



St. Joan of Arc Secondary School

Address: 55 Braemar Hill Road, North Point, Hong Kong
<http://www.sja.edu.hk>

Title: _____
Author: _____
Name: _____ Class: _____ No.: _____

Summary

Book & Film Reviews (Second Term)

Personal Response

2007-2008



Winners of English Extensive Reading Scheme Award Second Term 2007-2008

S1



Class	Name of Students
1Fa	Lok Ho Fai
1Ho	Cheung Hei Chun
1Ch	Poon Shing Fung
1Ju	Yim Ho Ching
1Wi	Chan Ka Hei
1Co	Kang Chun Yin

S2

Class	Name of Students
2Fa	Lai Ko Ting
2Ho	To Chun Kit
2Ch	Matsuoka Tatsuki
2Ju	Lau Chun Hei
2Wi	Cheung Long Hei
2Co	Wong Yuen Yat



S3



Class	Name of Students
3Fa	Chu Kiu Sum
3Ho	Lo Hon Sze
3Ch	Leung Jairus Mark Ramirez
3Ju	Chan Chun Wa
3Ju (Split)	Chan Yui Him
3Wi	Richard Chu

S4

Class	Name of Students
4Fa	Yim Long Ho
4Ho	Ng Tsz Chun
4Ch	Cheng Yuen Chak
4Ch (Split)	Peter Cheung
4Ju	Lo Yuet Cheung
4Wi	Kwan Chun Yiu



A Message from our Principal



Cultivating a lifetime reading habit

If reading is not yet a habit of yours, there are many ways to cultivate it. Here are some of my suggestions.

Establish a daily reading pattern. When the pattern is developed, read no matter what happens. For example, make it a habit to read when you are having your breakfast, when you are traveling to school, or before you go to bed.

Make reading enjoyable. Choose books that really interest you and keep you going. Start with books that you really want to read. After you have cultivated a reading habit, you can move on to more difficult books.

Always bring a book with you. Wherever you go, whatever you do, whoever you meet, bring a book with you. Books can be your best companion when you are queuing for a bus, when you are waiting for your friends or when you are in a fast food shop. This is a great way to kill time.

Realize that reading is an interactive process between the author and the reader. Imagination, emotions, experiences, memories of related topics will also be generated. Sometimes we are moved. Sometimes our beliefs are influenced. This is the power of reading. Reading breaks through racial, cultural, gender, economical and psychological boundaries of human beings.

Lau Pak Ling
Principal



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Book Club Activities	Inside of the Back Cover
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Morning Reading Scheme
School-Parent Partnership English Book Report Competition 2007-2008
(Sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Association)

Objective:

To promote reading culture at home in the hope of establishing a better communication between parents and children

Requirement:

The selected book for joining this competition must be recommended by his/her parents.

Adjudicators

Members from SJA Parent-Teacher Association



Book/Film Title

Name: Winston Mak

Class: 4 Wisdom

Title: Tess of the d' Urbervilles

Author: Thomas Hardy

“Angel, do you believe we will meet again after death?” He did not answer but kissed her instead. Then, Tess cried with tears in her eyes and the tears sparkled between her eyelashes after falling asleep...

Tess was waiting for the last justice of death. The sun rose behind Stonehenge, bathing it with golden yellow light.

Why did a pitiful chaste lady die for a hateful man of baseness? How could a poor little lady survive in a big world full of dishonest people? All these questions are about a lady called Tess, who struggles between the feelings of Angel and Alec. Unfortunately, the tragedy happened.

In the last few years of nineteenth century, an exceptional beauty, Tess, was born in the village of Marlott. She was the eldest sister in her family. Her father, called Mr.

Stoke- Durbeyfields was distantly related to a noble family- d' Urbervilles. Being down trodden at that time,

Tess went there and worked for Mrs d' Urbervilles in order to relieve her family's financial burden. Mrs d' Urbervilles had a son called Alec. Because of Tess's charming, gorgeous, beautiful features, she was seduced (or raped) by Alec in The Chase.

Luckily, she returned to her family and told her mother about her miserable fortune. She became pregnant and soon gave birth to a baby which died a week later. The death of her child changed her from a simple girl to a complex woman.

Her family moved to the place of her choice since Tess had had a wretched life at Vale of Blackmoor, where the d' Urbervilles lived. Tess longed for a new life and to alleviate her pain. She found a job in a Talbthays Dairy. Then, she met a gentle quiet young man, Angel, a son of a canonry. And their love blossomed and they planned to be married. While they stayed at their new house for the honeymoon, they discussed their past. Although they wanted to let bygones be bygones, Angel didn't feel comfortable



after hearing Tess' past and decided to go to Brazil.

While she was waiting for her husband Angel, Tess came across her cousin, Alec, and fell in love with him. When Angel went back to Talbthays Dairy, he wished that Tess would forgive him. He did not leave her alone like before, but it was too late and things were exacerbated.

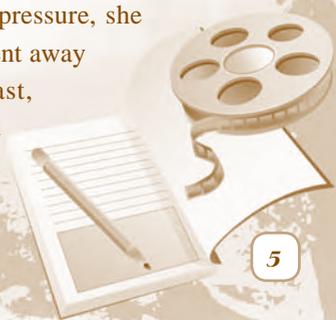
Being pressured with hate and regret, Tess killed Alec and eloped with Angel to the Stonehenge. Tess was set by the heels and put to death.

The story came to an end when Angel and his sister-in-law, Tess's sister, Liza-Lu walked hand-in-hand, their heads bent with sorrow and knelt on the ground as if in prayer in front of Tess's tomb. They remained there for a long time. Then, they rose, joined hands again and went on.

The author of this book, Thomas Hardy, is one of my favourite novelists. I like him not only because his dramatic, fantastic, romantic stories are so splendidly organized, but also there are some moralities that permeate in the whole story. And I love the way he tells every chapter of the story. He uses many graceful words to describe the landscape in the story. I am most impressed with his style of writing.

After hearing Tess' unfortunate times, we know that her personality changed from

a lady to a woman. When she stayed in the Vale of Blackmoor, she was a maiden with a pure soul. She was helpful and loved her family. Because Tess is the eldest sister in the family, she had to do much housework and take care of her little sisters and brothers, but she did not complain anymore. We can see how much love and endurance Tess has for her family. Being a teenager, Tess may also be curious about sex and 'falling in love', so she was seduced by the tall, handsome, young man, Alec, although she did not exactly love him. And her baby died then; she met Angel after leaving Alec. At that time, Tess became a bit suspicious of her love'. Because of the pure love between Tess and Angel, they were married but separated after telling their past to each other. Tess felt the pain again and seemed like falling from a cliff. After returning to her family, her father died and Tess' pressure increased. The only thing she could do was go back to her cousin, Alec. It was hard to make the decision for Tess, but she did not want to see her family live in pain so she did what she thought was right. Tess went through a lot of pressure, sadness and anger. After all, when Angel returned to beg for forgiveness from Tess, Tess knew that she could not escape from Alec. Under increasing pressure, she killed Alec and went away with Angel. At last, she was caught by the police and killed, but she



replied that she was ready. That means she was not afraid of that and it might be a freedom for her. Now, we can see Tess is understanding, brave, and determined.

I discovered that this book is suitable for teenagers, as it is an abridged version of the original story.

I found that the writer expresses the parts where Tess is seduced and becomes pregnant in an indirect way. I think he does not want children and teenagers to be misled. Then, when Angel talks about his past with Tess, he tells of his time in London and his relationship with the older woman. I think some information was missed. In the original book, the relationship was mentioned in greater detail.

Perhaps, the writer of Black Cat did not want to mention too many negative effects of falling in love and thereby confuse youngsters.

Although the story is rewritten, there are many useful parts in the book. Such as, the explanations of the vocabulary can help you follow the story and we can learn some difficult words. And the introduction of the background of the author

and the places which appeared in the story not only show me the graceful landscapes

of England, but also gave me an understanding of how the writer uses the descriptions to push the story forward. And I like the tests too, but some of the tests' sections are not necessary for the story. I like the parts of the tests, such as 'True or False' as they can help me recall the story.

Do you remember what I had said before about some moralities permeating in the book? I had read some news before, which is about a comment for Tess of the d'Urbervilles.

As I read the book I uncovered that Hardy had written about many places which existed as described in the story. According to the news, Tess not only represented the rustic pure, and the fertile lands, but ignorance, danger and temptation. Landscapes are essential meanings in the story. For instance, the Vale of Blackmoor. The Chase, when Tess was young, where she was seduced. The Taldothays Dairy, which is as beautiful as heaven, where she met Angel, and The Stonehenge, which seemed like an altar, where Tess was caught. All of them want to tell us that English village lives were destroyed by the industries. I remember that Tess had worked on the farm with the reaping-machine.

The author, Thomas Hardy studied architecture in London and returned to Dorset, where he grew up. In 1867, he started writing his novel. The story of Tess



was published in 1891.

Those years can be associated with something, which happened before World War One. In 1870, many great powers started the industrial revolution. Although, United Kingdom had started it in 1750, they were threatened by Germans about the military affairs and the overseas business so they had to expand their army, fleets and weapons, so there was arms race. All these things occurred in the last part of nineteenth century and matched the time of publishing Tess' story. Being an architect, he should know about machines and industry. He might understand the disadvantages of using the weapons. I thought he wanted to use a story to portray his feelings for losing the great earth. World War One appeared in the human history soon after.

That is the reason why the writer wrote that 'on the great earth, we can see the zeal, ignorance, hypocrisy and callous souls facing the present day life which cannot be returned, and which cannot leave the natural countryside.'

In my opinion, Tess's story is worth reading for teenagers. In the beginning of the book, Tess is a pure, young girl, who can represent us-youngsters. We have not experienced the adult world before. We must be determined in protecting ourselves and judge people by their intentions. Nowadays, sex is openly discussed, but it

may not be good for the development of teenagers' mind.

In recent times, teenagers do not know about the consequences of having underage sex. We can find some news about the sexual problems in teenagers, such as the fourteen-year old mother. It is a hard job bringing up a baby. In addition, a few weeks ago, the news was about the artists' obscene pictures posted on the internet. This is a very realistic example.

Then, we should be cautious in determining men's intention. Although we can see the outward facts of their lives, we cannot read others minds so we must consider what kind of a man he is. If we want to find friends in the world, especially in the virtual world, we should be alert in judging people's intentions.

I highly recommend this book to all teenagers. In this book, you can learn the vocabulary; know more about the countryside of England and how to judge people by their intentions rather than by the outward facts of their lives. And you will see that life is worth living in spite of all the pitfalls.



Book/Film Title

Name: Sia Ngai Ling

Class: 6 Faith

Title: Tuesdays With Morrie

Author: Mitch Albom



It is an incredibly moving portrayal of the relationship between two people who are so close that they seem to be father and son. The storyline is based on a real life experience of man, Mitch Albom, with his ex-professor, Morrie. At the start of the story, the narrator gives a brief introduction of his weekly meetings with Morrie, his former professor, each Tuesday. His meetings are like an extension of his studies with Morrie.

From my standpoint, this book has really brought to me laughter and sadness. When I read the whole story, there are a lot of living conditions for thought in my mind - love, family, money, death etc. As Morrie says in the story, money is not a substitute for tenderness, and power is not a substitute for tenderness. I really think this statement is so true. Money means nothing, and neither money nor power can be a substitute for tenderness. A person who is fond of money and power will only end up living on his own forever and ever.

Morrie deliberately mentions “death” many times throughout the story because he wants to let people understand his attitude toward death. I quote him as saying that when we realize we are going to die, we will see everything differently, learn how to die, and learn how to live. I think much of what he says is quite true. A person who



is on the verge of death will know how to cherish and appreciate what he/she possesses, and to look back on the past. Everyone should enjoy the moments they have in their lifetime before their lives come to end. “Tuesdays with Morrie” is a must-read book for all kinds of readers. It inspired me a lot about the meaning of life. It also taught me how to live my life at my own pace, and helped me change my attitudes toward life. If you still haven’t read this book, don’t hesitate to get one in a bookshop right now.

This book is an extremely heartwarming story about Mitch Albom, and his mentor, Morrie Schwartz, who was his professor 20 years ago. Once Mitch received news that Morrie was dying and had only a few months left to live, Mitch flew over to spend his last days with him. It was a class every Tuesday that Morrie held just for Mitch where he taught him everything Mitch needed to know to survive in the real world, from love to jealousy to anger to fear to forgiveness. These lessons, Mitch soon realized, were much more meaningful and fulfilling compared to the ones he’d learned within the classrooms in college. These are the lessons that are learned through real-life experiences. Morrie eventually passed away, but Mitch was left with great lessons to contribute to the rest of the world.



Book/Film Title

Name: Choy Sin Tung

Class: 6 Faith

Title: For One More Day

Author: Mitch Albom



Date : 18th Feb.,2008

Dear Charley,

Hello! I am very happy that you didn't choose death as a way to solve your misfortunes and you choose to live bravely. Carry on!

Everyone will meet misfortunes, maybe they last for one day or for one year, it is normal that you will feel upset. However, one failure does not equal to total failure. The thing we should do is calm down and think what to do to atone for the mistakes.

I had the same experience as you. When I was a primary school student, my academic results were very bad. At that time, I was very upset, I even did not want to go to school. Fortunately, same as you, my mother helped me and encouraged me to try again. She taught me to do the homework which I didn't know how to do. She cooked some delicious food that I like for encouragement. Finally, of course, I did go to school everyday and my academic results became better and better. My teachers told my mother that I had a great improvement when they met her on the Parents' Day.



After my case and yours, I understand that we have to cherish every moment and everyone we love. As human beings get older and older, the time you have and our friends have gets less and less. We must cherish every time when we are with people we love. Treat everyone around us with love and care too! Don't be shy to say "I love you" to the one we like such as our parents, friends and relatives. The world will become ugly and dark if you do not have anyone to love or no one love you!

To go back to your case, I think the cause of your suicidal attempt is the relationship with your parents was not good. Because your father pressured you on baseball and your mother pressured you on study and you didn't like both of them at all. Luckily, your dead mother helped you to escape from the nightmare. You should learn from her forgiveness as you chose to live with your father instead of her when you were young.

Anyway, hope you will have a wonderful life in the future! Think positive!

Love,
Emily



Book/Film Title

Name: Tam Pui Ling, Queenie

Class: 6 Hope

Title: My Legendary Girlfriend

Author: Mike Gayle



Topic:

How we can get over the bad times we had.

Information I have learnt:

The title 'Male Bridget Jones' given for a review in the newspaper attracted me to start reading this book. Reviews on this book say it helps people get over rough times and deal with love problems.

As the name of the book tells us, 'My legendary Girlfriend' talks about the story of an ordinary English teacher, Will, who has lost a true love, and how he is dealing with the problems. He was dumped by his first true love after a three-year relationship and the story looks at a weekend in his life and how the event has shaped his entire existence. In my view, Will is not an attractive character for me. He moans and whinges and does nothing to help himself. He starts his first job being a teacher but what he shows us is that he hates the work and wants to spend all day in bed hiding from the world and reality.



Actually, that is also what most of the people do when they are dumped or in bad times. Do we really lose ourselves once we lost someone we loved? Some may say 'yes' but we got to face the reality which has already happened. There is no point wasting time on complaining. In the book, Will receives numerous phone calls from his mate who betrayed him, his best friend, his one-night stand, the precious occupant of his flat and his legendary girlfriend. They do impact Will's moods and actions so much.

From this book, I did learn a lot about how to deal with problems and what we should do to get over bad times. Like Will, he seeks help from his friends, and finally he discovered that he can have a better life. It s just about the choices we make. Friends and family provide us a shelter to overcome our bad times. We are friends and family of others, so we can also help our friends we love when they are facing problems. Even if we cannot help them to solve the problems, we are also giving support to them. Therefore, I recommend to anyone to read this book and learn more.



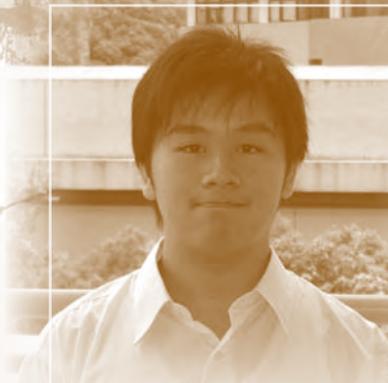
Book/Film Title

Name: Wong Tsz Ho, Charles

Class: 6 Hope

Title: The Meandering Stream

Author: Jian Guo Wu



Summary:

This book is a fictitious story basing on true stories and policy carried out in 1968 in which millions of the country's urban youth were exiled to remote country areas for 're-education'. This story fully describes the hopeless living conditions that the exiled youth, which were called Zbiqing, had to face for ten years. After having lots of petitions and people sacrificed, the Zbiqing were finally allowed to go back to their own cities.

Post Reading Response:

Revolutions are something that can help a country to improve. However, there are good and also bad ones. For some successful cases, like the Industrial Revolution, that helped Western Nations to gain high economic growth in 1750s. I would not dare say that the policy mentioned in the story was a total failure, it probably helped China's economy in some way. However, it had definitely ruined future millions of youth!

In the story, Xiao Hua was the main character, whom had been well educated and wanted to be an architect. However, because of the policy, she was exiled to remote country areas for 're-education' and she lost the chance to pursue her dreams. Being a Zbiqing, they had to work hard everyday and work under the local, uneducated farmers.



It is very crude that the Zbiqing were not allowed to rest even when they are very ill. The leaders would only say that ‘working is more important than everything’ and ignore their requests. I can’t imagine how hopeless I would feel if I were one of the Zbiqing. Xiao Hua and her partner, Chai, together with their daughter Jing can only eat salted rice for their daily food. They can only eat an egg on their birthday! Compared to our life in Hong Kong, we don’t need to work as much as they did, and at least we can have a holiday on Sunday. We don’t need to worry about food as well, and we live in a peaceful city. It is like living in a paradise. Some youngsters may always complain about their life, however I think they should cherish what they possess. They should do some voluntary work to help to needy people instead of complaining all the time.

The story stresses Chinese people, especially leaders in the past would always make promises but they seldom fulfilled them. They always judged people by ones political background. In the story, there is a person, Mr Xu, who had good political background, who worked as a ‘doctor’ after only attending six months medical training! How ridiculous is that! Xiao Hua losts her best friend, Zheng because of ‘doctor’ Xu’s carelessness and his irresponsible character. He tried to transfer the responsibility to other doctors instead of trying his best to save Zheng when she was in a dangerous state. Xu was so selfish that he only considered his own benefits.

When I read the name of the book, I thought it would be a romantic story happening in a peaceful village. However, beyond my expectations, this story shows the brutal facts and reality of the past which inspire me to cherish everything I have I really feel that I am a lucky person because I was born in Hong Kong in a peaceful era. No matter what difficulties I may face in the future, I shall be brave and overcome them, just like Xiao Hua did in the story. I am glad to have a chance to read this book, and I hope everyone can have a chance to read through it too!

Students' Contributions

Name: Wong Yiu San, Wilson

Class: 4 Wisdom

Film Title: The Notebook

Author: By Nicholas Sparks

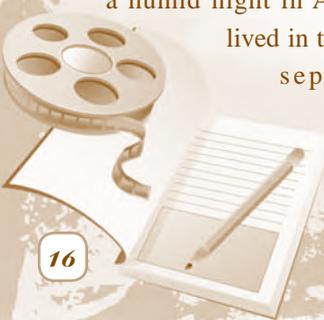


Do you like films by Nicholas Sparks? It was as wonderful as I expected! Every so often a love story captures my heart and it becomes more than a story that I read – it becomes an experience to remember forever since it will not happen in modern times. The Notebook is a movie not only about love, but also about endurance and memories. It tells how enthusiasm can be timeless and ageless. The story moves us to laughter and tears and it made me believe in true love.

The Notebook is about a young woman, Allie Hamilton, who came to a coastal town in North Carolina from New York to spend a summer with a local boy Noah Calhoun. This is their first love and they both lost their virginity on a humid night in August 1947. They lived in two different worlds separated by class differences and

then by the Second World War. On the other side of the fence, both of them continue to be haunted by memories of each other. From then on, Allie and Noah are irrevocably gone from each others hearts and lives.

My favorite character is Noah Calhoun who did not surrender his love and kept his promise to restore the house over 15-years. Even after Allie became ill, he looked after her and worked hard to make her remember him and their history . It shows how if we do things with dedication and love , we will never regret our actions. On the other hand, the wealthy soldier, who was Allie's fiancée , only talks about money and is interested in romance and the time to be with Allie. Noah taught me that I should be single-minded about my study or anything I want to succeed in. It shows that if you are single-minded and relentless, you can get to the top.



After I have watched this film, I have concentrated on some questions and I would like to debate on one of the questions: Treasure is equivalent to love.

Noah participated in Allie's family party. They were first separated because of the class differences. Noah was poorer than Allie's family. He earned only forty dollars a month. In my view, money is no doubt necessary for our life. However, it is the means to an end. We do not know what life holds in store for us, so we should bring purpose to life. Money is only an undue gain and it does not always bring happiness. Importantly, a pleasant friendship and family is valuable. All in all, money is neither good nor bad, but it all depends on how it is used.

My favorite scene in the film is the last part of the film. In the end, she chooses her first love but the tragedy is that as she gets old, she suffers a disease and loses her memory. The couple in the home are Noah and Allie, and Noah tells Allie this story to bring her memories back and her love for him. Although Allie can only remember Noah for just five minutes after Noah told her their history ,he repeated it often to tell her this story- The notebook.

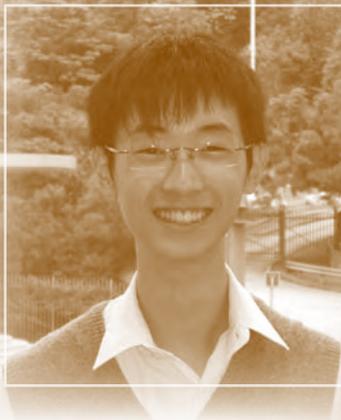
To love or to be loved, and to 'follow your heart'-these are the themes expressed throughout the film, allowing your senses to revel in it. If you are interested in experiencing what "till death do us part" really means, this film definitely clarifies it. You will feel both enjoyment and melancholy! I highly recommended it to you all.

Students' Contributions

Name: Sham Yu Sum

Class: 4 Charity

Book Title: The Mystery of the Blue Mines



There's something wrong with the Blue Mines at Arralorma in Central Australia. Mining opals was not the only goal for the miners, they searched for other things as well. A young policeman was found dead not far from the Blue Mines. His face looked terrible, meaning that he was died in great pain. After that, the Special Police Team in Sydney sent one of their best men, Steve Malone, to solve the mystery.

Steve Malone was admirable due to his courage to carry out the investigation. Great danger was ahead of him, as he wanted to know more about the Blue Mines. The dead policeman was his friend. Steve was a righteous man and he really wanted to find out the course of death of his dear friend.

During the investigation, Steve's rivals wanted to kill him before he revealed the truth. Luckily, Steve could make his escape every time and he continued his mission. He finally found out that the white fog, which was created in a secret laboratory in Blue Mines, killed his friend. The chief plotter was the very manager of that laboratory, Durall and the miasma maker was Dr Frank. Many illegal experiments were conducted there.



In my opinion, those kinds of experiments were unlawful and harmful to other people. The one who conducts the illegal and unethical experiments only does harm to the human race. The reason for Durall and Dr Frank to do that kind of research was simple - they wanted to make more money. In this case, money is the source of all the evils. Therefore, I admire Steve a lot for his courage, intelligence and righteousness.



Students' Contributions

Name: Edward Tam

Class: 4 Charity

Title: Lost in the Cave



This story is about three teenage girls, Ellise, Fran and Agnes, who joined a Derbyshire pothole's club. They went to visit a cave in the Peak District National Park. They visited the cave with the other members, but they decided to go there again by themselves. At that time, they couldn't find a way to leave, so they got lost.

The theme of the story is not to give up so easily, and after that we will have a better ending. When the girls lost in the cave, Fran wanted to give up first. But Ellise encouraged her not to do so. They then all believed that there might be a way to get out the cave.

I enjoyed reading this book very much. I think this book is exciting and funny. My favourite character is Ellise. She is a teenage girl who is kind and brave. She has strong leadership skills and always encouraged Fran and Agnes when they had problems. She was a good example for us to learn from.

My favourite scene is when the three girls find the prehistoric cave paintings. I think they were unlucky because they only want to leave the cave without knowing the paintings were 22000 years old.

I will recommend this book to my classmates because it is so exciting and it could be a good book for your leisure reading. The vocabulary items are also easy to understand.



Name: Leslie Wong

Class: 4 Charity

Title: The Suspicion (Animorphs)



Animorphs chronicles the battles of five human teenagers and one alien youth, who have been given the power to transform into animals, as they fight a guerrilla war against a secret alien infiltration of Earth. The main characters are Jake, Cassie, Rachel, Tobias and Marco.

This book has a target audience of young teenage readers. It effectively and realistically deals with familiar themes pertaining to war. These themes include the horror of war and also its necessity in order to defend people to live in freedom

I enjoyed this book greatly and it is worthwhile reading. Since this book is science fiction, it made me feel excited in the sense that I am just like one of the characters. This book explores many of the dark aspects of the human condition. Horror, war, dehumanization, sanity, morality, innocence, leadership and growing up are core motifs of the story. I read as each of these individuals grows up, struggling to cope with the horrors of war. The acts which the characters commit, and the compromises and retreats they must make to win the war (sometimes even just to survive). The story allows us to observe the human condition as the characters are forced by their new, deadly circumstances to face the darkest and the brightest parts of themselves.

I found that the content can encourage us to face and solve the problems in our daily lives even when we are at risk. The story can tell us how to judge good and evil. The text is good for teenagers as the plots are imminent. Therefore I highly recommend this book to our schoolmates.



Teachers' Contributions

Name: Mrs. Rao

Book Title: The Kite Runner

Author: Khaled Hosseini



The kite runner, a novel by Khaled Hosseini gives an insight into life in Afghanistan during The Taleban regime. The author vividly describes the brutal and ruthless Taleban leaders who deprived people of Afghanistan the basic human rights.

This story revolves around two friends Amir, the son of a rich businessman and Hassan, the son of Ali, a servant in the household of Amir's.

To win his father's affection, Amir takes up kite flying and wins a contest with the help of his friend, Hassan.

Amir does not prove to be as loyal a friend as Hassan. Once, when Amir loses his kite Hassan races through the street to retrieve it but is assaulted. Amir a coward, fails to help him and later betrays him. Because of this, both Hassan and his father have to leave Amir's home.



In 1981 following the Russian invasion on Afghanistan, Amir and his father flee to California. In 2001, Amir finally lands a chance of redeeming himself of his past mistakes. He makes a distressing journey through war ridden Afghanistan to rescue his friend, Hassan's son, orphaned by the merciless Taleban.

This book describes friendship, betrayal and the relationship between father and son. It also teaches us to forgive and to reflect on our actions. The story depicts the discord and hostility between people of the same nationality.

The novel has been adapted into a film and has left a huge impression on people all over the world. This book takes you through many emotions and eventually leaves you with a feeling of 'HOPE'. A strong recommendation from me to all the senior form boys.



Teachers' Contributions

Name: Mrs. J. Tsang

**Book Title: The 100 Simple Secrets of
Happy People**

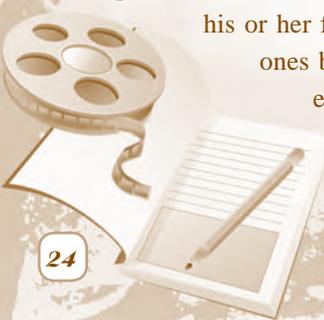
Author: David Niven



Every Friday, we have an English morning assembly. On 29th February, our English teacher, Mrs. Tsang, shared with us one of the school's major concerns-- 'Reading to Learn'. In order to let us understand more about the importance of reading, she shared with us a book called 'The 100 Simple Secrets of Happy People'. David Niven, Ph.D., who is a social scientist and psychologist wrote this book. In this book, each of the hundred practices, attitudes and habits for creating happiness is illustrated with a clear example and illuminated by a straightforward explanation of the science behind it. The book shows you how to transform a ho-hum existence into a full and happy life.

Mrs Tsang highlighted 15 topics : 'You don't have to win every time', 'Turn off the TV', 'Don't believe in yourself too much', 'Don't face your problems alone', 'Age is not to be feared', 'Laugh', 'Don't blame yourself', 'Be a peacemaker', 'Buy what you like', 'Be flexible', 'Do things you are good at', 'Smile', 'Be agreeable', 'Believe in ultimate justice', and 'Keep reading'.

Among the 15 topics, Mrs. Tsang gave us a detailed sharing of 'Keep reading'. The author stimulated our thinking by asking two rhetorical questions: which would we choose to be, a person with an ever-decreasing attention span, or a person with an ever-increasing attention span? Which would we rather be, a person who usually spends his or her free time in front of the television, or a person who usually spends his or her free time reading? Normally, most of us will choose the latter ones because we can benefit in our study and work from having an ever-increasing attention span. People may ask, how can we



lengthen our attention span? From this book, we learn that by keeping reading we can improve it. The author remarked that reading engaged the mind. Reading materials, by exercising our memory and imagination, can contribute to happiness in ways similar to active positive thinking. Regular readers are about 8 per cent more likely to express daily satisfaction. So, which would you rather be a person who usually spends his or her free time in front of the television, or a person who usually spends his or her free time reading?

After listening attentively to the book sharing, I concluded that books not only can give us knowledge, but also give us happiness in our daily life, even more than watching funny television programmes. Reading interesting books can help us forget the things that upset us; through sharing and discussion of the interesting books with each other, we can have a happy chat and even we can have the joy of creating stories together. No wonder this is one of the one hundred simple secrets of Happy People.

After the book sharing, there was the prize giving ceremony of English Extensive Reading Award to the winners from Secondary 1 to Secondary 5. This was an encouragement for their performance in reading extensively in the First Term. Remember, reading is of paramount importance to all walks of life if you want to be a knowledgeable and happy person.

Written by Suki Yuen Sze Ki, Chairlady of Book Club

Edited by Mrs. Tsang



Teachers' Contributions

Name: Ms. K.M. Mok

Book Title: The Present

Author: Spencer Johnson



People all over the world enjoy the time buying and receiving presents, no matter if it is a big festival or not. If you are the one who enjoys receiving presents, this book, *The Present* by Spencer Johnson, is suitable for you.

When I first read the title, I guessed that this book may give some hints on choosing suitable presents for friends or about the best ten items to be given as presents.

But that is not the truth; it is an engaging story of a young man's journey to adulthood, and his search for 'the Present', a mysterious and elusive gift he first hears about from a great old man. This "Present", according to the old man, is 'the best present a person can receive.'



Later, when the young boy becomes a young man and is disillusioned with his work and his life, he returns to ask the old man, once again, to help him find 'the present'. The old man responds, 'only you have the power to find the "Present" for yourself.' So the young man embarks on a tireless search for this magical gift that holds the secret to his personal happiness and business success. Finally, he finds "The Present"

Do you feel that you look like the young man in the story, always blindly searching for the materialistic life? If yes, then it is now the time for you to be aware of The Present in your life. Remember "only you have the power to find The Present for yourself".

You must be sincere and learn to search for their 'present' in your life.



Teachers' Contributions

Name: Ms. Y. Ho

Book Title: For One More Day

Author: Mitch Albom



For One More Day is the story of a family. It is a story of a mother caring for her son unconditionally in one more day beyond her life. Charley Benetto was once a successful athlete and a sports journalist. He ruined his own life by alcohol and disappointment. He lived in despair and even his wife and daughter would like to get away from him. He was not even invited to his daughter's wedding. Looking at the pictures taken on the wedding day, he found himself a total stranger without anyone in the family. Back his home town, he planned to kill himself to end his miserable life. He attempted to end his life. But for one more day, he felt the love and care from his deceased mother in his childhood home again. For one more day, he followed his mother's lifetime as a single mother raising her children in a society where people still discriminated against divorced women. For one more day, he realized the secret of his parent's divorce and sought forgiveness from his mother. Charley asked a million questions to figure out what was going on with his mother and at the same time, he started to understand more about his own life. For One More Day is a book that inspires everyone to treasure their loved ones before it is too late.



Book Club Activities 2007-2008



The chairlady is sharing a book with the members.



Interesting and enjoyable! Agree?



Students are reading a book extract.

School-Parent Partnership English Book Report Competition Prize Giving 2007-2008

*Adjudicators, winners,
and teachers*



*Mrs. Chow with Winston Mak (Winner),
Sia Ngai Ling (1st Runner-up), and Emily
Choy (2nd Runner-up)*



*Mr. Lai and Mrs Chow with the
winners and the merit holders*



Prize	Name	Class
Winner	Winston Mak Wing Shum	4 Wisdom
First Runner-up	Sia Ngai Ling	6 Faith
Second Runner-up	Emily Choy Sin Tung	6 Faith
Merit	Chow Sze Ho	4 Hope
Merit	Queenie Tam Pui Ling	6 Hope
Merit	Charles Wong Tsz Ho	6 Hope