes innocence and simplicity of the song as if reflects the straightforward language often use in children songs; whereas there's a use of symbolism in the words "big coat", "big coat" can be use of symbolises the comfort, protection, and warmth provided by her mother, represents the security and care that her mother offered her throughout her life.

In the 2nd verse, the lines continue to describe Taylor's emotional connection with her mother to convey the heartfelt emotion she felt when spending time with her mother, highlighting the playfulness and security that come from experiencing a joyful day together. Few literary devices are used to express her emotion and the scene, such as imagery (both auditory and visual), repetition and metaphor. Auditory imagery ("I hear your laugh") is used to create a vivid image in the readers' mind of Taylor hearing her mother laugh, helping the readers immerse themselves in the scene and feel the joy and happiness portrayed in the lyrics, while visual imagery ("look up smiling at you" and "the sky is gold") paints a picture of Taylor raising her eyes to meet her mother gaze while smiling on her face, enhances emotional impact of the moment and allows the reader to experience the warmth and affection between the two, and also created an enchanting and magical atmosphere for the moment. Repetition of the word "run" creates an energetic and playful tone, whereas a metaphor of "hugging your legs" conveys a feeling of an overwhelming sense of love, security and comfort from her mother.

In the 3rd verse, the lines are used to explore the narrator's innocence and admiration for her mother, at the same time also highlighting the theme of unconditional love. This theme is explored by the use of rhetorical question, juxtaposition, fairy-tale diction and superlative diction. The rhetorical question of Taylor asking "why the trees change in fall", it expresses her curiosity and wonder towards the natural world; while the use of juxtaposition (the contrast between Taylor's uncertainty of why the trees fall and the certainty of her mother not being scared of anything) highlights Taylor's trust and faith in her mother. There's also a choice of diction of using fairy-tale diction ("Snow White") and superlative diction ("the best day"): the fairy-tale diction creates a sense of whimsy and fantasy and may also suggest a longing or desire for a magical place, whereas the superlative diction emphasises Taylor's extreme satisfaction and joy, conveying that this day spending with her mother was exceptional and surpassed any other previous experience and this day remains as a strong affirmation of the happiness shared with her mother.

In the 4th verse, it marks the shift in tone, showing Taylor's transition from her childhood innocence to the challenges of being a teenager. This verse marks the meanness for her friends and the support provided by her mother through the use of emotive diction, visual imagery and symbolism. Emotive diction of the word "mean" emphasises Taylor's surprise and confusion with the unexpected behaviour of her friends; also visual imagery of the act of Taylor "come home crying" allows the reader to visualise the scene and empathise Taylor's emotion at that moment; whereas symbolism of the act of her being held tight can symbolise the comfort, support and love from her mother, and the act of her mother grabbing the keys can symbolise her mother taking action to help and protect her, such as providing a safe place.

In the 5th verse, it described a scene of Taylor and her mother going on a car journey together, and seeking distractions from the challenges she is now facing. These can be explored by the use of repetition, symbolism and visual imagery. Repetition of the word "drive" describes the continuous action of her mother driving, probably searching for a town far away, conveying the determination of Taylor trying to escape from the challenges; the symbolism of the "town far enough away" represents her need to escape herself from a place that hold negative memories, while a new town can symbolises a new start or a haven away from her troubles; whereas the use of visual imagery in describing they "talk and window shop" create a scene in the readers' mind that shows the activities her mother brought her to do to let her relax and forget all her negative memories.



In the 6th verse, the lines convey a sense of comfort, resilience and gratitude in the face of difficulties experienced by Taylor, and also emphasising the importance of Taylor's relationship with her mother in finding their moments of genuine joy. These are expressed by the use of juxtaposition and superlative diction. The use of juxtaposition that shows her uncertainty about her social life at school and her certainty about laughing at the moment, suggested that despite the potential challenges, she remains a sense of humour and finds joy and comfort in the company of her mother on their journey home; the another use of juxtaposition hints the challenging time she is going through as she "don't know how long will it take to feel okay", but also highlights the joy and positivity brought by her journey with her mother as she described that it is the "best day". Also, the use of superlative diction of the words "the best day" shows the highest degree of enjoyment and happiness on the journey, emphasising her positivity and the significance of this day spent with her mother.

In the 7th verse, it highlights the influence of family relationship and her positive impact from her father and her younger brother she had as her family. These are shown through the use of personification, hyperbole, visual imagery and superlative diction. Personification is used in the line which personifies God's smiles so as to imply that God favours and blesses her younger brother, also emphasises his qualities and his "divine" approval; the use of hyperbole exaggerates the differences between Taylor and her younger brother, but also emphasises her lack of self-confidence as she wrote that "inside and out he's better than I am"; also visual imagery is used to create a picture in the reader's mind of Taylor's appealing and comfortable home, and also a large area for her to explore and play; whereas superlative diction of "the best days" hows Taylor's deep affection and nostalgia for those particular moments that are joyful and memorable in her life.

In the 8th verse, it portrays a nostalgic scene from Taylor's childhood and highlights the loving relationship between her family and herself. These are expressed through the use of visual imagery, nostalgic tone, fairy-tale diction and hyperbole. The use of visual imagery in the word "video" creates a scene of a recorded memory from the past, and the set up in the kitchen contributes to create a vibrant picture and add details to the environment of the money recorded; the use of the nostalgic tone evokes a sense of longing, fondness, and wistfulness for the past and the connection shared with her family; also, the use of fairy-tale diction ("princesses and pirate ships" and "seven dwarfs") evokes a sense of fantasy, contributing to create an imaginative atmosphere of her childhood, and enriches the readers' understanding of her magical childhood; whereas the use of hyperbole implies that her father has great knowledge and wisdom, emphasising his importance in Taylor's life; shows her deep affection and love for her mother by emphasising beauty.

In the 9th verse, it showcases Taylor's mother's unwavering love and support and portrays a deep sense of gratitude and appreciation for her mother's guidance. These are explored by the use of metaphor, hyperbole and emotive language. A metaphor is used to describe that just as the trees shed their leaves and go through a transformation process, Taylor has also gone through personal growth and gained insight towards the world; another metaphor is used to describe that her mother passed down her wisdom and perspective to her ("giving me your eyes"), and to imply that her mother has shared her insights, experiences, and guidance with her, allowing her to see the world in a similar way. Moreover, hyperbole is used to add depth to her gratitude and appreciation towards her mother since she always support her even if she made mistakes; whereas emotive language of describing Taylor's mother "staying back and watching her shine", expresses Taylor's gratitude towards her mother for taking the joy of seeing her succeed and shine.

In the last verse, it portrays the moment in which Taylor expresses her gratitude directly to her mother, and also illustrates her desire to seize the opportunity to convey her feelings to her mother. This theme of gratitude is shown through the use of direct speech. Direct speech is used to show that she is taking this chance to tell her mother that she "had the best day" with her, and highlighting the connection and the closeness between Taylor and her mother, expressing her gratitude and letting her mother know how meaningful her presence is.

Last but not the least, the repetition of the words "the best day", which is also used as the song title expresses Taylor's genuine joy and happiness when she get to spend time with them and reinforcing the love she feels for them, and it also serves to conclude the overall theme of appreciation and gratitude for her mother, and also the emotions expressed in the song.



More Exemplary Work

Poster

Jasmine Chan 1T (2023 – 2024)

HOW TO BE A SUCCESSFUL PAULINIAN

As Paulinians, I am sure we all have a fun and fruitful school life. However, would you call yourself a successful Paulinian? Perhaps not, right? Well, I'm going to change your mind. Here are three tips on how to be a successful Paulinian. I hope you find them useful!

1. MANAGE YOUR TIME WELL

Having good time management plays a crucial part in becoming a successful Paulinian.

- If you are new to SPCS, you can try making a schedule consisting of the after-school activities you have each day. That way you can know your timetable and be clear with what you should do next.
- If you are a higher form student, you may try a weekly planner instead, as higher form students are gradually busier.

2. MAKE STUDY NOTES BEFORE TESTS AND EXAMS

Making study notes can allow you to understand the test and exam syllabus more.

- ➔ Making study notes for each subject can allow Paulinians to fully understand the content of tests and exams.
- ➔ By exerting ourselves into our studies, we can therefore learn more knowledge, get good grades, and become a successful Paulinian.

3. PAY ATTENTION IN CLASS

In order to fully understand what the teacher is teaching us, we have to pay attention in class and focus on the lesson.

- ❖ The hard work we display in class will all pay off after our tests and exams as we understand the content of the exam.
- ❖ If you don't pay attention in class, you cannot become a successful Paulinian because we come to school to learn, not to play.

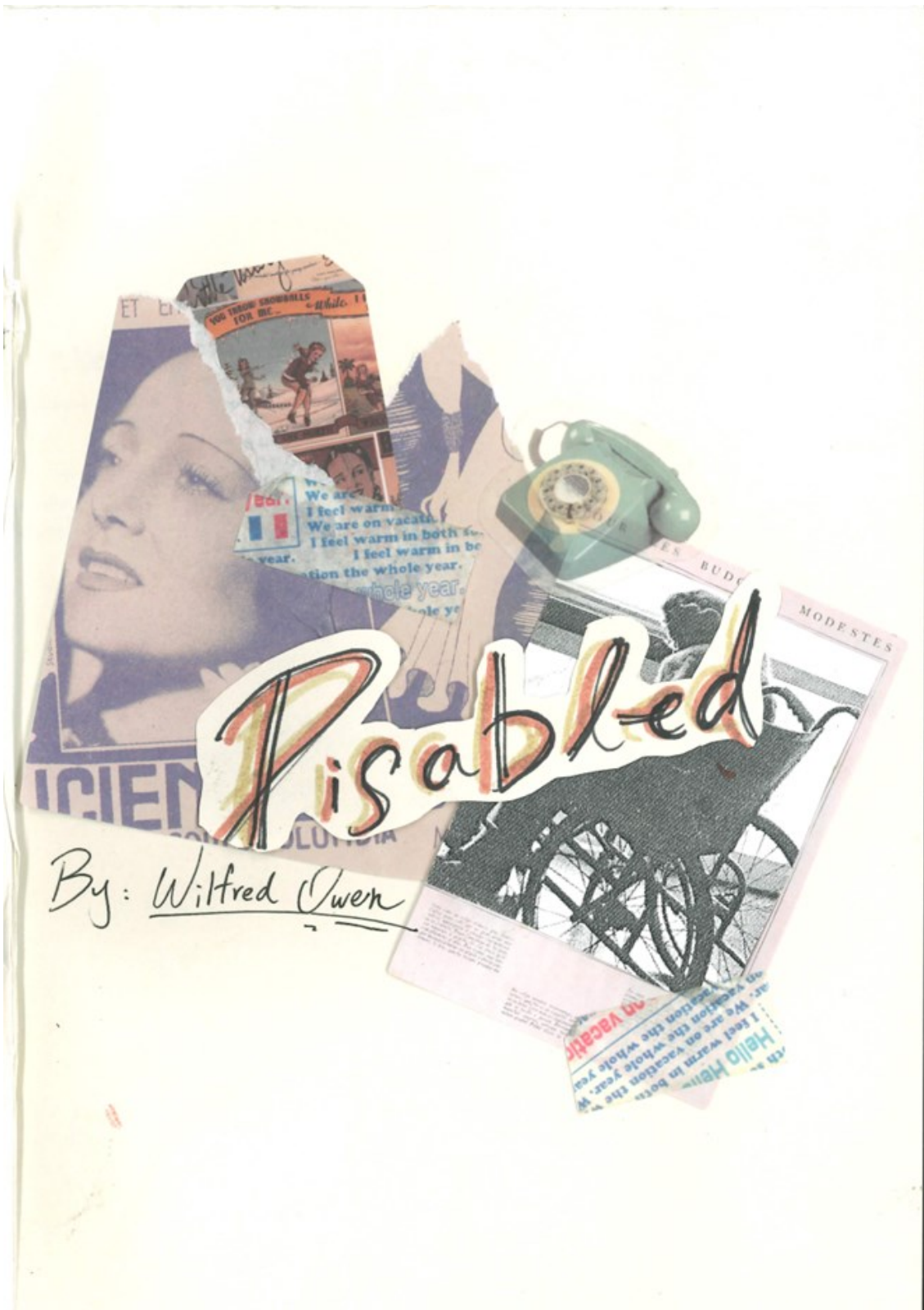


I hope you've learnt something from the three tips above and will become a successful Paulinian in the future!

More Exemplary Work

Scrapbook — “Disabled” poem illustrated

Margaret Ho 4A (2023 – 2024)



CHARACTERS: Protagonist

The Disabled Soldier



The Soldier:
 - Feeling hopeless, down
 - wearing a soldier's uniform which makes him handsome

Wheelchair:
 - lost some of his limbs during the war
 - become disabled
 - has to rely on a wheelchair to move around

in the whole year... in both soul and body... the whole year... We are on vacation the whole soul and body... whole year.

He is a young man who has been disabled in the war. He is described as being **legless** and **sewn short at elbow**. He is also depicted as emotionally broken as well, devastated and traumatized by the effects of war.

Side-Characters:

The Girls



1. Before the war:
 - represents the joy and innocence of civilian life;
 - Treated the soldier with admiration and respect
 - Allowed the soldier to touch their 'slim waists' and 'warm subtle hands'

- The girls 'glanced' at him

2. After the war
 - represents the loneliness and sense of isolation he feels
 - The girls 'eyes passed from him to strong men'
 - no longer admires him and leaves him for men that are healthier and more attractive
 - 'Touch him like some queer disease'
 - (sees his missing limbs as something disgusting)



The Recruiters

- They were 'smiling' as they helped the soldier lie about his age so he could join the army
 - Shows how manipulative the recruiters were in convincing young people to fight for their country

The Other Football

Players



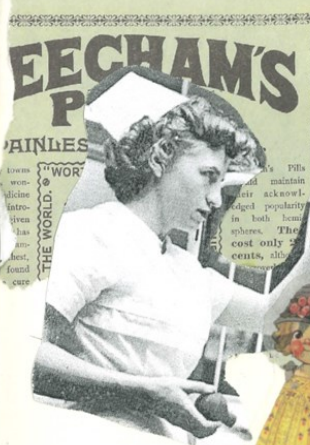
- They used to play football with the soldier before he became disabled
 - They also admired the soldier before. He was 'carried soldier high', like a god-like figure after his victory in football matches
 - Involved in convincing the soldier to sign up the war ('Someone had said he'd look like a God in kit')
 - Perhaps the soldier was persuaded by this compliment -> joined the war

The Solemn Man

- Most likely a priest as he brought him fruits, thanked him, and then inquired about his soul



- The only person that showed up and cheered the soldier home
 -> Further highlights how isolated the soldier is



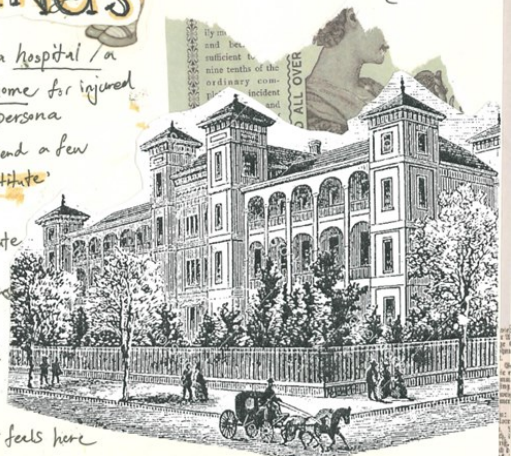
The Nurses

- Not directly mentioned in the poem but we can predict that the soldier is waiting for them
 -> he has to spend 'a few sick years in Institute'
 - The soldier has to rely on them to perform daily activities
 -> When they don't show up, the soldier asks 'Why don't they come? And get him into bed.'
 -> They seem like the only group of people that are willing to show compassion towards the soldier

SETTINGS

- Most likely a hospital / a convalescent home for injured soldiers like the persona
 - Now, he will spend a few sick years in Institute
 -> The word 'sick' implies that the Institute is filled with people suffering from physical issues
 - The writer mentions now it is 'cold' and 'dark'
 -> Reflects how down and lonely the soldier feels here

The Institute



Prix d'abonnement au journal

ANNEES	QUANTITE	ANNEE
10	20	10
12	24	12
15	30	15
18	36	18
20	40	20
25	50	25
30	60	30
35	70	35
40	80	40
45	90	45
50	100	50



The Battlefield

- Where the soldier got injured at during the war
- Became disabled and lost his youth
- half his lifetime lapsed in the hot race → the war
- leap of purple spurted from his thigh
- Poured it down shell-holes till the veins ran dry

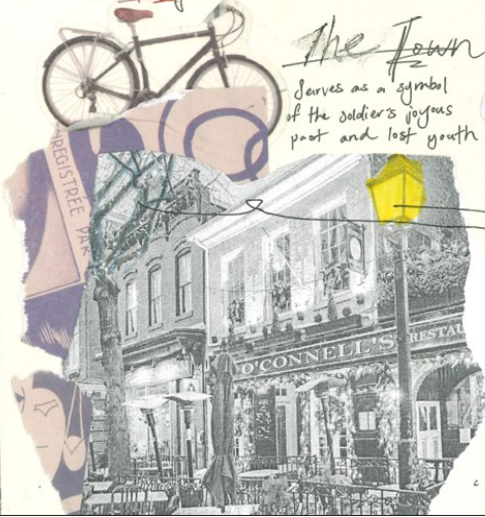
or cavity made by an artillery shell exploding (reference to war)



↳ blood veins lost a lot of blood during war in the battlefield (injured)

The Town

Serves as a symbol of the soldier's joyous past and lost youth



- Descriptions
- ↳ Glow lamps budded in the light blue trees
 - ↳ swing so gay!
 - ↳ Positive descriptions symbolize his great past when he was full of energy and inside of a vibrant community
 - ↳ Contrast to the Institute (symbolizes present)
 - ↳ dark grey, cold

BACKSTORY: About the poem:



- The poem tells a story about a soldier who lost his limbs and became disabled after fighting in a war. He is now confined to a wheelchair, living in an institute and relying on the nurses there to take care of him. He is no longer admired by those around him with no one cheering him home and the women don't even bat an eye. The writer talks about how he lost all joy and purpose of life, living alone and isolated now.

The Writer

The writer of this poem, Wilfred Owen was a British soldier in World War 1. He suffered from a few injuries and experienced trauma, just like the soldier in the poem. Luckily, he did not lose his limbs. Owen decided to write this poem to highlight the devastating effects of war, and how wars take severe physical and mental tolls on the soldiers. It also reflects how the community was like in the 1910s, when it was common to be judged on based on appearances.

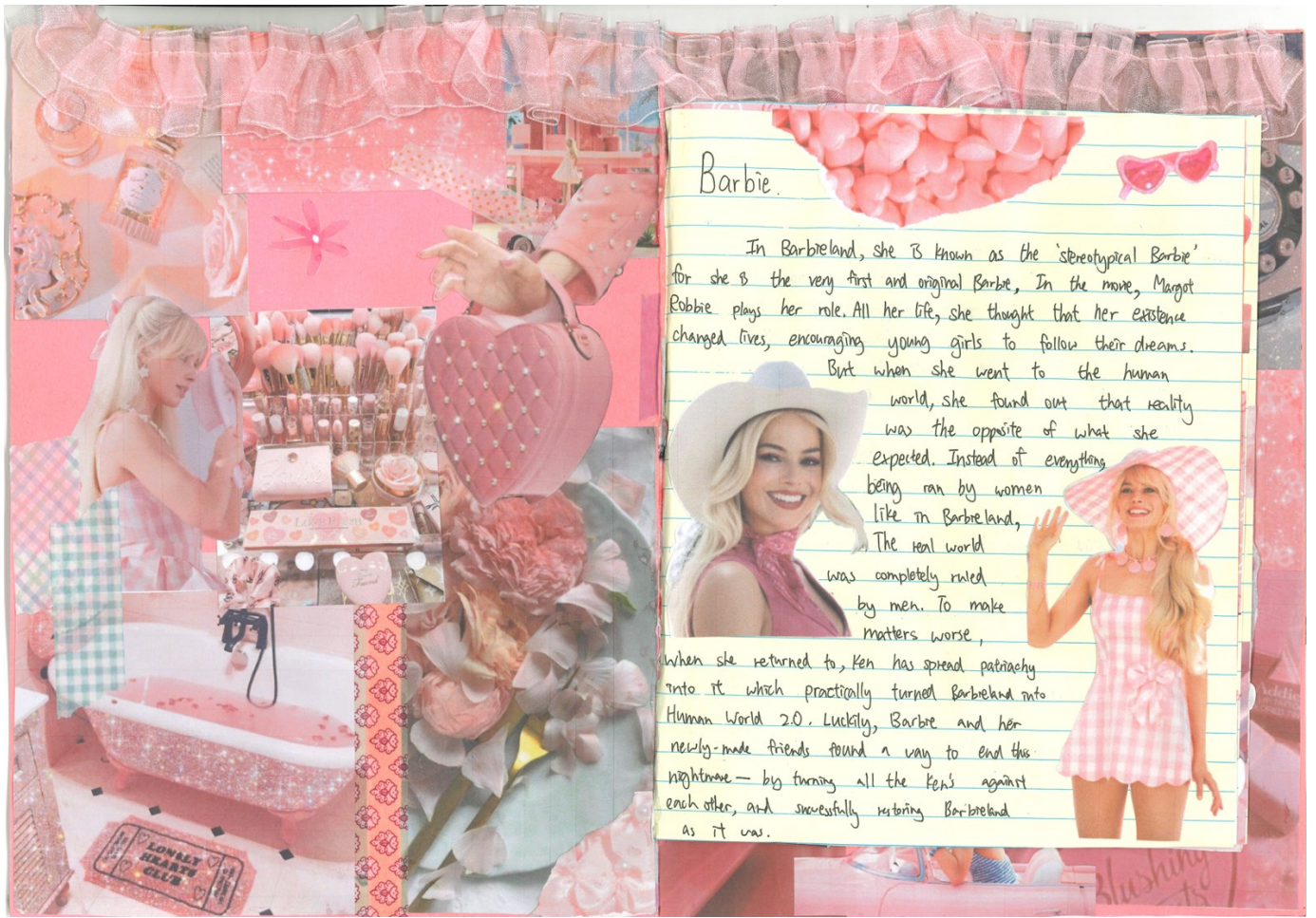


More Exemplary Work

Scrapbook — “Barbie” film illustrated

Hillary Tong 4A (2023 – 2024)



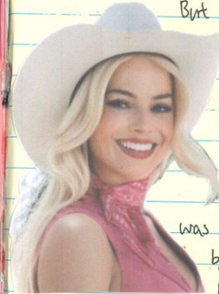


Barbie.



In BarbieLand, she is known as the 'stereotypical Barbie' for she is the very first and original Barbie. In the movie, Margot Robbie plays her role. All her life, she thought that her existence changed lives, encouraging young girls to follow their dreams.

But when she went to the human world, she found out that reality was the opposite of everything expected. Instead of everything being ran by women like in BarbieLand, The real world was completely ruled by men. To make matters worse, when she returned to, Ken has spread patriarchy into it which practically turned BarbieLand into Human World 2.0. Luckily, Barbie and her newly-made friends found a way to end this nightmare - by turning all the Ken's against each other, and successfully restoring BarbieLand as it was.



Ken.



In the movie, he is acted by Ryan Gosling. Since the beginning of the movie, his goal in life has been clear: to capture Barbie's attention.

But since BarbieLand is a female-dominant place, he never got his much needed attention. Although by the end of the movie, he was still unable to win over Barbie's heart, he has established that he is 'kenough' on his own.

I am Kenough

Allen

He's just Allen.



Plot

In BarbieLand, every single day is completely the same. Wake up, drive to the beach, hang out, party at night, and have a girls night with every single Barbie. Life was perfect.

One day, stereotypical Barbie, Barbie notices that everything has been going wrong. The 'water' for her shower was cold, her toast was burnt, she was even having some not-so-subtle thoughts of death. To top it off, her heels turned flat.

The news alarmed all of BarbieLand, urging Barbie to find a cure. In order to do that, she went ahead to find Weird Barbie, who suggested her to go to the Human World and find her owner.

On her way to the Human World in her hot pink car, Ken suddenly emerges from the backseat, insisting on accompanying Barbie with her quest.



Every night is a girls night

Upon arriving, Barbie was shocked.

The real world was almost the exact opposite of what Barbie expected. All her life, she thought she changed lives. She always imagined encouraging girls to pursue their dreams, promoting female empowerment. However, not only was everything controlled by men instead of women, she was even constantly being harassed by the men around her! Horrified, she thought that everything would be fine right after she has returned Barbiceland. So, after finding her human owner and owner's daughter, she immediately convinced them to join her and go to Barbiceland.



To her dismay, Ken has apparently completely changed Barbiceland. He has spread the idea of male supremacy all around and now Barbiceland has completely turned into the human world. The houses now belong to Kens with Barbie's serving them. It was a horrific sight. The situation was so bad that Barbie started having an existential crisis.

Luckily, she comes across Weird Barbie who was apparently unaffected by this 'Reign of Ken'. With the help of Weird Barbie, her owner, and her owner's daughter, they found a way to wake the other Barbies up from doing everything the Kens say.

After saving the Barbies, they formed a plan to return Barbiceland's former glory — by making the Kens turn on each other through jealousy, and let President Barbie reclaim her title. Everything goes according to plan and Barbiceland was back to as it was! Ken even confessed that he has 'lost interest in patriarchy after finding out horses wasn't apart of it.'

In the end, Barbie's owner and her daughter mend their once broken relationship and makes their way back to the Human World, their lives. Ken continues proclaiming his undying love for Barbie. However, Barbie couldn't return the feelings. To everyone's surprise, Ruth Handler, the creator of Barbie, appeared, who explains that Barbie's

story never had a set ending and was entirely up to Barbie's own decisions.

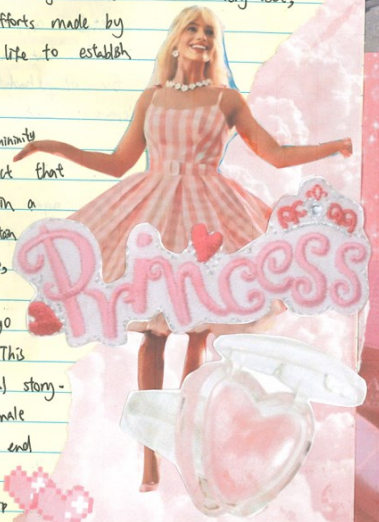
After Barbie's conversation with Ruth and intense decision making, Barbie decides to become an actual human and live in the real world with her 'soul owners' by the name of Barbara Handler.

After-thoughts

Barbie is a movie that heavily promotes the message of feminism. As mentioned in Barbiceland → women rules, in contrary to the real world where most occupations are male-dominant. We notice how weird and unfair to the Kens it is for Barbiceland to be ruled by a single gender, reflecting on how wrong it

it is our world to be a male dominant society. Feminism is not about women seeking dominance over men, but rather a collective effort to address the ongoing imbalance of power between the two genders. And by the end of the film, President Barbie promises the Kens a place in their 'government' at the very least, reflecting on the small efforts made by the government in real life to establish gender equality.

Another aspect of femininity Barbie has shown is the fact that female do not need to be in a relationship in order to maintain emotional stability. In the movie, Barbie decided to break it off with Ken and go their separate ways. This challenges stereotypical story-lines as the female characters usually end up with a happy relationship.





with the male characters
as their happily ever after.
This spreads the message
that girls do not in
fact need to be
happily married or
be in a relationship in
order to fit into society's
image of stability and perfection, but
on the other hand, girls can be single and
independent and still be happy.

In conclusion, the movie Barbie
challenges stereotypes in society in
the aspect of feminism, encouraging
girls to follow their dreams, opposing
to society's
expectations.

More Exemplary Work

Group task — News article on ‘Out, Out — ’ poem

Margaret Ho, Athena Cheung, Bernice Leung, Hillary Tong 4A (2023 – 2024)

4A08 Margaret Ho,
4A05 Athena Cheung,
4A19 Bernice Leung,
4A29 Hillary Tong

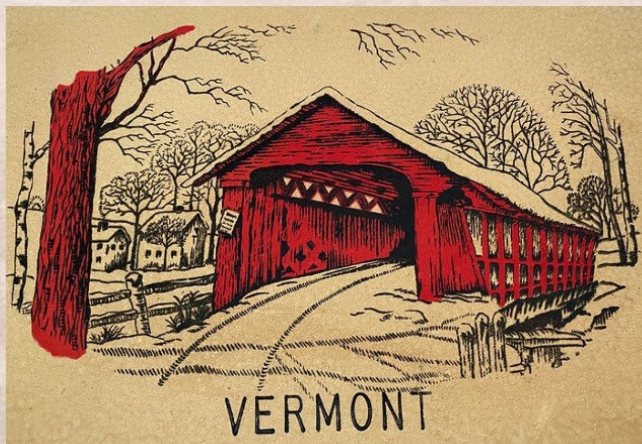
The Vermont Times

Vermont, Thursday, April 20, 1916

50 cents

A LIFE TO SPARE?

10 YEAR-OLD-BOY LOSES HAND AND LIFE IN TRAGIC WORKPLACE
ACCIDENT LAST EVENING



A DRAWING MADE NEARBY VERMONT LUMBER CAMP

JUST ANOTHER NORMAL DAY IN THE VERMONT... OR IS IT?

A 10-year-old boy (whose name was not disclosed) had lost his life in an accident with a buzz saw at around 6:30p.m. last evening. Doctors assume he lost control or was distracted, leading to the rotating blade meeting his arm. They claimed that there was a deep cut right at the forearm of the boy and was uncontrollably bleeding. He died an unexpected death under anesthesia during the surgical attempt to properly amputate his arm. The surgeon claims it was due to serve blood loss, and there was little to nothing he could do to save him.

The family has requested privacy during its time of grievance, and they have decided to not press charges against anyone, quoting "the lawsuit would simply be too expensive for us to afford". 8 similar incidents have though been recorded in the past in this family, raising awareness across the state as citizens question the working conditions on the family farm.

OWNER OF THE FACTORY
CLAIMS THE COMPANY
WILL NOT BE TAKING
RESPONSIBILITY OVER THE
ACCIDENT

"Accidents happen all the time. It comes unexpected and nobody has control over when or how it will happen. Our company already provides all the equipments for our workers and also pays their income on time, why should we be responsible for monitoring their personal safety as well? Besides, all workers had agreed to contracts which clearly state that the company will not be held responsible for any accidents "



PICTURE OF THE BOY INVOLVED IN
THE ACCIDENT, TAKEN IN 1914

The Vermont Times

Doctors and concerned citizens alike are pushing for more safety regulations regarding saws and any potentially dangerous mechanical tools, and have advised caretakers and guardians to 'keep a close eye on your children while they are handling such tools'.

Some mechanics and woodworkers are also voicing their thoughts on this, with a majority of them agreeing that the manufacturers of such power tools should 'prioritize the safety of the handler', and to 'research ways to jam the razor when hands are detected somehow'.

WHY CHILD LABOUR SHOULD BE BANNED, ACCORDING TO A CERTAIN FEW

Actually, opinions regarding this specific topic are mixed. child labour has become increasingly popular in the rural side of New England due to its low prices. Poverty in New England is nothing new, hence families usually encourage their children to work for extra income instead of providing them proper education. However, the work children receive is usually unsuitable for them since it requires a high amount of physical labor and is located in a harsh working environment. These conditions are anything but acceptable for children as they could easily get into accidents like this. Hence, some people say child labour should be banned as soon as possible in order to prevent any further accidents from happening.

Some people are not against child labor, stating that 'if they're going to waste their time studying or whatever shenanigans, they might as well help around and aid in putting food on the table. They're living under this roof, they gotta work for it'. This causes a mix of opinions within the community, and discussions are heated, with some criticizing it, calling it 'inhumane' and 'cruel', yet some simply see it as 'resourceful' and 'a good learning experience'.

DOCTOR SAYS...

"Things like this happens all the time nowadays, this is just one of the more serious situations. This whole child labour thing is like the survival of the fittest. If you're lucky to come out fine by the end of the day, you get to work for another . The odds of him making it was slim anyways, he died shortly after I arrived to the scene, around 20 minutes I believe."



SISTER...

"I'm kinda glad honestly, more food to go around! This lil' fella eats like a revenous wolf when it comes to supper, there's barely anything left for the rest of us! Besides, he's my 8th brother who died this way..."



COWORKER...

"Sorry but... who? I honestly never realised we even had such a young kid in our workplace... I'm usually just preoccupied with the task at hand. None of us really cared about these accidents anyways, as long as we're not the ones involved... but thinkin' about it, that's just messed up, innit?"

St. Paul's Convent School (Secondary Section)
Department of English Language and English Literature
2024—2025