

American Culture Writing Contest

The U.S. Consulate General Hong Kong and Macau launched its first American Culture Writing Contest to enhance cultural awareness, encourage crosscultural understanding, and promote interest in English writing among Hong Kong and Macau students. CCPASS entered the category 1 section: Choose a word to describe the United States and explain why you chose that word in 100 to 150 words.





Guns

Sing Liu Xing 3A (21)

I think I have a perfect word to describe the United States. It's 'guns'. As you can see, America is a very free country. People can say whatever they like because they have freedom of speech. Furthermore, they have a free press, freedom of migration and a right to privacy. But I think America is too free because American people can hold firearms. Americans believe it is their God given human right. Because of this so called right, many people die. Some bad

guys use guns to hurt people or do crime. But many gun related deaths are from negligence, accidents and suicides. There are 33,600 deaths caused by firearms annually in the United States. So I think freedom is good but too much of it is dangerous.

Center

Bernice Lee Wing Kiu 1A (7)

The only word that describes the United States is "Center". The United States of America stands in the center of the world, in the middle of all countries. The United States even has a location called "Central Park" in New York emphasizing its center position. Every end of the globe keeps a

close eye on America, no matter the issue, from the economy to politics to popular culture. The world now has an even sharper focus with a mad man in office, President Donald Trump. Trump makes sure everyone puts him in the middle, for everyone to gaze at his presence and compliment his hair. The United States is the only country that boasts about its center position in the world. No other country uses this word so bravely.

Generous

Nicole Deng Haozhi 3A (2)

The first word to stroke my mind is 'Generous' when I think of the United Sates, especially during this challenging time of the outbreak of COVID-19. The place where dreams are made of — New York is currently attacked by the virus. The streets are empty, as well as the citizens' income. However, New York is filled with examples of generosity. A kind landlord who owns 18 apartments decided to waive rent for his 200~300 tenants. Also, when supplies were short, an array of virtuous families donated food and necessities to their community. I



am truly touched by these selfless and kind-hearted Americans. Their generosity is not compulsory but a cultural conventionality. God bless America and I hope for everyone's safety and health!



Free

Ben Chim Wing Sing 3A (16)

It is my belief that 'Free' is the most suitable word to describe America. On one hand, America is a country that doesn't have a lot of limits. For example, in China, there are so many websites that you can't access. However, you can access almost all websites in the USA. Also, you can speak out about anything you want to in the United States. So Americans enjoy freedom of speech as well. Of course, certain types of speech are banned by China.

On the other hand, the United States doesn't control their economy. It lets the

economy develop by itself. For example, the U.S. government doesn't control the prices of the products that are sold in markets. The prices of those products are controlled by the market; which leads to inequality and unemployment. 'Free' best describes the United States but pros and cons come with it.



Revolution

Dora Ng Kwun Wa 3A (8)

You ask me the one word that describes the United States of America. I definitely will answer 'revolution'. Do you have any idea how difficult and painful Americans had to fight for their freedom? After five bloody years of The Revolutionary War, in 1783, the United States finally became an independent country. So Americans know freedom isn't easy to earn but they don't give up. Though I haven't been to this wonderful country, I admire how Americans keep fighting for freedom of speech. In America, people can criticize the government and the president. Unfortunately, this is impossible in China. I don't have a chance to shout for freedom in this totalitarian state. I sincerely hope China will be a free country like America one day, but obviously freedom is not free. So revolution now!



Gump

Coby Li Man Tung 3B (6)

Gump is the perfect word to describe the United States. America, just like the protagonist of the film Forrest Gump, though flawed, has the talent and courage to fight for its goals when presented with obstacles. Gump's activism is a symbol of the American enterprising spirit. Whether he is running or playing table tennis, he is willing to explore new challenges, and does his best because he is determined to do everything well. Like Gump, America encompasses the attitude of exploration. America explores space and the ocean, taking on the challenge of making discoveries.

Gump's faith is a positive spirit towards life. Gump has a low IQ, but his mother always encouraged him. Gump remembers everything his mother told him. So he remains original and adheres to his beliefs. Just like Gump, America follows its own beliefs spreading its principles and cultural ideas to enlighten others across the globe.

Liberty

Sherry Liang Xujie 3A (6)

What immediately comes to your mind if someone mentions the United States? As for me, I instantly think of the Statue of Liberty, which is one of the popular destinations for tourists from all over the world. What's more, it symbolizes freedom which is the foundation of American culture. Hence, I would like to choose 'liberty' to describe the United States. In America, no matter who you are or what you do, you have the right to be treated with respect. Even if you are disabled or



impoverished, you are entitled the same respect as anyone else. Because of this, you are able to pursue any dream, no matter how out of reach it may seem. In addition, the American right to freedom attracts many people from all over the world to live there. This forms a collection of diverse cultures in America connected with the belief in liberty.

Education

Yeung Iris Ka Man 3A (13)

America is a big country that is very different from China. In my personal view, America has more freedom than China in education, so I want to use the word 'education' to describe the United States. Education is important to a country and sharing different points of view is part of the learning process. American education allows students to have their own ideas; and American teachers respect their students' opinions and thoughts. School is like a small society. When students

become adults, they will dare to give their opinions to others, so people must learn to respect others' opinions; and be friendly and patient. The courage to express various philosophies is the product of American ambience. So people in the United States share their ideas bravely, whatever their parents and teachers may think.



Jeans

Wincy Law Wing Sze 3A (24)

Denim is the official material of American fashion. Therefore the word to describe American culture must be 'Jeans'.

Jeans are pants made from denim or dungaree cloth. They were invented by Jacob Davis and Levi Strauss in 1873. At first, Jeans were working clothes. But in the 1950s, it became a symbol of youth rebellion. Then Jeans increased in popularity in America in the 1960s and by the 1970s they became accepted as a part of mainstream fashion.

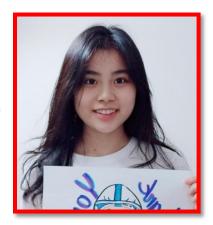
Jeans have more than 100 years of history, originating in America and spreading in popularity all over the world. Jeans are a witness of the changes in American clothing style but have remained the one constant. Jeans are a well-deserved synonym for fashion and a symbol representing America.

Cosmopolitan

Becky Baoyi Ouyang 3A (9)

'Cosmopolitan' unequivocally describes the United States. The most conspicuous and well-known American brands have the highest worldwide sales and greatest influence on Earth.

Companies such as Levi's, iPhone and Jeep have set global trends in the clothing, phone and automobile industries. Levi's for example, blue jeans are a fashion staple from Japan to Italy. Additionally, Chinese mobile phone companies replicate iPhone's unique look. Even in the automotive industry, Jeep's design can be found borrowed in Germany and the UK.



Thus, the US is the comprehensive model for innovation and the leader in international economic development; making the U.S. the universal king of brand name merchandise. Moreover the United States is the standard for quality products that reach the masses on every part of the hemisphere. Calling the United States a 'cosmopolitan' country is an understatement.



The Polar Bear

While some drama clubs took time off during the stay at home period of the pandemic, the CCPASS Players were hard at work creating a radio play for the 12th English Radio Drama Competition presented by Smart Education Charitable Foundation. The students wrote a script and performed an audio fable about a polar bear set out to warn mankind about the melting of the polar icecaps. The CCPASS Players made the semi-finalist round as one of the top 16 teams out of nearly 500 groups.

Written and Performed by:

Stella Lo Wing Ki 4B (29) as the Polar Bear Joanne Yu Chui Yan 4A (17) as the Glacier Andy Zheng Zian 4A (27) as the Man Jason Wang Junxi 4B (24) as the Narrator Jenny Song Yijia 4A (13) as the Girl

Teacher & Editor: Mr. Fernando Linn



[Ambient Music]

Narrator: A long time ago, there was a huge glacier in the North Pole; and living near the glacier was a lovely polar bear as white as snow. But the glacier was dying. Its icy body had been melting for ten years. Over those ten years, the polar bear and the glacier developed a unique friendship. They spoke to each other every day about love and life. Their friendship was that of brothers. But like all good things their friendship had to come to an end.

[Sound: Melting Ice]

Glacier: The sun is so bright. But it's not the star that pains me. It's the air that chokes and burns me. The heat is melting my skin. Goodbye my friend.

[The Polar Bear sobs.]

Polar Bear: Where will I go? I can't live without you my brother.

Glacier: It's my time. The skies are warming and the seas are flooding. The humans have changed the climate with their black smoke. There are no more fish. Thus there are no more seals for you to eat. All life is connected. You will die too, if you stay here. Very soon, everything will be covered in sea. But, before I go, promise me something.

Polar Bear: Yes anything. I promise.

Glacier: Tell the humans about us. Talk some sense into them.

Polar Bear: But the humans can't speak. I don't even think they have language. They are mindless with no regard for their surroundings, consuming everything.

[The Glacier gasps for air as it clings on to life.]

Glacier: They don't communicate like you and I. When I am no more, the gods will grant you the ability to speak to the humans. But be cautious the humans are dangerous and even if they can understand you, they still may not listen. But you must try. I'll always love you my friend. Goodbye brother...

[The Glacier takes his last breath.]

Polar Bear: I love you too brother. What should I do next?



[The Polar Bear breaks down in tears.]

Polar Bear: Answer me. Please don't go. Please answer me!

[Wandering Music]

Narrator: The once large glacier... had been reduced to water...So the polar bear wandered for days looking for any human settlements. There were no humans but the human presence was everywhere. An alien material called 'plastic' covered the land.

[Sound: Flies Buzz]

Polar Bear: I'm so hungry and exhausted. I can't stand the stomach pain. There is nothing to eat. Only disgusting flies remain. But I must eat something. The flies will have to do.

[The Polar Bear eats the flies making a squishy smacking sound as he eats. Then he struggles to gulp the snack down.]

Polar Bear: I'm going to be sick.

[The Polar Bear tries not to vomit his snack, as he gags trying to hold his meal in.]

[Uplifting music]

Polar Bear: I smell something.

[The Polar Bear sniffs to catch the scent.]

Polar Bear: I smell the scent of burnt flesh...a

barbecue!

Narrator: The polar bear followed the scent before reaching a small village of about 100 large tent homes.

Polar Bear: I'll hide behind this bush. Berries!

[The Polar Bear eats the berries off the bush.]

Polar Bear: The berries are delicious but not enough. I need some of that barbecue.

Girl: Why are you hiding behind the bush?

[The Polar Bear is startled and gasps.]

Girl: Are you hungry? You poor creature, here have some deer. My daddy cooked it.

[The little girl feeds the Polar Bear as he makes licking and chewing sounds.]

Polar Bear: Thank you little girl.

Girl: Ah, you speak?

Polar Bear: You understand me?

Girl: Yes, the people in my village can talk to some of the animals.

[Sound: Shotgun Blast]

Man: Get the hell away from my daughter!

[The Polar Bear gasps in fear.]

Polar Bear: [frightened] Please don't shoot me.

Girl: Daddy! Don't hurt him. He speaks.

[Sad Music]

Man: Can you speak?

Polar Bear: Yes. Please don't harm me. I came here to warn you. The world will flood.

Man: Yes. I know.

Polar Bear: If you know, have you warned your species of the doom ahead?

Man: They know.

Man: Sweetheart, go inside the tent with your mother. I want to talk to the bear alone.

Girl: Yes daddy. Goodbye Mr. Polar Bear.

Man: The destruction has already come and gone. We are the last of our kind. I come from a place far away called Hong Kong. My home is now completely under water and so is the rest of the world.

Polar Bear: [distraught] This is horrible! This is truly the end.

Man: We humans did this; dumping garbage in landfills, throwing toxic waste in water, pumping poison into the air. You have every reason to hate us.

Polar Bear: [bitterly] I don't hate you. However, I think the gods have allowed you to speak so you could feel empathy with those you share the Earth with.

Man: You're right...A long time ago, according to an ancient Hebrew story there was a great flood, because one of the gods was angry at the evil of man.

Narrator: The polar bear wandered away never to be seen again. But will mankind learn from his previous mistakes and save himself from horrible destruction in the future? Or is mankind's self-destruction inevitable for a third time? Only time will tell.

[The End]

You can listen to the audio drama at https://www.mysmartabc.com/drama2020/.

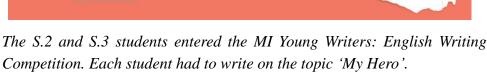
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Beethoven

Jet Chan Ho Lam 2A (14)

My hero is the famous music composer Ludwig van Beethoven. I've read Beethoven's biography three times, but it always feels different every time I read it. I found it boring the first time I read it. But I was moved by the second reading. Then I read it more carefully the third time and could feel his triumphs and empathize with his struggles.

He lived in Bonn, Austria and was born into a poor family. At the age of 26, he suffered from ear problems and the disease began to torture him relentlessly. At first, the doctor told him that with just a few drops of apricot butter every day that his condition would improve, but that he would have to control his working hours. Beethoven still played the piano and composed music day and night even when losing his ability to hear. Soon, the condition worsened. The doctor had to demand Beethoven to stop working, but he refused. Beethoven wrote after his unfinished song, "I'm going to choke the throat of fate".

Beethoven's life was the life of fighting fate. He wrote "Symphony of Destiny" and "Hero Symphony" about fighting destiny. Most of these songs were written after he was deaf. Although he had problems with his ears, he continued to work hard to write songs. Beethoven authored 9 numbered symphonies, 36 piano sonatas, 10 violin sonatas, 16 string quartets, 1 opera and 2 masses. These works had a profound impact on the development of music, so Beethoven was regarded as a musical sage including in the Chinese world. I think his perseverance is very worthwhile for us to learn.

If you still want to know more about how Beethoven battled fate, please read more books about Beethoven! His musical triumphs were all obtained through hard work and sweat. He overcame the obstacle of being deaf to compose the greatest music of all time. I think he was a very strong person which inspires me to be a strong person. When he encountered difficulties in life, he did not wince and kept rushing forward. I will always remember his spirit. Thus, I have decided to share this spirit with everyone around me.

Stephen Curry: No Pain, No Gain

Tommy Leung Yee Shing 2A (19)



In the final game of the 2019 NBA Championship, in the concluding countdown period, Curry's final 3 point attempt failed. The Warrior's dream of three consecutive championships vanished. Everyone questioned if Curry was even capable of playing with two injured hands. But he played anyway. His 3 point shots are like a tracking missile. He shoots no matter where he is on the court. He plays through pain and has no fear. This is my hero, Golden State Warriors point guard Stephen Curry.

Curry is one of the strongest shooters in NBA history. He is best known for his various extraordinary three-pointers, no matter how far the three-point range. Curry likes to be called the 'Baby-Faced Killer'. His boyish face and a seemingly ordinary height (by NBA standards) make him overlooked by his rivals. But he has no problem with scoring points against them at will. He is an expert at scoring key three-pointers to win the game. I admire his amazing three-pointers and his youthful appearance. He looks like a junior high school student and not like an adult. Regardless of his opponent's size and defensive position, he can easily shoot his three-pointers against anyone. But this comes with countless hours of hard shooting practice. He practiced every day since he was a kid and his work ethic persists till now. My connection with him is that every time I make a three-pointer, I think of him. So every time I shoot, I have great confidence because of him.

Stephen's father Dell Curry was an NBA star playing for the Charlotte Hornets, that's why he spent his childhood in Charlotte, North Carolina. There with his NBA star dad who exposed Stephen to basketball at the age of three, the younger Curry fell in love with the sport. But just because his father was a professional basketball player, he still had to prove himself at a young age. Stephen had high demands on himself. He had to prove to others that he was not too small or slow. Curry always tries to prove people wrong. This motivates me not to give up because of some small setbacks.

There was a time when Curry thought about giving up on his dream of playing professionally. When Curry finished his college career, many NBA scouts said that he was not good enough. They said "He has no height. He is not a terminator on the court." But his mother gave him the most useful advice in his life. "Your basketball dream will come true, but no one except you can write your story." He didn't listen to the negativity toward him and he kept in mind his mother's advice that we can write our own destiny.

I too don't pay much attention to what others say about me because I'm writing my own story. Why is Stephen Curry my hero? Because he taught me no matter what my playing skills are, his spirit is very worthy for me to learn. His three-pointer skills are incredible but it's his spirit and hard work to improve that I admire. The process to victory was not easy, but Curry persisted. I will persist like him. This is why Stephen Curry is my eternal hero.

My Hero: Jackson Yee

CynthiaWu Minshi 3A (11)

In recent years, if someone were to ask me 'who has impacted me the most,' I would say emphatically Jackson Yee. He is a dance icon from China and my undisputed hero. The first time I saw him on a television show, he performed a mesmerizing dance called "The Shot Dance". His dance moves are clean and polished. When he dances, it feels like a gun shooting a bullet through my heart.

But Yee's grace on the dance floor didn't come easy. It's his insane work ethic, practicing his dance moves fifteen hours a day that sculpted his perfect execution. It's this dedication to his craft that inspires me to improve my dance technique. When I feel tired and want to give up and when I feel like *phoning it in* after only two hours of dance practice, I think of Jackson Yee's diligent efforts to be the best. I tell myself that if



Jackson Yee can dance for 15 hours straight, then I have to put in the same type of enthusiasm and dedication into my craft to be the best that I can be. Inspired by Yee's story, I am motivated to practice harder, which gave me the satisfactory end result that I craved at my last dance performance; thus earning a standing ovation from the audience.



Furthermore, Yee puts high value on his studies, which is another reason I adore him. Despite his god given talent in dance, he still pursued other interests after school. He strived to achieve in many areas. He was an astute student in learning the drums and calligraphy among other pursuits. Challenging myself through various endeavors and learning to manage my time are other attributes I emulate from Jackson Yee. I set goals and finish my tasks. For example, it was my mission to do well on my last English exam. I set a strict study schedule so I obtained the high mark I desired.

Last but not least, Yee's films have important social messages. His new movie "Better Days" touches my heart because it promotes kindness and empathy toward others. The film is about a girl named Chan Nian who is severely bullied by a gang of teenagers in her school in Chongqing, China. Jackson Yee's character defies the inexcusable and heartless actions of the bullies as he protects Chan Nian and provides her emotional support. Yee carefully chooses his acting roles, selecting movies that have positive messages and themes.

Perhaps I will never meet Jackson Yee but he still has had a profound effect on my life. His charisma and pursuit for self-improvement inspires me to also strive and work hard for my dreams.

Even Spider-Man has to study for his school exams...



CCPASS Presents



CCPASS students are strong advocates of the arts and participated in their very own film festival as critics. The S.3 students watched several award winning short films during the Covid-19 pandemic and picked one movie to critique or recommend.

Bear Story: There's Still Room for Love

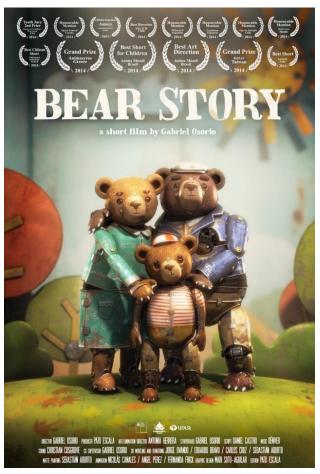
Kaylie Weng Jiani 3A (10)



I saw this great film called *Bear Story* yesterday on YouTube. I totally recommend it to you.

I think that *Bear*Story is a wonderful and touching film! The lighting and music combined with the warm location makes me feel like I'm drinking a cup of nice

and warm milk in the winter. The short film has no dialogue but none is needed: the soft music and the characters' expressions say it all.



Some notes about the film, it is a 2014 Chilean animated short film directed by Gabriel Osorio Vargas. The film was a critical success, winning the Oscar for Best Animated Short Film at the 88th Academy Awards. It's a sorrowful story because it is inspired by the director's grandfather, Leopoldo Osorio, who, after the Pinochet coup d'état, was imprisoned for two years and then forced to live in exile for the duration of the dictatorship.



In the film, there is a bear, his fur graying, glasses propped on his nose. The film opens with the bear working on the parts of a mechanical diorama featuring a bear similar to himself, a female bear, and a child bear. Carrying the figures of the mother and child, he looks into an empty child's room before having tea in his kitchen. In the room, there is a little teddy bear on a bed and a photo of the bear's family on the wall. The bear looks so sad when he sees the family portrait. The bear's house is full of memories with

his wife and son, but there is only one member in his family left. I think he is lonely, but I believe that there is still love and hope in his heart.

Further in the plot, the bear cycles out to the village square where he sets up his diorama. He then announces his business by ringing a bell. A bear child notices him and, after receiving a coin from his father, runs to see the mechanical story performance. The diorama shows the bear's life, starting with himself, his wife, and his child living together happily in an apartment. However, can his life be so beautiful in the end? So watch the movie to find out for yourself. I must say, it's a fantastic movie.

I read many comments and reviews about this film. They usually mention its political message. The director wants to tell us his grandfather's story which is in an era of insecurity and without freedom. This topic may be a little heavy, but we should face history squarely. Although the bear's story is poignant in our opinion, it is believed that there is still room for love. The bear still wants to spread love and happiness to more people.



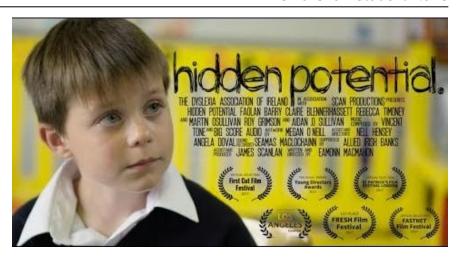
To sum up, I look forward to everyone who watches this film getting some important themes from *Bear Story*; for example, the attitude towards family, the importance of animal protection and the pursuit of love and peace. In my opinion, these are the most critical points in our life. My Final Grade is an A+.

Kaylie's Grade: 10/10

The Power of Encouragement

Nicole Deng Haozhi 3A (2)

If a disabled person sleeps on the street and no one comes and helps; if a child loses his way and wanders on the street; if a teen is bullied in the corner of an alley when you pass through. Will this film inspire you to choose to give them a helping hand? You will find the answer at the end of this essay.



I watched a touching but motivating video called *Hidden Potential*, which is written, directed and produced by Eamonn Machon. It was shot in Wicklow, Ireland and released in 2016. To give you some plot details, the short film is about a famous artist named Anthony, played by Martin O'Sullivan, who was diagnosed with dyslexia as a child. In that period of time, little Anthony, played by Faolan Barry, was made fun of by his classmates for his struggle with reading. Moreover, the teacher Miss Kavanagh, who is played by Rebecca Timoney, distrusts him because of his seemingly careless paragraph reading. Subsequently, the poor boy sits alone while he tries to read a note with the word "stupid" from his classmates. However, how could an unassisted kid's life be put on the right track? Apparently, someone lays out a helping hand.

Henceforth, young Anthony could read a passage with the help of a lovely social worker Mrs. Dunne, who is portrayed by Claire Blennerhassett. She helps his life become full of applause and flowers instead of scold. By the time he stands in front of everyone in class to verbally share a story, he wrote with pride; my tears dropped down silently on my phone screen.

To express my views on the technical aspects of the film, I will comment on some structure details and shooting skills. First of all, the film structure uses a mature Anthony being interviewed in the first scene of the film. It prompts the audience's interests of his past before the flashback. Later in the last scene, the mature Anthony's monologue of how he feels about his childhood reinforces the message of the film clearly.

Second of all, the shooting angles used for the young Anthony would change with different speakers. The most impressive one is when young Anthony is reading the note sent from one of his classmates. The camera looks up at his teacher making us feel small. Additionally, after young Anthony shares his art and story with his classmates, the sudden change of the film's hue enables me to feel his excitement. The director uses brighter lighting for the scene. Overall, the details and shooting skills are beautifully ingenious.

Ultimately, there is a Chinese conventional phrase that says "Give someone a rose with aid and the fragrance will remain in your helping hand." Do as much as you can to aid someone in need. In conclusion, to answer my own question 'will this film inspire you to choose to give a helping hand'; the answer is definitely yes. I sincerely hope all of us will embrace others struggling with adversity and in need of help. **Nicole's Grade: 8/10**



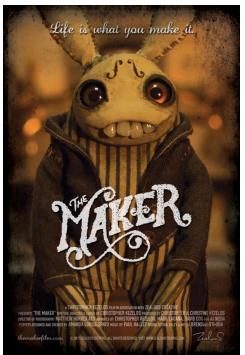
Give Everything for Love

Richard Li Jinghang 3A (18)

This is a short animated silent film called *The Maker*. It's a silent film because it has no dialogue. Based on my observation, people manifest different feelings about this film after watching it, which seems that everyone has a different take on it. But my belief is that

almost all audiences are touched by this movie as well.

The Maker is an American film directed by Christopher Kezelos. There are two characters in the film. They don't have names so I will call them Mr. Rabbit and Mrs. Rabbit. In the beginning of the story, Mr. Rabbit lives in a wooden house alone as his life counts down with



an hour glass. Simultaneously, he follows the instructions inside a mysterious magic book to create Mrs. Rabbit. But after finishing the job, there is no life in her body. So he reads books to Mrs. Rabbit to give her a soul. Nonetheless, Mrs. Rabbit is still a lifeless doll. Then Mr. Rabbit checks the magic book again and plays the violin attentively for Mrs. Rabbit. Finally, after all that work, Mrs. Rabbit is brought to life. But unfortunately, Mr. Rabbit's life is finished.

Mr. Rabbit tries his best within his own life with faith and love to give Mrs. Rabbit a soul again by playing music. His life is so short that he could use it to enjoy himself, but instead he will give anything to save his wife. Finally at the end of the movie, Mrs. Rabbit faces the same situation — life is counting down so she must hurry to remake Mr. Rabbit. Thus the cycle reoccurs again and again to save each other.

They sacrifice their time repeatedly to remake one another. What a tragic, moving story! They show us what love is--trying with all they have to save each other. The theme is that love will never fade away if both sides of a relationship help and cherish each other. If not, the relationship will be broken. In Mr. Rabbit and Mrs. Rabbit's case they will not survive without putting in the effort.



Besides the plot, the background music is also gorgeous. It is not just melodious, but also explains the emotions of the whole movie perfectly. It lets the film go up a level and become more successful!

In summary, I really recommend this film to you and I'd give the film an eight out of ten. It shows the truth of love. I believe that you will love it a lot!

Richard's Grade: 8/10

The Present

Wincy Law Wing Sze 3A (24)

I saw this great film called *The Present* yesterday on Netflix. I think that *The Present* is a cinematic masterpiece! This film is like watching a sick person near death getting a second life. I'm not joking.

Anyway, it is a comedyanimation short film directed by FORT CATALON PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY ADDRESS OF T

Jacob Frey. It's a German production released in 2014 and produced by Anna Matacz and Sigrid Gairing. I believe that Jacob Frey aims to tug at our emotions and try to make us think about the meaning of life. This is the kind of film for the whole family, for sure.

The plot is beautifully simple. To begin, the film shows a little boy named Jack in a blue coat sitting on a couch in front of the TV and playing video games. Apparently, Jack lives with his mom and spends most of his time playing video games indoors. One day, his mom brings him a cute yellow pet dog with brown eyes and a black nose. But the dog has one disadvantage. It lost one of its legs. The boy feels disgusted about the dog at first



but changes his mind later. In a fantastic twist, we are surprised to discover that Jack also has the same handicap as the dog. Will he change his attitude about going outside in the future after empathizing with his pet dog? I can't tell you. But if you want to know, you can get the answer by watching the film.



I like the setting and the mood as well. The film's background setting is the suburban home of the main character. Why did the film choose an ordinary home as the setting? Perhaps the director wants to make audiences feel warm and fuzzy by reminding us of our own home growing up.

But the real heart of the film is the theme of the film. The message of the movie is about how people should

face their obstacles bravely instead of escaping from reality. In conclusion this movie teaches a good lesson for all audiences about life. Wincy's Grade: 10/10

HOME SWEET HOME

Vani Lam Wing Hei 1C (2)

The school suspension because of the pandemic has been going on for a long time. How is your daily life? Do you feel bored? Are you relaxing? As for me, I definitely feel enriched within this sudden vacation.

Because of the virus, I now have spare time at home.

However, I don't want to waste my time. Therefore, I study at home. I watch all the teaching videos on e-class and take notes. If I feel stressed after studying, I sometimes listen to slow music to relax. Moreover, I often draw. It's one of my hobbies. Sometimes the pictures I draw are unexpectedly stunning!





In addition, I like to watch Korean dramas and English movies in my spare time. Maybe there will be many people who think that this is unhealthy. However, I don't agree with them at all! We can learn different languages and cultures from different countries by watching television. T.V. opens my horizons because watching various shows, dramas and movies has many advantages. You don't always get addicted to it.

Furthermore, I subscribed to a YouTube channel called 'MMG English Channel'. The channel has lot of videos that teach English in entertaining ways. The videos provide lots of knowledge and are fun.

I also created a WhatsApp group for learning English together with my classmates. We would practice speaking English together so this is a meaningful group. For example, we often discussed some serious issues

such as pollution or environmental protection.

At last, besides learning from textbooks, we can also learn through media or discussing with friends. Therefore learning is not dull. We can actually find a lot of fun ways to learn. I am doing lots of positive things during the school suspension. So I am being proactive in learning. It gives me lots of pleasure!



The TV Show that I Love: Rizzoli & Isles



Doris Chan Nga Man 5A (1)

How are you spending your time in isolation during the pandemic? I would like to suggest a fantastic detective dramatic TV series perfect for learning English called *Rizzoli & Isles*. This is a crime television series from America about solving different murder cases. But the show goes beyond the cliché investigation story line to solve a criminal case. It also exhibits the love, family and friendships between the cast of characters. All 7 seasons are available on Netflix.

It captured my attention from the beginning. The various plots keep me on the edge of my seat with each suspenseful case in every episode. Rizzoli who is a detective acts on impulse at times, but she is also very kind and enthusiastic, taking pleasure in helping people. On the other hand, Isles is a medical examiner who is calm and works leisurely. Thus, Rizzoli is an impetuous person and Isles always acts within her own speed creating a great character dynamic. I like the way that the director set up two people with totally different personalities to work together and being best friends. Although this is a mystery crime drama series, there are still a lot of hilarious moments. Like when Rizzoli talks about daily life with Isles when they are dissecting a dead body.

Actually the murder cases showcased on the series are inspired by real life events. Sadly, the show's villains are a reflection of the human heart which can be more horrible than the devil's. The main villain of the series named Hoyt is a highly intelligent serial killer because he was a doctor. He murders people while leaving no trace. For example, he killed a family 15 years ago but the police could never solve the case; until he owned up to it while on the verge of his own death. Maybe he does terrible things because of psychological trauma from his youth. Perhaps it has also twisted his feelings and distorted his view of love. For instance, he is in love with Rizzoli but wants to kill her at the same time. In one episode, Hoyt escaped jail to profess his love to

Rizzoli then murder her. Hoyt was on the verge of shooting Rizzoli but luckily, she has excellent analytical skills and persuades him not to. Isles isn't without her fair share of serial killer love interests as well; as she was once in love with a man that wanted to kill her and then turn her into a human sculpture.

Rizzoli & Isles deserves to have a look at if you are a big fan of television mystery shows. I believe you will love it, even if you are not a big fan of the genre.



Book Recommendation







Title: The Five People You Meet in Heaven

Category: Print Fiction

Author: Mitch Albom

Publisher: Usborne

Genre: Philosophical fiction

Describe the content of the story briefly:

The main character of the story Eddie, an elderly man who works in maintenance at Ruby Pier, a seaside amusement park, dies while saving a little girl from a falling cart from a ride called "Freddy's Free Fall". After he dies, he meets five important people in heaven that he crossed paths with during his lifetime. They each teach him an important lesson about his life. Eventually, Eddie learns the value of his own life.

Name one character in the book that impresses you most & state the reasons why the character impresses you.

The Blue Man, the first person Eddie meets in heaven, impresses me the most. He is called 'the Blue Man' because he has blue skin from a disease called argyria caused by silver nitrate poisoning. The Blue Man died because when Eddie was a child, he threw a baseball in the middle of the road; it surprised the Blue Man while driving his car causing him to have a heart attack. But the Blue Man isn't saddened by the loss of his physical life as he understands the interconnection of all living things. There are no random events in life. We are

connected in some way. I really appreciate the Blue Man's views on life and death. Death is sad and perhaps a tragedy to most people, but what he learned through his death is that every action in our lives is meaningful.

If I could rewrite the ending of the story, I would make the following changes:

I would like to add this to the ending of the story. After Eddie meets his five important people, he should meet God. Maybe they smile at each other. Maybe Eddie can sincerely thank God for everything that God has provided for him; then God can give him a big thumbs-up and hug him.

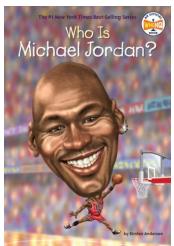
Write a brief comment or your impression of the book.

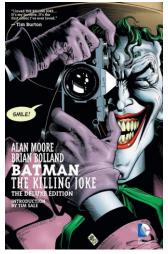
I really like this book because it shows an interesting perspective on life. After reading it, I realized that all of us have a purpose. Some of us just don't know it yet and sometimes we just need to find it. Therefore, we should live our lives to the fullest. Furthermore, I've learned that everyone in our lives affects us in some way. Even strangers can make a huge difference in our lives. I am amazed by this.

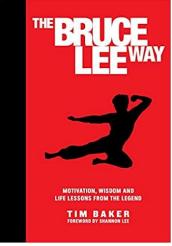


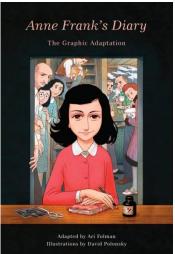
New Books in the School Library!

In an effort to boost readership in the school library, Mr. Fernando Linn has donated some interesting new books. Mr. Linn pledges to make two new book donations every month. Check them out today!

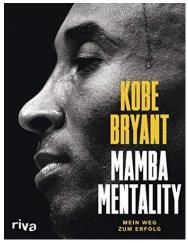


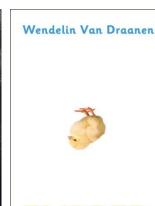


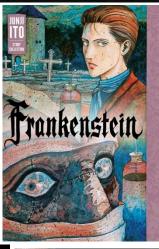


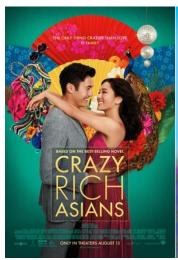


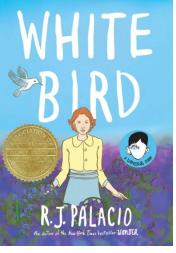


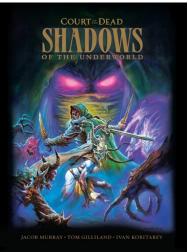


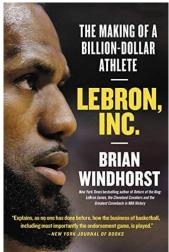


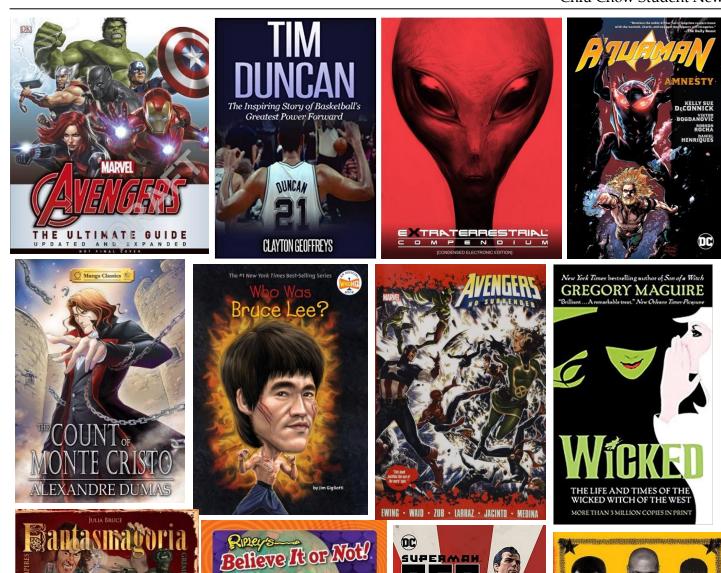




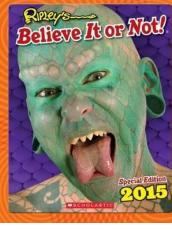




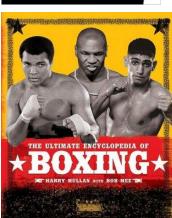












To Students and Teachers: If you have any book, album or film suggestions for the school library, please leave Mr. Linn a note with the name and the details of the materials. Mr. Linn's goal is to create a more interesting and diverse selection of media sources in the English section of the library. Hopefully both students and teachers will become frequent customers and take advantage of the school English resources and entertainment. fl@ccpass.edu.hk

AROUND CAMPUS







(left to right) 1st Place: Noah Li, 2nd Place: Andy Shum, 3rd Place: Selena He

S.5 Essay Competition Winners

1st Place: Noah Li Zirun

5A (26)

2nd Place: Andy Shum Shing Fung 5C (20)

3rd Place: Selena He

Shulin 5A (5)

The 1st Place essay was published in the February 2020 publication of the Chiu Chow Post.







Crossword Puzzle Answers

Across: 1. Swimsuit, 2. Sunscreen,

3. Picnic, 5. Shorts, 7. Hot,

8. Surfing, 11. Beach,

12. Sunburn, 13. Holiday,

14. Swimming

Down: 1. Sandcastle, 2. Sunny,

4. Camping, 6. T-shirt,

9. Ice-cream, 10. Sunglasses



The CCPASS Drama Club participated in the *Stories on Stage: Script Writing Competition*. The scripts and the prize results will be posted in the next issue of the Chiu Chow Post.

The Chiu Chow Post Editor in Chief: Fernando Linn