



Book & Film Reviews (First Term)



2008-2009

Winners of English Extensive Reading Scheme Award



Class	Name of students
S1 FAITH	LAU KA KING ANTHONY
S1 HOPE	LEE HO MING
S1 CHARITY	CHAN KA LAI
S1 JUSTICE	CHAN CHUNG YUNG HUGO
S1 WISDOM	CHAN HAM CHEUNG
S1 COURAGE	YEUNG JIMMY
S2 FAITH	CHAN HO TUNG
S2 HOPE	LI HOK CHUNG
S2 CHARITY	CHEUNG CHUN YIN FELIX
S2 JUSTICE	YUEN SING CHUN SCOTT
S2 WISDOM	NG KWAN TAT
S2 COURAGE	CHIU KA YIN
S3 FAITH	LAI KO TING
S3 HOPE	KWAN WAI CHUN
S3 CHARITY	CHAN SIU CHEUNG
S3 JUSTICE	LEI IO FAI
S3 WISDOM	SHIH HOI LIK

Class	Name of students
S4 FAITH	AU WAI CHING
S4 HOPE	HO CHI SHUN
S4 HOPE	WINSON TANG
S4 CHARITY	WONG MAN HEI
S4 JUSTICE	WONG KIN FAI
S4 WISDOM	CHU KIU SUM SAM
S5 FAITH	YIM LONG HO
S5 HOPE	LEUNG KA FUNG
S5 CHARITY	SHUM PAK LIM
S5 JUSTICE	LO YUET CHEUNG
S5 WISDOM	WAN HO MAN CHRIS
S6 FAITH	LAM CHUN WING
S6 HOPE	WONG CHUN SHING
S6 WISDOM	HUNG LOK TIN
S7 FAITH	CHOY SIN TUNG
S7 HOPE	WONG TSZ HO
S7 WISDOM	TO YUK SHAN

Contents

Title of the Book/ Film	Class	Page no.
Book Review from our Vice Principal		2
Giant Jim and the Hurricane	1 Charity	3
Four Great Cities	1 Justice	4
Where is Tots hiking	1 Courage	5
Ali and his camera	2 Faith	6
The Giraffe, The Pelly and Me	2 Faith	7
April in Moscow	2 Норе	8
Peter Pan	2 Charity	9
Matilda	3 Faith	10
Matilda	3 Faith	11
Matilda	3 Charity	212
Matilda	3 Justice	13
A Christmas Carol	4 Faith	14
A Christmas Carol	4 Faith	15
A Christmas Carol	4 Charity	16
A Christmas Carol	4 Justice	17
Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus	4 Wisdom	18
Spiderman	5 Faith	19
The Sound of Music	5 Wisdom	21
Journey to the Center of the Earth	5 Wisdom	22
Click	5 Wisdom	23
Tell Me How	6 Faith	25
Walkabout	6 Норе	27

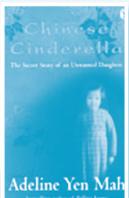


Book Sharing Mr. K. Y. Wu Vice Principal



Name of the Book: Chinese Cinderella-The Secret Story of an Unwanted Daughter

Author: Adeline Yen Mah



Chinese Cinderella is an autobiography of an unwanted daughter, Adeline Yen Mah. She wrote this moving story about her childhood while in her fifties. Adeline's mother died shortly after her birth due to complications brought on by the delivery and, in Chinese culture, this marked Adeline as bad luck. This situation was compounded by her father's new marriage to a lady who had little affection for her husband's five children. In the book, Adeline writes about what a busy and

traumatic life she has had through her years and her struggle to find a place where she felt she belonged. In spite of her poor childhood, Adeline immersed herself in striving for academic achievement in the hope of not only winning favor, but also for her own rewards, as she found great pleasure in scholarly success.

I respect Adeline for her incredible amount of hope and dedication, no matter how many setbacks she has experienced. Throughout the book, I can find so much faith, hope and inspiration. The message of Adeline's story can best be outlined by the aphorism of Mr. S. Anderson, a famous American writer:

Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved Name: Chan Ka Lai

Class: 1 Charity

Book Title: Giant Jim and

the Hurricane

Author: Jeremy Strong



Giant Jim was the main character of the story. He looked like a baby and he was handsome. The story happened in one morning. A man woke up and he opened the curtain. He saw a giant outside unexpectedly and was terrified. That was Giant Jim! Giant Jim was so relaxed although everyone ran away from him.

A policeman went by and saw it. The police then used the handcuffs to catch him. But Giant Jim's hands were so big that the police could only get the finger tips. Giant Jim felt pain and cried. The tears made a pond and the water got deeper and deeper. The people took out their swimming suits and started swimming around, splashing the water.

Actually all the people felt that Giant Jim was really sad and they proposed to the policeman that he could let him go. Finally, the policeman freed the giant.



Name: Hugo Chan Class: 1 Justice

Book Title: Four Great Cities

Author: Margaret Lysecki



I would like to share with you a book that I read. I found this book in the school library. It is called "Four Great Cities", and it was written by Margaret Lysecki. The book tells us the history, transport, weather and other things about four great cities. The cities are New York, London, Toronto and Sydney.

I think my favourite city is London. It is because the buildings look very interesting. Also, the weather is often wet and cloudy, so many people will bring an umbrella when they go out. Another thing I learned was about transportation in London. The funny thing is all the buses are red. It is the only place in the world to have buses like this.

To sum up, I have learnt many things about these four cities. Each city looked interesting in its own way, and the book was filled with fun facts about each one. I hope I can visit these cities some day.

Name: Wong Kai Yin Timmy

Class: 1 Courage

Book Title: Where is Tots hiking

Author: Miranda Breding







Name: Julian Cheung

Class: 2 Faith

Book Title: Ali and his camera

Author: Raymond Pizante



This is a kind of drama story, which is about Ali who lives in Istanbul, the largest city in Turkey. Ali wants to have a camera but he doesn't have money to buy one. Then Ali has an idea of going to the market to earn money every day after school.

What he does in the market? He carries bags for the people in the market. Sometimes people will give him some fruits or a little money. He never spends the money he earns. He keeps it in his pocket. One afternoon, Ali carries a bag for an old man. Suddenly a man pulls the bag and runs off. The man hits him, he falls down and drops all his saving from his pocket. The man quickly takes Ali's money and runs away. Ali does not feel disappointed and he works even harder.

One afternoon, Ali helps the old woman to carry two heavy bags to a place which is far away from the market. The old woman knows that he wants a camera so she gives a camera of his son to him. After getting the camera, Ali keeps on taking photos. But not all the photos are perfect, he quickly goes to a professional photographer, Selim to learn the skills. Ali works hard and learns with faith. Finally, he becomes a news photographer.

I think Ali is a hardworking person because he didn't give up when his savings were stolen and he even worked harder than before. He worked and learned with his faith. I feel encouraged after reading this book. I learned how to be hardworking and studious from his experiences. This is a great book to show us the way to become successful!

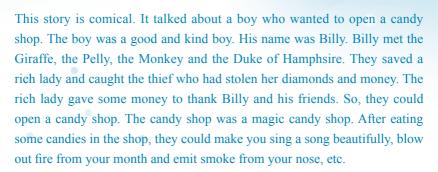
Name: Lai Sin Heng

Class: 2 Faith

Book Title: The Giraffe,

The Pelly and Me

Author: Roald Dahl



I want to describe one of the characters, Billy. Billy was a good boy, and that made him very lucky and people liked him very much. He also had a lot of friends because he was kind. I like him very much and I want to be his friend, too. I want to talk to him and eat his magic candies.

After reading this book, I felt happy and satisfied. I loved the happy ending because I enjoy happy things, e.g. books, friends, TV and activities. Also, I was happy because the story was interesting. There were magic candies and the rich lady sang a lovely song:

'My diamonds are over the ocean,

My diamonds are over the sea,

My diamonds were pinched from my bedroom,

Oh, bring back my diamonds to me'

I loved this song. It was full of imagination.

I felt satisfied because this book is difficult but I learnt so many new words! So when I could finish it, I felt that I had just taken a big step in reading.



Name: Li Hok Chung

Class: 2 Hope

Book Title: April in Moscow

Author: Stephen Rabley



Beginning:

April Fox was a dancer. She was very excited when the dance company she worked for was inviting her to visit Moscow and dance there.

Middle:

When she arrived there, she wanted to visit places she wanted to see. The next day after dinner, she watched the Russian dancers dancing. The day after, she went to a market and made a friend named Nikolai. They went to the countryside. They had a wonderful moment in the place and they missed each other. After April had finished the dance, she left Moscow on the last day.

Ending

Suddenly Nikolai arrived at the airport and gave April a parcel and a letter. Nikolai said that he wanted to come and see April in England because he had already fallen in love with her, and April agreed to it.

Name: Tommy Chan Ka Hei

Class: 2 Charity

Book Title: Peter Pan Author: J.M. Barrie



A letter to the author

Dear MR. Barrie,

After reading your story, I would like to write a letter to you. You have divided the story into seven parts, which helped us to read more easily because every part was short. In this book, I can see there are lots of interesting pictures so I didn't feel bored when I was reading. It is so well written that it made me enjoy reading. I like the character Wendy most. She is a nice girl. She cooks and sews for everyone. She also tells beautiful bedtime stories to make the boy happy. She lets me know if I want to be a useful boy, I must be hardworking and read more books.

Best, Tommy



Name: Lai Ko Ting

Class: 3 Faith

Book Title: Matilda

Author: Roald Dahl



Have you ever heard of Roald Dahl? He is a very famous writer, and one of his most popular books is called "Matilda".

"Matilda" is a story about a gifted little girl who was very clever and even had super-powers, but she had an uncaring family with lousy parents and a harsh brother. She begged to go to school but the whole family loved watching TV more than anything – even school. But fortunately, Matilda had the opportunity to go to school, and she had all kinds of different adventures in the mysterious new school with her kind teacher, Miss Honey, and her students against the strong and hulking Miss Trunchbull!

This is a very touching story. It gives a very successful example of how people succeed by not giving up. In the end of the story, how the students team up against Miss Trunchbull and how Matilda gives up her family and chooses to live and learn with the kind and caring Miss Honey was exactly the point of which the story wanted to bring out.

I would definitely recommend this story to all readers. It's a must-read story!

Name: He Shen Jun

Class: 3 Faith

Book Title: Matilda Author: Roald Dahl



I have read a book called 'Matilda' and I thought it was so cool because the main character of this book, Matilda, is someone who could move things with her eyes. It is a story about the Wormwood's family. Matilda's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wormwood, are kind of rude parents. They don't even care about how their daughter's school life is. Things they often do are sitting in front of the TV and watching sport games. What's more, Mr. Wormwood bought stolen cars, painted them a different color and changed their numbers, and then he sold them to his customers. How dishonest he is!

Miss Trunchbull is the Head teacher in Matilda's school. She hates small people and treats students badly. She also took Miss Honey's house and money unreasonably. Finally, she left the town and returned all the things to Miss Honey with Matilda's help.

After reading this story, I learned that we should always be nice to everything, be it the tiny grass or a flying bug because bad things usually happen on people that do bad things.

Thanks for reading my book review.



Name: Chan Siu Cheung

Class: 3 Charity

Book Title: Matilda

Author: Roald Dahl



The book I have read is Matilda. The author is Roald Dahl. Matilda is a fantasy story about a girl called Matilda who discovers that she has a remarkable power. Her parents think she's a nuisance; she escapes into the wonderful world of books.

The main character is Matilda. Matilda is clever but naive. In addition, she has mysterious power to control many things. The story is about how she helps her teacher to get back her house. It is a very well-written story. I liked this plot as it was very interesting. It made me laugh a lot. After reading it, I wanted to have this mysterious power too.

After reading the story, it made me think bullying is wrong. I think if I bully the others, I will be punished. Thus, I will never bully other people. I'll recommend this book to junior forms due to the language is easy to understand and the illustrations are beautiful.

Name: Ho Ka San Class: 3 Justice Book Title: Matilda

Author: Roald Dahl



Today I would like to introduce my favourite book to you. The book I have read is called Matilda. The author is Roald Dahl. It is a fantasy story.

The story is about a girl called Matilda, who discovers that she has a remarkable power. With parents who think she is a nuisance, she escapes into the wonderful world of books

It is a very amazing story. I like the plot because it is very interesting and can make me happy! I think the story is very meaningful because Matilda's father is a very cunning salesman. After Matilda's parents and brother escape the police by moving to Guam, Miss Honey adopts Matilda. Then Matilda has a happy life.

I like this story because Matilda has a strong sense of justice. It is because when her father wants to cheat his customers, Matilda would play a trick on him. After reading the story, I learnt that it is very important to be honest. I hate dishonest people like Matilda's father and brother.

I will recommend this book to other people because the story is amazing and meaningful.



Name: Ng Ka Chun Eric

Class: 4 Faith

Book Title: A Christmas Carol

Author: Charles Dickens



Summary:

This book is called 'A Christmas Carol'. It was written by Charles Dickens. This book talks about a man called Ebenezer Scrooge; he was a rich merchant but very selfish. On Christmas Eve, he saw some ghosts. They were his partner Marley, and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. Then he changed his attitude.

Post-reading Response:

I think this book is good. This book talks about a selfish man who changes his attitude after knowing his destiny. This is because he knows that although he is rich and is highly successful in his business, he cannot get any friends.

The ghost of Christmas Present takes him to check out how his clerk named Bob lives with his family. Scrooge knows that even though they are poor, their hearts are rich because they can live with their family.

I think the plot of this story has a very good meaning. It is that friends and family are more important than being rich. It is good to let students learn this meaning. That's why I suggest all of you should read this book.

Name: Leung Jairus Mark Ramirez

Class: 4 Faith

Book Title: A Christmas Carol

Author: Charles Dickens



Summary:

This story is about a miser called Ebenezer. He was a selfish man and he never donated money to help people. Ebenezer did not like Christmas and he thought that it was a humbug. One day, some ghosts visited him and they brought him to the past, present and future to know what he had been and let him know that some people although not rich, live happily. At last Ebenezer became a better man and lived happily.

Post reading response:

I highly recommend this book to you all because it makes me know we cannot be selfish in our daily life. We must help people nearby when they need help. We can go to a charity and donate money. We are full of happiness in our life but some of the people are poor and ill. We must do our best to help them. Also, I know that people sometimes do many wrong things. If we rectify the problems, we will be glad. This book is interesting and there are many pictures that let us know the contents of the book easily.



Name: Wong Ling Min

Class: 4 Charity

Book Title: A Christmas Carol

Author: Charles Dickens



The book I have read is called A Christmas Carol. The name of the author is Charles Dickens. A Christmas Carol is an educational story.

The story is about a rich man called Scrooge who didn't like Christmas and people.

The story happened at Christmas. The main character is Scrooge. He was very rich and clever. He didn't like Christmas and people. Also, he wouldn't give a helping hand to others. Then he met three ghosts of the past, present and future. After that, he became a kind and nice man.

I think it is a good story. I liked this story since the author described the three ghosts like the real ones and made me feel frightened. I want to meet the three ghosts because they can make me treasure my life and make me become hard-working.

After reading the story, I think we can't just care for money. Moreover, we need to help some people who need help. We can't be mean. Also, it tells me what the truth is because many people just care for money.

I will recommend this book to others because the story is very exciting and I think if you have read this book, you will be interested in the English language and learn more new words from this book.

Name: Wong Kin Fai

Class: 4 Justice

Book Title: A Christmas Carol

Author: Charles Dickens



Recently, I have read a book called "A Christmas Carol" which is well-known and widely read by people all over the world. Do you know why this book is so popular?

Charles Dickens, the author of "A Christmas Carol" wrote the book in 1843. The story happened around Christmas time. It was about the life change of a miser called Ebenezer Scrooge. He was a very selfish man, but some ghosts visited him, and he became a better man.

I will recommend this book to my friends because its use of language is simple and easy to understand. I have learnt many new words and grammar items from this book. There are also many beautiful and colourful pictures in it. When you read this book, you will not feel bored. I am sure it is suitable for teenagers to read.

In fact, the story is inspiring and it taught me a lot about the importance of love, charity and human relationships. From the story, I realize that a bad person can become good if he or she has faith and courage. Do you want to be good? If so, you have to change your bad personality and behaviors from now on.

For me, I want to get good grades in the coming exams. I believe if I can read more books and do more exercises, I can be an outstanding student. Thus, it is necessary for me to change my study habits. I should no longer be a lazy and irresponsible student any more. Do you also need changes for a better future?

To sum up, reading this book is meaningful and interesting. I hope everyone will enjoy reading this book and find the true meaning of life.



Name: William Chan Cheuk Yin

Class: 4 Wisdom

Book Title: Men are from Mars,

Women are from Venus

Author: John Gray





What have you done recently? Going out with friends? Have you ever encountered any difficulties dealing with female friends? I've read a fabulous book, it's called' Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus' written by John Gray. The title of the book seems complicated, However, it is a wonderful book.

Studying in a boys' school for nearly four years, I always ask why we argue with our female friends more often than our male friends? This book may give you some useful and professional suggestions to fix the problem. It seems easy but you'll find it difficult to act it out. For example, if your girl friend has some problems, what are you going to do next? Most of you, like the people mentioned in the book, will try to work for some possible answers. You are going to find a solution to the problem and thus you think you can help her. If this is really what you think, you do need to listen to the professional advice from the writer of this book.

Surprisingly, the solution to the problem is not the answer your angel expects; all they need is just a little encouragement and consolation. Don't fix the problems but just be a good listener. Remember, women are from Venus. They request emotional support rather than rational advice. Men often get confused, some of them are considerate but they still come to a situation of misunderstanding. It was due to the fact that men and women come from different planets. As the saying goes,' the more you know, more victory you get'. If you do want to succeed in dating or become more sociable. Rush to book store and check out this book.

Name: Yim Long Ho

Class: 5 Faith

Title of the film: Spiderman

Director: Sam Raimi



'With great power comes great responsibility' is the spirit of this action, science fiction film. Spiderman, which enticed me to sit in a cinema for over 200 minutes. It was nominated for two Academy Awards: Best Sound and Best Visual



Effects. Indeed, this movie was also a box-office smash hit when it was shown in Hong Kong.

Spiderman was made in 2002 by Columbia Pictures and was rated 4 out of 5 stars by www.amazon.com. It tells the story of a young man called Peter Parker who becomes a superhero with superhuman strength after being bitten by a runaway, genetically altered spider in a laboratory.

With his superhuman strength, he tries to gain money from a wrestling match to impress the girl he adores, Mary Jane. However, the organizer of the match refuses to pay him the money that was promised. So, in order to take revenge, he allows a burglar to rob the organizer and escape from the crime scene. Tragically, the same burglar kills his beloved uncle. Peter regrets what he has done and vows to use his power to fight crime. This movie is about how he fights the evil Green Goblin and how hard he tries to win the heart of Mary Jane.



There are two scenes in the movie that have struck me most. The first is the turning point when Peter Parker is transformed from a shy, hesitant young man who is bullied by his peers into a hero with superhuman strength. His ability to spin web, to crawl on walls and swing from one building to another amazes me. I found it extremely exciting to watch him play around with his silk and save people from danger. The next scene that most appealed to me is the critical moment when Peter tries to use his extra-ordinary power to make money to impress Mary Jane. However, instead of gaining lots of money, his decision indirectly causes the death of his beloved uncle. Feeling remorseful and guilt-ridden, Peter recalls the words of Uncle Ben: 'With great power comes great responsibility'. He takes it to heart and swears to use his superhuman strength to fight crime as Spiderman. Indeed, the death of his beloved uncle changes him from being a materialistic youth into a selfless hero.

In my opinion, 'With great power comes great responsibility' is equivalent to accountability. Some people in our world have supreme power over an institution, a city or even a country. I think those powerful leaders should use their power to make every decision sensibly and carefully for the benefit of everyone. Power should not be abused, or else people will suffer.

Although great power comes with great responsibility, does it mean people with little power carry less responsibility? Everybody has their part in society and must be accountable for their actions. If each person uses his power wisely and cautiously, fairness and harmony will certainly be maintained in the world.

I strongly recommend this thought provoking and inspiring movie to my peers. I am sure my friends will enjoy this action-packed film since it contains lots of impressive stunts and amazing computer-generated visual effects. Moreover, the acting of Tobey Maguire (Peter Parker) is just superb. No wonder this film was a box-office blockbuster. It is very much worth seeing.

Name: Winston Mak

Class: 5 Wisdom

Title of the film: The Sound of Music

Director: Robert Wise



A personal profile of the character

As you all know, "The Sound of Music" is a very well-known movie indeed and it is a legend of the film industry. Maria, the main character in the musical, came across difficulties that inspire people to face and solve problems as she did in the story.

About Maria, "If you want to find Maria, I suggest you go to some place unusual" said Mother Reverend. Maria, who loves singing songs in praise of God's creation, is a faithful assent in the abbey. Mother Reverend sent Maria to the family of a captain with seven children, so that Maria could discover herself. With her unconditional love and endurance, Maria made the family accept her and be friendly to her.

The incident had affected not only Maria but also the captain and seven children. Maria found her own way and lover and eventually a happy family. Besides, the serious widowed captain and the seven children got back the true love and mother's love from Maria. The problem is changed into luck, joy and happiness.

I have some advice for Maria. True love is the gift from God and she should accept it without suspicion. "It's God's will." said Mother Reverend. Finally, it was good to see her marrying the captain.

The main idea of the movie is that "With faith, you can climb every mountain, follow every stream, climb every rainbow, till you find your dream."



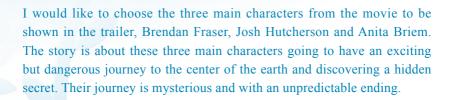
Name: Chris Wan Class: 5 Wisdom

Title of the film: Journey to the

Center of the Earth

Director: Eric Brevig

Journey to the Center of the Earth is one of my favourite films this year. This is an adventure and science fiction movie directed by Eric Brevig.



The trailer would be attractive and can draw public attention. First, I would choose a scene in which the characters enter the fungi forest and found many special plants. Secondly, I would like to choose a scene in which they fought with so many ferocious and huge fish. Thirdly, I would like to choose a scene in which a cruel dinosaur was chasing them. These three scenes are the most capitivating and enticing because they can stimulate your five senses.

I am going to add some sound effects and special effects in the trailer. The explosions and screams sounds would be amplified. The echoes will be made eerie to give a mysterious feeling and to make it more realistic. Moreover, I will include the computer generated images and special lighting.





Name: Wilson Lo Class: 5 Wisdom

Title of the film: Click Director: Frank Coraci



"Click" was directed by Frank Coraci. This film is a family comedy, and science fiction. Michael Newman experiences everything under the influence of time controlled by a remote control. If I were him, I would learn a lot through the experience.

One day, Michael got a remote control which could control time, He used it to fast-forward lots of things he didn't like such as taking a bath and going through rough



traffic. And through the process he found out that the remote could help us anticipate all of the things. The remote began to fast-forward things he would want to fast-forward himself. The first scene is the first time Michael met Morty and when Morty gave him the remote. I chose this



scene because it's funny and it's the crisis of Michael's life. All of things begin to be different from the past.

The second scene is when the remote was fastforwarded to 2023, and he found out that his dad had



died in 2021. He fast forwarded his father's death. He began to know he spent less time with his family especially after his father's death.



The third scene is in 2030, when Michael falls ill and is hospitalized.

When his son visited him, he knew his son was a workaholic like him. He wanted to see that his son would put family in the first place. Then, Michael ran out of the hospital and he died. This is the only scene that makes me cry and make me think about the relationship with my family.

'Click' was an entertaining movie. When Michael used the remote to pause, he could do anything he wanted without others noticing it. He tried to hit his boss's face when he paused. There are many such funny moments in the film that keeps you laughing all the way.

I think I take my family too much for granted. We don't value things or people when we have them. It's only when we lose them that we get to realize the loss. Frank Coraci has cleverly put this message across in an interesting way. The film teaches us valuable lessons on priorities in life.

Name: Cheung Ka Ki

Class: 6 Faith

Book Title: Tell Me How Author: John Hopkins



Tell Me How consists of hundreds of questions and answers, which can help students with their schoolwork. It is a useful reference book for Hong Kong students, especially those who are sitting for the AL examinations as well as those who are interested in Natural Science.

There are six sections in this book, namely The Human Body, The Natural World, Science and Technology, Earth and Space, The Prehistoric World and Historical Times. This report focuses upon two sections which I think are quite fascinating – The Human Body and The Prehistoric World.

In the section on the Human Body, it tells us how our body works and some interesting facts about human body. It talks about, to name but a few, growth, ageing, muscles and the immune system. The intriguing part of this section is about the growing rate of our hair. The rate at which hair grows is found to be about 1.5 cm a month. What is more, between 10 and 11am the speed of growth is at its greatest. Also, some seemingly inexplicable phenomena of various facets of human body have been explained explicitly and thoroughly in this section. For instance, the secret of our skin color. A great many thinks that there isn't any explanation to tell us why our skin color is the way it is, but the secret lies in the tissues of the skin where there are certain color bases called chromogen, which are colorless themselves. When certain ferment or enzymes act on these color bases, a definite skin color is the result. In each of the topics, there is a part called Fact File. It gives us extra information about the related topic. The adrenal gland is a case in point, below the topic—how do kidney machines work, there is an



additional fact file that introduces how the adrenal glands are attached to the kidneys. The glands help create energy which stimulates the body to prepare it for instant action. Any extreme sport or violent activity, such as ski jumping would cause a sudden rush of adrenalin.

In the subject Prehistoric World, it mainly depicts the prehistoric animals, such as dinosaurs. In addition, it talks about the evolution of humans and fish. This kind of information is something we seldom receive from the public or textbooks unless there is a sudden furor or a popular movie about these topics. Therefore, this section is more appealing than other topics. According to the book, dinosaurs, which are extinct, were reptiles that evolved into the most varied kinds of living creatures. They ranged from tiny bird-like animals to monstrous beasts that were the largest animals to ever live on land. The main thing that distinguishes dinosaurs from other reptiles is the way their body is supported by their legs. However, as dinosaurs multiplied, they became more diverse. Among them were mammal-like reptiles called the synapsids. One of these, Dimetrodon, had a sail-like structure on its back. The sail may have helped control the body temperature. By turning the sail to face the Sun, these cold-blooded reptiles could absorb heat. Other details are about their size, eating habits, diversity and habitats.

I would describe this book as a pocket-sized encyclopedia. The content is suitable to people from all walks of life since there are not many technical terms in it and the concepts are not complicated, but rather easy to comprehend. Also, it helps students to apply their knowledge learned from textbooks to daily life. In addition, the vivid pictures give rise to better understanding and clearer portrayal of the facts.

Name: Samuel Lee

Class: 6 Hope

Book Title: Walkabout

Author: James Vance Marshall



Summary:

The two main characters of this novel are Mary and her younger brother Peter; they are the only survivors of an air crash in the middle of the Australian desert. They are facing death from exhaustion and starvation when they meet an Aboriginal boy who helps them to survive, and guides them on their long journey. But the inevitable clash of cultures leads to a tragic misunderstanding, which causes the boy's death.

Post Reading Response:

Walkabout by James Vance Marshall, is an exciting book that takes the reader on a journey through the Australian Outback as Mary and Peter, survivors of a plane crash, struggle to find their way to Adelaide. Marshall provides the reader with vivid descriptive passages that make the journey feel believable. With great attention to detail, he describes native insects, birds, and animals that the children meet and watch along the way. When they meet a young Aborigine on a traditional walkabout, they believe their prayers have been answered. Peter responds to the boy with friendship and curiosity. Mary is more reserved, at first suspicious, wary and afraid. The reader watches Mary comes to terms with her feelings of racial and cultural superiority and here lies the power of the novel. As Mary comes to understand another culture, she steps out of herself, her fears, and the blinders her own culture has placed over her eyes. Although appropriate for middle school readers, the novel refers to the nudity of the Aboriginal boy, about which students often feel uncomfortable. With this caveat, I



recommend the work for the beauty of its descriptions, and for the depth of its message.

From my point of view, I found this book really interesting and awesome, although there were some difficult parts to understand like the "seizure" of the Aboriginal boy. All in all, it was a very good read and it keeps a sad atmosphere too. One of my reasons that I like this book is it tells about the Aboriginal culture, including all of the descriptions he gave of the Australian scenery and the suspense about what will happen to Peter and Mary keeps you reading the book, even if you don't find the plot fascinating.

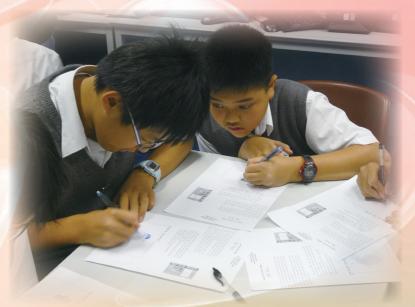
In addition, it shows the understanding between two different types of people. I believe understanding others is quite important nowadays. Fighting among a group of people won't give you anything. In fact, everyone is equal as this book tells us there should not be any racism in people for others. Another thing I liked about this book is the plots that the author scaffolded leave readers room for imagination and entice them to get more involved in what is going on. I also think my writing skills have improved as I learnt a wealth of vocabulary and structures from this book.

Nevertheless, I was a bit disappointed with the book because I expected it to be much more exciting than it really was. I also was a bit frustrated with the ending, as you have to make assumptions and imagine what will happen next.

Book Club Activities 2008-2009 Book Sharing



The chairman is sharing a book extract with the members



Let me see what you are drawing!

Book Fair 2008-2009

