Summary:
Some experts or survey find out that going to school is not the only way to learn. This time I learn many great lessons from the book---Chicken Soup for the Kid’s Soul. This book is a collections of different little and meaningful stories from children. They wrote about different topics---dreams, family, love and even death. Among these stories, there is one story which impresses me most. It is named ‘Where’s My Kiss, Then?’. The story is about a girl called Cindy who had never received any kiss from her parents before and she was upset. Therefore, one day she packed her belongings and left without a word. When the sky turned dark (the evening came), a plan suddenly came in her mind and she went back home. Her plan was to kiss her parents at least once a day to express her love. One day, she forgot to kiss her mother and her mother came to her and ask for the kiss. Unexpectedly, her mum returned a kiss to Cindy, too. After many years, even Cindy had her own child, she still gave a kiss to her mum when she went home. Moreover, apart from this story, there are many others wonderful stories, too.

Comment:
Before I read this book, I did not understand much about love and life. My problem is that though I understand my parents love me. However, I still want them to express and give me love more openly. Moreover, I felt that it was stressful to achieve my dream. After I read this book, I have a new attitude towards this negative perception. I know that there are many ways to show our love. From the story I have mentioned above, it makes me learn that love is not just words. I should try to express my love by being more hard-working and more considerate, The reason is that we should try to make efforts before we want any awards ( it’s the same for love). In addition, another story denotes that the first step to achieve our fream or objective is to believe in ourselves and carry on.

Finally, I realize that writing has no limitations. This book proves that children can write good stories, too. I think that these stories are even very inspiring and special. Furthermore, in my own opinion, the key to write fluent English is not by writing difficult words. Oppositely, I think the key is to use simple and natural language and be creative. Then no matter or whether you are an adult or child, you can really express your ideas freely and write from your heart. Then, you can write a great story. To conclude, I think everyone on the world is a good writer. This book gives me courage and I should learn from it and be he best writer of my own life.
4A Cheung Chi Man (9)

Title: Tuesday with Morrie
Author: Mitch Album
Publisher: Warner Book Incorporation

Summary:
This book is about the author Mitch Album and his ex-professor Morrie Schwartz. Mitch was
the most renowned sports journalist in America. One day he rediscovered Morrie in a TV show and
he knew that Morrie had an incurable disease. From then on, Mitch visited Morrie every Tuesday.
Every time they discussed a lot of topics, including family, money, emotions and so on. Although
the topics were different, the message was unchanged: the meaning of life.

Comment:
After reading this book, there are a lot of ideas about the meaning of life in my mind suddenly.
This is my first time considering the meaning of life seriously.
I absolutely agree to the points of view of this book. Money and power are not substitutes for
tenderness. Money and power mean nothing because they are not eternal. A person who is fond of
money and power will end up living on his own forever. But only love, it can last forever and ever.
This message changes my mind totally. From now on, I will spend more time with my family. I
will also use actions to show them how I love them. Moreover, I will treasure the time spending
with them.
The other message from this book is the attitude toward death. A lot of people are afraid of
death, but we must die one day. Therefore, we must learn how to face the death positively. This
book tells us that when we realize we are going to die, we will see everything differently. I think
this is quite true. A person who is on the verge of death will know how to cherish everything around
him or her, and look back on the past. Everyone should enjoy their lifetime before their lives come
to end.
Finally, I want to recommend this book to the others because this book is really worth reading
and inspiring.
Summary:
This book tells the story of a little boy who was called Charlie Bucket. He lived in a small shack with his parents and four grandparents in a town. They were poor. His father worked in a toothpaste factory and earned a little every day. His grandpa Joe told him about the time he worked for Wonka at the factory. There was a factory which produced candies in the past, but the boss Willy Wonka had closed the factory. Everyone was curious about the reason for that but no one knew the secret. However, the factory re-opened soon and there was a major contest to be held for a chance to see it firsthand: Willy Wonka has announced worldwide that five Golden Tickets have been placed in five Wonka Bars. And that the finder of each of these tickets will be given a full tour of the factory and along with one parent, and a lifetime free of chocolate. Also, there will be a special prize after the tour. At that moment, Charlie wanted to have a chocolate bar as he had his birthday soon. His family gave him a chocolate bar, but there was no ticket inside at the first time. The second time, he had found the fifth Golden Ticket.

Charlie and his grandpa went on the tour. During the tour, strange things happened. On four children but not Charlie. The first one Augustus Gloop drank from the chocolate river in the Chocolate Room and was sucked away by a pipe that leads to the Fudge Room. The second one Violet Beauregarde chewed an experimental piece of gum and she suddenly turned into a giant blueberry. Spoilt Veruca wanted to take a squirrel but was thrown down the garbage entrance. Mike Teavee was shrunk to miniature size. After that, Wonka invited Charlie to live with him in the factory and leave his family. Wonka told a story: when Wonka was small, his father was a dentist. He denied Wonka chocolate and candies because of the potential risk to his teeth. Wonka stole a piece of chocolate and became obsessed with it. He decided to become a chocolatier. After this, Charlie refused his invitation and Wonka realized the value of living with the family. Finally, Charlie had the chocolate factory and Wonka has a family.

Comment:
This book is very fascinating. I was shocked by the creativity of the content. It is amazing that the writer can create such wonderful ideas. The story is humorous and interesting, like the four children who had met strange things. I like the plot when Augustus Gloop drank the chocolate river and was sucked in a pipe. The description is humorous and funny. I can imagine how the hilarious the scene is.

After reading the story of Wonka, I have learnt that family is really important to us and there is nothing more important than our families. I realised that family is the most valuable thing in my life. I will treasure it after reading this book.

I think this book is one of the most unforgettable books I have ever read. I have watched the film version of this book. It is funny and it has just the same echo as the book. Finally, I will recommend this book to my friends and ask them about their opinions after reading this book.
Summary:
This book is about the beautiful twins, Mary-Kate and Ashley’s school life in Bayside High School. Ashley set up a website called “Love Link”. It was functioned as a matchmaking website and it was hot among the students. One day a website looked similar as the “Love Link” popped out. However, it was a total different thing. It was named “Beauty or Beast?”. There were photos of each student. People could rate them and leave comments to express their feelings about their schoolmates. There were gossips all around the school and they were hurt. Ashley was seen as the site maker and was hated.

Comments:
There are always rumors all over the world. It could be sweet or nasty. We have to identity them carefully whether they should be believed or not. However, in reality, who can really be trusted? It is quite horrible that we may find ourselves betrayed or cheated one day when we wake up. It is ridiculous for people to make their own stories and spread them for fun or to hurt their enemies. I deeply agree to the book, rumor is just like a terrible disease. It can spread fast. Irrational people gossip about that. It could be mean those outright lies. They read them and repeat hem. It would not stop until the damage is done. So, who will be the next victim? Will he or she be the starter? It is utterly unwise to do that. Also, from this book, I have learnt that curiosity influences a lot. It is just too difficult to resist the temptation to figure what others are saying about you, although you understand it does not matter how others think of you. After you read the criticism, you would do everything you can to improve, to turn yourself into a total beauty. Lastly, you may realize how silly you are but at least at that time, it is worthwhile. The only thing that can defeat rumors is love. If we truly love someone, we will not do something to hurt him or her. We will do everything to protect him or her and trust the other fully and forever. If rumors do not work, what are we afraid of?
Summary
Can you ever imagine that millions of people died because they’d heard an advertising jingle the night before? What will you do if mortal diseases can infect you through your ears? Carl Streator is a newspaper reporter who is assigned to investigate Sudden Infant Death Syndrome happens recently in his town and to write a series of featured articles about it. During the investigation, he notices a pattern among the cases he encounters: there’s always a book, Poems and Rhymes from around the World, sit on the table or besides the dead children, and is turned to the page of an eight-line African poem. This African poem is a “culling song”, which is read to sick people or old people to help them pass away peacefully and painlessly.
Meanwhile, he meets a real estate broker, Helen Hoover Boyle, who specializes in selling haunted houses. Helen accidentally killed her young son with the “culling song” years ago. So Carl teams up with Helen, and also Helen’s secretary, Mona and Mona’s boyfriend, Oyster. Carl wants to find out all copies of the poem and destroy them. Helen wants to find out the original volume to bring her son back to life. Mona and Oyster want to make use of this power to change the world into a better one. With different purposes, they start their find-and-destroy journey across the United States.

Comment
Once I’ve read this book, I was shocked by the curious ideas and unusual imagination of the writer. It is the first book I’ve read which is written by Chuck Palahniuk. I think it is quite difficult for my age to understand the deeper meaning of this book, but I will still recommend it to my friends because I really learn much from it.
One of the features is that the writer writes everything in detail. For instance, I find that colours play a large part in this book. When the writer needs to write about a colour, for example green, it becomes much more than simply green. He describes the green that appears on the felt of a pool table, but only when the red number 3 ball is upon the felt, as opposed to the yellow number 1. Or green is not lime but rather like the colour of key lime pie, not avocado but avocado bisque topped with a thin silver of lemon. These descriptions are not a sleight of hand or the writer tries to fill up the space. It makes the reading rich and fruitful.
As it is a dark comedy, the writer goes into the darkest part of human and uses a lot of reference to the society and human behavior. We are dominated by our desires. When thing is out of control and toward a wrong way, we just want to get out of the responsibility and pretend we are right, at least the starting point is right. There is a lot more to this dark humorous book than you think. It makes you think more about life, death, humanity and choice. And it may change your point of view totally different from the past.
4B(4) Cheng Ka Miu
Title: Daddy Long Legs by Jean Webster

Summary:
This book is about a girl who was called Judy. She was not respected in the orphanage. No one pitied on her there. One day, Judy got a chance to enter the university to study for four years but she had to write letters to her patron who was called Mr. Smith every month. She told him about her new life in the college. For example, her new friends, room-mates, the study, even her sentiment. She also shared her novels with him. However, Mr. Smith did not reply to her. In that four years, she told him lots of things around her. It became the way to express her feelings. She was fallen in love Mr. Smith, this nice man, unconsciously.

Reflection:
I am touched after I read this book. Daddy-Long-Legs must be a good book. I love Judy so much. Her roles impress me a lot. I think that we are so lucky because we have families. We have our parents and relatives to care about us. Unlike Judy, she got a really bad life in the orphanage. Fortunately she did not mind and she got a chance to learn. She never gave up. Even she got frustration, she tried to tell Mr. Smith. I think we should learn from Judy. We have to treasure the one we love and the one who loves us. Is it right? I think most of you will love this story if you really get the message from it. Besides, the story is not too long. It is suitable for all of us to enjoy it and learn some vocabulary from it!
Summary:
The book is about a man named Eddie. He used to be a soldier. However, he became a maintenance man at ruby pier's amusement park since his leg was hurt after an accident. After his wife died, he thought that his life was meaningless for fixing rides at the seaside amusement park. Moreover, Eddie thought that he was just an unworthy role in the world.
On his 83rd birthday, when he was cleaning the rides, a broken cart fell towards a young girl and Eddie, his life ended as he tried to save the little girl. Then, he arrived at the heaven. He saw the five persons whom he had seen before he died - Blue Man, Captain, Ruby, Eddie's wife and the little girl. They came back to teach Eddie lessons. These five persons all affected his life.
At the last, Eddie joined his wife, and learned that his life would affect the other's life.

Comments:
I think this book is really good as the plot is amazing.
‘All endings are also beginnings.’ I like this sentence most in the book. I am surprised that the story starts when the life of Eddie ends. Many people believe that they will arrive at heaven after death and live in a beautiful garden, but this book shows that heaven is a place that will explain your life to you and, places where you don't understand.
I think that the climax of the book is how Eddie died. The time counts backwards constantly. I felt so excited when I read this part.
This book also brings us a message that everyone is inter-connected and important. One life will affect another life. This book also teaches us to treasure the things we have and, do not regret after losing them.
Summary:
There are two main characters in this story, Romeo and Juliet. Romeo was a Montague and Juliet was a Capulets. The two families have hated each other for hundreds of years and they would fight whenever they met. One day, Romeo joined the Capulets’ party and he met his lover, Juliet. They immediately fell in love when they first met. They then married secretly in a church. A few days later, Juliet’s parents planned to have Juliet married to Lord Paris. Juliet was so scared that she asked the Friar for help. The Friar gave her a bottle of mysterious liquid and told Juliet to drink it. Juliet had the liquid drunk and she began to sleep. When Romeo came to Juliet, he thought that Juliet was dead and he killed himself. After Juliet woke up, she found Romeo had died and she killed herself to go with Romeo. After that, the two families became friends.

Comment:
The story is a well-known tragedy and I have heard of it for many times. I think it is a romantic love story and I could feel their love when I was reading the book. It’s a pity that their families were enemies. Although their love was banned and they must keep their feelings in secret, they never thought of giving up the marriage. At the end of the story, Romeo and Juliet both sacrificed their life. I was so sad when I read the last chapter but I felt more comfortable afterwards because they could meet in the heaven and didn’t need to suppress their feelings anymore.

However, if we think in a logical way, it is quite foolish of them to commit suicide themselves. I think it is not a mature action since this will only bring more problems and sadness to their families. Although they loved each other very much and wanted to be together, they should think of their parents’ feelings.

To conclude, I think this is a lovely story of a young couple and I enjoy reading the book.
Summary:
Harry Potter, Ronald Weasley and Hermione Granger had to finish the task that was given by the former-headmaster of Hogwarts, Dumbledore. They had to face the arrogant, villainous Voldemort. Moreover, they might die when they were doing the dangerous task.
Finally, three of them successfully finished the task and they were all saved. Voldemort died at last. Therefore, the magical world was safe again.

Comment:
This is the seventh book of the Harry Potter Series that is also the end of the Harry Potter series. I have read all the books in the series. I think this is the most exciting one because there are many fighting scenes in this book. Reading the book is just like watching the film. The characters are all acting in front of you.
There had been lots of rumours of this book’s ending before it was published. I am satisfied with this ending because Harry Potter is the hero in my heart.
Hermione was not an important character but she still fought Voldemort with Harry and Ronald. Hermione was very clever and could help Harry a lot. She did not show her cleverness in this book. I think this is the point I dislike.
The story of Harry Potter is complicated. There are a lot of characters including the Death Eaters. I need to memorize their names. Luckily, I also read the previous books in English. So, I knew their names. If you want to read this book but you did not read the previous ones in English, you will need some more time to read it.
I think this book is suitable for teenagers because they love magical story. If you like to learn more English, you can also choose this book. There are lots of vocabulary in describing people and actions.
Overall, I highly recommend this book if you like reading exciting story.
Summary:
It’s fiercely hot summer, so hot that the North Pole’s heat record is broken by fifty degrees. Massive ice melt stuns the world as Open Ocean appears at the pole for the first time in living memory. Deep under the Atlantic Ocean, currents are crucial to life react, dropping south and suddenly. Storms of unprecedented ferocity start exploding over the arctic as cold air returns, slamming into the heat with cataclysmic results. The storms grow until they form a bizarre and gigantic blizzard unlike anything ever seen before. A stunned humanity realizes that a second ice age is about to engulf the earth.

Climatologist Jack Hall tried to warn people of the approaching peril, but it may already be too late for any hope of survival. Now he must not only find a way to reverse the rampant ecological destruction that is transforming the world into a frigid wasteland, but also rescue his rebellious son, who is one of the millions trapped in the city depths of a frozen New York City.

Comment:
The story is one of the most famous topics nowadays, the disaster. It reveals the power of nature in which human beings are not able to resist. What we can do is to suffer, to heath. The book visualizes the destructive power of the disaster, making all the developed countries, like the United States and Japan, cover with a layer of snow. It may be a little exaggerated. But it may happen. In my opinion, the book does tell the truth.

The disaster induces me to think of another issue – global warming, which is widely discussed from the top of the government to the bottom of the society. It is well-known that global warming means an increase in the average temperature of the Earth. Undesirable consequences include rising temperature, melting of ice cap in the Poles, spreading of fatal and new-evolved virus…meaning we are being threatened as our land may be flooded and we may not be able to survive.

The main cause of global warming is said to be the over-emission of greenhouse gases. It is partly true only. Anyway, even if we stop producing green-house gases, can we stop global warming? The answer is certainly not. Firstly, we study the climate of Earth for just a very short period of time (about 400 years) compared with the long history of Earth(45 million years), so we surely cannot rise the temperature simply by emitting too muchCO2. Secondly, there is nothing we can do to resist the nature, right?
Summary:
This book is about a terrifying experience of a girl called Sarah. Sarah’s father lost his job suddenly and they could not afford the high rent of their house. The only way they could live in the house without paying any rent was taking care of the house owner, Margaret, who was Sarah’s Great Aunt. However, when Aunt Margaret moved into the house, mysterious things started to happen. Lights went out, doors slammed unexpectedly and things moved by themselves. Sarah was scared but she knew she had to figure out what evil spirit was hidden in the house. Finally, Sarah found that the ghost in the house was Great Aunt Margaret. She acted calmly when weird things happened in order to gain Sarah and her family’s dependence.

Comment:
In the past, I thought my grandparents were very annoying and demanding. They only talked about their own experiences and complained about everything. I was discontented that they wanted me to take their advice and follow their instructions. I could not understand why they behave like that all the time. It made me reluctant to get along with my grandparents.

After reading this book, I realize what they think; they are just like Great Aunt Margaret. Great Aunt Margaret wanted Sarah’s family to rely on her so desperately and did a lot of things. Although it was not good to frighten people, I think Great Aunt Margaret was not blamable. The elderly just want respect and trust from their posterity. I know I was wrong in the past. My grandparents give me advice constantly because they care about me. I should be thankful that I have affectionate grandparents. They are the people I can depend on. It is pleasant to live with them.

Besides this, the author is successful in creating a terrific climax for the story. I was utterly scared while I was reading the book. This book made me feel spooky and unsettled.
Summary:
By reading the title of this book, everyone knows it is about New York. Every page of this book introduces one category such as the history of New York, the ‘New Yorkers’, food and transport. In total there are five boroughs that make up New York. There are also many landmarks such as the Fifth Avenue and The Statue of Liberty. People there come from all over the World with different cultures and living style, you can get a general idea of New York after reading this book.

Comment:
I was first attracted by the title of this book because I am a huge American fan. I love the culture, environment and people there. I can’t imagine how wonderful it will be to enjoy a cup of coffee at a café in New York and watch the busy World outside. New York is one of the most famous and busiest cities in the World. After reading this book, I have got more information about it. Many people want to find their dreams in New York and I’m one of them. I found it interesting that people call New York “The Big Apple”. Everyone wants a bite of it. Maybe others will ask what is so special about New York. The answer may be The Statue of Liberty, the Fifth Avenue or the Broadway. But I can tell that New York is more than that. Some people love it while some hate it. I think this is a city of contrasts. It can be beautiful and it can be ugly. It can be good and it can be bad. No matter whether you like New York or not, it is a fact that it is the fastest and most exciting city in the World. I sincerely recommend all of you who are fancied about New York to read this book.
Summary:
Do you think your teacher is a vampire? In this story, the principal came in and hired a new teacher. Her name was Mrs. Jeepers. The kids thought she was a vampire because they heard her talk because she sounded like a vampire. They believed that the teacher came from Romania and they began to feel scared. Then strange things started to happen.

Comment:
I think that the book is very interesting because the kids thought that Mrs. Jeepers was a vampire. I recommend this book to other children because it is very exciting. A lot of funny things happened when they had their other teacher, Mrs. Deedee’s class, and the kids put shaving cream in her desk drawer. It makes you eager to finish the book quickly. I think the illustrations are good because they have a lot of details.

This book also gives me the feelings that I was very naughty. Although I did not do something like shaving cream onto teacher’s desk or pull someone’s pigtails, I fooled with classmates. I created lots of laughers for my classmates.

Also I did many funny things when I was in primary school. I often dated primary school classmate. These funny memories will make us laugh again as they are unique.

I have become much more mature than I was in the past. I have learnt how to respect others and be a responsible student. Those silly things were done in the past. I promise, will not do so and I will treat all those things as jokes.
4C (14) Kong Po Ying, Becky  
**Title:** For One More Day  
**Author:** Mitch Album  
**Publisher:** Hyperion

**Summary:**  
Chick Benetto is a man who tried to kill himself. This is the story about his attempted suicide on the day he went back his hometown where he met his dead mother. Through the book we see bits of his childhood: Chick’s absentee father, nurse mother, and Roberta, his sister. His parents were fighting over dinner. His father claimed that it just wasn’t right. Chick sided with his father finally. When Chick’s mother died of a massive heart attack, his life crumbled. He felt as if he was alone suddenly - the family he had built, his wife and daughter, fell apart with his drinking quickly.

**Comment:**  
“For One More Day” is the story of a mother and a son, and a relationship that covered a lifetime and beyond. It explores the question: What would you do if you could spend one more day with a lost loved one?

I think it was an impressive and touching book based on a real story. After reading this book, I found that the book was mainly about two aspects, family and the everlasting love that your mother contributes. Also I knew that we should forgive the one who made fault, especially ourselves. In this world, there are happy families as well as sad ones. There maybe loneliness and sadness, even hate among them. If we are the lucky ones who posses a happy family, we have to treasure it; if we have lost the love of a family, perhaps we hate them, but we must believe that there is hope in our life. Also never give up because time can prove all of these.

The time that passed away will let us know how to love, accept someone and forgive. Another thing that I have learnt is that our parents always care about us, although we may not know they support us or even we do not like them sometimes because they are annoying to us, it is important to consider why they act like that. The only reason is that they love us. Through this book, I knew the world of parents that makes me ashamed. The truth is that they are not the people who do not understand us, but we never understand them, so we should develop good relationship among our family members. Do not make any regrets after we have lost our beloved one.
Summary:
Four children were sent from London to the house of an old Professor. It is because there were the air-raids during the war. They found a wardrobe that was an entrance of the magic land, Narnia in the Professor's house. They entered Narnia and had an exciting experience. They joined the army of Aslan which was a great lion. They overthrew the evil White Witch and got back the control of Narnia. Finally, four children became kings and queens in Narnia. They came back to their actual world and became kids after many years in Narnia.

Comments:
The story was very creative and exciting. Every chapter was interesting so it did not bore me. I was much interested in what things would happen in the next chapter after reading a chapter. Eventually, the story encouraged me to read the whole book.

My favorite scene was when Aslan was willing to replace a child, Edmund who was going to be killed. Aslan was so great that the story is very touching. I appreciated its behavior. Its behavior makes me know love is great and wonderful in the world. It must be in people's hearts.

I love Lucy this character. She was the youngest in four children but she was very brave and nice. She was not afraid of the White Witch and against her. She was friendly and easy to get along with.

I thought this book is valuable for students. You can learn a lot of difficult vocabulary, expressions and sentence structure from the book. Not only that, some parts of the story are good for us to learn about human behaviors, such as honesty, if not, nobody believes you.
Summary:

Harry Potter’s parents were witch and wizard. After their death, Harry left to survive with his horrible aunt and uncle, the Dursleys, and their spoiled son Dudley. But as his eleventh birthday approached, all this was about to change. A mysterious letter arrived by owl messenger, inviting him to attend Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry. Harry was astonished to learn the truth about his parents and went to Hogwarts School. At Hogwarts, Harry found friends and became an expert in Quidditch, an aerial sport played on broomsticks. He felt happy there. But soon he became involved in a life-threatening struggle against Voldemort—the one who killed his parents and gave the scar to him. At last, he won and Voldemort left.

Comment:

I think the most interesting and the bravest character was Ron. I think he was a funny, amusing, entertaining, humorous and fun-filled person. When they got trouble at school, he always showed nervous. He looked funny when compared to Hermione and Harry. He always made jokes during the lessons. But surprising, when they fell into the trouble of the chess, he performed bravely. He sacrificed himself so that the others can win. Because of the above reasons, I like this character most. I enjoy this book very much. This was because this book really took me to the magical world of Hogwarts. I felt exciting when I was reading the book and I didn’t want to put down the book. The most exciting part was how they solve the trouble after they passed through the trapdoor. It was dangerous but inspiring. But I think this book was unrealistic and incredible since it was full of magical in the book. But overall the book, I think this story was interesting and exciting. I would recommend this book to you.
Summary:
The Book “The Devil Wears Prada” is talking about a girl called Andrea who have just graduated from the university. She is looking for a job and she went to Marinda’s office to have an interview for the assistance of Marinda. Marinda is the editor of “Run way magazine” which is known as the bible of fashion. Thousands and Millions of young girls are willing to get that job but Andrea don’t. As Marinda is not satisfied with all of her assistances, she employed Andrea to have a try. Since Andrea didn’t pay attention to fashion, she didn’t dress well to work. She thought that dressing politely is already enough. However, all staffs in the magazine are fashionable, they didn’t like Andrea. Besides, Marinda is very concern about her job. She asked Andrea to do a great lot of work that Andrea was not familiar with. Also, Andrea’s boyfriend didn’t want her to spend all the time on her job, he complained Andrea for disregarding him. These lead to an obsession for Andrea. At last, Andrea chooses to quit the job.

Comment:
In the story, Andrea is my favorite character. It is because of her behavior and working attitude. She tries her best to do every thing. Although being Marinda’s assistance is very hard, she overcomes the problem and difficulties. I think this story is meaningful. It teaches us that working and money is not the most important thing in the world, relationship and love is much more important than that. Like Andrea, although she got the job that all girls wanted to have, she could earn a lot of money to buy fashion cloths, brand new stuff, she didn’t have a happy life. However, when she was with her boyfriend, although they didn’t have much money and living standard was not high, she was happier than having a lot of treasure. Also, we can see it from Marinda too. Marinda is a person who many people are proud of. She has lots of treasure. She can do what she wants in work. But she faced problems with her husband. She didn’t have good relationship with her two daughters. She has an unhappy life. Nowadays, people living in big city are just concerned about their jobs, just live for earning more money. They think that money is the most important thing, without that, they can’t live. They ignore their children and work every minute. It’s meaningless because people need love between them. Money will all be spent one day, but love will live forever. I think people should really think about loving one another.
4T3 Charis Li (26)
Title: 1984
Arthur: George Orwell
Publisher: Penguin books

Content:
Winston Smith who is the main character of this book lived in a society where the government
took control of people every second of the day. They controlled not only your life but also your mind.
There is big brother and thought police too, who controlled the past as well as the future. In this,
world people have no privacy at all. They were being watched and controlled by a ‘telescreen’ every
day. A telescreen is something with a microphone and camera so that the thought police could spy
you through it.

Winston lived in London which is the biggest part of Oceania at that time. He worked at the
Ministry of truth. This was actually one of the departments under the big brother who always send
message to people like: War Is Peace. Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength. There are actually
no laws at that time. But people might easily be killed just for something like writing diaries. There
should be any true love at that time, people should love big brother only.

However, in this world of horror. Somehow, Winston wished to oppose the big brother. He
wished to find true love in this world of hate, hunger and pain. The wish grew stronger as days
passed. Then he met Julia.

It’s really dangerous to love somebody except the big brother. As love is prohibited at that time.
But Julia was like Winston, she hated the party of big brother, it was actually a party who was
interested in power only. To make people think and live in such a way is the simplest way to control
people easily. They were very brave and opposed the party.

However, they were betrayed by a secret police. And brought to the jail to have a brainwash. Both
of them have tried their best to oppose the big brother, but unfortunately they failed to do so. The
Brainwash was successful. They both love big brother in the end.

Comments:
1984 is one of the classics of the famous Arthur George Orwell. I think this book was a success
because of his brilliance. Somehow he wasn’t just reminding us that communism might rule the
world 50 years before it really happened in Russia and China and other countries. He predicted it.
His book described the life under communism as true as it was written.

Communism which indicates no freedom and reality belongs to the one who got power. Those
scenes like when the thought police was brain wash Winston. They taught him 2 plus 2 makes
five. Yes. 2 plus 2 makes 4. But truth and reality belongs to the one who got power, so they let him
learn the idea. ‘The big brother’ did exist, but it was not a man. It was a party with power. So when
you want to survive, you have to say the ‘truth’ like 2 plus2 makes 5. This is why people were
frightened by communism, you can never tell the truth and oppose the party, and they don’t just
control your life but also your mind. I recommend this book to all of you, not just because it’s
entertaining but also meaningful. Admire the brilliance of George Orwell when reading 1984 as it’s
somehow related to our life today.
Summary:
“Tuesdays with Morrie” 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 beginning 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. Each chapter is organized into an amazing lesson and the topics covered in the story are about the meaning of life. The classes are held in Morrie’s home but no grades are given and no books are required.

Comment:
This book has really brought to me laughter and sadness. When I read the whole story, there are a lot of food for thought in my mind – love, family, money, death and the like. 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 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 possess, and look back on the past. Everyone should enjoy the moments they have in their lifetime before their lives come to end. “Tuesday with Morrie” is a must-read book for all kinds of readers. It inspires me a lot about the meaning of life. It also teaches me how to live my life at my own pace, and helps 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.
A stormy winter night in 1964 in Kentucky, Doctor David Henry delivers his own twins with the help of nurse Caroline. He immediately found out his son, Paul was fine while his daughter, Phoebe had the sign of Downs Syndrome. He made a quick decision by handing Phoebe over to Caroline, along with the address of an institution to which he wanted her to be taken. The he lied to her wife Noah that their baby was dead. But Caroline later decided to keep Phoebe as her own. Over the years, Noah never recovered from the pain of losing her daughter. She then turned to alcohol and had some affairs with different men. Their son Paul is a very unhappy young man. Seeing his parents’ marriage on the edge of falling apart, he indulged in music. On the other hand, Caroline married a handsome truck driver named Al. Although they are not rich, their lives with Phoebe were happier than those of Noah, David and Paul.

I like this story as it tells us about familial love and survival. How a decision can change the course of lives of many people. Sometimes what you think is the best may turn out to be the worst. Moreover, I think this also tells us how family support could help us survive.
Title of the book: Silas Marner
Author: George Eliot

Silas Marner is a weaver in a small religious community, Lantern Yard. He is also a member of a dissenting chapel. He fell in love with Sarah, a young servant-woman. However, due to the betrayal of a fellow parishioner, Silas is expelled from the congregation. After this, he found out that his former fiancée had betrayed him as she got married with another man. Later, he settled near the village of Raveloe, and lived as a recluse. One day, a thief stole his gold. The loss of gold drives Silas into a deep gloom, although a number of the villagers endeavour to help him.

Soon, an orphan came to Raveloe. She was not known by the people there, but actually her mother, molly was Godfrey’s wife in secret, who was the eldest son of the local squire. On a winter’s night, molly tried to make her way into town with a child. She wanted to prove that she was Godfrey’s wife and ruined him. On the way, she took opium, and died. Her child wandered from her mother’s still body into Silas’ house. Silas decided to keep the child and named her Eppie. Eppie changes his life completely. Very soon, the gold was found and restored. Eppie grew up to be the pride of the town and had a very strong bond with Silas as she brought much fortune to Silas. After years, the childless Godfrey and Nancy Cass arrived at Silas’ door, revealing the truth about Eppie’s family and asking Silas to give Eppie to them. However, the decision was rejected as Eppie did not want to leave Silas. At the end, Eppie got married with a local boy, Aaron and both of them moved into Silas’ new house, and lived happily together.

Ultimately, Silas Marner is a tale of familial love and loyalty, reward and punishment, as well as friendship. This book gave us a message that love from family and friends are valuable and irreplaceable. I enjoyed reading this book and love is the most powerful source for us to face difficulties. I do appreciate the willpower of Silas Marner, and I am glad to see that he deserves a good fortune at the end of the story.
Title: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows  
Author: J.K. Rowling

“Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows” is the seventh and the last book of the Harry Potter series. At the beginning of this book, Voldemort had finally taken over the Ministry of Magic. Harry Potter and his friends, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger set off to search for the remaining three Hocruxes with the inadequate clues provided by Professor Dumbledore, their former headmaster. Eventually, Harry Potter destroyed all the Hocruxes and killed Voldemort.

In my opinion, it is the most worth reading and exciting book of the Harry Potter series as most of the scenes happened outside Hogwarts. The major characters had to encounter dangerous traps set up by Voldemort and his Death Eaters. Harry Potter also had to face the worsening of his friendship with Ron. Fortunately, they could solve all the difficulties.

The deaths of Mad Eye Moody, Dobby, Fred Weasley and Lupin upset me. Moody was a tough and brave Auror who was worthy of praise. Dobby was a special house elf who demanded for freedom and he saved Harry’s life regardless of danger. Fred was one of Weasley’s brothers who always told funny jokes and brought laughter to everyone. Lupin was a kind werewolf who was a teacher and a friend of Harry.

I like the ending of the story. The death of the evil Voldemort marked the end of the dark period of the magic world. His death signifies the beginning of a peaceful life of all witches and wizards.

I admire Harry’s valiance that he was willing to give up his life to save the magic worlds. His selfless contribution to all people deserves on respect.

Also, it was very brave of Snape to betray his master, the dark lord because of his love to Lily Potter. I think it must be a surprise given by the author, as Snape was believed to be an atrocious Death Eater who wanted to hurt Harry Potter. This book changed our perception on Snape.

The last part of the story is about the life of Harry Potter and his family. Of course, he got married with Ginny Weasley at his will. However, it does not satisfy my curiosity. J.K. Rowling had already made it clear that she was not going to write the eighth book of the Harry Potter series. I hope that she would change her mind. I highly recommended this book to my fellow classmates.
Title: Stuart Little
Author: E.B. White

Summary:

The main character of this book is Stuart Little. He is an extraordinary mouse which was born to a family of humans. He lives in New York City with his father, mother, older brother and a cat. In the first part of the book, it describes some daily adventures of Stuart. The he met a beautiful little bird called Margalo. Stuart got a crush on her. However, Margalo vanished one day. Stuart started his journey to search for his love. He got many unforgettable experiences in his journey.

Comment:

It is an exciting and adventurous book. The description is lively and I enjoyed reading it. Though he was small, he was brave. He was so certain about his goals. In our life, there are many challenges, but we lack confidence and so, we can’t overcome difficulties. In addition, because of hesitation we might lose the opportunity Stuart taught me that we should be brave and learn from experiences. No matter what the result is, we should never give up. Moreover, we should also cherish what we have and always live with a thankful heart.
Summary: This book is about a boy Henry who was skinny and his parents were dead when he was a baby. His parents died because they wanted to protect him from other monsters’ attack. Then he lived with a new family, Dursleys. This family treated Henry badly. Henry only slept in a tiny small room that was under the stairs. Every morning, Dudley, who was a very fat boy, disturbed Henry and he could not sleep well. One day, a mysterious letter was sent to Henry and invited him to study in a magic school. Henry was so happy but Vernon, who was the father of Dudley, hid all letters and did not want Henry to receive it because students who can go to that school to learn magic was full of potential. Therefore, Vernon tried to stop this.

Feelings: I think Henry is very poor. It is because he was just a little boy but he lost his father and mother. I realize that care from parents is very important. Even though he was independent, he also needed parents’ care to teach him how to develop good personalities. It is very important. Also, when Henry lived in his uncle’s family, he was not happy. Dursleys treated him so bad but he could not live alone because he was a little boy and he could not find a new home or place for his growth. Henry only had one choice. Suddenly, many letters were sent to Henry, we would all think it may be a way to help him to get out of this tragedy. I think Vernon was very selfish that he did not let Henry study in the magic school. If I were him, I would let Henry go. Since I do not like Henry to live in my home, I do not want to see him every day, why do I still give meals to him? Why do I still keep him? If I really want myself become happier, I will let him go. He can learn more in the school and I need not to see him. However it is so lucky that Henry can learn magic at the end.
Summary: This story was about a girl, called Sara Crewe. She was motherless and lived alone with her father. She was sent home from India to school. Sara’s father was very rich, so everyone liked her. She had a lovely doll that her father bought to her when Sara was sent home to Miss Minchin’s. Sara became slow learner in that school. Unluckily, her father died and his wealth disappeared. She had no family, so she became a worker in that school, all her classmates treated her very bad. However, finally her father’s friend found her and told her he was sorry for her father. He wanted to support her life and let her study again. Finally Sara became a normal student again.

Comment: I like Sara very much because she is a good girl who won’t give up when she is the worker of the school. Although her classmates treated her very bad, she was still kind to them. She didn’t bear grudges. She was always sanguine to do anything. She didn’t be arrogant when she was a wealthy girl, that’s why many girls wanted to make friends with her.

If I were the editor, I would change the ending. Sara still met her father’s friend and studied in that school, but her bad classmates cannot. They will become a worker just like Sara did. It could let them know how Sara felt at that moment. Besides that, I have learnt that real friendship is very important in our life. A real friend will support you at anytime and you can fully trust him/her. It also reflects that the society is very hideous, money is the important.
Jenny Leung 4T1 (25)

Title : Little Prince
Author : Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Summary:
The author of this book had an accident and his plane fell on Sahara desert. When he was checking his plane, he met his new friend, Little Prince. Little Prince lived on a very small planet which has 55 sunsets in one day. He planted a rose on his planet and he started his journey around the space after watering his rose. During the journey, Little Prince had traveled to different planets and met different kinds of people. Finally, Little Prince arrived at the Earth and met the author. Little Prince was different from other humans on the Earth, this aroused the interest of the author and so they made friends. The author listened to the stories told by little prince, and wrote them down in this book.

Comment:
This is my second time reading this book. When I first read it in primary school, I could not get the meaning behind. I just read it as other stories. Now I can understand it more when I read it again. In the story, Little Prince met a businessman who wanted to own all the stars in the sky. Little Prince asked him why he should own the stars and what he would do after that. The businessman replied that he would become wealthy after owning them so he could buy more stars afterwards. He would manage the stars and count them every day to make sure that the number is accurate or not. It is an interesting idea to own all the stars but it is also impossible as we cannot pick the stars down and put them in our drawer.

In my opinion, the stars are owned by the nature, but not anyone of us. Every single one of us can enjoy looking at the stars equally only if they are not owned by anyone. Furthermore, owning the stars means owning something beautiful but useless for us. Owning them is just for our own vanity. Why should we be so selfish that we cannot share our wealth with other people? Sharing is more meaningful than having vanity.

I think we can understand different parts of this book in different ages. I believe I will get more from this book when I read it for my third time.
Water For Elephants
Author: Sara Gruen
Publisher: Algoquin Books of Chapel Hill

Water For Elephants brings readers into the nursing home life and memories of ninety-year-old (or ninety-three, he is not sure) Jacob, a cantankerous old man who once worked on a circus. The story then immediately draws readers into the exciting and dramatic life of Jacob under the Big Top when the circus performance is ruined in disaster and chaos, leaving Jacob to witness a scene that he will never forget.

Jacob, both as a young and old man, is an engaging and realistic character. He only reveals that he has worked on a circus for almost seven years when a fellow home resident claims to have carried water for elephants. As Jacob sits and grumbles in the home, the ghosts of his past rattle around and raise his circus memories.

Sara Gruen seamlessly alternates between Jacob’s “vacuous present” in the nursing home and his past memories. Twenty-three-year-old Jacob narrates the second chapter. He is studying at Cornell to become a veterinarian, when an unexpected tragedy takes away his family and property. Without any direction to his life, he jumps onto a train and finds himself a part of the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show On Earth. As his education quickly raises him from a shit-shoveler to the manager of the menagerie, he just learns the cruel hierarchy and scandalous side-shows quickly, as well as the terrible measures that competing with the Ringling Brothers. Jacob falls in and out of favor with August, the charismatic but dangerous ringmaster, and unsuccessf ully suppresses his desperate love for August’s wife, Marlena. He must also find a way to teach Rosie, the Benzini Brothers’ first and apparently dim-witted elephant.

In Water For Elephants, Sara Gruen creates an enchanting world of the circus that is severe and romantic. The compelling relationship that drives the story is that of Jacob and Rosie, as he discovers a way to communicate with her and thus saves the circus. The novel’s greatest achievement is the description of the lore and lifestyle of the American circus during the Great Depression. Each of the new chapter has a monochrome photograph from the museums of different American circuses in order to add the story a strong sense of time and place. Water For Elephants is a fascinating read with a surprising ending that magnifies its potency and makes it as a delightful tale.
Summary:

It’s a story about a bad, unkind and mean man called Scrooge. he hated Christmas and only cared about money. Even at Marley’s funnel, his business partner, he felt happy as he made a lot of money. On the Christmas Eve, the Marley’s Ghost talked to him that he would see three spirits later. All of them helped him. There were three Christmas spirits: Past, Present and Future. After seeing these four spirits, Scrooge became a kinder person. He loved everyone and even helped the poor.

Reflection:

I like this book since it is interesting. In addition, it gives us an important message – being a selfish and mean man (or woman) would be punished after death. We shouldn’t only care about money. We should love each other. Besides, helping the poor is also important.

Moreover, I like Marley who was a good man after death. He didn’t want his friend to be tortured, thus, he talked to him! I hope I could have a friend like Marley. Also, the Bob’s family was kind too. Although Scrooge has treated them badly, they also prayed for him on the Christmas Eve. I learn to love my enemies after reading this story.
4B Lo Sui Kam(29)

Title: Who Moved My Cheese?
Author: Spencer Johnson, M.D.
Publishers: G. P. Putnam's Sons

Summary:
The book Who Moved My Cheese? is a simple parable. In the story, four characters represent an important part of us. 'Cheese' is a metaphor for whatever we want to have in life----a good job, a relationship, health... and the "Maze" is where we look for it. When the word is changing, our "cheese" might be moved. Different people have different attitudes when they encounter change.

Change always means uncertainly, risk, and even loss to many people. However, this book has inspired me with fresh new insights. Change, in fact, can be anticipated and you can adapt to it quickly. One can enjoy change and be ready for an everchanging environment giving rise to the rich diversity of experiences that we encounter in life.

Comment:
As I read the book, I began to relate to situations the characters experienced at different stages. I could compare them with my own life and it all rang true. Before I read this book, I had a lot of stress to deal with as I am a Form four student. I found that I had encountered many difficulties in my schoolwork and I thought it would be hard for me to get into a good college after HKCEE, which was my parents' hope. Sometimes, all I could do was cry myself to sleep. I think I was just Hem. I spent too much time worrying about my future. I stayed in the old "cheese station" all the time. What I needed to do was to let go of the "old cheese". On the other hand, the most important discovery I made was that I did not know what my "new cheese" would be like, because I had no goal, no purpose that would get me there. This story also makes me re-think what I need in life. It also excites me because I know that if I really put a lot of effort into searching out my "new cheese", I will find it.

The discussion among the teens section certainly sheds lights on how we can move with the cheese and be successful winners of life. The handwriting on the wall says tacitly that change can be a blessing if we understand the nature of the cheese, and the role it plays in our lives. We have to boldly face unwelcome life changes to overcome our fears and see change as a way of gaining something better. If we still hold on to the old cheese that no longer exists, we will never "savor the adventure and enjoy the taste of the new cheese!"

If you've ever been afraid to make a change for fear of what might come; if things slowly seem to be "going to hell in a hand basket," you need to read this book. One reading can change your life. Therefore, I recommend this book as absolutely invaluable to everyone since it has been of great use to me.
Summary:
There was a twenty-year-old woman called Annie Sullivan who was half blind and always alone. She grew up in a poorhouse with only her pride and determination to sustain her. Even though all bad events came, she would never give up or let hardship to defeat her. This thought disappeared when she met Helen Keller. She could not speak or see or hear. She was always surrounded by a dark and silent prison. Annie decided to take the challenge which was teaching Helen how to read and live a full life. She had paid lots of efforts and patience on her. Lastly, she was able to achieve her goal.

Comment:
I really appreciate Annie Sullivan a lot. Her patience and effort put on Helen were really great. It was an impossible mission to teach a girl who could not hear, speak or see. How could you know that she understood what you had said? She could not express herself like a normal child. If I were Annie, I would feel extremely disappointed. Due to the tremendous amount of effort and patience put on her, I really hope that she would learn something. However, the failure would upset me and made me want to give up. I would feel I was useless also. Surprisingly, Annie was not disappointed by failure. Conversely, she even made additional efforts on Helen!

In addition, I feel sorry for Helen because she was deaf, blind and mute when she was little. She was not the same as the other children. She could not communicate and make friends with others easily. She could not even express herself. These were the most essential things for a growing child. However, she could not have the chance to experience them. How poor she was!

Consequently, we should not discriminate against the disabled. They had no choice to choose whether they are normal people or not. It was set already when they were born. We should treat them as normal people. They would be pleased and happy if we are willing to be friends with them. Have you ever discriminated against them? If you have done so, please change your mind from now on and be friendly to them!
Summary:
The story is about a cruel and greedy king and his arrogant and brutal men. People suffered a lot. One day, a cruel sheriff killed Robin’s father, and took away all his lands. Robin escaped to the Forest with his loyal servants. However, the king considered them outlaws. But Robin continued to give the money to the poor and help the passing travelers. Soon, other honest men joined Robin. Some years passed, the Sheriff sent an army of soldiers to capture Robin Hood, but they failed and the Sheriff was caught. The sheriff loathed Robin by holding an archery competition as a trap that the winner could get the silver arrow. This attracted Robin to join the competition. Fortunately, the sheriff failed again as his soldiers was afraid of Robin. And Robin returned to Sherwood Forest with the silver arrow. Then a knight went to the Forest. He was original king. He would restore his throne and would punish the cruel king and the sheriff. After the king’s return, Robin got back his land and lived happily. The outlaws got back their freedom.

Comment:
I think Robin is a hero. He created justice at the time he lived when there was none. He took money from the rich and gave it to the poor. Robin Hood was adamant. Although he lost all his possessions, he did not give up. He tried to find another place to live happily.
At that time, the poor meant the lowest state in the society, they were peasant and serfs. They were also helpless because of social inequality. While they were the only social group who needed to pay taxes, the nobles and the rich did not need to do so. Therefore, the subsistence of Robin Hood was meritorious. Nowadays, the problems of social inequality are not as serious as the past. Many governments of different countries are trying their best to improve equality in the society, for example, equality between sexes; race and religion. The factors that make people poor are not the same. In addition, nowadays, not all the rich people are bad. On the contrary, many rich people are kind. They contribute money to charities in order to help the helpless and the governments also provide different kinds of social welfare for the minority groups. Although some of us were born poor, we should not give up or just receive the help from others. We should try our best to improve our live and enhance our competitive power.
Summary:
The book name, BFG, stands for “the big friendly giant”. This book was about a friendly giant who lived with a group of man-eating giants. But the friendly giant had a good personality that he would not eat people. He was nice and helpful. A girl called Sophie, was brought to the man-eating giant group. The friendly giant knew that so he tried his very best to save Sophie. Later, the friendly giant became friends with Sophie. He shared a secret with Sophie. When Sophie asked the giant to tell the Queen all about that, he agreed.

Comment:
This book is just like a magical adventure. That is what I cannot imagine. I think many of you thought that giant must be terrible and harmful. But the story told you that it was not. The friendly giant in the book was very nice, brave and helpful. Although the giant was actually not a real creature but the book described it vividly. Also, the author described the personality of every character clearly. This kind of queer plot can get reader’s interest.

After I read this book, I can learn a lot. In the society, many people do something wrong but they do not have courage to admit their fault. It is because we do not have courage and many people are afraid of getting into trouble. However, being a responsible person, we should tell what we see and the right things using our heart. Like the friendly giant, he did every by heart with his good personality. I think giant is a good role model for us to learn.
**Title:** Old man and the sea  
**Author:** Hemingway

**Summary:**
The novel described an old fisherman who was almost sixty years old. When he went to sea and fish alone once, he had angled to a big fish but couldn’t draw it up. He fought with the big fish for two days. Although he used all the methods and stood the pain, he never gave up. He put all his energy on the target, which was a fish bigger than his boat. Finally, he was successful. Unfortunately, the fish attacked a shark. The old man fought with the shark constantly. After that, the shark was defeated, but the big fish became just a piece of bone.

**Comments:**
I admired the spirit of the old man very much. Although he knew the power of the big fish was very strong, he never flinch. After that, when he met the shark, he also fought with it bravely. He didn’t think about his safety but fully concentrated on his target. He let me know that human’s volition and potential are unlimited. If we meet difficulties and never give up, we will definitely have successful days. We should learn from the old man. When we meet opponents; we need to face them bravely. Also, I think he is an optimist. When his fish left a piece of bone only, he did not feel disappointed. Not all people could do it. In our daily life, some loss are unavoidable, just like the old man facing the fish bone, we should use the right altitude to treat the event. Don’t care about the result only because the process is also important.
4C Ng Mei Shan (31)

Title of the book: Romeo and Juliet
Author (s): William Shakespeare

Summary:

The story is about the hatred between two great families, the Capulets and the Montagues and the strong love between Romeo and Juliet. As Paris was planning to marry Juliet, Juliet was unwilling and decided to drink the medicine. However, Romeo did not know the truth and killed Paris. Finally, Romeo committed suicide. When Juliet regained her consciousness, she killed herself with a knife. Due to the death of their only child, these two families reconciled.

Reflection:

I like his play as it is romantic. It is about love, I have learnt a lot of different ways of describing things, for instance, Shakespeare used simile to describe Juliet’s face – ‘she is like the stars shining so brightly in the dark night’.

The story also enhances me to understand how destructive hatred could be. Violence is not the best solution. It is love which reconciliates two families. If I were one of the family members in this family, I would discuss with other families.

This is, after all, a famous play. Many people dramatise this play and so, it is a well-known play. I highly recommended it to my fellow classmates.
**Summary:** Stories of Courage is a collection of eight true stories about exceptionally brave people from different parts of the world. This book shows how brave men and women could be. Although these stories were with different background and character, they had a few things in common. They were all in extremely hard and rough situations at the beginning. They paid extra effort and had great fortitude, so they could overcome their problems and achieve their goals. One of the stories was about a Cuban world-class sprinter called Ana Quirot. She suffered serious burns in a terrible accident at home one day and she was close to death. She spent a few months in the hospital and the doctor diagnosed that she could never run again. Yet, she endured her pain with great courage to walk and run. With plenty of practice and incredible courage, she once again won medals for her country.

**Comments:** I enjoyed reading this book very much. It brought an important message to readers. People usually give up their goals easily without trying because they think their goals are unachievable. Even if they try to work towards their goals, most of them are not able to put all of their effort into it. They are distracted by studies, work and other interests. In these eight stories, they were very determined and worked with a hundred percent effort. For example, Ana said, ‘If I don’t run again, I will die.’ She had a very clear goal and she knew running was her life. She was so persistent in fighting against pain and illness. That’s why she could gain such a great success. We are not in hard situations but our minds are even weaker than those who are in difficult situations. We should do much better and have greater success as we are healthy and well off, compared to the people in the stories. Without paying effort and determination, we will never reach our goals.

After reading this book, I realize that I am not determined at all. I should have a stronger mind and be braver. Courage makes people stronger and it is very important in everyone’s life. Courage is necessary for overcoming every problem and facing every trouble. When we act bravely, we can be more confident and influence other people. We can fight against our own problems with more courage after we read these eight stories of courage.
Are you satisfied with your life? Most of us may be unsatisfied with our lives. Is it really true that our lives are really so bad?

“David Copperfield” is the most autobiographical of all Charles Dickens’ novels. This heart breaking story was happened in England in 1810. David Copperfield was born in a nice and warm single family. His father died before his birth. In these seven years, he did not need to worry about his life as his mother and the housekeeper loved him very much. Unfortunately, the tragedy began after his mother got married to a man called Mr. Murdstone. His step-father then thrashed David as he fell behind in his studies. David endured thousands of harassments and maltreatments. After his mother died, Mr. Murdstone sent him to work in a factory in London of which he was a joint owner.

Through these series of unhappiness, David learned that he must become stronger. He learned that he must rely on himself from then on. So, David escaped from the factory and walked from London to Dover in order to find his only known relative, Aunt Betsy Trotwood, who agreed to bring him up. She gave him all the best things and sent him to a good school. Finally he become a successful writer.

There are thousand kinds of challenges in our lives. We should not just give up our future after some failures. David Copperfield was a character whom I admire very much. He was eager to learn and he had talent in writing. He was just persevered in his dream of being a writer. He was also independent as he did everything on his own. His attitude towards his future was so optimistic that he cheered himself up quickly although he was unhappy.

Happiness is not inevitable. I feel very fortunate living in Hong Kong. In the past, females did not have many rights in the society. In the 21st century, woman has strong power in society, but sexual discrimination and class conflict are still present in some countries. To me, I think that it is really unfair. We are very lucky, aren’t we? But we still are not satisfied. Why? We just do not know how to feel contented with what we have in the present. It is just our natural instinct.

Some of the Hong Kong children cry just because of some minor things or purposes. How about those living in Africa? They do not have food to eat for nearly a month or they even have diseases that cannot be cured. How about them? Who will really care about their feelings? What can they do? Some of them are soon to die, but they are still iron-willed and unbending. They think that life is really a treasure. Although they are going to leave this amazing world, they will not have regrets. Why do some teenagers want to end their lives just because of failing in a test?

Life is really a dream. There is happiness and unhappiness. There is also no chance for us to remedy if we do something wrong. Thus, it is necessary to think carefully before doing everything and then we will not regret!
Summary: Oliver Twist is a story by Charles Dickens that takes place in the middle of the 19th century. It’s a story of a young orphan named Oliver Twist. His mother died while giving birth in an old workhouse. He moved around through different orphanages and finally runs away to the streets of London. On the way to London he met a nice boy named Jack Dawkins, who was a Dodger. The Dodger gave the poor orphan a place to stay and something to eat and drink. Oliver found out that they were thieves and they forced Oliver to help them with a robbery. They were supposed to use Oliver to sneak into a house through a small opening and unlock the front door. However, the owners were awakened, then Oliver got shot. Oliver's partners disappeared from the crime. Oliver told the owners of the house his story and they took him as their own. Oliver grew attached. The family educated him and put him to work. At the end an old friend named Mr. Brownlow adopted him.

Appreciation: The theme in Oliver Twist is to make friends carefully. Oliver met a boy named Jack Dawkins. He seemed like a nice boy and offered Oliver some food and a place to stay. Oliver got to be friends with Jack Dawkins and his friend named Charlie Bates. One day they were "going to work" when all of the sudden Jack and Charlie stole a handkerchief from an old man. The two boys were thieves! They ran away and left Oliver in the alley. When the old man realized that his handkerchief was missing that he thought Oliver did it. The old man started to chased Oliver and yelled out "Stop thief! Stop thief!" Jack Dawkins and Charlie Bates joined in the chase so that they did not look suspicious. They no sooner heard the cry, and saw Oliver running, than, guessing exactly how the matter stood, they issued forth with great promptitude; and, shouting 'Stop thief!' too, joined in the pursuit like good citizens. If Oliver noticed that the young boys were thieves he would not have been arrested and he would not have eventually been shot in the arm. But, because he was in need of a friend he seemed to over look the fact that the kids were thieves.

Later in the story, Nancy, a prostitute, betrayed her friends and her lover. She tried to warn Oliver's friends of Mr. Monks plans. Bill Sikes, her lover and colleague trusted her not to tell what went on inside the house. If he could only tell that she had a change in heart he would not have had to kill her and she wouldn't have been able to tell Oliver's friends Mr. Monks' plans and where Bill Sikes lived. If she didn't tell Oliver's friends where Bill Sikes lived he would not have had the police after him and he would not have accidentally killed himself. So if people just knew their friends better it would have saved many people's lives and the story would have turned out differently.

This book is connected to my life through how unlucky Oliver was in the beginning of the book. Everyone he met was treating him unfairly. People were getting paid to take him away from the orphanage. He also got in trouble for something he didn't even do. But sometimes it all turns out well just like it did for Oliver. Everyone that was mean to him either died or got in trouble. I wish that I were as lucky as Oliver Twist was at the end of the book.
Summary:
A fresh university graduate, Andrea, got her first job by luck to work as a junior assistant for Miranda Priestly, the Queen of the Fashion Industry. That was a job that a million girls would die for, however Andrea did not think it was great at all. She had to work for fourteen hours a day, be standby for twenty-four hours, work like a maid such as buying coffee for her boss, strolling with her boss’s dogs, taking her boss’s clothes to the laundry and listening to her condescending, manipulative boss. Moreover, she could not make a single mistake or she would be fired. Under the pressure of her boss, colleagues, family, friends and boyfriend, she finally made a right choice. She resigned and started a chapter of her new life to pursue the dream that she had longed for.

Thoughts:
From the book, I found out that Miranda is actually a very miserable woman. Though she had two daughters, she did not have anyone to love. She was lonely and did not have any real friends to share her ups and downs. The “friends” she had made with were actually enemies who wanted to grab her throne in the fashion industry; the world she lived in worshipped nothing but power, greed and wealth. Miranda seemed to be a powerful person whom everyone longed to be, yet her life was full of emptiness.
In our society, wealth is glorified and fame is extolled, everyone dreams of being a famous and rich person. But, do they know that behind the façade of fame and wealth, how much those successful people have sacrificed? They live comfortably in this materialistic world but they lack love and friendship.
To me, living in the world of love is far better than the world of greed and hatred. Fame and wealth can only bring us short-term happiness but love is everlasting. Material life can only cultivate our greed, but love can fill up our empty heart and shower us with endless joy.
For Andrea, I think she is really a brave lady who dares to fight for her dreams. Even when she had to work with her fussy boss, she did not complain a single word but keep improving herself bit by bit to keep her job so that she could save enough money to pursue her dreams.
Once Miranda pointed out she had no fashion sense and was not suitable for her job. However, Andrea did not give up, Instead she changed the style of her outfit to the trendiest one next day and shocked Miranda, making her eyes pop out. Her perseverance and determination provoke me to uncover the dreams buried deep down in my heart and how to turn them into reality. The path of our dream pursuit is full of thorns, but with love and faith, I am sure that we can make our dreams come true one day.
Name: The Philosophy Files  
Author: Stephan Law  
Publisher: Dolphin Paperbacks  

Content:  
Stephen Law is a young philosophy lecturer from Oxford, this book is about the argument of some of the biggest questions of philosophy. The book is divided into eight files with questions as titles. Readers do not have to start at the beginning of the book, they can jump in wherever they like. Each file is set out usually with a story to explain a different situation and the situation provides a point for arguing. Each argument is set out first by explaining each others’ positions and argument points. The points will then be explained further by being put them into action. Readers can easily understand both sides of the argument and they can make their own choice. The explanation really helps readers to make up their own mind about what they think about the argument.

To conclude, it gives a broad introduction to key ideas and questions in philosophy without the boring names and dates. With its funny and imaginative illustrations of philosophical dilemmas, it can rekindle your interest in reading.

Feedback:  
This book is much more valuable than the price printed on its back. It has inspired a new thought into my mind, and it helped me to develop my own point of view.

In his introduction the author clearly explains exactly what philosophical questions are and that his intention is to pose questions in order to get the reader to think and figure out the answers for himself rather than presenting ready-made answers. I am amazed at how the author can introduce some of the most complex concepts of philosophy so simply, particularly the chapters on the existence of God. Even if you have never heard of Aristotle or Plato, you can still understand the issues presented in this book. Furthermore, the author manages to introduce the basics of philosophy in an entertaining and apprehensible style. He did achieve his intention. Each file is designed as a mixture of conversations between friends, light-hearted humour and extremely clear philosophical summaries accompanied by amusing drawings. I enjoy this way of reading a lot.

The author also invents characters with different personalities to help him to illustrate the points he wants to tell the readers. For example, in the chapter about eating meat, he tells us the story of Errol the explorer who was eaten by some cannibals because he could not find sufficiently sound reasons to explain why it would be morally wrong for them to kill and eat him, while he himself considered it to be perfectly alright to kill and eat other animals. I agree with the cannibals that they think they have the right to prey on the man, as I think the explorer is considered as another species in the cannibals’ point of view. I like this chapter so much as it guides me to think in a totally different way as usual.

Reading this book is similar to a journey, the difference is that we are travelling around different kinds of mind but not the tourist spots. Moreover, you do not have to bring a big rucksack or a map, you just have to prepare a clear mind to start this journey. I really love this book and I would like to recommend the book to my friends.
Chicken Soup for the Kids Soul: 101 Stories of Courage, Hope and Laughter By Jack Canfield, Patty Hansen, Irene Dunlap. I never believed in hope until I read Chicken Soup for the Kid’s Soul. There were kids, way younger than me, writing short stories of a problem, and believing that there is a way around everything. That’s right. Chicken Soup for the Kids Soul is a great book for anyone to read. I finished this book about two weeks ago and man has it changed me. This book talks about a variety of topics such as Decision Making, Death in the Family, etc. Jack Canfield. Edmund Burke. Why do you wear such big pants? kids on the bus would tease. At the after-school YMCA program, kids were equally cruel. I was so hurt by their comments, I didn’t know how to answer...r back. At the age of nine, I weighed 115 pounds, more than most other kids at school! I thought of myself as a regular kid. But according to many of the children in my school, I was a nobody. I had friends here and there, but that year, friends began to fade away. My interests were in reading a good book, writing and schoolwork in general. I pulled some of the highest grades in, or other substances, Chicken Soup for the Christian Teenage Soul can be a lifeline to God. They w Chicken Soup for the Soul. PagesÂ·2005Â·1.01 MBÂ·31,731 Downloads. Chicken Soup for the Soul: 101 Stories to Open the Heart and Rekindle the Spirit (Chicken Condensed Chicken Soup for the Soul - ebook79.com. 355 PagesÂ·2012Â·834 KBÂ·8,271 Downloads. Chicken soup for the Soul: 101 stories of courage. BRIE. 3289503300468 Chicken soup for the kid’s soul : 101 stories of courage. BRIE. 32895000011374 BRIE_ Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul. 198 PagesÂ·2016Â·601 KBÂ·2,347 Downloads. You can also visit the Chicken Soup For The Soul site on America Online Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul: 101 Stories to Open the Hearts and Rekindle the Spirits of Women.