



The Digital Application & Entertainment Contest 2015

Wong Wing Ching, Patricia (5B)

On 25th April, 2015, our Design and Technology team participated in the Digital Application & Entertainment Contest 2015, which was organized by the Hong Kong Institute of Education (Chai Wan). Our school designated 3 teams, with a total of 18 schoolmates who joined this competition. Participants not only have to make their robots perform a set of appointed moves but also another set of free moves. They were expected to design the choreography and have their robots perform the dance immediately. Our schoolmates did so well in the contest that they won the championship and were the second runners-up of the robot dance competition. They also got the champion of the best robot design.



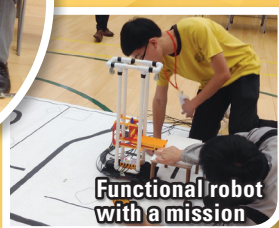
Activating the Pirate Robot



Testing the Iron Man



Designing the choreography (dance steps) of the robot



Functional robot with a mission



All ready to go for it!



Explaining the movements of the robot

The champions of the robot dance competition and best robot design:

Team C

4C Lai Yat Ming
4B Ngan Tsz Ying
4B Lau Chiu Ho
3B Chung Yu Ho
3B Siu Chi Wang
2D Lee Sze Ling
2D Ching Shuk Ting
2D Cheung Ka Wai

The second runners-up of the robot dance competition:

Team A

3A Ho Hong Ki
2C Pak Tak Shun
2C Tse Nap Yin
2C Chan Kwok Kai
2C Cheng Man Cham
2C Chan Ka Chun

Prize presenting



The Clown Robot peeping

Prize Giving Ceremony of Primary Six Writing Competition

Wong Wing Ching, Patricia (5B) Law Chiu Shan, Gloria (5B)



Our Principal giving a speech



Souvenir given by Our Principal to Dr Mak

We give thanks to Ms Ng Mei Chun who lead in organizing the P6 Writing Competition, assisted by Mr David Brown and Ms Jessica Chan, and our gratitude to Ms Emma Keliher for being a judge. We are also honored to have Dr Pauline Mak, Lecturer from the School of Education and Languages of the OUHK, as our guest speaker for the Awards Ceremony held on 24th March, 2015. The winners from the primary schools that took part, their parents and teachers were invited to attend. Student ambassadors from F1 helped at reception desks, gave out name tags and showed our guests to their seats. The ceremony started with a talk delivered by Dr. Mak on English writing skills. Dr Mak talked about how important it is to include feelings and thoughts in stories and to do this we need lots of adjectives. She then showed us samples from well written books. Even with her busy schedule, she kindly accepted our request for an interview after the ceremony.



Dr Mak giving a talk on writing

Everyone on stage



A moment to remember



M: Dr. Mak **R:** Reporters

R: Good afternoon, Dr. Mak. We are reporters of the KCC STANDARD. Could we ask you a few questions?

M: Sure.

R: How do you find Hong Kong students' English standard?

M: I think it's quite okay, just that, you know, some people think that the English proficiency level of the students is not very good. But I don't find that as a great big difference between the past and now. So, I would say that, you know... they are good, but there's still room for improvement. But as compared to other countries like, for example, Thailand and probably Singapore, the students have been learning English for the same number of years, I think, as the Hong Kong students. I feel that their standard is probably a bit higher than Hong Kong students. This is how I feel.

R: The second question is, what are the common mistakes Hong Kong students make in their writing?

M: I think mostly fragments. You know what fragments are? Like, for example, you

have 'hotdogs and hamburgers', and then you put a full stop afterwards. So it's not a complete sentence. And we do have a lot of comma-blinds. That is, you tend to put comma, comma all the time without a full stop. And, thirdly, I think that has to do with... probably dangling modifier. Have you heard of dangling modifiers?

R: No

M: Dangling modifiers is like, for example, if you have, like... let me think, 'looking at him, the teacher felt that he was worried.' But the thing is, if you have 'looking at him', you should have the subject that follows but they don't have the subject, instead they have another wrong subject afterwards, so this is a dangling modifier. I find that, you know, students tend to make a lot of mistakes in dangling modifiers as well.

R: Ok, so the last question is, do you have any tips for our students on how to improve our writing?

M: Um... I think that, um, students don't get to use English outside class. I think it's better if they use more English outside class, for



The interview with Dr Mak

example, they can talk to their classmates in English, they can listen to some... you know, music or watch TV, you know, listen to some radio channels whatever, but the most important thing is being able to use English outside class because at the moment I think that you tend to stop right there. In the classroom you may use a lot of English, but outside class, you don't get to use any English at all and this would be a problem I think. So if you want to improve, I think that the more you use English outside class, the better you will be. This is how I feel.

R: Thank you for your time, so it is the end of our interview.

M: Thank you.



A proud teacher



Focusing on our newsletter



Our future writers!

After the interview, we did some research based on Dr Mak's comments to let our students have a better understanding.

To sum up Dr. Mak's feelings towards common errors made by Hong Kong students, we understand that they are mainly mistakes in sentence structures. Many students write fragments instead of complete sentences. We know that in certain types of writing, such as in speeches and to bring out a certain effect, it is acceptable to use fragments; yet in most writings, we should avoid using incomplete sentences. In fact, it is not difficult to write a simple sentence because it consists of just a noun and a verb, for example, 'He cried.' Missing either the noun, as in here, 'he' or the verb 'cried' and no matter how long it is, the chunk of words is still not considered a sentence.

The same with the use of commas, we should be very careful while using commas. Without a full stop, the sentence becomes much too long and it is often called a 'run-on sentence' which

is as poorly written, if not worse, as a fragment.

The part about dangling modifiers, too, involves sentence structure and word order. Modifiers are words, phrases, or clauses that add description. In clear sentences, you find modifiers right next to, either in front of or behind, the target words they describe. Read this example:

✓ *Disappointed, the teacher took away the expensive mobile phone from John, who had been playing with it for a long time.*

Note that 'disappointed' precedes 'the teacher', its target, just as 'expensive' is placed right before 'mobile phone'. The clause 'who had been playing with it for a long time' follows 'John', its target. However, a writer that is inexperienced may have a modifier but forget the target. The modifier therefore dangles because the noun the modifier describes does not exist.

Dangling modifiers are errors that confuse readers. Look at the sample below:

✗ *With disappointment, the expensive dress was returned to the rack.*

If you look carefully, you do not find anyone in the sentence feeling disappointed because neither 'a dress' nor 'a rack' has emotions. You often need to add something to the sentence so that the modifier finally has a target word to describe:

✓ *With disappointment, Maria returned the expensive dress to the rack.*

Let's look at another example:

✗ *Scrubbing the tiles with bleach and an old toothbrush, the stains began to fade.*

Again, you do not find anyone in the sentence scrubbing the tiles because stains cannot scrub themselves. To fix the problem, you should organize the sentence like this:

✓ *Scrubbing the tiles with bleach and an old toothbrush, the helper removed the stains on them.*

To answer our last question in regard to English standard, Dr Mak thinks that Hong Kong students are quite good although we are a bit behind from Thailand or Singapore.

Shortly after talking to Dr Mak, we felt that more schools should organize this kind of writing competition and invite experts like her to give feedback. If more schools are doing this, we can learn from outside class like she said. Maybe this is one way to catch up with our counterparts in nearby cities.

Adjectives: the key to vivid description

Based on Dr Mak's suggestion on writing stories by putting in lots of thoughts and descriptions with the use of adjectives, we invited some of the upper form students to show us through a paragraph that describes their journey to school. Most of us know that adjectives are one-word as in 'impatient', 'irritating', 'vibrant', 'wonderful' and many more. We also noticed that they can be in phrases such as 'in tidy school uniform', 'in a great spirit' or 'full of energy'. We are therefore convinced that adjectives are the key to a vivid description of many kinds of writing especially for stories.

My Journey to School

Lam Ka Ho, David (6B)

When I come to school, I can hear the noise of cars made by impatient drivers. Their horns are irritating. I can see many students running to the school gate even though it is still early. I don't know why they have to rush. We usually arrive at school in a tidy school uniform, with a heavy school bag and with a tired face. Some look tired from studying and some maybe from playing online games which they usually deny. When I walk through the basketball court, I can hear birds chirping to say hi trying to wake us up. They seem to know that some of us are still very sleepy. Their voice can make me relaxed and feel at home. It is just like coffee that can recharge me. Apart from this, I can smell a weird smell every day when I cross the road. It is the cooking smell from the fast food shop. The fragrance reminds me of my hamburger breakfast on the days I wake up too late for it. It is finger linking good and I can only imagine how tasty it is until lunch time. Finally, I walk upstairs to the washroom and sprinkle my face with fresh cold water to start my day merrily.

Kung Ping Sin, Vicky (6B)

This forest path leads me to school every day. When I stand there, I feel vibrant and peaceful. This road is surrounded by trees so I call it forest road. Trotting on it, I can hear the calls of Mother Nature. The sound is like a wonderful song when the wind is blowing and the leaves are shaking. I can smell fresh air and the essence of flowers. At the end of the road, there is a pavilion. Whenever I go past the pavilion, I feel motivated to go to school as many elderly are doing tai chi there every morning. They are always in a great spirit and call out loudly with different moves. They are so full of energy and I must be too. I feel great to say "hello" to them and they happily greet me. What a good way to start a new day!

We then asked some students to describe someone they know or any character they once encountered. We would like to ask the readers to decide if they use enough adjectives. Please test yourself by underlining in the short prose below all the adjectives or adjectival phrases. Sometimes they can even be sentences such as a relative clause with 'who' for people or 'which' for objects.

My Neighbor's New Born Li Chui Ling, Cherry (6B)

My neighbor's daughter is called Angela, who is a newly born baby. She has big, black eyes. When she looks at me, I smile automatically. I think everyone can put aside all the stressful things they encounter in their daily lives when looking at her charming eyes. Sometimes, she widens her eyes in surprise as I sing or speak to her. How adorable and pure she is! Her skin is light and refine and her little pink cheeks are where I want to kiss most. She has a dimple on her right cheek and when she smiles, she looks so cute. Her skin is so soft and smooth that when I touch her face, it feels like touching tofu. I like to hug her when she sleeps and inhale the sweet aura around her. She is like an angel as her name suggests. She may suddenly smile in her sleep. A sweet dream, I believe. Smiling or crying, she is the most adorable baby in my eyes.

My Parents Chui Ka Sin, Doris (5B)

My parents are typical helicopter parents. They care about me a lot but at the same time I lose the freedom I am entitled to because of their love. They are worried that I may get hurt when I go out, so they don't allow me to go out alone. If I really need to go, they follow me around.

I once had an allergy that would not go away. My mum was very anxious because she thought it could be something very serious and didn't permit me to go to school. I thought it was just a minor thing and it was unnecessary to ask for a sick leave.

Although I know that my parents are doing this for my own good, they are too protective. I hope they can listen to me and respect my feelings. I can take care of myself. When I grow up, I have to become independent and learn to tackle difficulties without their protection anyway. Therefore, I hope they can give me freedom to do whatever I like if it won't affect anyone.

(Please note that the above description is only for the purpose of a demonstration and may not reflect the truth)

(Answers found on this page)





Studying Smart

Research done by Chief Editors

We did our research on how to study with no sweat and stress before our exam and hopefully we could benefit from it and tried out in our exam that came after. We found that most students studied till very late the night before an exam. Actually this puts them at the risk of falling ill because our body's immune system becomes weak due to the fact that by cramming our work within a short period of time leads to lack of sleep, change of routine pattern of food intake, and deprivation of rest time. All of these affect our immune system and we easily get sick.

Of course in order to gain high marks in exam, we cannot avoid devoting our time on revision. There is no free lunch in this world. If studying hard for exam is inevitable, how can we minimize the bad effect our exams bring us? This is the purpose of our research and we do hope it will help you to stop letting exam stress affecting your academic performance.

Test yourself:

Read a chapter once and test yourself. Instead of reading the same chapter three times, it is more efficient if you minimize the time of reading and add an additional part which can test how much you understand or memorize. You can play the teacher and write up a list of questions your teacher may probably ask you. Or you can ask your classmate to be one. This way you are studying with a companion and work as a team. Playing the teacher helps you focus on what you think is more important and this surely helps us avoid the

less important bits and enables us to memorize the more important information.

Listen to music

We suggest you trying out for a minor test or dictation, in case it may not work that well for you. Studies show that people who listen to classical music while studying perform better. It is believed that the complex structure and rhythms of the music can activate parts of the brain that coordinate both rational and creative thoughts. It also puts us in a more relaxed mood to do our revision.

Summarize it

After reading a few pages, try to summarize what you have studied in a few sentences. You can write it out or highlight the part in your notes that summarize the pages. This not only helps you memorize better, it also prepares you for quick review in the future.

Break up study time

Try the 45/15 rule: in every hour, study for 45 minutes and take 15 minutes off. You can absorb information best if you do this for 3 hours. While taking the break, try things like checking your emails or clearing up your desk instead of playing computer games. Do things that will not make you tired but further release you from your stress.

Rule of thumb

The best way to study is, after our research, leisurely read your notes after lesson every day. Read them again the next day, a week later, a month later, and after 3 months to make them lifelong memory. Would you like to try? We found this one of the best survival skills in today's competitive world. Trust us, it works.

Talk of the Town

With a mobile phone in our hands, we can reach every corner of the world. Communication between people becomes so fast and effective. As a global citizen who uses a mobile phone, we receive loads and loads of information every day. As the Editorial Team of the KCC Standard, we would like to share with you what we found worth sharing from this small device of today's technology.

A Mysterious Dress



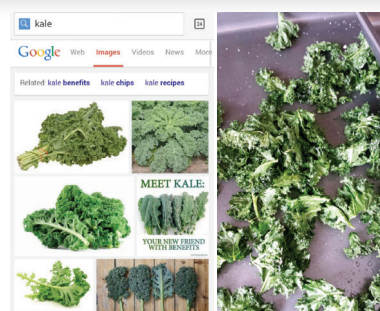
The colour combination of this dress has been wildly circulated for a while. Everyone talked about what colours they saw. Some people thought it was due to different lighting of the environment especially when it matches with the screen of the mobile phone where light is also emitted from the device. Some said it has to do with the combination of the dark and light colours, especially on this pattern and

so on. The speculation eventually came to an end when more authoritative articles explained from a scientific point of view how different people see different colours. This incident shows that science can be very interesting too and it may have raised the motivation of students who find this subject tedious and boring.

Healthy Kale Chips

You take this veggie, wash it and dry it. Then you put it on a cookie sheet and spray some olive oil on it. Sprinkle some salt and cayenne pepper, bake it for 15 minutes and you get healthy chips. It is as yummy as potato chips. Restaurants that provide buffet dinners like to use them to cover the shaved ice for decoration. Kale leaves are sold in Hong Kong too and the best place to look for it would be stores like Three Sixty or City Super.

Link: <http://www.greenqueen.com.hk/green-queens-definitve-guide-kale-hong-kong>



Personality Tests

There was a personality test circulated in Whatsapp chat groups and it is so accurate that people said it's scary. There are both Chinese and English links that readers can try out.

English: www.16personalities.com

Chinese: www.16personalities.com/ch/

Which Route Would You Choose?

Another personality test we found interesting is in Chinese and thus we did translation for you. Many people who tried it said it matches their personalities. It is called 'Which Route to Take?'

Which path below would you choose? What you chose reflects your personality.



Path 1: You are a reserved and low-profiled person. You like pretty things and enjoy being around them. You like old things such as old memories, old songs, old books... The past is very important to you.

The road full of flowers represents you take things slowly. You enjoy indulging yourself in the precious but short moments of happiness. However, your intention to seek stability and comfort means some changes you have undergone. What lies ahead is full of challenges. Don't be afraid, you will like this new change.

You used to keep things to yourself and were not used to expressing yourself too much. Now, you can express more what you think and good things will happen to you.

Path 2: You welcome adventures and are ready to challenge the unknown. You are frank and direct and do not like people who beat around the bush. You are not fond of candy coated wording or diplomatic speeches. To you honesty is most important. Your acquaintance values having a friend like you.

You like to challenge yourself and never worry about the uncertainty ahead because you believe that the future must be fruitful. In fact you are right. As long as you try hard, you succeed.

You can try to show the soft side of you. There is no need to be the 'tough' person all the time. Relax a little, it's good for you.

Path 3: You are a cautious person. You never act impulsively. You love to contemplate and find your own way out to solve your problems. You may be at a loss sometimes, but you do not really mind. People are afraid of the unknown future but not you. You like to explore.

Choosing this path means you are quite a reserved character. Life to you is a journey full of adventures. This path ends midway, so you must pave your own path for your future.

You are quiet and rational. You enjoy heading towards your own future on your own. However, you may want to try to open up yourself to people you trust. You will discover that it is not bad at all to have a companion who can travel your life's journey with you.

Path 4: You don't follow rules. You like new and special things and your life is rich and full. Your unique personality and ways of thinking are attractive to many people. To them, you are someone very different from ordinary people.

Your choice of this shaded road reflects your emphasis is placed on the heavenly entity this road may lead to instead of what it appears to be. Something special may happen and make sure you won't miss it. You may be scared by what may

appear in your eyes and you need not escape it because it is much better than what you may have thought.

Those around you like your unique character and your humor. It doesn't hurt to show them you can be serious sometimes.

Path 5: You are sincere and humble. You seldom get angry with anyone. You easily forget and forgive. Some people are bothered by minor things but you wouldn't. You choose to let go.

Your choice of an autumn scene means you take the mediocre way and are not fond of extreme thoughts. You abandon summer which is too hot and winter which is too cold. Autumn is midway. This is not a very smooth road but there is no need to worry. You are a stable person and the ups and downs ahead of you are not a problem at all.

Your personality to simplify hardship allows you to help people around. Try to affect those near you to learn to let go and live a carefree life like you.

Path 6: You are quiet and thoughtful. You are passionate but you would rather be alone than go partying. If people you associate with are your cup of tea, you don't mind spending time with them. Your thoughts are pure and sincere and this is your attitude towards the world.

You choose a rather dim road, meaning you are looking for a shelter and to be in such a shelter you can be all alone. Although you don't like things that are glamorous, you cannot always stay in the shade. There is bound to be light at the end of the road and you should not be afraid. You will get used to it before long.

Your inward beauty makes this world a better place. Try to accept more people to be your real friends and it's time you let yourself shine.



An Interview with Ms Cheung Suet Man on Learning I.S. in English

Chui Ka Sin Doris (F5B)

R: Reporter **C:** Ms Cheung

R: We heard that Integrated Science of F.1 next year will be taught in English. Will there be any difficulties that we can foresee now?

C: Students may find it difficult to learn the concepts, as there is plenty of science-specific terminology. Students do not use these terms in ordinary life and have fewer opportunities to use them. I think that we should improve our English by listening and speaking in English more in daily life. So, students may need to spend more time learning English if implementation of teaching certain topics with English will be done.

R: What has made the school decide to implement such a change? What is the goal of the change?

C: The school wants to improve students' English standard through different channels including teaching certain subjects in English

because they have less chance to pick up English otherwise. This change can help to enhance their competitiveness.

R: How would the lessons be interesting if a difficult concept is taught in a language students cannot master?

C: I think the teacher is the important person who can influence the lesson's atmosphere. It will be more interesting if the teacher has better preparation and adds some teaching elements related to our daily lives in the lessons so that the students can understand the terms easily.

R: Is there anything you would like to add to teaching I.S. in English?

C: Perhaps students have to spend more time on learning the English involved in the subject and get used to it gradually. They may not adjust to it well immediately, but eventually they will.



A Forum on 'What makes me happy/unhappy'

Cheung Ho Hin (5A):

Everyone may feel sad, that's why we need something to make us happy.

And there is one thing that always makes me happy — music.

Whenever I feel sad, I listen to music, because it really cheers me up.

It is like medicine to me, it is that important.

When I listen to music, it makes me feel joyful, like flying in the sky with all my worries gone and all my pressure released.

Then I can smile, and face anything.

So music is the only thing that makes me happy.

Wong Wai Hong, Wilson (5B):

Whenever I talk about happiness, reading is the first thing that comes to my mind. The most amazing things about reading are the characters in the books and they are lifelike in my imagination in all the wonderful stories that I have read. They can keep me away from something that is bothering me and make me feel relaxed. Everyone in HK has got some kind of pressure and it has become a problem in Hong Kong compared to other places. To me, books are my mental medicine which helps me to put aside all the stress and makes me feel happy.

Chow Chi Shing, Charles (5B):

One day, when I went to school, I saw an old woman run into a teenager who instantly got very angry. He not only verbally abused the woman, but he also expressed his anger through his attempt to hit her. Luckily, the teenager's girlfriend stopped him and took him away.

After I saw this, I felt really angry. What seemed like an accident was perceived as a deliberate act by the teenager, who then turned wild towards the old lady. I felt unhappy because nowadays, teenagers get angry easily and don't know how to forgive people. Such behaviors make me feel disappointed and quite ashamed as a teen born in the nineties.

The key to happiness

Editorial Group's point of view

We all want to be happy. Nobody can be happy all the time. We may be in a good mood one day and feel gloomy on a different day. But if our happy moments outnumber the times we are upset, we can say that, on the whole, we are a happy person. There are books about the key to happiness, what happiness is and so on. We would like to share with you our interpretation on how to gain access to a happy life.

If we want to be happy, we need to understand and accept the whole of ourselves and that includes our strong points and weak points. Everybody is good at something. You may not be able to play a musical instrument, but maybe you can draw very well. You may not be able to sing, but maybe you can run fast. Take some time to think what you are good at. Is it academic work? A sport? Making friends? Getting along with people? Most people are good at several things and you are probably good at more things than you thought. It is important to know our strengths and weaknesses and accept them. Being aware of what we are strong at gives us confidence and helps us make the right choice. Getting to know our weaknesses reminds us of our limits and

keeps us from pursuing anything unrealistic.

The second on our list is, avoid procrastination and this means try not to delay work. The Chinese old saying teaches us to complete our everyday chore and leave nothing behind for tomorrow. In the western world, books on procrastination are published aiming to teach the same doctrine. Having our work finished on time makes us feel relaxed. To pile up our work gives us tremendous pressure and makes us feel miserable.

The third on our list is, keep everything simple. We should maintain our life with basic needs. We should eat natural food with the least artificial substances. We should be dressed in a style that is tidy and clean with no extravagance. We should keep only basic furniture for its function but not that much its look. That's why to some people, simplicity equals beauty. Keeping things simple lessens our burden in life and that makes us happy.

The last point we want to mention is the awareness and training for self-control. We should have the will power to resist temptation and alleviate anger. We should also have the courage to say no to wrong doings and yes to good virtues even when saying that gets us in trouble. This is probably the most important on our list because if you are good at doing these things, you are developing a good character. A strong character is the ability to say no to evil and yes to good.

Having done all that we mentioned, not only are you a strong character, you are also a very happy person.



CREATIVE WRITING CORNER

An Award Winning Chinese Story by

Wong Hau Yi, Candy (4B)

Coached by Ms Ho Sau Ling

Translated by the KCC Editorial Group

The Hidden Cell Underground (Part I)

"Have you heard of 'the hidden cell' in our school?"

"Of course I have, it's one of the top ten ghost stories in schools!"

"I heard that once you walk in, you can never walk out alive. It gives me goose bump!"

"Do you dare to go take a look?"

"You bet! I have always wanted to explore such a creepy place ever since I heard about it!"

"I don't think this is a good idea. After all, this is our forbidden land."

With excitement, these three girls were discussing their secret place on campus...

"I heard someone weeping as I went near it the other day."

"I saw a ghost in white standing outside."

Rumors like these were everywhere. Every

student was so scared of this haunted cell; yet, out of curiosity, these girls were heading towards it.

"Do you really want to go in?" asked the timid one.

"We're here already, we've got to!" the leader of the three said as she opened the door to the cell.

It was pitch dark! Something was lurking and awaiting inside... (translated for last issue)

The Hidden Cell Underground (Part II)

The three girls hesitated if they should go down.

"Let's go!" The bold one said. Taking a deep breath, she went all the way down to the cell. The other girls followed. The smell of damp cells was not as bad as they had expected. In fact quite unexpectedly, they smelt a familiar scent.

"Do you realize this fragrance?"

"You're right, someone wears this perfume."

"Would she be locked down here?"

"Creepy, let's go back."

"No, don't be such a coward."

They kept going. All they could hear was their own breathing. The fragrance got closer. Their heart beat raced like horses galloping. All of a sudden, a gust of wind was blown at their back. They felt the chills.

"What's behind us?" they thought. "Could it be the ghost?"

"Have you heard any noise?"

"Noise?"

"Noise of a female's grumbling."

"Could it be..."

They all sounded scared. As they calmed down, they wanted to hear what the ghost had to say to them. The sound suddenly got so big that it pierced through their brain.

"You are the one! You took my life!"

Terrified, the girls ran off.

The voice went on, "What kind of a mindset do young people have now?"

Or is it just me? Maybe I'm just too old!"

The 'ghost' turned on the light. Right in front of the girls, there was a TV set, tables and bed, regular furniture of a common home. The ghost was in fact their principal. She lived here to escape high rents. What she didn't foresee was her students' curiosity and their urge to break the rumor originally planned to scare them away. If only she had known the cell would attract so many adventurous souls, she would never have lived there.

**An Award Winning Chinese Story by
Heung Chung Tak (4B)
Coached by Ms Li Lai Yin
Translated by the KCC Editorial Group
Our First Encounter (Part I)**

It was really dark that night. He saw from afar a gaudy cottage house with dim light leaking from inside. "Everyone must be asleep," he thought.

Sneakily he got in through the fence and felt lucky that the alarm did not go off.

He held onto a pipe that reached the first floor. With all these years of experience, he knew that this was the right floor with most rooms where valuables were stored. He got a spot to step one foot on and pushed himself up to the floor above him. Within the next minute, he was up there.

As he thought, what he saw inside was first class renovation, cabinets and wardrobes full of antiques and red wine that sells an awful lot. In front of him he saw a name card that says 'Director of Golden Company'. He assumed that must be the owner of this place. The clock was ticking and time was running out. With simple tools and his deft hands, he opened the safe with no pain at all, took out everything inside and was ready to get away.

"You're back, son," a woman's voice stopped him as he was making his way to the window. He turned around. An old lady was walking towards him. It was the first time he had been caught red handed. "She's blind," he released a gasp of air as he found out she could not see him. He had no choice but pretend as her son... (from previous issue)

Our First Encounter (Part II)

As the old lady came near, he was a little nervous.

"How's work today, son?" she asked.

His heart was racing and he had no idea what to do. His mother died from a traffic accident when he was still little. His father was a gambler. He ran away from home to escape from reality. He only received primary education. Not having a clue what to do, he slowly murmured, "Feeling great."

The old woman gave him a smile in return. This reminded him of his mother and the tender love she had for him as a child. How he wished to be her son at that moment! Since his mother's death, no one has cared about him.

She came close, stroke his head and said, "You work so hard, my son. As I always say, don't do anything against your conscience. We have to face our wrong doings every day."

Tears rolled down from his cheeks after he heard her. He wanted to punch himself hard on the face.

In front of him was someone who had wrinkles and grey hair. If his mother were alive, she would have been her age. He wished he could be in her arms, telling her how much he had missed her through these years. They then chatted and before long she felt asleep. To him, this was the longest night.

A few days later, he saw in the newspaper such headline: "Director of Golden Company sentenced to life imprisonment for fraudulent acts"

Since then, he has stopped being a thief and got himself a decent job. And since then, he climbed through those pipes to see the old lady pretending to be her son and loving her like the mother of his own.



Good People Good Deeds

Lee Ho Yi, Ella (3C)

One day, my friend and I assisted a charity which helps to supply basic needs to orphans. In the morning, we helped by cleaning the centre and playing with the orphans. Although they had been abandoned, they were not frustrated or in despair.

Later, I saw a child who had fallen down on the floor and was hurt. The other children helped him immediately. One child cleaned his wounds, while another took care of him and encouraged him not to cry. Another child called for the centre's helpers. I was touched because when I was their age, I didn't know how to help other people, and would have only stood there. I could see they really cared about their friends, and I was so happy to see this.

Moreover, I think these children's actions not only showed their love, but also their kindness, so I wrote about it on a blog to share with other people.

Finally, I hope others learn to be helpful, since if we see people who are poor or suffering, we need to help them in any way we can.

Wong Wing Lam, Kitty (3C)

Last weekend, I went to sell flags with my dear friend. The proceeds were to go to Po Leung Kuk, which provides homes and shelters for abandoned babies. In the morning, we arrived at an MTR station very early and set about preparing the things for the flag selling. Although we were exhausted from our school activities, we were still happy because we were going to do some things to help the needy.

After 30 minutes, we started flag selling. At first,

we were very shy and scared to approach people for donations. After a while, we were still standing there with our mouths closed, and I thought, we can't just stand here and do nothing! Then, a man walked in front of me and I said, "Good morning, sir. Can you help us by buying a flag?" The man nodded and put fifty dollars into the collection box. My friend stuck a 'flag' on his shirt and said we appreciated his donation. This first donation really encouraged us and we continued to work hard to sell flags. Finally, we succeeded in selling ten sheets of stick-on 'flags'. We felt so pleased with the result.

This charity event was unforgettable because I helped many needy people, so it was a wonderful experience for me. When we left the MTR station, we saw many people wearing our 'flag' on their shirts!

Chow Yin Ling, Nikki (3C)

Tom was a naughty boy. He doesn't like to stay at home and he made some bad new friends at the park. He didn't spend any time with his grandfather, so his grandfather was always lonely. One night, his grandfather went to the park by himself, and saw Tom smoking with his friends. Tom's grandfather was very angry and shouted at him: "Why are you smoking? Come back home right now!" But Tom didn't face his grandfather and continued smoking.

Tom's grandfather felt so sad and useless. That night, he waited for his grandson to come home until 11 pm. Although he was tired, he was so worried about his grandson, so he forced himself to stay awake. At midnight, Tom came home. His father asked where he had been, but Tom wouldn't answer.

The next day, when Tom's grandfather woke up,

he saw that Tom had already left. But Tom didn't know that the previous night might have been the last time he could see his grandfather. Tom's grandfather had gone to the streets to find him, but when he was crossing the road, a car hit him. He was lucky to be alive.

Tom really regretted his actions, and appreciated the love and concern his grandfather had shown him. Tom resolved to spend more time with his grandfather, so every morning they now eat breakfast together and talk a lot.

We must spend time with our relatives, because we don't know how much time we really have left.

Vicky Lee (3C)

This story is about a boy called Hoya. He was busy every day, so he never took part in any volunteer activities. One day, his friend Sam advised him to contribute more to society by joining charity activities, but he didn't listen to him.

The next day, his school organised a flag-selling fundraising activity. The purpose of this activity was to help and show concern for the elderly who are often neglected and live alone. The funds were to be donated to a nearby nursing home.

His teacher requested he participate in this activity because it is meaningful. Although he didn't want to, he dutifully promised his teacher he would sell flags. However, nobody bought his flags, even though he tried very hard to sell them. Tired and disappointed, his friend Sam said, "Nevermind, let's finish up here". Hoya smiled—he could finally stop selling flags and go home to relax. However, suddenly, he came across a man who wanted to buy a flag. He realised that it really is worth taking the time to help people. From this event, he knew that he should take the time to show his love to everyone.



Flowers are things that make people happy. Flowers are not only emitting a distinctive aroma, but they also have different symbolic meanings. Flowers wither and they cannot be saved eventually. However, the popular craze for preserved flowers has been brought to Hong Kong in recent years. The visual outlook of these flowers is not much different from true flowers. Therefore, preserved flowers can retain the beauty of the flowers and also retain our happy memories.

Preserved flowers originated in France in 1991, and were later carried forward by the Japanese. Different from dried flowers, preserved flowers retain the texture and color of the original plants, are soaked in glycerol to replace the original moist and desiccant is used to air-dry the flowers. After that you can also change their color with different ones or add gems or crystals for decoration.

Roses and Carnations



Modification steps:

1. Add some thermosol at the bottom of the rosebud.



2. Flatten and paste the U-shaped wire.



3. The bottom of carnations is not fully bloomed, so we should penetrate the steel wire before bending it into a U-shape.



4. Imitation leaves are also pasted onto the U-shaped wire.

5. Wait for about three minutes until the floral leaves have dried out.

6. Place the flowers into a small bowl after they are gracefully positioned, add ribbons for decoration.



Learning English through Drama and Musicals

Law Chui Shan, Gloria (5B)



Like every year, we had our singing contest last Christmas. This one was like a breeding ground for the future stars of our Musical performance in November this year. Winners of different categories, be it individual or group, would have been captured by either an English teacher or the Music teacher as one of the performers who would receive training for the upcoming musical show.

For us students, it is fun learning English through movies. Our teachers usually introduce a movie to us, let us guess the plot and relationships of characters through the DVD covers, posters or previews of the movies. It will then be our job to explore the theme and the message behind the movies. By doing this, not only do we enjoy the fun in watching a good movie, we also learn English through the lines of the characters. Through journal writing, our reflections on the theme of the movie usually teach us important values and attitudes.

Other than movies, we also enjoy drama. What else could be merrier than actually acting out a character on stage? How challenging it is to be able to memorize the lines in English with accurate pronunciation and natural intonation. If this is an accomplishment, being able to sing out the lines with accurate pronunciation, a near native accent, with meaningful lyrics, touching melodies and a sweet voice is overwhelmingly stunning. We have every reason to believe that it will be a great performance. How do we know? Well, have you been to our Singing Contest? It's like a preview of the 'Hong Kong's Got Talent', if such a show existed.



An Environmental Issue

Li Ho Fung, Matthew (6B)

Petroleum has become the life blood of modern societies. However, we will run out of oil in 30 years. No oil means no power, and all businesses would stop. Without fuels, transportation collapses, then there will be no food and essentials made or transported to anyone. Therefore, all nations should take the initiative to prevent the destruction caused by an oil crisis.

Since we will ultimately run out of oil, we must find another fuel to replace it. Bio diesel is a sustainable choice. It could be made of produce, but this may affect food supply. Other than that, bio diesel could also be produced by leftover and eating oil from restaurants around the world. It is a clean fuel due to its low carbon emission. In addition, producing bio fuel also turns rubbish into useful fuel. The government of different nations could support the relative studies by providing funds and impose policy that fuel stations must sell bio diesel to promote the usage and manufacturing. By doing so, we could preserve precious oil resources and in the long term replace petroleum.

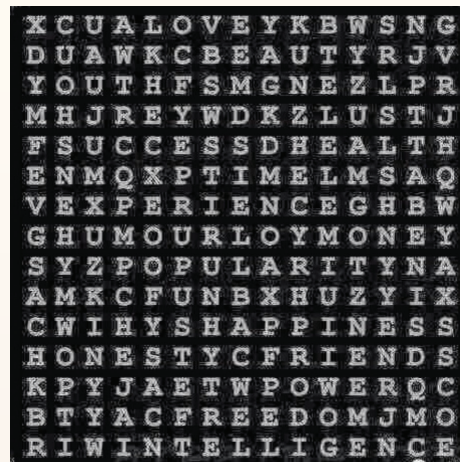
Additionally, various countries could also develop other renewable energy sources. We could use electricity instead of petroleum in factories and transportation by using electricity as power source and driving electrical vehicles. Power plants could generate electricity by solar, wind, water, and underground heat resources which are sustainable and thus will never run out. Although different countries can generate electricity with different resources, each resource has its limit. For example, solar power could only be gained during the day but not at night. Thus, nations have to construct power sharing

networks to sell excessive power or purchase extra energy to meet our demands.

Every country should have the foresight to develop renewable energy as soon as possible or the oil crisis will cause massive damages.

★ Fortune Telling ★

The first three words you see will be what it is like for you in the next academic year. Good luck!



The first three words I saw are: _____, _____ and _____.

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